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Cyclists or motorists: who rules the road?

By Sam Bari

The question of who has the right of way on Jamestown's roads, cyclists or motorists, appears to have many from both camps confused.

According to state and municipal laws, both cyclists and motorists have the same rights and follow the same regulations. The problem is, "Many motorists and cyclists don't know what the regulations are," said Jamestown Police Sgt. Karen Catlow.

"The only difference between the two is that cyclists are supposed to keep as far to the right as possible to avoid impeding traffic," Catlow said. Cars must use turn sig-

nals, and cyclists are required to use hand signals. Motorists can use one or the other or both, as long as a signal is given 100-feet or more before action is taken. The important thing is to make their intentions clear to those around them so they can respond accordingly, Catlow said.

Cyclists can ride two abreast provided they are not impeding traffic, she said. On many Jamestown streets, this is not possible. Consequently, cyclists should follow one another at a safe distance and stay as close to the right hand side of the road as they can. Riding a bicycle

See "Biking" on page 14

New legislation on underage drinking to be introduced

By Eileen M. Daly

Representative Bruce Long (R-Jamestown, Middletown) called a press conference on Monday to announce his plan to introduce new legislation in the General Assembly concerning underage drinking.

Accompanied by Jamestown Police Chief Thomas P. Tighe, Warwick Police Chief and Chairman of the Police Chiefs Association, Colonel Steven M. McCartney, Administrator Janis Loiselle from the Office of Highway Safety, and Jamestown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force Coordina-

tor, Laura Hosley, Rep. Long announced his intention to introduce legislation that would make underage consumption of alcohol a crime.

Long referenced an incident that occurred on July 27 at Mackerel Cove Beach wherein three lifeguards were found to be under the influence of alcohol while on duty. All three of the guards were underage and intoxicated, however only one could be charged, Long said. Kristy Lebelle, 19, of North

See "Legislation" on page 12



A perfect 10

Jared Ford, 12, performs a kick flip at the Jamestown SkateFest 2008. The event was sponsored by the Jamestown Teen Center

Photo by Jeff McDonough



Little ballerina

Dylan Biddle Hakin, 4, charmed the judges and audience with her dance routine to the music of "My Little Pony" at Sunday night's auditions for the annual Jamestown Talent Show.

Photo by Sam Bari

Minto helped establish new island teen center

By Eileen M. Daly

Melissa Minto, the driving force behind the development of the Jamestown Teen Center, has left her post as Teen Coordinator and passed the torch to her successor.

Her Teen Center adventure began in April of 2005 with nothing more than a great idea backed by a Rhode Island Foundation Grant.

Hired as a part-time employee, Minto was determined to create a quality teen program. She began by going straight to the source: area teens. She asked them about their interests and set about developing events, activities and trips that would appeal to young people from the ages of 12 to 17.

The most challenging aspect of developing the program, according to Minto, lay in the fact that there was no physical space to house the teen center.

"We held events anywhere we could find a space: the library,

the police station, the local high school or Ft. Wetherill State Park," she said. With characteristic good humor she added, "the whole program ran out of my car that first year: snacks, crafts, everything."

Despite the obvious limitations, the program enjoyed a successful first year. As the new year dawned, however, it became apparent that without a physical space to house the program it would be difficult to continue to grow. Area teens needed a central place to congregate, a place that was safe, supervised, and that provided enough structure and activity to entice teens to participate. In short, a place for teenagers to have fun, enjoy each other's company and not get into trouble. Once again, Minto took on the task.

In 2006, a presentation was made to the Town Council requesting that Minto's position be

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