



# JAMESTOWN PRESS

www.JamestownPress.com

PRST STD  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 5

Rural Customer  
Jamestown, RI 02835

Volume 21, Issue 22

A weekly newspaper serving Conanicut Island

Thursday, September 25, 2008

## Bus overcrowding problem is solved

By Michaela Kennedy

Problems with overcrowded school buses and late arrivals were addressed and hopefully resolved, according to the Jamestown School Committee at its Sept. 18 meeting.

In response to a written request from Christiana Matley of High Street, the committee added school bus passengers to the evening's agenda. The request coincided with a report from the director of student services about school commuting woes.

Matley stood up and read from a complaint she wrote that listed problems she saw on the high school bus, including students standing, three to a seat and other near empty buses passing around the same time. "The bus is always late," she said. "I see the Prout bus go by with six students."

Bus drivers and other parents present at the meeting spoke in support of Matley.

Transportation director Robert Fricklas reported some problems he found after riding the bus for himself the previous day. The large yellow bus has a capacity of 71. Based upon riders from last year, one bus had been eliminated. The

See "School" on page 10



### Queen Elizabeth II

The QEII visited the Narragansett Bay for the final time last week. The flagship of the Cunard line made her maiden voyage in 1969. The ship will be retiring in November to Dubai where she will be transformed into a \$100 million floating hotel. She will depart New York for her last transatlantic crossing on Oct. 16.

Photo by Roger Marshall

## Town awarded \$12,500 recycling grant

By Sam Bari

State Representative Bruce Long (R-Jamestown, Middletown) announced at Monday's Town Council meeting that Jamestown had been awarded a \$12,500 municipal recycling grant from the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC).

At the Town Council's request, Long inquired about the status of the town's 2008 grant application.

RIRRC has been stilled because it lacks a board of directors to approve the grant applications. Consequently, Long spoke to the governor's office about the Jamestown application.

The governor had recently taken over the board's responsibility by executive order until a board is approved by the Advice and Consent Committee. The municipal recycling grants were awarded under

that order. Jamestown was awarded \$12,500, although the town applied for \$20,750. Statewide, \$747,000 of applications were submitted, but only \$278,000 of grants were awarded. Some communities did not receive a grant.

### Turnpike and Bridge Authority

Rep. Long reported in his legislative update that he and State Senator M. Teresa Paiva Weed (D - Jamestown, Newport) thanked

Chairman Darlington of the Turnpike and Bridge Authority for holding a Sept. 16 public hearing as well as three previous public forums. The Jamestown lawmakers had requested public hearings in an Aug. 25 letter to Darlington. They had been pressing for reduced toll rates for locals and a break in the cost in purchasing the transponders. The

See "Grant" on Page 12

## E-ZPass put into effect by 4-0 vote

By Adrienne Downing

The Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority voted unanimously Wednesday to install the E-ZPass system on the Pell-Newport Bridge.

The rate for Rhode Island residents will be \$0.83 per crossing with a Rhode Island transponder. RITBA officials indicated that the rate may increase after findings from the governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Transportation are released.

"E-ZPass is not a rate adjustment. It is just another way to pay a toll," RITBA Chairman David Darlington said.

The cash rate will remain

See "E-ZPass" on page 2

## Raptor project hopes to tag two birds in the spring



Rob Bierregaard holds a red hawk at Lawn Avenue School on Friday. Bierregaard visited the students as part of the Conanicut Island Raptor Project. He hopes to return to the island in the spring to tag two juvenile birds for the final phase of the migration study.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

By Eileen M. Daly

The students at Lawn Avenue School had a special winged visitor, a red hawk, last week in connection with the Conanicut Island Raptor Project's latest fund-raising project.

The Conanicut Island Raptor Project teamed up with the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNC Charlotte) to hold a series of fundraisers last week to raise money for a satellite to track osprey migration. Rob Bierregaard, a researcher at UNC Charlotte, has been studying osprey migration for the past nine years. The study is due to close next year.

Bierregaard and Conanicut Island Raptor Project Chairman Chris Powell hope to raise at least \$6,000 to purchase a satellite for one or more of the ospreys due to be born next spring in the osprey nest at Marsh Meadows. "We'd like to have at least one of the

Marsh Meadow's osprey in our graduating class," Bierregaard said.

"The focus of this phase of the study will be on June ospreys," Bierregaard said. "We'd like to know where they go and how they get there."

According to Bierregaard, the first trip ospreys take to the south lasts a year and a half. "It is an important migration because the birds pick a place that they return to year after year," he said. "We'd like to know the factors that go into making this important choice."

According to Bierregaard, previous research has tracked some of the migratory pattern of the ospreys as they travel nearly 4,000 miles to Florida, Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and finally South America.

Researchers are interested in

See "Osprey" on page 11