



JAMESTOWN PRESS

www.JamestownPress.com

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

Rural Customer
Jamestown, RI 02835

Volume 21, Issue 23

A weekly newspaper serving Conanicut Island

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Fire department kicks off fire safety month

Knowing some simple safety rules could save lives

By Sam Bari

Fire safety is often something most people would say is important, but fire safety preparations often fall to the wayside in the midst of busy family schedules.

For Fire Safety Month, which begins the first week in October, Deputy Fire Chief Howie Tighe made a list of recommendations

for fire prevention and safety that are of particular interest to Jamestown residents.

A family evacuation plan, in case of emergency, was at the top of Tighe's list. Having two evacuation plans is a good idea, Tighe said, in case one of the exits is blocked by fire.

The deputy chief said that every family should make plans to meet in a designated location should they be required to evacu-

See "Safety" on page 10

Candidates answer tough questions at forum

By Adrienne Downing

The state budget crisis, and what candidates planned to do about it, was the primary focus of much of the Candidates Forum at the Jamestown Senior Center on Sept. 24.

Before a full house, three of the four candidates for state office faced the public and answered a few tough questions at the forum sponsored by the Jamestown Shores Association.

M. Teresa Paiva Weed (D-Jamestown, Newport), Bruce

Long (R-Jamestown, Middletown) and candidate Deb Ruggerio opened the program with a personal statement about why they were running for office, then took turns answering questions from the audience.

Donna Perry, the Republican running against Paiva Weed, was unable to attend the forum because of a conflict with the Melrose School Open House, but she did send a prepared statement,

See "Forum" on page 2



New tanker truck

Bert Dickinson climbs aboard one of two new tanker trucks at the Jamestown Fire Station.
Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten



Wet feet

Rowan Driscoll, 2, from Fox Hill Farm took a dip in Mackerel Cove on Saturday despite the wet weather.

Photo by Vic Richardson

Islander helps save women's lives in Malawi

By Sam Bari

An African missionary named Lamec Msamange visited Islander Carol Sousa's church in Middletown in 1985. He told the congregation about Malawi, a small South African nation that was little known to the world outside its borders at the time. Knowledge of the country and the plight of its people have not greatly improved since.

According to Msamange, more than two million people had been killed in the neighboring country of Mozambique since 1970 due to civil war. Mozambique surrounds Malawi on three sides. Zambia and Tanzania share the northwest and northeast borders respectively.

Msamange told stories of unspeakable atrocities, torture, and mass murder. He said that millions of women were widowed and as many children were orphaned as a result of the war.

If they were not killed by soldiers, they died of disease and starvation because the government would not allow charitable or Christian organizations to bring in food and aid to help these unfortunate victims, he said.

"And they continue to die," Msamange said.

A Cuban-backed local army comprised of Frelinos tribesmen was trained to overthrow the Mozambique democracy and establish a communist government.

A group of Renamos tribesmen objected to the invasion and formed a freedom fighters army to save Mozambique from communist takeover. Unfortunately, the freedom fighters lacked funding, were poorly trained, and inadequately equipped.

The only group permitted by the communists to practice their religion were the Muslims. Indian Muslims considered the territory to be a good business investment

and introduced Islam to the area. The Muslims formed a political and business bond with the communists and were left alone.

Christians were persecuted. Anyone caught with a Bible was generally killed immediately. The Frelinos soldiers would go to churches where people were worshipping and ordered all the women to go outside. They would then lock the men and children inside the churches and set the buildings on fire. Their wives were forced to stand outside and listen to their husbands and children scream as they burned and ultimately died.

Millions of refugees fled across the border to Malawi, a nation that was struggling to maintain a stable government and build an economy. The continual influx of refugees strained the tiny nation, its resources and infrastructure to its limits.

See "Sousa" on page 10