

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Raptor project helps raise awareness

Most Jamestowners are aware of the Conanicut Island Raptor Project. The osprey nest in Marsh Meadows along North Main Road attracts a large amount of interest in the summer months.

Fewer islanders know that they can watch the ospreys' life cycle online. A webcam was installed at the nest several years ago. Each season we can observe the raptors as they build their nest and raise their offspring.

Children are especially fascinated with the nesting raptors. They can view the birds live and up close on the computer and also see them from a distance at Marsh Meadows. It is an incredible learning experience.

The Conanicut Island Raptor Project serves two purposes. Its mission is to educate Jamestown students about the wildlife surrounding them. The project also raises money to help fund the research of Rob Bierregaard of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Bierregaard studies the osprey migration. He attaches a small transmitter to the young raptors so that he can track their movements via satellite. Adult osprey migrate to Cuba and South America in the winter. The juveniles migrate and spend their first year and a half in the south before returning to nest in the area where they were born.

The osprey tracking is available online. In addition to watching the birds nest in Jamestown, we can also keep track of their progress as they migrate.

The osprey are a threatened species. Their numbers declined dramatically in the 1950s and 1960s due to the pesticide DDT, which has since been banned in the United States, but is still used elsewhere in the world.

The species has since rebounded, but loss of habitat worldwide is a continuing problem.

The Conanicut Island Raptor Project is currently raising money to help fund the purchase of two transmitters to place on young raptors in 2009. Your help is needed. You can find out more information about the project online at www.conanicutraptors.com.

— Jeff McDonough



Next president will have tough treasury decisions

I will write not to oppose or support a specific candidate for president of the United States, which according to Press Editor Adrienne Downing, is against press policy. Rather, my purpose is to share a most important point made Sunday on MSNBC by Senator Bob Corker (R-Tennessee) a member of the Senate Banking Committee.

After acknowledging that both Washington, D.C. and Wall Street had engaged in irresponsible behavior, Sen.

• LETTERS •

Elections letters policy

The Jamestown Press has a long-standing policy of not publishing letters concerning obvious campaigns. During this election season, the Press will not print letters supporting or opposing local or national candidates who are running for public offices.

Corker laid out some elements of the bipartisan legislation. Paraphrasing Sen. Corker's remarks, he said that if the treasury buys assets (financial services companies) in an appropriate manner and the protections put in place are properly carried out (by regulators, au-

ditors), the taxpayer will be protected. Furthermore, any shortfall in selling these assets down the road shall be paid for by the financial institutions that benefited from the legislation. The full legislation can be found on www.financialservices.gov.

The secretary of the trea-

surey will be the key figure in making the hard decisions regarding which assets to buy.

Congress and the new administration will have tremendous responsibility to ensure appropriate regulation and oversight. That knowledge should make us think long and hard about who and how we choose our president because he will appoint the next secretary of the treasury. He will have veto power over regulatory legislation and he will set the tone for enforcement by the appropriate government agencies.

Edwina Cloherty
Jamestown

Write to us

LETTERS: Send your letters to: Editor, The Jamestown Press, 42 Narragansett Ave., Jamestown RI 02835. Our fax number is (401) 423-1661. Our e-mail address is news@jamestownpress.com.

com. Please include your name, address, and a daytime telephone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication. All letters must be limited to 700 words or less.

The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 100 years ago came from the collection of the Newport Historical Society.

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, September 30, 1908

The fishing parties which visited the Beavertail yesterday returned with small catches, it being almost impossible to fish from the rocks on account of the high seas.

From the Newport Daily News, October 2, 1908

The Conanicut Company has sold to P. Sidney Arnold, who has re-sold to A. C. Knowles, the hotel at Conanicut park. This house, which at one time did a thriving business, was brought into disrepute by an epidemic of typhoid fever and although several attempts have been made to revive the business by opening, every attempt was unsuccessful. Last year the building was used for a children's hospital as a branch of the Rhode Island Hospital of Providence, but was not reopened this season. Mr. Knowles, the last purchaser of the house, will soon commence the work of tearing it down.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, October 3, 1933

A successful immunization clinic was held at the Carr school Monday at 10:30, when 104 school children were treated, and 84 preschool children out of a possible 98.

One hundred and three men registered during the past week at the unemployed registration conducted by Federal agents at the town hall, for highway work under the National Recovery Act, which will be started at Newport County this fall.



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of October 2

From the Newport Daily News, October 5, 1933

(At the Board of Trade meeting) protests of the taking of clams, oysters and quahogs from our shores by out of town trucks and boats were made. These items of food will be badly needed in Jamestown and the secretary was instructed to take up the matter with the proper authorities for a remedy.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, October 1, 1958

The Jamestown Progressive League, backer of the proposed \$55,000,000 refinery proposed for the town, will inaugurate its 1958-59 season with an open meeting Friday night at the Memorial Recreation Center. ... The league will show colored motion pictures of the Anacortes, Wash., refinery area, which it believes should interest Jamestowners.

From the Newport Daily News, October 3, 1958

Ferryboats Hammonton and Wildwood, which plied between Newport and Jamestown for years, have been sold by the state to a scrap dealer for \$15,000. The ferries were replaced this year by two more modern craft, the Newport and Jamestown, purchased from the state of Virginia for \$50,000 each. The Izzo Scrap Metal Co. of Johnston was purchaser of the Hammonton and Wildwood, which will be scrapped.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, October 4, 1983

The battle to save a parcel of land adjacent to Beavertail Park is finally won. It took almost a year for the entire R.I. congressional delegation — along with town and state officials — to persuade the federal government to transfer the land to the state at no cost. The 6.8-acre parcel of former Navy property is located in the center of Beavertail Point.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, September 30, 1993

The state Department of Environmental Management recently reviewed Jamestown's wastewater treatment facility and concluded that the plant "achieved excellent treatment" in 1992.

A North Main Road Design Committee was created by the Town Council Monday night. The panel, which will seek a workable compromise to the state Department of Transportation's proposal to upgrade North Main Road, has seven members.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, October 1, 1998

A proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that would allow a ferry service carrying up to 49 passengers per trip and satellite parking on lots designated Commercial Limited, Commercial Downtown, and Commercial Waterfront was tabled by the Town Council Monday night.

The Town Council has voted to increase the elderly tax exemption and to put a cap on the amount of property assessment that will be exempt, but hard numbers for that cap amount and for minimum and maximum annual incomes have yet to be determined.

Seven hundred collectors of lighthouse memorabilia will descend on Beavertail this weekend as part of a Rhode Island lighthouse tour.