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Ruggiero surprises Long in House election

Town stays with state trend in national election

By Adrienne Downing

Jamestown voters wanted their voices heard on Tuesday, as over 78 percent of registered voters cast their ballots in the historic election.

While islanders had a fairly good sense of who would win the spots in the federal elections, the local races for state representative and senator went down to the wire.

Islander Deborah Ruggiero unseated 14-term incumbent Bruce Long in the race for state representative in District 74, which includes Jamestown and Middletown. Ruggiero pulled in 54 percent of the vote, 1748 votes, in Jamestown compared to Long's 46 percent, 1515 votes. The trend was the same district wide, with Ruggiero taking 54 percent of the overall vote.

"I am very excited and humbled to serve the people of Rhode Island, especially Jamestown and Middletown," Ruggiero said. "I want to thank Rep. Long for his many years of service, and I mean that."

Ruggiero said it was an honor to be elected by her neighbors and she looks forward to having a voice at the table to make a difference in policy.

"I am so honored to have had the opportunity to represent Jamestown for six years," Long said. "The people have spoken and there was a lot of anti-Republican sentiment and a lot of anti-incumbent sentiment as well."

Long represented Middletown in the General Assembly until a redistricting effort placed Jamestown in the same district as parts of Middletown six years ago.

The margin was wider in the District 13 senate race. Although island resident Donna Perry received 42 percent of the vote from fellow islanders, district wide incumbent M. Teresa Paiva Weed won with 64 percent of the vote to Perry's 36 percent.

"I am very excited," Paiva Weed said.

Paiva Weed said she was ready to get back to work at the statehouse and focus on some of the major issues facing the state. "I anticipate we will focus on renewable energy and energy as a whole. There are a lot of new initiatives in those areas," Paiva Weed said. "I hope the governor gives us the supplemental budget very early so we can really take a look at it," she added.

Perry said that although she is disappointed, she wishes Paiva Weed well. "I am very grateful for everyone who supported me. The state faces a tough road ahead and we need all legislators to work together to put Rhode Islanders first."

The town tracked very close to the state trend in Tuesday's election and voted overwhelmingly for Barack

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Deborah Ruggiero helped her candidacy by casting her ballot at the Recreation Center on Tuesday.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

Council, school panel discuss budget outlook

Cost-saving ideas include closing Lawn Avenue School

By Sam Bari

Federal entitlement grants and state aid to schools will play a role in the shaping of the Jamestown Schools 2009-2010 budget, according to discussions at the Town Council and School Committee second joint workshop last Thursday.

Due to the economic downturn, every issue discussed at the meeting was eventually centered on budget considerations. The subject matter predetermined by Town Administrator Bruce Keiser and School Superintendent Marcia Lukon included school bus drivers, enrollment and class sizes, budget parameters, possible revenue sources, and the scope

of an organizational and management study.

During the discussion on costs that drive the school budget, Dr. Lukon said, "We are very worried about our entitlement grants and our federal grants. Some \$378,000 in salaries are paid out of grants. If those grants are reduced, we'll have to move that cost into the operating budget." She said that the 2009 budget depended on the grants to pay the salaries that were special-education related.

Although the three major budget drivers were identified as salaries, benefits and special education tuitions, other line items likely to increase include workers' compensation, liability insurance, repairs, maintenance supplies, service contracts, purchased services, special

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Adult day care center on track to open in spring

By Dylan Paschke

The busy home healthcare agency, Consistent Care, has put their current offices on Clinton Avenue up for sale in an effort to finance the relocation and expansion of their new facility on North Main Road.

Initial approval for the elderly-care facility, currently located at 8 Clinton Ave., took place in January of 2007. Many residents were confused, however, when a "For Sale"

sign recently appeared at the site of the new property at 49 North Main Road. It looked to some like the new building wasn't going to happen, but owner Gail Sheahan says that is not the case, and they are just waiting on financing to complete the move.

According to Sheahan, the new facility is "all built and ready to come over in nine trucks" from

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Bubble boy

Jarrett Brazil went swimming in the Jamestown Fire Department's annual bubble pit on Halloween.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten