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Volume 21, Issue 30

A weekly newspaper serving Conanicut Island

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Budget challenges ahead for state, Paiva Weed says

By Jeff McDonough

The Rhode Island General Assembly will have to make some tough decisions in 2009, State Sen. M. Teresa Paiva Weed said Wednesday morning.

Paiva Weed was one of several Newport County legislators who spoke at a legislative breakfast hosted by the Newport County Fund of the Rhode Island Foundation and the Newport Daily News.

Last week Paiva Weed, who represents Jamestown and Newport, won the endorsement of fellow Democrats and expects to be elected Senate President when it returns to session in January.

"There's a big challenge

ahead," Paiva Weed said. "Things are complex. There is no simple solution."

The veteran state senator talked about how the legislature will need to respond to the projected \$300 million state budget shortfall. She suggested that some "mandates" may be required to prompt all of Rhode Island's 39 cities and town to participate in series of statewide programs designed to consolidate administrative costs and purchasing power.

Paiva Weed said economic experts are forecasting that the economic downturn could last "two to five years" and that in addition

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Live turkeys inspire lawn avenue artists

By Adrienne Downing

There were turkeys at Lawn Avenue School earlier this week, and they were not on the lunch menu.

The birds were visiting the school as part of a new initiative through the Lawn Avenue School Improvement Team called Volunteers in Education. VIE takes teacher requests and matches volunteers and resources to meet the need. "Ultimately, we are a way for teachers to bring in additional resources for the classroom and to not overburden the teachers," co-administrator Lisa Carlisle said.

The idea to bring the turkeys to the school came after art teacher Stephanie Pamula visited Watson Farm in the spring with her daughter. "Watson Farm has really made an effort to reach out to the schools and the community as a resource," Pamula said. "It is easy for us to get inanimate objects for the kids

to draw, but not as easy to get animate objects. So, I thought it was a great opportunity to use the farm outreach and tie the school and the farm together."

Pamula was not sure exactly how the request could be facilitated, but she filled out the VIE request form and was contacted by co-administrator Ann Zainyeh. "I thought maybe they could help us bus the kids out to the farm, but instead they ran with it and Don Minto brought the turkeys here," Pamula said.

The two turkeys, one male and one female, were housed in a cage outside of the art room window and, thanks to some cooperation from clear weather, students were able to go outside to observe and draw them. All of the young artists were required to sketch the birds,

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House moving

Electric, cable and phone workers ensure enough wire clearance for house movers to relocate a house from Environmental Packaging International up the street to its new spot on Clinton Avenue.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

Infant christened in 167 year-old gown

By Eileen M. Daly

Lily Marie Phillips was christened on Oct. 19, wearing a gown that was first worn by an infant in 1841.

Phillips is the step-granddaughter of local resident Wendy Harvey, who wore the gown at her own christening ceremony many years ago. Harvey's great-great-grandfather, Clarkson Dearborn was the first child to be christened in the gown, followed by her great-grandmother, Emily Dearborn, her grandmother, Constance Warren-Armbrust, her mother Linda Armbrust-Warner and then by Harvey herself. Harvey's sister Melissa Warner-Burrows and her niece Jessica Burrows also wore the gown, but Harvey's brother, Christopher Warner, and her nephew, Andrew Burrows, were unable to wear the gown because it was too small. In fact, according to Harvey, they were lucky the

gown fit Phillips. "She's gotten a little bigger, so we were hoping it would still fit. We were putting her little arms in the dress and hoping it would fit around them. We just about squeezed her into it," said Harvey.

The dress is made of cotton and nothing special has been done to preserve it, Harvey said. "We just make sure it is clean, wrap it in tissue and place it in a box until the next christening. It is really in remarkably good shape considering how old it is and how many children have worn it," she said.

Phillips wore the dress with a bonnet that was made by Harvey's paternal grandmother, Harriet Warner, for Harvey's own christening ceremony. The bonnet has a satin lining and has also been worn by a succession of family members. The bonnet was made through a process called tatting. It is a process that dates back

to the early 19th century. Tatting is a lace-making technique that produces a particularly durable lace. "It is not quite like knitting or crocheting because there are no needles used," Harvey said. "A shuttle is used instead, but not a large shuttle like those used in weaving looms. This shuttle is only about three inches long and is held by hand rather than on a stand. Everything is done by hand with tatting. Also, yarn isn't used in tatting. Instead, strong thread is used to create the lace," Harvey said.

"Tatting has almost become a lost art; not many people know how to do it anymore," she said. Harvey's sister has possession of all of their grandmother's tatting supplies, but neither sister has retained the art of tatting, Harvey said. "My grandmother

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Thanksgiving Newspaper Deadlines

The Jamestown Press will be published one day early the week of Thanksgiving. Look for your copy of the Press on Wednesday, Nov. 26.

Here are the deadlines for the Thanksgiving issue:

Display advertising: 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 20

Classified advertising: 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 21

News items: Noon on Monday, Nov. 24