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Just launched

Phil Allen of Jamestown works on his boat Pimpernel on Wednesday at East Ferry. The boat is a 1974 Chris Craft 22-foot Tournament Fisherman. Allen said he first met the boat when he was 8 years old and saw the boat in Great Salt Pond on Block Island. A couple of years ago he discovered to vessel abandoned in Bristol. Allen, who works as a tugboat skipper in the New York City Harbor, rescued the boat and has restored it to its nautical glory. Photo by Jeff McDonough

Voters pass \$20.9 million budget at annual meeting

Islanders talk about town school spending concerns

By Erin Tiernan

More than 100 voters approved the \$20.9 million combined school and municipal budget at the annual Financial Town Meeting on Monday night, cementing a 0 percent tax increase for the upcoming fiscal year.

Opening the meeting with words of encouragement, Town Moderator Jim Donnelly wel-

comed residents to share their opinions. Voters apparently took Donnelly's advice, taking almost an hour and a half to approve the budget even though it called for no increase in taxes, a sharp contrast to the 30 minutes it took voters to stamp an 'aye' on last year's budget, which called for a 30 cent jump in the tax rate.

"People have said they are intimidated to speak tonight in front of the audience and they shouldn't be," said Councilman Bill Kelly. "If you have some-

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CRMC recommends changes to building height requirements

By Tyler Will

The increase in geographic temperatures and the rise of historic sea levels are two factors influencing proposed, voluntary changes of building heights above wave crests in the state's coastal management program.

While the changes are voluntary and relate to flooding, Boyd said the changes are not considered critical.

"Sea level is expected to rise three feet over the end of the century, not next week, so it is not urgent," he said. "Nevertheless, we want folks to be thinking about the consequences of building along the coast line."

Proposed amendments to Section 145 of the Rhode Island

Coastal Resources Management Program would encourage residents and businesses with property near the water to build their assets higher off the surface of the ocean. The document, from the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, said wave crest heights will increase because of rising sea levels, and ocean-side properties will be at greater risk of flood.

The former standards set building bottoms at .7 inches off the surface of the water, but another benchmark height will put buildings at .9 inches off the surface of the water, according to the report.

The document is available on-

See "Sea Level" on page 15

Island schools perform well in state report

By Eileen M. Daly

A report released by Governor Donald L. Carcieri on the annual school-performance classifications shows that Jamestown schools are performing well.

The classifications are based on the results from the 2008-09 state tests in mathematics, reading, and writing and the 2007-08 attendance and four-year graduation rates.

The report indicated that state-wide 157 elementary schools, 51 middle schools and 33 high schools have met all of their targets. "Our schools are moving in the right direction," Governor Carcieri said. "In fact, 85 percent of our elementary schools and 94 percent of our middle schools met all of their performance targets this year."

Under the No Child Left Behind provisions, the state sets annual targets for each school level in English and mathematics, attendance and graduation rates. These

target scores, which are based on how many students achieve proficiency or improve at other scoring levels, rise in equal increments until they reach 100 in 2014.

Targets must be met on a school-wide basis as well as for each of eight student groups: Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native American, White, students in poverty, students with disabilities, and English-language learners. Schools are not required to meet the target for student groups, however, unless they have 45 or more students in that group in all tested grades for high schools over three years of testing.

In Jamestown, both Lawn Avenue and Melrose Avenue Schools have met all of the state standards and both schools are classified as Met Adequate Yearly Progress. "We continue to meet the standards," Jamestown's Superintendent Marcia Lukon said. "We are

seeing slight increases in some areas, but we would like to see steady inclines in all areas."

To meet the goal, Lukon said the strategic planning committee has developed a new five-year school improvement plan that will be presented, and hopefully approved, at tonight's School Committee meeting.

Lukon said the plan includes four major goals. One of the goals is to implement methods to ensure a steady incline. According to Lukon, that goal reads: Provide differentiated instruction and assessment that insures that every student reaches increasingly higher levels of achievement.

Lukon indicated that the planning committee was comprised of 20 members, including a town councilor, representatives from the school improvement teams and

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A sunny day

Jay Thompson and his friend Dutchess can be frequently seen walking in the village. They enjoyed the sunshine Wednesday on Narragansett Avenue. Dutchess is a 14-year-old Collie mix.

Photo by Jeff McDonough