



JAMESTOWN PRESS

www.JamestownPress.com

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

Rural Customer
Jamestown, RI 02835

Volume 22, Issue 17

A weekly newspaper serving Conanicut Island

Thursday, August 20, 2009

Proposed sailing school remains grounded for now

By Phil Zahodiakin

The FAST Sailing Foundation has withdrawn its request for a sailing school partnership with Jamestown. The Newport-based group expects to resubmit a proposal eventually, but, for now, the deal is off the table.

FAST is currently based at the Sail Newport Sailing Center at Ft. Adams State Park. The non-profit group, which was founded in 2002, has sought to build a permanent home at Ft. Getty since 2004.

Under the terms of a proposed 20-year lease, FAST would finance and construct the facility in lieu of rent. The group would run its programs during the spring and fall; Jamestown would use

the facility to run a sailing school of its own during the summer.

The Jamestown Town Council recently decided to table a vote on the lease until FAST provided answers to additional questions. In response, "we decided to withdraw because we couldn't currently answer all of the questions," said FAST board member Robert Salk. "We are not dissuaded, and we would like to resubmit the proposal when we can answer all of the questions."

Town Council President Julio DiGiando said he wasn't particularly surprised by the withdrawal because "[FAST] didn't have the council support that they were looking for, and they didn't feel

See "FAST" on page 5

North Kingstown H.S. cuts freshman sports

By Eileen M. Daly

Some Jamestown student-athletes heading into their freshman year at North Kingstown High School may soon find themselves without a sports program.

North Kingstown School Committee Chairman Larry Cerisi and school committee members Lynda Avanzato and Doug Roth have all confirmed that budget cuts have resulted in the elimination of the boys and girls freshman basketball program, the freshman football program and a reduction in the athletic director's salary and duties, as well as the elimination of the athletic clerk's position at the high school.

According to the 2009-2010 budget, some \$70,000 has been cut from athletic programs at North Kingstown High School. Jamestown will send approximately 45 freshmen to North Kingstown High School this September.

School committees across the

state are struggling to cut costs during this tight fiscal season and North Kingstown is no exception. Where those costs can be reduced – and what programs ought to be trimmed or cut entirely – is a matter of some discussion, both in the community and among North Kingstown School Committee members themselves.

Jamestown School Committee Chairperson Cathy Kaiser said that as unfortunate as it is, cuts to sports and other student activities are a fact of the future.

"Parents need to contact their legislators," she said. "We need to allow communities to charge for sports."

Kaiser, who teaches in Massachusetts, said that districts there are allowed to charge an activities fee, which covers sports and other student activities.

"We need to be as pragmatic

See "NK Sports" on page 13



Fooling around

Top: Dave Britt (left), Kay Boyer, Brenda Britt and Bob Boyer sail their vessel, the "Old Woman and the Shoe," during the 32nd annual Fools' Rules Regatta held Saturday at East Ferry.

At right, from top, Jamestowners Garrett Bucklin, Nick Hanson, Carson Toppa and Ben Stewart clown around on the beach before putting their vessel in the water.

Photos by Caitlin Downing



Fools, family and fun

Crowds flock to East Ferry for 32nd annual race

By Adrienne Downing

One hometown team took top bragging rights Saturday at the Fools' Rules Regatta.

A team of young astronauts from Jamestown literally rocketed across the finish line in the Unlimited Class more than a boat length ahead of the nearest competitors.

The rocketship-design boat was skippered to the win by Amina Brown and crew, but was built by mission control parents.

"This has been a group project for many sum-

mers as these kids have grown up," said parent Dory Vogel. "Every year, the parents design and build the boat and the kids sail it. The planning stage takes up a good part of the summer."

Another parent-child boat collaboration brought a taste of the tropics to the island. The Flamingo Express II was the brainchild of islanders Hayley Carlisle, Maddy Price, Nellie Tamboe and Allie Baldwin, who have been friends since pre-school.

See "Fools" on page 11

Pell Bridge toll hike approved

The Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority voted last week to approve its proposed raise in tolls on the Pell Newport Bridge.

According to the RITBA website, new cash toll rates of \$2 per axle for all vehicles will go into effect as of 7 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8, bringing the cash toll for cars and out-of-state EZPass holders to \$4.

The Rhode Island resident EZPass rate of 83 cents is not affected by the increase, according to the site.