



Let's Get Grilling

Lucy Buffett, author, owner of Lulu's restaurant in Orange Beach, AL, and sister to Jimmy Buffett, offers up a summer grilling menu and talks about her life in food.

Hard budget choices

Council unlikely to approve school request, looks for ways to make cuts

By JOHN HOWELL
and JESSICA A. BOTELHO

According to City Council Solicitor John Harrington, the city has the green light to level fund schools. That should remove one impediment to reaching a city budget, but still leaves the council with how to address the mayor's plan to underwrite a \$275.2 million spending package with an 80 cent increase in the residential tax and elimination of a \$5,500 motor vehicle valuation exemption.

The council, which started

budget hearings last Tuesday, was expected to finish them last night and possibly reach a vote before the night ends. If necessary, City Council President Bruce Place said yesterday, the council has until June 8 to make its decision and refer the budget back to the mayor for his signature or veto. The 2012 fiscal year starts July 1 and tax bills are usually in the mail by the middle of June.

Not surprisingly, in a memo delivered to council members June 1, Harrington sides with General Assembly leadership

that the city contribution to schools for 2012 to sustain its "maintenance of effort" cannot be less than that for 2011. Harrington said he reached his opinion by using court-adopted rules of statutory construction, not the letters issued by House and Senate leaders on the issue.

Last Tuesday Rosemary Healey, counsel for the Warwick School Committee, called the leaders' position "opinion" and said that the city is obligated to fund schools at the 2009 budget level per Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Educa-

tion Deborah Gist.

At stake is an additional \$6.2 million in city funding the schools had counted on to balance their \$160.6 million budget.

Mayor Scott Avedisian's school budget is for \$154.3 million with \$117.7 million coming from the city.

Whether the state Department of Education will challenge the interpretation is not known.

"The Commissioner has not

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WOULD YOU LIKE A TIE WITH THAT BEER?: As a Father's Day special, Narragansett Beer is giving away free ties with the purchase of a 12-pack or more. Amanda Zoglio, 26, who grew up in Warwick, created the design. (Warwick Beacon photo)

Tie and 'Gansett just what Dad wants

By JESSICA A. BOTELHO

Narragansett Beer brewed up a campy way to tie in a Father's Day gift with the purchase of a 12-pack or more of their product. For the past six years, the company has been giving out free neckties with each sale during this time of year.

"It was one of the first things we did when we got the rights in 2005 because it's the gift everyone jokes about," said Jim Crooks, vice president of sales and marketing, who is also a part owner. "Father's Day made sense for the promotion because so many dads have said their first beer was a 'Gansett. Men make up 75 percent of beer sales in general."

A few years after the promotion began, the company started a contest for their fans to fashion the ties as part of the deal. Crooks said retailers and customers alike look forward to it.

"It's really taken off," he said. "The reaction has been really positive. This year was no exception."

The 2011 competition began in December and ended toward the end of January. After a panel of judges narrowed it down to five finalists, they selected three favorites.

The second and third place winners took

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Space to spare

The warehouse at 33 Sharpe Drive in Cranston where Mr. Messenger is now operating from offers more space than the one in Warwick that was rendered inoperable May 25 when a propane tank explosion brought down the roof. Story on page 3 (Warwick Beacon photos)

Spuds on school lunch chopping block

By KIM KALUNIAN

Come 2012, school kids could be saying *sayonara* to spuds. A recent proposal from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) seeks to limit servings of the white potato in state-subsidized meals, like school lunches and breakfasts. This proposal comes as part of a new

rule, published in January 2011, to increase the nutritional value of school lunches and breakfasts. The rule falls under the umbrella of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, signed into law by President Barack Obama in December of 2010.

Jean Daniel, spokesperson from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the USDA, said

that the federal nutrition policy is updated every five years, and this time the USDA partnered with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to come up with the newest guidelines and recommendations.

The IOM looked at things like consumption of foods, and what types of foods and nutrients Americans are already get-

ting enough of to decide what changes to implement. What they found were several types of foods that American students are already consuming enough of in their at-home diets.

"We're really good at eating potatoes," said Daniel.

The IOM's recommendation

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Kenny Silva has new wheels

By MATT BOWER

It's been nearly two weeks since a tricycle, designed for Kenny Silva who is autistic and suffers from muscle tone deficiencies, went missing from his home but Kenny now has a new trike, thanks to Rob Andreozzi, Michael Pelland and the East Providence Cycle bike shop.

As of yesterday afternoon, Ken Silva, Kenny's father, said the family was en route to the bike shop to pick up the new tricycle.

After a story ran in the *Beacon* about Kenny's missing tricycle,



ON THE ROAD: Kenny Silva tries out his new tricycle after picking it up at the East Providence Cycle bike shop yesterday. Friends and neighbors pitched in to buy a trike for Kenny to use. (Beacon photo by Nicole Carriere)

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home \$250 and \$100, respectively. The top winner, Amanda Zoglio, 26, who is originally from Warwick, received \$500 for her creation.

Zoglio said she and her friends enjoy drinking the brand of beer. She heard about the tie contest from her friend, Meg, a "'Gansett Girl."

"It seemed like a fun thing to do," Zoglio said. "I think it's cool that people can buy a case of beer and get a tie."

There are two types to choose from. Each design features the "Hi, Neighbor" slogan with white anchors on either a 4-inch wide blue backing, or a 2-inch wide "skinny" tie on a red backing.

"I love anchors and anything nautical," she said. "I thought it might be something people actually wear because we're all 15 minutes from the water. It's the first thing I designed that has really been out there."

Zoglio lives in Brookline, Mass. and studied graphic design at Northeastern University in Boston, where she earned her Bachelor's in 2007. She grew up in Warwick Neck and graduated from Warwick Veterans Memorial High School in 2002.

"I loved being near the water and Rocky Point Park," she said. "I was sad when that closed."

That's not the only local establishment she fondly remembers.

"I miss Iggy's," said Zoglio. "It's the best thing about Warwick."

In addition to Zoglio, Crooks attended Warwick Veterans High School and graduated in 1990. He played baseball and also said Rocky Point and Iggy's were places he enjoyed growing up.

"I loved going to Iggy's for some clam cakes, chowder, and doughboys," he said. "My parents still live in Buttonwoods."

While Crooks said Narragansett Beer has an office located in Providence, the company is hoping to house a new brewery in Rhode Island next year. They formerly had a brewery in Cranston, but it closed in 1983.

"It stood there for over a decade and then they started demolishing it in the late '90s," Crooks said. "There was one building left but it caught fire right before we got the rights. We'd love to bring it back to Rhode Island."

To further the fun, the company encourages fans to submit photos of fathers drinking the beer and/or wearing the 2011 limited-edition tie for their "Pics with Pops" promotion. All entries will be entered into a raffle for a pair of Red Sox "Hi Neighbor" seats, or PawSox box seats.

"We want to see our fans in all their glory," said Crooks.

They are also doing another promotion, "Spot the Tie." If anyone is seen at a promo event wearing the tie between now and Father's Day, they will be awarded with prizes.

"If we see you at any promo wearing 'Gansett gear, we give you goodies on the spot," Crooks said.

The limited edition ties are available at package stores throughout Southern New England while supplies last or until June 19. They can also be purchased online at narragansettbeer.com for \$10 each.

To get a sample of Narragansett Beer, there will be a taste test in spirit of the Gaspee Days Parade on Friday at I.M. Gan Discount Liquor at 380 Warwick Avenue from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.