

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Giving thanks

The year was 1621. Not far from here, a rag-tag group of Pilgrims gathered for an outdoor feast to celebrate their survival in a hostile new land.

They gave thanks for their first harvest — one that would hopefully see them through another winter. Little did they know the bitter months ahead would be such a hardship.

Of course, it was not the fourth Thursday in November when this original celebratory repast occurred. The date that we now recognize as Thanksgiving Day was officially set aside as a national holiday some 65 years ago.

Today, our Thanksgiving is steeped in tradition, myth, and legend. For many of us, Thanksgiving is quite a festive time. It is the most traveled holiday of the year, a time for far-flung families to get together.

The Thanksgiving dinner fare usually includes roasted turkey and pumpkin pies, among other dishes. There are parades and football. Those original Pilgrims would never recognize the holiday we observe today.

Without doubt, Thanksgiving is the gateway to the holiday season, though many merchants have tried to lengthen the gift-shopping spree to include the weeks after Halloween. Commercialism reigns.

Compared to the Pilgrims, our lives are much easier now. We don't have to battle the elements and worry about survival, but like those Pilgrims before us, we do have much for which we can be thankful.

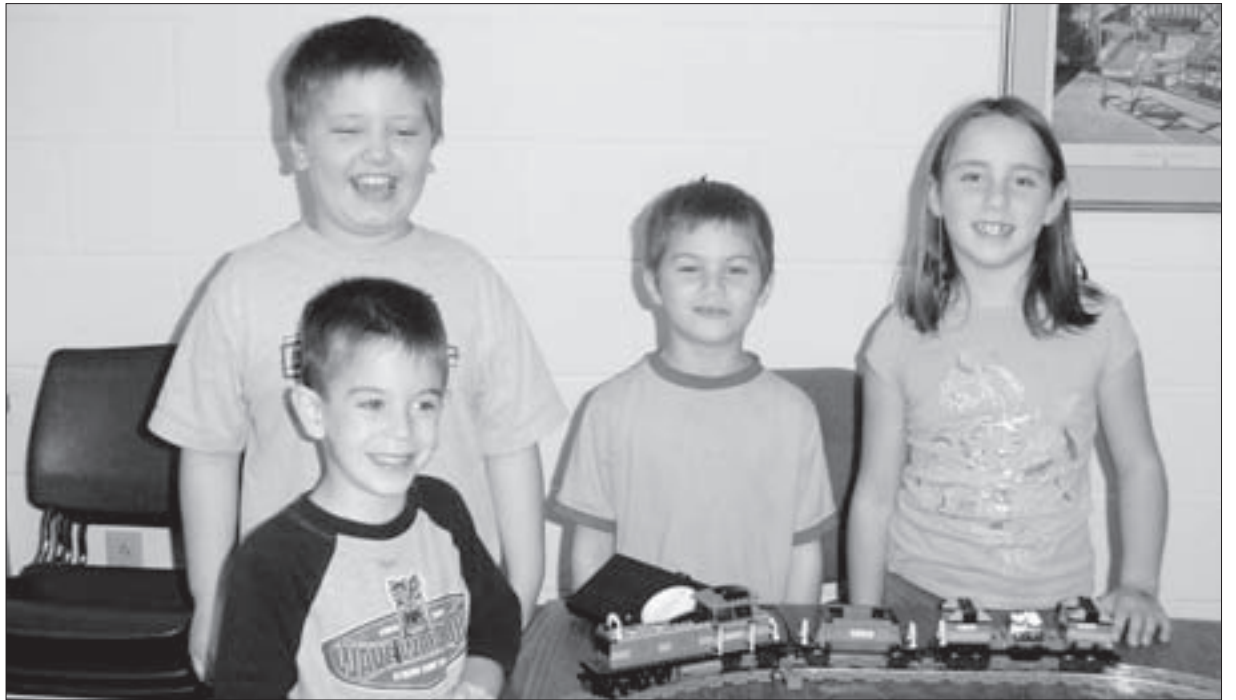
Here in Jamestown, we can be thankful for our quality of life. This year we should also give thanks for our nation's freedoms and remember those men and women who go in harm's way far from home to protect those freedoms.

We hope your Thanksgiving is filled with joy, laughter, and love. May you be surrounded by those family and friends you care about.

Please help those who are less fortunate.

And, finally, take a moment to reflect upon everything you have to be thankful for.

Happy Thanksgiving.



Caught Being Awesome

These children, Nick Antonucci, Leroy Richardson, Zach Turillo and Sophie Primiano, were awarded with a lunch with Assistant Principal Mike Franco for doing good deeds as part of the Caught Being Awesome program.

• LETTERS •

Hunter gives his position on the deer situation

As a member of the Jamestown Wildlife Committee, representing the hunting faction in Jamestown, I would be remiss in not commenting on two recent articles in the Jamestown Press.

My first comment concerns the article in the Nov. 9 issue of the Press in which we read that our Council voted 4-0 to allow deer hunting at Beavertail State Park. In the article it mentioned that Chris Savastano, who is the chairman of the JWC was opposed to any type of hunting at the park. I know that these are his own personal feelings and I respect him for this, but I want everyone to know that not all committee members feel the same way.

My second comment concerns a letter written by Nancy Crawford, who is also a member of the JWC, which appeared in the Nov. 16 issue of the Press. In her letter she made an issue about the financial gain the RIDEM would realize by allowing this hunt to proceed. I'm not that good at math, but I feel that she is about 99.99 percent wrong with her figures. The DEM has nothing financial to gain by allowing this hunt.

All hunters wishing to hunt Beavertail have already purchased a license to hunt in Rhode Island and/or Jamestown. They also have an archery tag allowing them to hunt the same areas. Other than a proficiency card, which most archery hunt-

ers already have, no other special tags or licenses are required. Thus, no extra financial gain will be realized by the DEM.

My personal feelings are that this hunt will do little or nothing to help solve the deer problem we have here in Jamestown, but it is a start. We have to convince more landowners to allow hunting on their property. We also have to think very seriously about allowing hunting on some of our town-owned lands. The time is coming and we will soon be facing a real big problem here in Jamestown.

I would be more than willing to talk to any landowners who are having a problem with deer on their property. If hunting is the

answer, we have a number of qualified people to help handle the situation right here in Jamestown. If hunting is not an option, there are other ways to handle the problem, and the RIDEM is more than willing to help us find the answers.

Richard J. Rembijas,
Jamestown Wildlife
Committee

Insects have rights

As a corollary to the current controversy regarding deer hunting, and as an avowed insect rights activist, I am compelled to publicly register my protest regarding the pest control industry. Having been a home

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The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 25, 50, 75, and 100 years ago from the Newport Daily News comes from the collection of the Newport Historical Society.

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, November 21, 1906:

The Jamestown Improvement Society is having a sidewalk made on the south side of Narragansett avenue from the Four Corners to Mr. J.J. Watson's residence.

From the Newport Daily News, November 23, 1906:

Several of the young men are arranging for a dance Thanksgiving eve.

The big guns at Fort Wetherill are being tested today with a full-weight shell and regulation charge of powder, and the caretakers of the cottages near the reservation opened the windows of the houses and otherwise prepared the property to minimize the damage usually done by the jar which is caused by firing these heavy charges.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, November 21, 1931:

The Jamestown & Newport Ferry Company is constructing a new, concrete sidewalk and passenger approach to the waiting room and boat at East Jamestown. This work replaces the old boardwalk and will be a distinct improvement to the locality. Due to the proximity of cold weather, the Callan Construction Company with its material and equipment at hand, were engaged to do this work and have employed local labor as far as practicable.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, November 19, 1956:



The so-called Jamestown Fleet Landing property on El-dred Avenue is to be sold by the Francis X. Sullivan Realty Co. of Newport. . . . At one time during the war the property was used as a landing area for the fleet with recreational facilities for men. More recently it was considered as a site for an orange juice shipping and bottling company. It comprises about 15 acres of land.

From the Newport Daily News, November 20, 1956:

A periodic revision of tuition fees, increasing the rate at Rogers High School from \$286 to \$312 was authorized by the School Committee.

From the Newport Daily News, November 24, 1956

In a few days, Newporters will be able to dial as they please to any of 6,250,000 telephones in Rhode Island eastern Massachusetts, New York City and the Philadelphia area. . . . Jamestown and Portsmouth exchanges are still on the manual system, so their own operators must be contacted to place a call.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, November 20, 1981:

(advertisements) Thanksgiving dinner at the Bay Voyage Inn \$7.95 per person. Thanksgiving dinner at the Jamestown

Country Club Restaurant & Lounge \$8.95 per person.

From the Newport Daily News, November 24, 1981:

The controversy of the proposed connector road was a highlight of the Town Council meeting Monday night.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, November 21, 1991:

The Town Council Monday night prepared to take its fight for a smaller cross-island road to the Federal Highway Administration and the state Department of Environmental Management.

Sitting as the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners, the Town Council Monday night proposed voting on a motion that would allow residents in the rural water district to tie into the town water service if they needed it to live on their property.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, November 21, 1996:

Residents last week called for a town-wide referendum vote on the proposed extension of East Ferry's steel pier. No one voiced objections to plans to spend some \$190,000 to refurbish the existing steel pier with galvanized "T" piles, precast cement panels, and poured concrete. . . . What residents were against is the proposed pier extension ending in an "L" or "T" dock big enough to accommodate 60-foot "go-fast" boats that would provide passenger service to and from Newport.

Sitting as the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners, the Town Council Monday voted to give the town's emergency bottled drinking water to the city of Warwick, which was left waterless after a 102-inch culvert burst Sunday in Cranston.