

The "I resolve" column

Every year most of us make at least a small effort to succeed at keeping one New Year's resolution. We resolve to stop smoking, lose weight and myriad other standard things that affect our personal lives. Last year, I suggested that if we truly want this country to be united, as our name implies, then let's identify ourselves as Americans and be proud of it. I believe that was a great New Year's resolution for the entire nation.

I must say that last year the people of Jamestown did more than identify themselves as Americans. They set examples of what good Americans should be by their behavior and accomplishments. As a journalist, I felt privileged to write about Danielle and Erin Brown inspiring hundreds of people to donate 1,500 stuffed animals to send to children who had nothing in war-torn Iraq. I was honored to write about Bob Sutton and the Jamestown Community Farm raising several tons of vegetables and donating their harvest to feed the needy. And how could covering the story of Maureen and Rob Packer turning tragedy into something positive with Ali's Run not make any writer feel good?

Covering stories like those gave me good reason to get up in the morning. They are just a few examples of how the people in our community have identified themselves as "good Americans," and they can be proud of their accomplishments. Many more events, acts of kindness, and community



You can't beat a system you can't understand

By Sam Bari

service should be recognized and mentioned. Unfortunately, space is limited, and the paper isn't large enough to list them all.

I find it amazing how participation in programs and events like the aforementioned pulls the community together without any conscious effort. When we work together toward common goals, we are no longer identified with labels that point out our differences. We are just groups of Americans doing what Americans do, help where and when help is needed. We don't need a government to tell us what to do; we do it because that is our mindset. That is the way Americans think.

Small towns, villages, and cities across the country make similar efforts. Once in a while we hear about them, but not often enough. I think the entire nation should know about the Brown twins, our community farm, and Ali's run. I'm sure that similar programs and events are happening every day throughout America. If you read the community newspapers, you'll learn about them. Our national media spends a little too much

time focusing on people who are famous for being famous and not wearing underwear. How and why that happens is beyond my realm of comprehension.

Nothing is wrong with reading about celebrities. They lead glamorous lives, and offer many a little bit of hope. But the concentration of information appears to be on the scandalous behavior of a few instead of the good deeds of the many. If you want to read about celebrities, read about the good things George Clooney, Oprah Winfrey, and Tiger Woods are doing. Those people are first class, generous, good-hearted Americans — the best of the best. More should be written about all they've done for the less fortunate on this little rock we call Earth.

This year, I resolve to write more about the good things that happen in our community, and I resolve to encourage other writers, especially those who have access to wider audiences to do the same. By doing this, I sincerely believe that people will have more opportunities to see that the American people are united, and we do think as a community with common goals, and a positive mindset. Despite the many challenges that face us every day, we manage to pull together as true Americans, living in a system that we can't understand.

That being said, I wish you and yours a happy, healthy and productive New Year.



Where in the World is the Jamestown Press? School Committee Chairwoman Cathy Kaiser took the Press to Bogota, Colombia, where she visited her son Dan Kaiser over the holiday vacation.

Island scenes needed for town calendar

The Jamestown Department of Public Works wants your pictures of the island for its new calendar which will highlight the need to recycle.

Public Works Director Steve

Goslee, Town Engineer Mike Gray, Town Councilman Bill Kelly, and Town Planner Lisa Bryer are working on a grant application to the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Agency. A key component of the grant application is a 12-month calendar that will promote recycling on the island.

To make the calendar specific to Jamestown, pictures of island scenes are needed. These pictures will be incorporated into the calendar. Residents are asked to forward appropriate pictures to Lisa Bryer. High definition digital photos can be e-mailed to LBryer@jamestownri.net


Color prints, a minimum 4-by-6-inches, can be mailed to Lisa Bryer, Town Planner, PO Box 377, Jamestown, RI 02835.

All photos must be received by tomorrow, Jan. 5.

Included in this grant application to RIRRA is a request for leaf bags. Ten will be given to each household in Jamestown

for a spring cleanup of leaves and other appropriate garden waste. In addition, Councilman Bill Kelly said, the town is going to include a provision for an experimental composting program. This portion of the grant application will include a request for 25 composting bins valued at \$40 to \$50 dollars each that will be given free of charge to the first 25 residents who sign up to take a one- to two-hour class on how to properly compost household waste into a useful gardening product.

Jamestown has consistently improved its recycling numbers year after year, and as a result, the RIRRA has been rewarded with a cash incentive. This year the town has received \$9,000, which will be used to buy protective winter gear for the Department of Public Works employees and additional equipment for the new DPW utility body truck just purchased by the town.



ISLAND ENERGY, CO.

"We put our energy into your home"

FULL SERVICE HOME HEATING OIL

On Road Diesel Fuel for Diesel Cars & Trucks

Off Road Fuel for Contractors

Superior Service

401-423-2221
Lic#452

Place your ad here and **REACH MILLIONS ONLINE**

All for one price!
Call 423-3200



WE HAVE MOVED!

WICKFORD DENTAL ASSOCIATES

Paul N. Boscia, DMD
Chris A. Pedorella, DMD Peri Mutewera, DMD

OUR NEW LOCATION IS:
320 Phillips St., Wickford, RI 02852
295-8806

Winter series begins at the art museum

Richard Grosvenor, artist, author and teacher, will open the Newport Art Museum's 2007 Winter Lecture Series on Saturday, Jan. 6, at 2 p.m. with a lecture on "The Architecture of Faith: Translated into Structure."

Grosvenor will examine how the religious beliefs of a people determine the architecture of their most important structures. He will also consider current architectural trends with an eye to their effect on church design.

Grosvenor, who has a bachelor's degree in fine art from Harvard University, taught art for 40 years at St. George's School and served as head of the art department there for 20 years. He currently is involved with the Circle of Scholars Program sponsored by Salve University.

This is the first of eight Winter Lectures, which will take place on consecutive Saturday afternoons at the Newport Art Museum. The cost of each lecture is \$5 for museum members and \$10 for non-members, and it includes afternoon tea after the lecture. Since seating is limited, attendees should arrive early. For more information, call the museum at 848-8200 or go to Calendar at www.newportartmuseum.com.

DEDUCTIBLE REWARDS

SIGN UP TODAY AND GET

\$100 OFF

YOUR DEDUCTIBLE.

YOUR CHOICE AUTO

Deductible Rewards.
Earn \$100 off your deductible for every year of safe driving - up to \$500. Call us today.



Kernan King, CLU
401-788-0080
26 S County Commons Way
South Kingtown
KernanKing@allstate.com



Kurt King
401-788-0080
26 South County Commons Way
Kingstown
a017892@allstate.com



Allstate
You're in good hands.

Feature is optional and subject to terms and conditions. Available in select states now and in most states by 1/31/06 (subject to regulatory approval where required). Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Company, Northbrook, IL. ©2006 Allstate Insurance Company