



Look for the Holiday Gift Guide inside this week's paper!

# JAMESTOWN PRESS

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## Man accused of bilking investors out of \$500K

By Adrienne Downing

State police arrested a Jamestown man on Tuesday for the second time after they determined that he scammed investors out of over \$500,000.

Charles Pruena, of 89 Frigate St., faces three felony charges of obtaining money under false pretenses and one count of delivery of a fraudulent check over \$1,000.

Pruena was arrested Nov. 5 on charges that, while posing as a Boston Red Sox talent scout, he

had received \$6,300 for Red Sox tickets that he never delivered.

According to Lt. David Neill of the Rhode Island State Police, 12 other victims came forward after seeing the reports of the arrest in the media.

Of the 12, only three substantiated claims have so far turned into charges. "The complaints have slowly come in and we are investigating them as they come in. There

See "Fraud" on page 13

## Carol Cronin's first book is full of surprises

By Sam Bari

A boy, a boat, and a bump on the head were all the elements needed for Carol Newman Cronin to write her first published work of fiction, "Oliver's Surprise: A Boy, a Schooner, and the Great Hurricane of 1938." Using Jamestown and Narragansett Bay as the setting, the nautical tale is a treasure chest of surprises.

Cronin's 12-year-old nephew, Oliver Newman "was my inspira-

tion for the book," Cronin said. "I wanted to write him a Christmas story." She was sitting in her Narragansett Avenue office looking down on Dutch Harbor when she thought about what would happen if Oliver, as a modern boy, wandered back in time to 1938, she said.

She considered what he would see and whom he would find, as

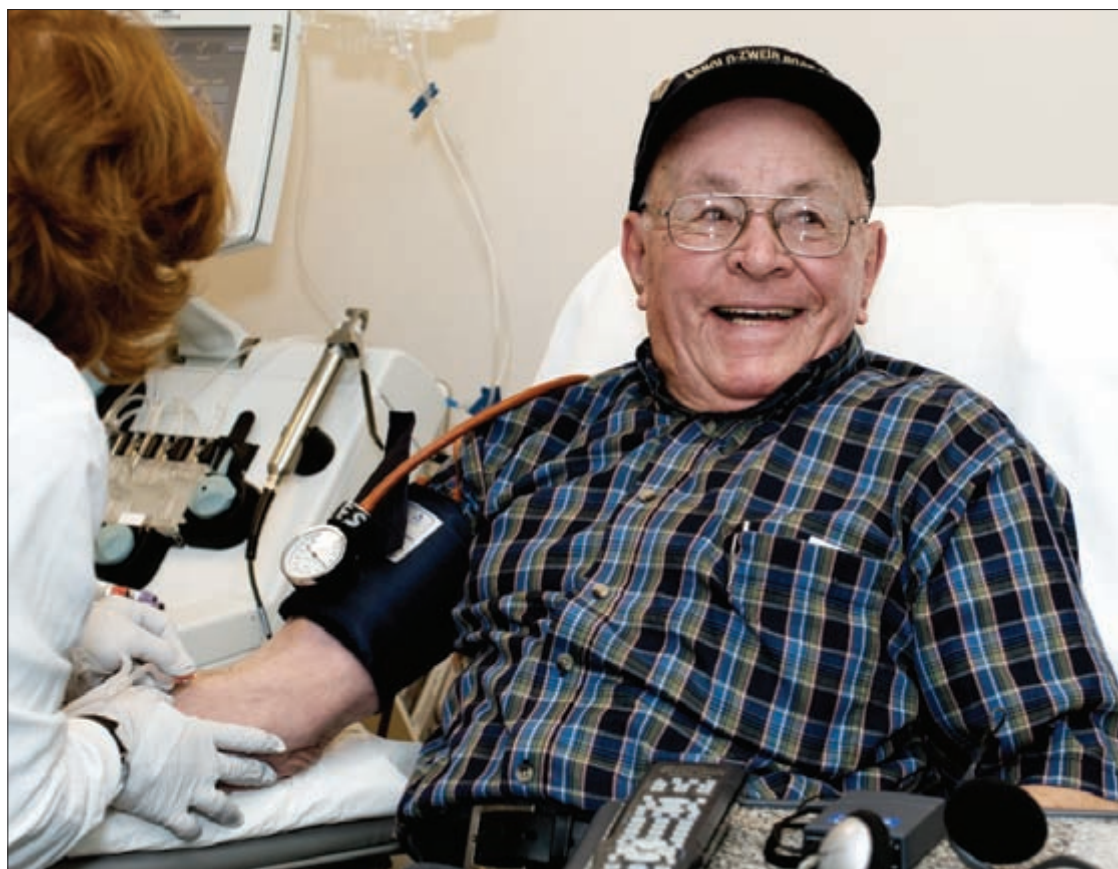
See "Oliver" on page 15



### Holiday time

Debbie Swistak hangs ornaments on the tree in Jamestown Designs in preparation for Jamestown's holiday festivities this weekend.

Photo by Melissa Wicks



### Life saver

Jim McLoughlin donates blood for the 300<sup>th</sup> time at the Rhode Island Blood Center. See the story on page 5 for more information.

Photo by Sam Bari

## Christmas comes to Jamestown this weekend

Festivities kick off the island's holiday season

vid Schock Gallery. Artist Tom McAleer will also host an open house this weekend.

### CIAA Craft Show

The Conanicut Island Art Association will host its annual Crafts Fair on Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Melrose Avenue School from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You'll find a wide assortment of unique handmade gifts.

Some 40 local artists and artisans will participate in the popular event. CIAA president Don Miller said many art mediums will be represented, including pottery, watercolors and acrylics, textiles, jewelry and photography. "The craft show is a great place to find unique gifts," he added.

### Church Fairs

The three churches on Narragansett Avenue will host their annual holiday events this Saturday, Dec. 6:

- St. Matthew's annual Christ-

See "Happenings" on page 15

Christmas will take center stage in Jamestown this weekend with a schedule chock full of holiday island festivities. There will be a twinkle of colorful lights and caroling to warm your soul. Best of all, Santa Claus will drop in for his annual visit.

To get in the proper holiday spirit, you'll want to make sure that you don't miss anything!

### Open houses

Everyone is Christmas shopping. To make the job easier, Jamestown merchants are hosting holiday open houses on Saturday, Dec. 6. It will be a great time to shop for the perfect gifts. Top off your island outing with lunch at one of the village eateries.

Those stores hosting holiday open houses include Jamestown Designs, Ocean Essence Spa, the Ben Thomas Gallery and the Da-