

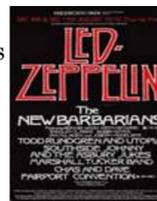


Inside:

Sports: All hail the king: Fall sports MVP named

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A look into the decades of music, from the early 70's to today



# the Maritimes

Narragansett High School

Narragansett High School's student newspaper since 2008.

Volume 101 Number 2

Monday, December 22, 2008

Page edited by Kyle Doubrava and Ross Gorenski

## Black Friday sales booming

by ALEX McLEOD  
reporter

Black Friday sales totaled 10.6 billion dollars this year, up three percent from 2007, according to Shoppertrak RCT, a retail sales organization.

The Friday following Thanksgiving is commonly referred to as "Black Friday" due to large sales and retail traffic bringing store balances from red to black ink, symbolizing a net profit for retailers.

In spite of the present economic turmoil, "door-buster" sales brought huge

crowds to popular retailers. At Best Buy on Route 2, crowds reaching 700 people lined up in the early morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> of November.

Mary Sullivan, freshman, said that shoppers spent much more than she had expected. "There were a lot of sales and there were more people than I thought there would be because I didn't think people would be spending that much. But it turned out they were," Sullivan said. Shoppers were certainly spending, as the average shopper spent a total of \$372.57 on Black Friday.



Cities across the country experienced the crowds of holiday shoppers rushing to get the best deal. Freshman

Jackie Iannucci was in New York City on Black Friday. "In all the stores in New York there were huge sales,

like 50 or 70 percent off. It was crazy, there was a lot of people. There was a lot of buying going on," Iannucci said.

The massive crowds on Black Friday resulted in multiple deaths. A Walmart employee was trampled and thus killed by 2,000 shoppers running in to a Long Island store at 5 AM. Numerous shootings occurred across the country and 74 percent of retailers report an increase in shoplifting.

Most Narragansett teachers avoided shopping

(see FRIDAY, p 3)

## McCooley wins talent night at NHS

by KAITLYN MURRAY  
reporter

NHS' annual talent show, held by student council, was a definite success said Sara Balestrieri.

The winner, Chris McCooley, sophomore, played a medley including "The Pink Panther" on the piano. At the end of the show, student council members acted as the judges. They then held a vote where the winner was determined by the loudest clapping and screams from the audience. It was a close call but the judges announced that McCooley received the most applause. Most were happy with the results.

"I thought Chris did an amazing job and it was great that he won," Mr. Schroeter, talent show coordinator, said. "But everyone else did really well too. I don't really like to get involved and so that's why I let the student council run the judging. I stay neutral because as the emcee it wouldn't be good for me to show any favoritism."

Others who attended though, did have their favorites.

"I really liked Abby Riley's cover of Free Falling, the John Mayer version,"

(see TALENT, p 3)

## Joubert: keepin' it real at NHS

by KIANI CARROLL  
reporter



As we all know, NHS has many new teachers this year. Mr. Joubert is a new face in the social studies department. He is known to be a lively teacher and a fun person to be around. His classes are also rumored to be entertaining and interesting.

Joubert went to LaSalle Academy and then attended Providence College. At LaSalle he was in a class called war and politics. In this class, he discovered that he liked social studies.

"I really enjoyed history and social studies and I decided that I would enjoy myself by learning about it and teaching young minds," Joubert said.

Joubert came about being a teacher at Narragansett High School because of budget cuts at his last school. He worked as a teacher in Cranston for 5 years, until the budget cuts. They laid off about a 100 teachers and then he found an opening here at NHS.

"I was very happy when I found

out there was an opening here and I got the job," Joubert said.

Joubert likes the high school so far. "I do, it's a very nice building, excellent people. One thing I have noticed compared to other places that I have worked is that the teachers are very engaged and very caring and very involved with students in making sure that they get what they need. It is very positive and I like the technology too," Joubert said.

Joubert said he likes the students here at NHS. "Overall the students are very nice and I'm very impressed with their writing abilities," Joubert said.

Billy Byrne, sophomore, likes Mr. Joubert's class. "He is really fun and his class is pretty fun. He even claims to be an "OG" and I talked about that with him," said Joubert.

Joubert however denies this claim of being an "OG."

He also tries to keep his class educational and entertaining.

"I try to keep up to date on what

(see Joubert, p 3)

## FFA poinsettia sale back for holiday season

by JENNA MAIRS  
reporter

The holidays are back again and nothing brightens up a room like a poinsettia during the holiday season.

The Future Farmers of America (FFA) is selling poinsettias again from now until Christmas every day

in the greenhouse from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., each poinsettia is \$12 apiece. The sale will continue until all the poinsettias are sold or until Christmas, when they will drop all sale value.

"We've sold quite a few," Mr. Breen, FFA co-advisor, said. The students have sold them at vendor

fairs, the town hall, and at holiday Christmas concerts.

The poinsettia sale is not a fundraiser, Mrs. Ashworth, co-advisor, said, but more of a project. All profits from the sale will go back into the FFA program, to pay for the cost of soil, pots, and the pre-started poinsettia plants.

"It's a project for the upper classmen," Ashworth said. The project is for more experienced agriscience students, because the poinsettia is a specialty crop, meaning that it's more sensitive and easy to lose when being grown.

The class ordered 200 of

(see FFA, p 3)

# FFA spreading holiday cheer

by TYLER CASEY  
reporter

As time is winding down on Christmas, people are starting to feel the Christmas cheer. Holiday music starting to be played and trees are going up in homes all over.

N.H.S. is keeping up with the holiday spirit by making Christmas decorations in the Agriscience classes. Among these decorations, Christmas wreaths are being made. These wreaths can be submitted in a competition at East Greenwich High School.

There are three different kinds of work that these FFA members can submit: centerpieces, wreaths, and Christmas trees.

The wreath competition has been going on for a few years now with our school involved in it. Our school doesn't do badly for a tiny school with two first place awards out of three to Matt Minty, and Stacey Moskwa.

Minty won the Christmas tree competition and Moskwa won the wreath competition. The FFA is very proud of their two members for their pieces of work.

Julia Vincelette, sophomore, member of the FFA, is in an Agriscience class where she made her entry for the wreath competition and got the second place ribbon.

"I never thought I would be good at making wreaths,

it seemed hard in the beginning, but when I got going I found that I had a knack for it," Vincelette said.

Vincelette suggest for all families to make wreaths while people are in the Christmas spirit because it is just a fun filled activity that everyone would love.

Making wreaths are really simple. The materials you would need to make one are tree clippings, pine combs, wet moss, wire rack, plastic wrapping, nail, a bow, berries, and any other Christmas decorations you feel are necessary.

You need to first get the wet moss and place it on the wire rack. After that you need to tightly wrap the plastic around it for



about two times.

Then you get a nail and start on the outer most part of the nails by poking holes and using the desired greens and placing them in the holes.

Once you get to the second layer, you use a spiraled

angle pattern until you get to the center. At the center you layer the greens and add any decorations you want to the wreath.

Wreaths make a great holiday gift for the young and old, as well as all those young at heart.

## YouTube: School appropriate or corruptor of today's youth?

by ALEX MCLEOD  
reporter

As most are aware, the school uses blocking software to deny students access to selected sites deemed unnecessary or inappropriate for school.

"You set up the filter in general terms by blocking categories. And those categories are updated automatically," Mr. Emery, who manages the filtration system, said.

Freshman Ellis Dansereau agrees that YouTube™ must be blocked in the school. "People would watch videos on the computer all of the time," Dansereau said. "There can be some bad videos on YouTube™."

Social studies teacher Mr. Joubert said YouTube™ could be utilized for educational purposes in class if it were available. "A lot of times, I want to show videos from the media or something, like world events that have happened, and it's kind of difficult to find it, where as it would be a lot easier on YouTube™," said Joubert.

"I think it would be good if somehow, teachers, when they log in, would still have more access to a place such as YouTube™ while still prohibiting students and keeping strict control over what they view because of probable abuses," Joubert said.

Michael Herchen said that YouTube™ should be avail-



able with teacher permission and supervision. "They should have a way, with a teacher's permission, that you can access YouTube™," Herchen said.

Mr. Emery said that a censored version of YouTube™ would be available in the school if it was available.

Outside of schools, there is debate over whether YouTube™ should be censored. Other than a voluntary flagging system, YouTube™ has little to no censorship. If a video does not violate YouTube's™ terms of service, not containing explicit content or hate speech, it is left on the site.

"I think it's wrong to censor in terms of people expressing their viewpoints. But I understand the need to protect kids from being exploited and things of that nature," Joubert said.

Mr. Joubert said a new UN agency should be cre-

ated to created to handle internet freedom. "I think a body such as the United Nations could set up some type of group or agency, a world organization to work together to keep things fair and open," Joubert said.

The future may hold vast changes in internet freedom, either global free speech online, or a tightly controlled and censored internet regulated with much stricter standards. However at this point in time there does not appear to be any changes in the near future. A first step to democracy for non-democratic nations is free speech and it is essential to preserve this on the internet in order to further the global transition to democratic society. With out this freedom, countless countries will remain oppressed.

## Problems found with combined level classes

by JENNA MAIRS  
reporter

Learning a new language can be difficult enough on its own, but can be even more difficult when you're learning two levels at once.

Foreign Language teachers at NHS face problems with the combined level three and four classes. Due to budget cuts, Italian and French levels three and four are now combined in two classes.

"The biggest challenge is trying to teach two curriculums effectively in one class period," Mrs. Biafore, French teacher, said. "I'm trying to expose them to as much as I can."

Biafore's solution to the problem is separating the classes into groups, one of level threes and one of level fours, and teaching them separate curriculums. "I have the threes doing their thing and the fours doing their own thing," she said.

Her issue with teaching them together, however, is trying to fully prepare the level fours for the upcoming Advanced Placement (AP) exam, while keeping the level threes at an intermediate level, she said. "I find that if I had the threes by themselves, I'd give them more intermediate work," said Johnson.

She also finds trouble keeping up with the curriculum provided by the College Board for the AP

exam she said. Johnson is the only Italian teacher in the state with a combined level three and four class, and none of her level four students from last year passed the AP exam.

As for the level threes in her class, they seem to be handling the level four material pretty well, she said. "I think most of them are doing well, there are two or three people who are struggling," she said.

Although the cons definitely outweigh the pros, there are a few positives to teaching the classes together said Biafore. "You have the pros of students with more experience helping the novice students," she said.

Although the combined classes can create a great deal of difficulties in instructing her students, Johnson can see the positives in her class as well. She said, in a sense that the level threes can prepare more for the AP exam by watching the level fours and gaining an understanding of what is covered on this specific exam. "I still want two separate classes, but the threes benefit from seeing the work that has to be done," she said.

"I think our numbers have grown," Johnson said. Although Spanish is always more popular, it would take a lot more students in her class to separate it into two classes.

# Making the band: the Mariner way

by SHERRY HANNAN  
reporter

The Mariner band and chorus have made their school proud with their musical talent. Recently, some of the students qualified for All-States and will now be a part of a band that plays a concert in March.

Making it to All-States is a big deal. Out of all of those who try out, only ten percent are accepted. All middle schools and high schools across the state combine their best musicians to make a band. This year, auditions were held at Rhode Island College, where only a handful of the hundreds of kids tried out made the band. Anyone is able to qualify for All-

States as long as they play an instrument, or of course, are able to sing.

Preparations began back in August, where all of those who wanted to try out received the music that they would have to be able to sing or play. They had the opportunity to practice as much as they wanted until November, where they would have to demonstrate their abilities.

Sophomore Jordan Ashton, who took first chair for Senior Tenor had to sing White Horses by Gwyneth Walker. In the months leading up to his debut, he took a lot of voice lessons. "I was really nervous because I was sure that there would be a lot of kids that were better than me. When I



found out I was taking first chair, I was really excited and shocked," said Ashton.

Those who have made

the band are now going to be mailed a contract and pay an entry fee to perform at Veteran's Memorial in

March. The week of the concert, the kids gather for rehearsals that can last up to 8 or 9 hours where they prepare 11 or 12 songs that they will perform.

Mr. Healey is very proud of his music students and loves to brag about how talented they are, being able to say that two of them took first chairs. He always welcomes students that want to try their musical side.

Congratulations to Jordan Ashton, first chair Senior Tenor, and Jennifer Castro sixth chair Senior Alto, Junior Tenor, Brendan Smerbeck also placed first, as well as 14<sup>th</sup> for trumpet. Sophia Scalora took 24<sup>th</sup> for Vocal Junior Soprano. Emily Wright was 13<sup>th</sup> for violin.

## TALENT

Jessica Motherway, junior, said. "She has such a pretty voice."

This year, most of the proceeds will be going to Narragansett High School's Holiday Food and Gift Drive that is focusing on helping local families in need this time of year.

"This year we raised over \$600 and we will be giving the holiday drive \$500," Mr. Marcus Schroeter, talent show coordinator, said.

"We usually always have a good turnout, especially last night because it was the dance team's breakout performance," Schroeter said. "Then secondly, families and friends of the performers show up to support and vote for them."

"It was good but at times a little boring," Jessica Motherway said. "There were only a few acts. I think it would've been better if there were more people performing."

In fact there were only seven acts. These included the winner Chris McCooey, in second place the band Feedback featuring Steve Pelletier Matt Prezioso, Mike Robinson and Jon Joyce, the NHS Dance team, Jordan Ashton sang "Angels" by Robbie Williams, Connor Fisher and Mick Bialek performed Spill Canvas' "All Over You", an artistic video created by Marge Zwilinski, a beautiful performance by Alison Donnelly, and Abby

Riley sang John Mayer's rendition of "Free Fallin'" (accompanied by Jordan Ashton on the guitar).

Despite the small amount of entertainers, the talent show still managed to have interesting highlights. During the band Feedback's performance, there were actual paint chips falling from the ceiling due to the sound level said Schroeter.

So why weren't there more participants? Jessica Motherway said neither she nor many people she knows has talents, or at least not ones they'd be willing to show on stage.

"I was really nervous before hand," Abby Riley, junior, said. "But I'm glad I did it."

Also some students may not realize that there is an incentive for those who perform. And even for those who attend.

"There were a wide range of prizes from places such as Starbucks, Crosswynd Traders, Luciano's Hair, Narragansett bikes, etcetera," Schroeter said. "And then we'll raffle off prizes in between the acts. Just little toys and trinkets that I'll get from the dollar store."

For those who missed out, there will be another talent night coming up in the Spring.

"The date is yet to be determined," Schroeter said. "But we usually hold them not to close to the end of the year, but most likely in mid-May."

## FFA

meaning that it's more sensitive and easy to lose when being grown.

The class ordered 200 of the plants to grow and sell, via connections by Breene, to Budzie's Nursery in Coventry. The poinsettias are ordered at the nursery in May, arrive in August, and are held until the students can begin working with them in late September, Breene said.

The project is designed

so that the students can do all the work, Ashworth said. The students design the irrigation plans and the disease and pest control methods, and also learn how to market and sell the full-grown poinsettias.

"They had to learn how to take care of them and how to market them," Breene said. "And out of two hundred, we only lost four".

The students also learn about business aspects

from selling the crops, and about specialty crop maintenance and control.

The FFA does not hold the sale every year, Ashworth said, because it really takes the right kind of students to raise them, or money will be lost. It's tough also because the school's greenhouse is non-professional, she said.

Poinsettias are being sold throughout the holiday season, and can be purchased in either red or white.

## JOUBERT

"No comment," Joubert said.

He also tries to keep his class educational and entertaining.

"I try to keep up to date on what kids like, I try to weave that in so once in a while so I might sing a line of a song to make sure they are awake or paying attention and sometimes if I'm in the mood I'll dance a

little bit," Joubert said.

What Joubert wants his students to accomplish this year is to have the skills to be successful. He wants his freshmen classes to be able to understand the portfolio system and to have the capability and requirements to graduate because they have the most requirements of any class so far.

Joubert has a freshmen advisory. He likes to share

funny tidbits and stories from his own personal life. Take his dog Max for example. "He's a Beigaun which looks like a poodle, but he's not a poodle, he's a doodle but there really is no such thing as a doodle because I made that up. But the kids know about him. And the other day he ate my fourth pair of shoes," Joubert said.

## FRIDAY

on Black Friday. Science teacher Mrs. Couchon hopes to cut her holiday spending this year, but would never shop on Black Friday. "I do plan to cut back, but I never shop the day after thanksgiving," Couchon said.

Physical Education teacher Mrs. Grennan also does not shop on Black Friday. "I usually try to avoid that at all costs," Grennan said.

Unfortunately for the nation's economy, Black Friday is not always the best indicator of holiday retail performance. Shoppertrak

estimates that retail traffic will fall 9.9 percent through this holiday season.

While there may be much more negative news ahead, retailers and consumers can be thankful for a successful Black Friday and hope to continue this positive trend until year end.

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All the high school news that fit to print.

## What happened to my eighty degree winters?

The saying "no place is like home" comes close to my heart, yet anyone who has any idea of the majesty of Hawaii can agree that there is no place like Hawaii.

The island of O'ahu, where I resided for two years, is known for its countless beaches. The overwhelming pleasure of the senses comes to whoever steps upon an O'ahu beach.

Personally, I cannot stand the cold. I would prefer a heatstroke before frost bite any day. I don't understand people who love the cold, and they confuse me.

Another great thing of Hawaii would have to be its limitless green mountains, the sight itself is a memory to be cherished. Also, the hikes you can take in these dense forests matches the same feeling of awe you get from the beaches.

Not only is the landscape a sight, but the people there are especially friendly. Not that Narragansett people are not friendly, but the local's culture and way of life makes them seem more open to new people.

When welcoming new people, the locals either say "E komo mai" or "aloha" which means welcome, but also gives off a feeling of acceptance in a new place.

The weather there is unbelievable. Unlike Rhode Island, there is no summer or winter, but a windy and not windy season. When school is out, the beaches are filled with a combined group of locals and tourists. The only issue is finding a spot on the beach, not unlike here in Narragansett in the summertime.

At the end of the school year, every school in Hawaii experiences the celebration of May Day, otherwise known as Lei Day. This holiday is about all cultures coming together and expressing their own ideas and traditions.

I deeply hope that anyone can experience the great aspects of Hawaii, that I have experienced as a local there. Anyone who's anybody should definitely go.

## Help, I'm freezing

### Inconsistency in NHS heating system frustrating the student body



by **STEPHANIE MCWHINNIE** columnist

own temperature?

Students go into first period and it's undeniably hot, and then in the next class it's subzero freezing.

Last year when there was construction going on nearby, usually it was just as cold, if not colder, as the outside temperature, which caused the class to be moved into an empty classroom. That prevented an actual lesson for the day and wasted class time with busy work.

Now that it is winter time, most expect rooms to be warm enough that you're not freezing, but not too hot to the point it's unbearable.

Yet another year after the excessive amount of money given to remodel everything, it is still an uneven temperature around the school.

With weather getting colder and colder, it would be reassuring idea to know one can walk into school and into any classrooms and be comfortable. Students never know if they're going to need to bring a coat into class.

Some classrooms are so hot that it is unbearable, and then that same classroom that was so hot the day before is an ice box the following day.

How is it that every individual classroom has its

Also some of the rooms were so hot that teachers had the students take their stuff and go sit outside on the bleachers to finish class. How are students supposed to have an actual class when there isn't a permanent classroom? The frequent changes in atmosphere are not only distracting but a little unnerving.

The freshmen this year are lucky to not have to deal with the classroom change that the freshmen last year did. It's hard enough being in a new school, but after three

months of the same classrooms changing them isn't the best way to stay focused.

There is enough stuff that students need to carry around between books and binders, having to worry about bringing a jacket to some classes just causes more stress.

A good portion of students don't even use their lockers, so it makes it all the harder to drag around a heavy jacket all day.

Most of the time students are so concerned about being cold that no one pays attention to what is really going on in class. It's a major distraction and it isn't really healthy during cold season.

For example, it's very hard to focus on a test while almost the entire class is sniffing or coughing from a cold or the flu. If that's not the issue, then usually you can't concentrate on the lesson because you're too focused on how cold you are.

Hopefully throughout the winter the problem will get solved and it will be an even temperature throughout the school.

## the Maritimes

**Volume 101 Number 2**

The Maritimes, Narragansett High School's student newspaper, is published by students bi-monthly during the regular school year. The students are responsible for news and editorial content.

<b>Cara Arnau</b> reporter	<b>Ashley Carr</b> reporter
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<b>Stephanie McWhinnie</b> reporter	<b>Kaitlyn Murray</b> reporter
<b>Matt Pistacchio</b> reporter	<b>Mr. Shields</b> Newspaper Advisor

Room 403  
 Narragansett High School  
 245 South Pier Road  
 Narragansett, RI 02882  
 PHONE (401) 792-9400  
 Fax (401) 792-9410  
 E-Mail  
 WEB PAGE ADDRESS  
<http://www.narragansett.k12.ri.us>

## WORD ON THE STREET

What is the one thing you want for Christmas and why?



*"I want a telephoto lens for my camera because photography is my hobby and I want to capture the timeless memories of this Christmas."*

—Mrs. Gongoleski, faculty



*"I want a snowboard so that I don't have to rent one anymore when I go snowboarding."*

—Carissa Koski, junior

*"I want a grand piano for Christmas because I play a lot of instruments but don't have a good piano"*

—Jordan Ashton, sophomore

### VOICE YOUR OPINION

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The Maritimes  
 Narragansett High School  
 245 South Pier Road  
 Narragansett, RI 02882

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Please keep letters to the editor no longer than 250 words. Longer letters may be used as guest columns at the editor's discretion. All letters must be signed and include an address or phone number for confirmation. Letters may be edited for libelous statements, available space or factual errors.

# A look into the decades of music

by KYLE DOUBRAVA  
reporter

Rarely does anyone our age pick up an old record at home that has collected more dust than the top of a mantle, but who knows what you may find?

As kids we mainly heard '90s alternative rock playing from inside of our parents' sedan and thought it had a decent rhythm to it. But how did this music come to be? A look into the previous decades will help answer our inquiry.

In the 1970s the music world was experiencing an explosion of unique genres and rising stars. Disco, funk, punk rock, and hard rock were all being intertwined due to the inflowing musicians from England and several other parts of the globe.

One of the most popular bands from England was Led Zeppelin, a hard rock group. This band has sold over 300 million albums worldwide



and, in 1973, played in front of 56,800 fans in Tampa. This attendance broke the previous attendance record held by the Beatles when they played their famous show at Shea Stadium.

Another famous band from the '70s was the Electric Light Orchestra (or "ELO"), also from England.

Led by Jeff Lynne, the band sported the afros, sometimes the shoulder-length hair and appropriate bellbottoms of the time. In fact, Lynne still maintains the '70s afro when on tour today.

ELO was a symphonic band, relying heavily on string instruments to create a relaxing tone. In their

songs "Turn to Stone" and

"Telephone Line" the symphonies are very evident.

The 1970s was certainly a confusing era in music, mainly because there were so many different genres of rock, folk, disco, funk, symphonic, and punk rock is only a taste of what the '70s had to offer.

However, the transition into the 1980s would bring far different images and genres to the public.

The introduction of "techno" music shocked the world. People were not prepared to hear this type of music and repelled it to begin with. Today techno occupies a large part of the music world.

The 1980s also showcased for the first time MTV, which debuted in August 1981. Stars like Madonna and Michael Jackson instantly became famous on the network and made large profits from their frequent music video

appearances.

The '80s did not stop England from producing more rock stars, however.

Billy Idol, one of the well-known punk rockers of the era, delivered such songs as "White Wedding" and "Mony Mony", which brought him to the top in terms of rock and roll.

The music that we listen to today still contains all of the elements of the 1970s and

1980s, but we just might not know it. Artists are influenced today by artists of the past and on occasion one musician may modify a song

that was written 30 or 40 years ago. One example of this is Akon's "Lonely" and Bobby Vinton's "Mr. Lonely", which was written in 1964.

So if you're digging through a closet or an attic

and happen to find an old record or CD, it could be interesting to see what your parents thought was "cool" when they were younger, or you may find their taste in music was lame.

## A first bite never tasted better

by TYLER CASEY  
reporter

94 Providence Place Avenue is home to the only Cheesecake Factory in Rhode Island. The Cheesecake Factory is a well run franchise that has a lot of success seeing how there is a constant wait time of an hour.

I went to the Cheesecake Factory with a bunch of my friends and we all really seemed to enjoy the food and the atmosphere.

I had the double bacon BBQ burger. This was really really good and huge. I needed to use both of my hands to handle the burger. The fries were also some of the best I've had because they were the perfect combination of crunchy and salty. Overall my meal was really enjoyable.

The Cheesecake Factory is known for their large portions and great food. But it is mostly known for their cheesecake.

One of their specialties is obviously the cheesecake with 29 different types in the menu. All have the looks of edible delight.

Alex Degidio, a junior, had a taste of six different types of cheesecake. "Each bite I took from all the different cheesecakes made my mouth water for the next bite and when it was all said and done I didn't want to stop, I was like a kid in a candy store," Degidio said.



The cheesecakes at the Cheesecake Factory are made fresh daily and can be sold in either slices or by an entire cake.

Another great aspect of this restaurant was the friendly service and the environment.

As soon as I walked into the Cheesecake Factory, you could tell that this was the place to be on a Saturday night in Providence. Not only was the place packed and buzzing with noise, but the aroma of the food dragged you in and made your mouth water.

The lighting is dim in the restaurant and gives a comfortable setting of a place to eat. I didn't feel like I had to be rushed in making any decisions.

The staff on hand was very nice and friendly. They often came to check on our table and provide us with anything we needed.

Stephen Lambert, a junior, also really enjoyed our time at the Cheesecake Factory. "The food was great. The atmosphere was great. I'd go back any day of the week for another piece of that cheesecake too," Lambert said.

So if you are ever in the area or want to make the trip up to Providence, you will not be disappointed. The Cheesecake Factory is the place to hang out and dine in Providence. It is fun for the entire family and is a great place to dine. And the cheesecake isn't half bad either, or so I'm told.

## Holiday movies

by KIANI CARROLL  
reporter

The holidays are upon us. With the great spirit of the holidays, there are the holiday movies that we all know and love. Whether we see the movies in the theaters, watch them on TV, or rent them, holiday movies always provide an enjoyable time and a great way to celebrate the holidays.

NHS is no exception to the love of holiday movies. Three students expressed their favorite holiday movie and the reason that they enjoy the film so much.

Laine Wagner, a sophomore, loves the movie "The Grinch Stole Christmas" starring Jim Carrey. "This movie is one that I can see over and over again. I love the comedy aspect and the message it portrays about the true spirit of the holidays. I also like watching this movie with my family or friends during Christmas time," Wagner said.

Zach Gendreau, a sophomore, enjoys watching the holiday film "The Santa Claus 2" starring Tim Allen. "This movie is really fun and is true to the holiday spirit. I just love how Santa is still alive in the hearts of the children," Gendreau said.

Tyler Casey, a junior,



favorite holiday movies are "The Christmas Carol" and "The Santa Claus 2."

"When I was younger I felt like one of the elves. I once tried to widdle a chair for my sister's doll like an elf. I even once drew a map for Santa that said take me to the North Pole. I always loved the spirit of Christmas and the joy it brought to everyone around me. These two films remain to be my favorite holiday movie because they are enjoyable and show the meaning of Christmas," Casey said.

Overall, NHS seems to be getting very excited about the holiday season. Whether you are enjoying the films with your family or friends, it is time to grab some hot chocolate and enjoy the spirit of the holidays.



## Hands-on classes provide a welcome break to students

by **ASHLEY CARR**  
reporter

Even before entering the room, the sound of students socializing and working hands on was clear from steps outside the door. This was enough to make anyone working on geometry, or typing an essay envious of those in the ceramics class, who were able to explore their minds and create whatever they chose during this period.

There are two separate classes and ceramics is taken first. When students have passed this class, then they are given the option of ceramics 2.

In this class, students are given a number of free choice assignments throughout the semester. "Ceramics 2 is much more

involved, as to ceramics 1 when you are still learning all of the basics," Mrs. Gabrilowitz, Art teacher, said.

The class offers numerous assignments which may appeal to many different students. "I enjoyed something ordinary into something extraordinary," Alyssa Paglia, junior, said. For this task, she had made a ceramic apple, into a ring holder. Another student had made a clay truck into an openable box.

"It is a very laid back class," Gabrilowitz said. "The students are given assignments and are able to work at their own pace, but are also required to finish on time."

Anything can be made in the class, from jewelry holders to masks and

whistles. It is clear that the two art teachers enjoy their positions as ceramics instructors. "Ceramics really brings out the best in students," Gabrilowitz said.

Jayne Gibbs, junior, said there is nothing specific to what a student may make, just nothing illegal.

The students are able to create as many items as desired, and may help themselves to. "A lot" of pieces are made during this time, Paglia said.

For those with a creative mind, it appeared that there were no downfalls to this class. "I like being able to socialize, while getting work done," Dan DosSantos, junior said.

However, the students had one complaint. "I wish it was all year," Gibbs and Paglia said.

## Learning and fun rolled into one

by **LEXY DAVIS**  
reporter

Preparing for college? Looking to challenge yourself? Do you want to do all that and have fun in the process? Then academic decathlon is the club for you.

Some students might have heard of Academic Decathlon (ACA-DECA). For those of you who don't know ACA-DECA is an academic club that is open to anyone, no matter what grade. Most of the time it is made up of sophomores, juniors and seniors for the fact that freshman are new to the school and aren't as active. This year the club has accumulated a group of about 22 students.

Academic decathlon has a one-day competition in March which focuses on a different topic each year. This year's focus is Latin America.

Students compete based on academic level. There are two scrimmages, one in December and one in February, which are in preparation for the main competition. In the recent December scrimmage Shane McNamara received 1<sup>st</sup> out of everyone at the competition in all three science categories.

"I think it's a good club because you don't get a lot of general knowledge in school and this club is based on a wide variety of topics that expose a lot of stuff you normally would-

n't know." Mrs. McNamara, Spanish teacher, said. She also believed that it was a great club to join because it's good for college and it gives you good experiences interacting with students from other schools.

During the competitions students take tests in ten different areas including interviews, prepared speeches, and the usual essays and quizzes.

"This club really benefits students but you have to love to study." Mrs. Giramma, ACA-DECA advisor, said.

Students who join the

**"Students love to join it because it's fun,"**

-Gina Giramma, ACA-DECA

club come back every year; many of them join it just to put it on their application since it looks fabulous for college, but that's not all. "Students love to join it because it's fun," Giramma said.

ACA-DECA is run by Rhode Island Academic Decathlon and advised by Mrs. Giramma here. If you're interested in Academic Decathlon, the club meets every Tuesday and Thursday until after February vacation, when they meet every day after school in order to prepare for the main competition in March.

## Holiday food and gift drive to benefit local families

by **KAITLYN MURRAY**  
reporter

You know it's the holidays when Narragansett High School begins its annual Holiday Gift and Food Drive. This year the organization gave all donations and proceeds to help out the unfortunate during this holiday season.

Over twenty children have been "adopted" and the Drive will be focused on granting their wish lists. Faculty and staff members, interested must sign up by Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and can contribute either an item from a child's wish list or any amount of cash.

Many citizens and groups have come together to help

make this gift and food drive a success. Judy Frank, better known as Nurse Frank at NHS, is the head coordinator.

"We also have several local organizations generously supporting us this year," Frank said. "The South County Italian women's association and the Lions Club are participating. Volunteers signed up to help make food baskets to last families throughout the winter break, and Mr. Warner will help provide Christmas trees."

Local businesses providing gift certificates for the cause include Dunkin Donuts, Robert Anthony

**"I think this program is a really awesome idea,"**

-Jill Gunning, Library Clerk

Salon, and Crosswinds Traders.

"I think this program is a really awesome idea," Library clerk Jill Gunning said. "I think we're all struggling some this year; it's great that we can still find ways to help those who are experiencing even tougher times."

Faculty and staff make donations. There are still plenty of ways for students to help out the community.

"The Boy Scouts are the ones actually running the food drive over at Narra-

gansett Pier School," Frank said. "The Honor Society will sometimes wrap the gifts, and Mr. Breen's class takes a fieldtrip to the grocery store to buy food to make Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets."

The student council will be donating all talent show revenue to buy more gifts and gift certificates.

Children's wish lists are located in the Faculty Lunch Room.

"We buy everything from a pair of gloves and hats to toys. Old Navy gift cards to

even gas cards.," Frank said. "Sometimes if we see a child has an interest in music but has never seen a play, we'll get him tickets to a performance."

The NHS Holiday Food and Gift Drive was started by Mrs. McKendry, the Narragansett Elementary School Nurse years ago.

"I've been here six years and we've had it every year," Frank said. She also said that she loves receiving thank you notes from the appreciative families after the holidays are over.

"This drive is definitely a community effort," Frank said. "It's where a program where you get the most from giving to others."

## A new coach for a new beginning

by CARA ARNAU  
reporter

A volunteer for eight years, while her husband was head coach, Vera Kohler is happy to take over as the new girls' swim head coach. "I'm very excited," Kohler said.

The Mariners were successful last year and placed 8<sup>th</sup> out of 24 teams at the State Swimming Championships at URI. Head Coach Vera Kohler said, "I anticipate a better season this year." Medals were won by Kate Degnan who



placed 4<sup>th</sup> in both the 200 individual medley and 4<sup>th</sup> in the backstroke, Anais Grilli placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 500 freestyle, Annie Carter placed

6<sup>th</sup> in the breaststroke, Kate Degnan, Annie Carter, and Chelsea Dentler placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 200 medley relay, and Chelsea Dentler, Anais Grilli, and Kate Degnan placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the 200 freestyle relay.

Although the Narragansett Mariners swim team performed well in the state championships, their biggest competition is the Division Championships, which the team excels in. The Mariners placed 4<sup>th</sup> last year. This year looks a lot more promising for first place. "I believe we have a

shot at winning this year," Kohler said. Anais Grilli, co-captain, said, "I think we'll win our division this year."

At tryouts swimmers are looked at based upon their attitudes and their abilities to keep up in the pool. "Pool space is hard to come by. We need kids who are excited and will put a lot of effort into their swim. The swimmer needs to be able to keep up with everyone else and keep the flow in the pool moving so that the lanes don't get bunched up," Kohler said.

"In practice we do a 200-

400 yard warm-up then we do drill sets, kick sets, and sprint sets and then a cool down. It's pretty intense," Grilli said.

The swim team has one boy who is swimming as an individual, Lucas Spinazola. To qualify for states he must swim in three meets and place in each.

"Success for our team will not only rely on the standout swimmers, but the most important ingredient will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> swimmers to give us extra points, which are crucial for championships," Kohler said.

## Pete Smurro named MVP

by MATT PISTACCHIO  
reporter

Due to Pete Smurro's leading of numerous football statistics this season, he has been enshrined as *The Maritimes'* Fall MVP.

Smurro stood out among the rest; his stat sheet is the evidence. He led the Mariners in rushing yards, receptions, carries, and touchdowns.

For rushing, Smurro collected 1240 yards out of 220 carries, averaging approximately 5.6 yards per carry. All 19 of his touchdowns have been a product of his rushing games.

Smurro had 8 total receptions for 102 yards this season, averaging exactly 15 yards per reception.

From freshman year, Smurro has risen through the ranks and has had a substantial evolution as an athlete.

"It feels good to be the MVP. I've worked to be the star of the team since freshman year and all that hard work paid off," Smurro said.

Four long years have passed since the dawn of Pete Smurro. Starting as a freshman on special teams, he quickly established himself as a force to be reckoned with.

Sophomore year, he made his name more known as the starting center, his contributions as a lineman led the team to a 4-4 record.

Junior year Smurro became a highlight player starting on both offense, as a center, and defense as

alternating linemen/linebacker. Although the team repeated their last year's record and fell short of a playoff opportunity.

Then, senior year, Smurro established himself as a dominant running threat in the league leading the Mariners to a 6-3 record.

His combination of smash mouth power and lightning speed fueled the Mariners to their first playoff appearance in Division III.

"If you work hard and do what your coaches say they will get you to your best potential, always strive for more than you can be and you will come out on top," Smurro said about his work ethic.

Brendan Kenny, one of the co-captains of the Mariner Football team, has been teammates with Smurro for all four years.

"Coco was one of our hardest workers on the team. I bet a lot of kids looked up to him. His change from lineman to running back really improved our lineup, and his defense was just outstanding all year. Coco was truly one of a kind," Kenny said.

Smurro's season has gained numerous collegiate recognition all around New England. He plans to go to Curry College which has an impressive football program to fit Smurro's expectations and abilities.

The team will miss Smurro next season, but Smurro is confident the team's talents will prevail.



"My shoes will be hard to fill, but I feel kids like Matt Eldridge and Tyler Casey have the talent to do that and get it done," Smurro said.

Smurro said that he is never going to forget his four years of football at the high school.

"Ever since the clock struck zero at the end of that final playoff game, till the day I die I'll miss Mariner football," Smurro said.

Head coach Richard Fossa had a few things to say about Smurro. "Coco is a big, tough kid," Fossa said.

"His transition from lineman to running back added another dimension to our backfield," Fossa said.

"Coco was a very unique player. I just don't think Narragansett football is ready for another Coco," Fossa said.

## Victory on Turkey Day

by MATT PISTACCHIO  
reporter

The Mariner Football team officially advanced to the playoffs in an offensive showcase. The win, 24-6, was the only game out of fifteen Thursday morning games that had playoff repercussions.

The East Greenwich Avengers were knocked out of any chance for a playoff run and Gansett rode touchdown after touchdown from Pete Smurro, senior tailback.

Smurro, winner of the coaches' offensive player of the game award, had three touchdowns and had 170 yards on 21 carries.

He also had two two-point conversions and currently leads the Mariners in total touchdowns with 19.

Assistant coach, Dean Healey, said that the team played very well. "Our defense was aggressive and our offense had very good plays," he said.

"They were more excited for this game than any other we've had all season," Healey said.

This win gave the Mariners a number two spot in the playoffs with a record of 8-3. The defense had a few breakdowns resulting in an East Greenwich touchdown by John Serdakowski.

"We played very well," Fossa, head coach, said. The game ended with a Smurro touchdown and a two-point conversion.

1. Jingle Bell Rock
2. Where Are You Christmas
3. Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer
4. Who-ville Christmas Song
5. All I Want For Christmas is You



# North vs. South



## North Carolina is the better choice

by STEPHANIE MCWHINNIE  
reporter

As we all know, here in New England once it comes to be October the weather turns to the freezing cold we all forgot about during the hot summer days. But down in the south, that warm weather never goes away and neither does the happy feeling.

Recently I have gone to North Carolina and I have noted the major differences from down in the south to up here in the north. The first major difference was the temperature being in the sixties compared to the less than forty degree weather here in New England.

Also there's always more to do, even late at night. If you wake up at two a.m. you could drive and go to Waffle House for a cheap breakfast.

Most restaurants in the northern states seem to be pricier than their southern counterparts. Also southern states offer restaurants that they do not offer up here such as Bojangles, Chik-file, Sonic, Cook Out, Checkers, Steak Escape.

In the southern states, sweat tea is the favored beverage of most. Any restaurants you go to, fast food or casual dining offer sweet tea.

Besides restaurants there is also a lot of churches, driving within five miles there were four churches and none were catholic.

"I don't really feel that church is forced I feel that everyone goes to their church because they want to, not because they have to. Everyone goes on Wednesday and Sunday for three hour time periods and then on week nights the teens have youth group, which is nice." Katlyn McWhinnie, freshman at University of North Carolina Greensboro, said.

A lot of the churches were small and looked like they were run out of someone's house, but every single church on a Sunday or Wednesday was full.

Since they are in church for three hours they tend to go out to dinner later, if you got to a restaurant around five thirty or six o'clock the place is empty, go around seven or eight every single seat is next to taken.

Wal-Mart's are huge in the southern states, they're all super centers and they're all open twenty-four hours a day. There are four Wal-Marts within twenty miles that are open twenty four hours, and then there are two other Wal-Marts that are only open until ten p.m.

In grocery stores southern states sell beer and wine in the grocery stores, convenient stores and gas stations.

But the liquor stores are run by the government and are all named ABC, and to purchase alcohol you must have a liquor license allowing you to purchase the stronger liquor.

In the northern states, there's a liquor store on every corner so this was a major difference.

The southern states have more respect for their elders, younger kids know automatically to always hold the door, or open the door for an elder. If they don't they get severely punished by their parents for not showing respect.

For the older people they have a lot of bingo halls, but any other form of gambling is illegal. Just recently in the past year North Carolina received lottery, and all the profits go to funding of the schools.

There are a lot of schools too, there are four elementary schools for each section of the town, and then their high schools and middle schools are

huge because it combines two elementary schools into one school.

High school football is valued in the southern states, the high school boys take their game seriously and they play like professionals, on a Friday night you can find students and parents in the stands watching the game.

For homecoming they go all out, they have a bon fire, parade, and they have more intense spirit weeks. Here at NHS we don't have a bon fire or a parade.

A major difference up in the northern states everyone lives off of coffee, down in the southern states it is rare that you see a coffee shop like Dunkin Donuts where you can go and buy a cup of coffee. Usually you can go to a Starbucks or a Java Joe's coffee where it's more of a gourmet coffee shop.

Their gas stations are different too, up in the northern area we have more Mobil's and Shell's where as down in the south they have Kangaroo's and BP's.

Also their cost of gas is much cheaper, a gallon of gas cost one dollar and sixty-eight sense.

Everything is cheaper; a four bedroom house with two bathrooms and a two car garage is only about 100,000 dollars.

There are a lot of car dealer ships too, and the lots are packed with cars. Even though there's plenty new car dealerships there's a lot more used car dealerships.

Pawn shops are really popular as well; a lot of people go to them for quick money and use their objects as collateral.

Basically in the south there's more to do, nicer people, friendlier atmosphere, and warmer weather. What more do you want?