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# JOURNAL & PRESS

Of Southern Washington County, Est. 1842

Vol. 180, Iss. 25 No. 9229 \$2

## The Year in Review

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
JAN. 1-16, 2021



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**MEDIA HOKUM 29**



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*-chris smith illustration, special to J&P*

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## About this issue: The year in review

**Darren Johnson**  
*Journal & Press*

Chris Smith, an artist just over the border in Vermont who we regularly work with for newspaper illustrations, collaborated with me on creating this cover image to represent what our region went through last year. Hopefully that tractor and its driver get to take off their masks in 2021, after the pandemic is under control.

On our back cover you see the front page images of the 24 issues we produced in 2020, fulfilling our promise to revive The Journal & Press and offer to be the storyteller for our region. Throughout this issue, we recap the best articles from the year 2020.

We only got two months to hit the ground running before Covid stopped everyone in their tracks in March 2020. But the new business model for The Journal & Press allowed us to survive this pandemic. We will deliver 24 more great issues this year.

Thank you for your loyalty. Subscriptions are up 50% from last year at this time. But newsstand sales have been affected by the pandemic, as have advertising sales, of course – considering so many potential advertisers are closed and/or in dire straits.



CHRIS SMITH - 2020 -

Perhaps you'd like to help us in some way in 2021? Get your writing, photography, art, layout design – you name it! – seen by so many area residents who *choose* this paper. We're not a free paper people are simply amused by. We have relevant content that will be archived for 100 years from now, and beyond. We take this responsibility very seriously. We also take honoring the 179-year history of The Journal & Press seriously, regularly researching and gaining wisdom and inspiration from our extensive archives. No other area paper has our depth of history, and the ability to record our present history.

Obviously, once the pandemic hit, it became harder for us to tell our region's sto-

ries. But we're managing to do just that. And we could use more help. Volunteers and interns welcomed! Even simply subscribing to the paper helps tremendously.

Thank you for believing in us, as evidenced by your purchase of this paper. We will continue to serve in 2021. Let's hope our local economy, and our public health situation, gets back to normal soon.

Happy New Year!

Contact Darren Johnson  
anytime at [editor@journalandpress.com](mailto:editor@journalandpress.com).



# January 2020: New super, bridge, paper

We revived this paper on January 1, 2020, after it had been on hiatus since the Halloween before that, and an ownership transfer from Meghan Phalen, who had done a wonderful job keeping the historic Journal & Press alive as a weekly broadsheet newspaper. We added color, changed it to a tabloid format like the other papers in our region, and moved the frequency to twice a month, vowing more stories than ever before, which we delivered on throughout 2020.

Another big story from that issue reported the December celebration for the ribbon cutting of the Clarks Mills Bridge, which separates Easton from Greenwich Town on Route 113. Officials from the towns, including Dan Shaw from Easton, and the county, convened with scores of people from this hamlet in one of the least socially distant events of the year.

Clarks Mills' longest residents, Phoebe Hunt Fontaine and Malcolm Lindahl were the first to officially cross the new bridge, in an SUV driven by then-Washington County Board of Supervisors Chair Robert Henke. The 300-foot-long bridge cost \$4.3M and is beautiful.

Also, in that issue, relatively new Greater Greenwich Chamber of Commerce leader, Kelly Eustis, unveiled a snazzy new logo for his group. Eustis would end up really rising to the challenge of his new job as the year progressed, and Covid started taking hold.

It was also announced that the Village of Greenwich was awarded grants from the New York State En-

vironmental Facilities Corporation and the Department of State's Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Program to reclaim and revitalize abandoned properties, such as the former Dunbarton Mill site.

In our second issue of January, we found Greenwich Mayor Pam Fuller on the campaign trail, getting petition signatures to run for re-election. Village elections would end up being postponed because of Covid and all candidates ran unopposed.

Also, in Schuylerville, we attended a village board meeting where how people are billed for water was addressed. It was here where we heard that a brewery was coming to the village. Bound By Fate would end up becoming a popular addition to the area, even after Covid struck in March.

The Salem Courthouse had a warm and song-filled holiday celebration led by board chair Bob Akland.

New public officials were sworn in. Sara Idleman, supervisor for nine years, was replaced by Don Ward, who'd won a close election in November.



# February: An eclectic paper

After we got our feet under us with our January issues, our February issues showed a lot of promise, with a great mix of news and feature stories from all over our coverage area. Little did we know what March would bring.

Our early February issue we led off with a story about how **county fairs** were upset over Gov. Andrew Cuomo expanding the State Fair by five days. This would take vendors and patrons from local fairs. The issue was quite heated, but would end up being for naught, as all fairs would eventually be cancelled this coming summer anyway.

Salem High School senior and musician (and later salutatorian) **Lillian Butler** was preparing to sing at Carnegie Hall.

We dug deeper into the story of **the Demler family** and their plans for the **Bound By Fate** brewery on Ferry Street in Schuylerville.

"It's a coming home for us and a celebration of Schuylerville and the community," said Pam Pradachith-Demler. Pints range from \$6 to \$8. Don't fear the price; this beer is a good deal stronger than what you may be used to. Rich and tasty.

Sandy McReynold's, who has been doing a wonderful job as Historian for the Greenwich Free Library's Gill Room, was also named Town Historian.

Sports were still going strong, as we announced that then-junior Connor broke the GCS record with a 6.82 second 55-meter dash at a Utica meet in January.

We also hung out with the Olde Saratoga Seniors – this would be their last live event for the year. It was well-attended, with music, pastries and lots of laughs.

Mayor Fuller lauded the Greenwich DPW. Leo Flynn has been in charge since 1982 and he and his crew are on top of things.

In our next issue in February, Fuller did a long interview with top Cambridge-Salem cop **Robert Danko**. His answers were personable and candid. Danko later in the year would end up handling

area Black Lives Matter protests well, even kneeling with protesters at one point.

**Trent and Delaney Sano**, father and daughter, were readying to play Daddy Warbucks and Annie for the Schuylerville Community Theater troupe. They made for a cute cover story. The play would never happen.

We also featured artist and Schuylerville High School teacher **Kirt Winslow**, who created hyper-realistic super-hero portraits for sale.

Petitioners decried speeders near Greenwich Schools. Eventually, \$2700 radar signs would be installed there and in other parts of the village, slowing down traffic.

Greenwich Town Justice William Blake would retire and Leo Flynn would take his spot. Coach Flynn would end up running unopposed in November to keep the seat.

Cambridge Mayor Carman Bogle would announce a run for the State Senate seat that was opening with Betty Little's retirement; however, Covid made the petition process impossible and the GOP rallied around Dan Stec's candidacy for the seat, which he would win in November.



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# March: Bridging controversy

March started off like a lamb – we didn't know much about Covid yet – and we have plenty of socially un-distanced photos in our early March issue; including a meeting of marketing professionals in Washington County to discuss how to attract more tourism.

"People are looking for experiences, and that's what is so different about Washington County – we're not traditional tourism," said Jessica Ziehm. "We don't have a theme park or a racetrack. But we have very authentic experiences here. When we can capitalize those and share them with people, they're getting something they can't get in Albany or Clifton Park."

**Mark St. Jacques**, who we had seen in earlier issues working for the **Washington County Fair**, now was Argyle highway chief, named to the position after the unfortunate passing of Bob Humiston.

We devoted a whole page to Lenten Services that were to take place throughout the region. Sadly, churches ended up being largely shut down soon after, and still largely are. We get very few church notices anymore.

Our second issue in March had more bite. **Another bridge** was being proposed. This time on Route 29 between Middle Falls and

Greenwich/Easton Towns by the State DOT, but it would end up having none of the love the Clarks Mills Bridge had earlier in the year. A sidewalk was proposed at a cost of \$500,000, but some residents thought that a walkway was an extravagance; even though this being a state road, the money would come from state and not local coffers. Still, it's the principle, it was argued. Some argued for the walkway. Build it and they will come, said Lorraine Ballard of the Battenkill Conservancy. The bridge construction would end up taking much of the summer and the whole fall, and, frankly, the new bridge looks very similar to the bridge that was there before it; a missed opportunity. Though there's still talk that a walkway will be installed in the spring.

**The Schuylerville Small Business Association**, led by **Chelsie Henderson**, met at Sweeney's restaurant.

We start to report on Covid in this edition, with tips on how to avoid infection, and reporting how local stores are running out of hand sanitizer, gloves and masks. We don't mention toilet paper being in demand.

That happened after press time. Four Washington County residents were being monitored for the illness at that time.

We also explore the idea of a dog park at **Riverside Park**, Greenwich Town's latest acquisition, in Clarks Mills.

"Put a fence around the circle, add a couple of benches and you have a dog park there," Ballard added. "This will get people to know it's a public property."



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## What's your most memorable New Year?

**Liv Thygesen**  
*Journal & Press*

The humidity was perfect on the roof of the hotel. The air was warm and with it wafted the smells of the city below. Fried empanadas and grilled chicken filled our nostrils. The yellow lights of the surrounding apartments and business glistened like twinkling stars under the black sky. We must have been on the tallest building in the city to see this far and to see with such detail. The entire circumference of Cordoba was visible. Being that it is warm in South America on the first of January, nearly everyone in the city was outside. The maze of the streets below was abuzz with bicycles and families enjoying the warm New Year's Eve. Other than the occasional hollering from the street immediately below us, the only sounds we could hear were the dulcet tangoes playing over the stereo. It was a mirage of glittering lights, mouthwatering cuisine and local music.

For some in our group, it was their first time out of the United States. For others it was their first time navigating a foreign land in a foreign tongue or it was an opportunity to return to a land of their past and revel in the joy of youthful memories. We had only arrived in country less than a week before and had already become good friends with the other guests and owner of the

hotel. Each morning we would meet in our groups and visit with the staff. As a result of our language and cultural bonds, we had been invited to share the holiday with the owner of the hotel and his family. Not only were we asked to share the food, space and company with his family, but we were also invited to partake in their New Year's traditions. As they indulged in fresh baked empanadas and Malbec wine, we indulged in empanadas and Malbec. As they danced a milonga, we danced a milonga. It was truly a time for celebrating family and for celebrating cultures.

The magic of the evening blossomed at the stroke of twelve. From the streets below us whizzed up past our heads the whistling glow of fireworks. Fireworks from every direction and for as far as the eye could see illuminated around and below us. Singing and yelling rang out as everyone began hugging. For miles around in a perfect circle around the city, rooftops were illuminated w/ the glittering glow of floating lanterns and bursting fireworks. Hundreds of paper lanterns rose from the streets below and filled the sky around us. The moment was breathtakingly magical. Nowhere at any time in the United States would we be permitted to light paper lanterns and release them into the sky. This was a moment to treasure and lock away forever. The beauty and mystic of being surrounded by fireworks for miles and elegant paper lantern lighting the way for a successful New Year. From behind the stairway door, the owner pulled out a giant paper lantern. The hand cut details was exquisite. Each fold had a diamond, or a star delicately cut into the thin paper. Swirls and leaves were painted around the frame. It was almost a shame to ignite such a fragile work of art. The apprehension of destroying such exterior beauty was diminished when



our new friends explained that the lanterns represent unity and hope for the new year. The lanterns are lit, and a wish is made for prosperity in the up and coming year. The lanterns represent spiritual growth and once lit and released, ignite good fortune for all. They beckoned us to come closer so that we could all take turns lighting a part of the lantern and release it into the heavens. The giant lantern lifted in the air as if filled with helium. Surrounding us as they lifted to the heavens, were hundreds of paper lanterns. Each one filled with love, hope and well wishes from everyone in the city.

Together on a warm evening on a hotel rooftop in Cordoba, Argentina, we not only brought in the New Year together, but we shared in the beauty of each other's' cultures and company. How will you spend your New Year's this year?

*Liv Thygesen has been a marine, educator and community advocate. She owns Sip & Swirl in Greenwich.*



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# April: Reality sets in, and the surreal

We had been toying with the idea of doing an April Fool's issue, but by April 1, Covid was in full effect, and there was no joking around. The Greenwich Town Board meeting, led by Supervisor Don Ward, seemed much different, with practically no one in attendance and the seats distanced. He declared a state of emergency, and his leadership would set the pace for how the town would be managed for the rest of the year. That meeting had health officials talk about safety protocols for how the town would be managed. The town, as well as other area towns and villages, were helping the homebound by visiting them and helping them with their needs. A list of useful phone numbers was published. Our main headline was "You Are Not Alone."

Things got real – and surreal. People started donning dinosaur costumes and appearing at local businesses. While mom-and-pops were largely shuttered – some for good – corporate chain stores were allowed to operate.

Shushan's **Dee Brandt and Flo Myrick** along with Greenwich's **Holly Harris** all donned T-Rex costumes at Tractor Supply one day, amusing customers. Myrick had her two dogs with her, as well. Brandt also delivered school lunches in Cambridge with the costume. **Suzette Kuzmich**

also had a costume and handed out free milk from 5 Acres Farm in what is now Big Lots Plaza.

Greenwich Chamber's Kelly Eustis created a site called Battenkill Strong, with lots of useful information during this crisis. The site also helped local businesses spread the word about their hours of operation and operational protocols.

Judy Doonan of Greenwich, who doesn't sew herself, organized a gang of seamstresses to make hundreds of masks. They have a Facebook Page called Mask Angels.

College students were coming back home, early, disappointed, and now on Zoom. Writer Annabel Gregg interviewed some of them.

Our second April issue has **Sue Roods**, masked, pictured on the cover, working for Comfort Food Community. CFC, already a powerful local organization, stepped up their game even further during the pandemic.

In our second cover story, Cody Fitzgerald, our high school writer, wonders what will happen to the high school experience – sports? The Prom?

Writer Jim Nolan tackles the feeling of isolation that is starting to become the new norm. Kaylee Johnson offers a list of ways we all could help others locally. The community really came together.



*There's Snow Place Like Home!*

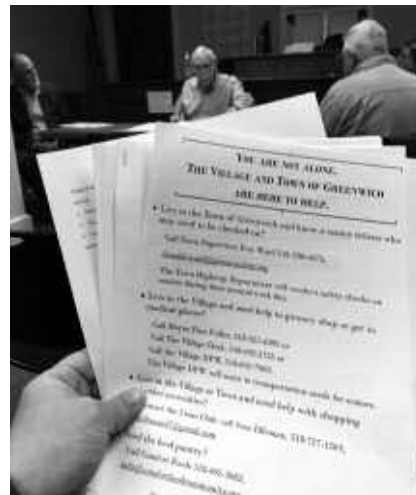
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## Cambridge's holiday windows

**Sara Idleman**  
*Journal & Press*

It's the season of light. Soon after Thanksgiving lights begin to appear throughout our communities. Candles are lit, lights adorn our homes, our village parks and businesses. In Greenwich, even our tractors are lit up

Light is a universal symbol of the season and is significant in many cultures and religions.

In the Celtic tradition of Winter Solstice, candles are placed in windows as a symbol of light overcoming darkness. The eight-day Jewish celebration of Hanukkah is celebrated by the lighting of a Menorah and is often referred to as the Festival of Lights. The Season of Advent, celebrated by Christians throughout the world, is marked by the lighting of a different candle each Sunday in anticipation of the hope, peace, love and joy of the Christmas season. The seven-day Kwanzaa celebration includes candles that represent the Seven Principles of that tradition, unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. Before December, there is Diwali, the Hindu festival of light that symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowl-

edge over ignorance. Practitioners light rows of clay lamps.

The Village of Cambridge is no exception. Last year community residents began the tradition of light in their windows with symbols of the Christmas Season. My Cambridge friends had talked lovingly about the new tradition. I had only enjoyed the displays via Facebook but didn't want to miss it, especially this year. I am of the demographic that regularly checks my Facebook account. Yes, I do and freely admit it. It's a great way to stay informed about happenings in our communities and within our local businesses. I entered the village around 5 pm on Saturday the 26th.

Most of the windows are back lit, particularly impressive during the dark late afternoon and evening hours. It's not just the windows, but so many of the homes are ablaze with light. I went for the windows, but stayed for the full experience. Cambridge has embraced the season of light. The project is based on the Advent Windows tradition that is popular in England. It's not too late to enjoy the display. All windows will remain on until January 15, 2021. Or check out their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/holidaywindows12816](https://www.facebook.com/holidaywindows12816) or Instagram account: [@holidaywindows12816](https://www.instagram.com/holidaywindows12816)



During this season, it is not unusual to take in light displays or to simply drive through communities illuminated by the light. It seems particularly important to do so this year. I won't belabor the point that 2020 has been a dark year for so many people throughout the world. That fact should never be minimized. Lives

have been extinguished, the lights in businesses have gone out, food and housing are in jeopardy for so many, essential and front-line workers are exhausted and depressed and our local economies have suffered. One can only hope that light will follow the darkness. Let's hope that the New Year will bring some relief from the darkness of 2020 and take us into the light.

*Sara Idleman is a lifelong resident of Greenwich. Recently retired from the workforce, she's delighted to now focus on her favorite interests and hobbies.*





# May: Farms, and helping others

Our first May issue does a deep dive into farming – how are agricultural operations faring during the pandemic?

“Quite honestly I don’t have an answer for how we’re going to recover from that loss of that business,” said **King Brothers Dairy** co-owner Jeff King. He was talking about the shutdown of the many restaurants who buy his dairy products. “It’s not only going to hit us – it’s going to hit every dairy farm, and it’s going to be a tremendous impact.”

Over on Windy Hill Lane, Holly Harris – known best locally for her CBD business – turned a little shed on her property to a **Blessing Shack**. Local people stocked it with food for the



taking, and many residents in need used the shack to supplement their pantries through the summer.

At this time, the bad news about summer events started hitting. First, it was the Whipple City Festival. This was just the beginning of a whole series of events to be canceled. Of course, this newspaper – and other local businesses – looked forward to these events to bring in peripheral revenue. In our case, we lost most of our local advertising.

Riverside Park, 3.3 acres in Clarks Mills, which had been secured under the previous administration, had grant money to be spent, but the Greenwich Town Council felt saddled by this addition. “We’re stuck with it and have to make the best of it,” Supervisor Don Ward told critics.

Also at that meeting, he warned it was going to be a tough budget year because of Covid, as sales tax revenues would be down about \$35,000. Later in the year, ended up coming up with a budget that stabilized property taxes for town residents, but, with the town board, had to cut some discretionary funding to local organizations, including a portion of their allocation to the Greenwich Free Library.

By mid-May, local businesses were telling us their sales were down 50-100%. Government federal, state and local reps powwowed online. We learned we were in the Capital Region, which

was facing more Covid-related restrictions than the North Country, further exasperating local businesspeople.

Greenwich CSD’s \$22M proposed budget would offer no increase.

**Don Ward** served as chaplain, reading a prayer at the Veteran’s Memorial by the VFW as people drove through for Memorial Day. GCS high school student **Dillon Niles** took to the bugle for “Taps.” Jeannie Pemrick helped organize the event.



The Washington County Fairgrounds saw a massive **drive-through pantry event**, where 1700 people were served. community. “We were happy to partner with the Salvation Army and the Tri-County United Way to help deliver a lot of food to a lot of Washington County families,” said Devin Bulger, Executive Director of Comfort Food Community. “It was inspiring to see how many people came out to volunteer, despite the risks involved. Salvation Army and the United Way did an amazing job organizing the operations of the day.”



“I think the most important thing to take away was that our community came together and pulled this together in a week,” said Washington County Fair communications director **Rebecca Breese**.



# June: Hitting the streets

Our first June issue reports what the Greenwich Town Council and local organizations were doing with the Susan B. Anthony home in Battenville. It was also the 200th anniversary of the suffragette's birth. While the Western Tier takes a lot of credit for being the home of our nation's most famous women's rights advocate, the fact is she had spent a lot of time in Greenwich, as well, and we need to publicize this

better. Renovations, estimated at \$60,000, did take place over the summer. Deborah Craig wrote an interesting piece on Anthony's life in the house for *The Journal & Press*.

Greenwich CSD announced their Top 10 graduation students. Quinn Collins took valedictorian honors and went off to the US Military Academy.

The mid-June issue was weightier, after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the hands of police, with local **Black Lives Matter**

protests in our towns being the lead story.

In Schuylerville, Matthew Geiling, a Schuylerville native and recent law school graduate, took to a bullhorn to rally a crowd of 300: "We have to have a tough conversation. If you've got racism in your police department, that's not a safe community. If you've got racism on a school board or your local government, that's not a safe community. You have to take a stand, and vote those people out."

A car caravan against racism left



from the Greenwich Big Lots Plaza.

By this point, The Turning Point Parade and Washington County Fair finally announced the inevitable. We dubbed it "The Summer of Nothing."

Lily Gallagher was named Salem High School valedictorian. She was headed to Franklin and Marshall College for the fall.

The pandemic started weighing on people in the region, especially those with addiction issues. After several overdoses in the region, a free **Narcan training** and distribution event took place in Mowry Park.



# July: Good-bye and hello again; food trucks

In early July, *The Journal & Press* decided to collect the portrait of every single graduating senior in our coverage area. It was a massive amount of work, and that issue really didn't fly off of the newsstands, so we won't do it again, but our heart was in the right place.

A cool story in that issue was about the closing of Video Korner on Main Street in Greenwich, one of the last remaining video stores in the country. **Bob Gustafson** was the owner, standing outside his building as the sun set behind his building, a car caravan driving by with signs congratulating him, beeping with people waving.



What was the secret to his success?

"I came to work every day, first of all, that sure helps

a lot," Gustafson joked. "I've always had a pretty good customer base and met a lot of nice people. Back then business was so good I paid off a 20-year mortgage on the building in 4½ years, so that maybe the reason why I was able to last a lot longer than other places (I didn't have to worry about paying rent)."

Another fun story was about Greenwich's last barber, **Art Roberts**. There was a rumor floating around town that he had retired, but, actually, he'd simply moved his business to his home in Easton.

We also did a feature on how Woodlands Cemetery in Cambridge volunteers are advocating to maintain their historic property.

**Comfort Food Community** started a **summer program** for Greenwich school children, serving 300 of them after school programs ended. "If the school wasn't going to be in a position to provide these meals over the summer, that's a pretty big gap to have students going without for that entire time," CFC's Devin Bulger said. "It just didn't feel like a good situation, especially with the extra strain that COVID-19's putting on everyone."

Our mid-July issue was also chockful, detailing how the Washington County Fairgrounds were still hosting **food trucks** and a Bound By Fate brewery stand. A burgeoning Amish population attended a Greenwich Town Council meeting. The Village of Greenwich Splash Pad re-

# July (cont.)



opened, with signage encouraging social distancing.

Greenwich CSD held a socially distant graduation ceremony outdoors on school grounds. “They lost 2 to 3 months of their senior year,” said Superintendent Mark Fish, “and we can’t

give that back to them. But that ceremony was



very nice, and I couldn’t be prouder of how it went.” Given the circumstances, the event still gave graduates a chance to celebrate their achievements during this historic time.” Congratulations to that class – they’ll always have some-thing to talk about!”

## August: Spotty broadband, a gravel mine

In August, our first cover story was “Broadband, for Some.” Covid really accentuate how spotty our region is for Internet, and we investigate how people are adjusting. A cover photo shows Kate Sausville working on a laptop in her car outside the Greenwich Library, one of the area organizations offering free Internet.

“This is probably the biggest issue in front of us now,” Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner said. “It was bad before the pandemic, but the pandemic revealed how bad it is.”

We investigate a study from the Schuylerville CSD about how parents feel about fall. Large proportions wanted live vs. online and hybrid instruction. Area school districts did a great job of planning for the fall, and informing parents what to expect.

**Local chambers of commerces** started distributing “We’re Open” signs to promote local businesses, which have been hit hard by the pandemic.

Comfort Food Community now headed into some area libraries, providing fresh local produce for patrons. Pictured is Comfort Food Community’s Ass. Food Recovery Manager **Mary Beranek**.

By mid-August, a big story was brewing along Route 29 in the northern part of Greenwich. The owners of a local property, which was set up as polo fields, wanted to allow sand and gravel mining along an unused part of the property, along a stream on rustic Christie Road. Laurel Cole of **Greenwich Materials** got DEC approval, but many local residents spoke up against the property at multiple Planning Board meetings, citing noise, pollution and traffic con-

cerns from the mining operation. However, the Planning Board felt that they couldn’t overrule the DEC, and the turmoil had subsided by early fall.

Also in this issue we detail how fall in local schools will go: temperature checks, free Chromebooks and clear backpacks would become common. Elementary schools would be mostly live; middle and high schools would alternate days live vs.



# Write what you know: Local author review

Annie Miller  
*Journal & Press*

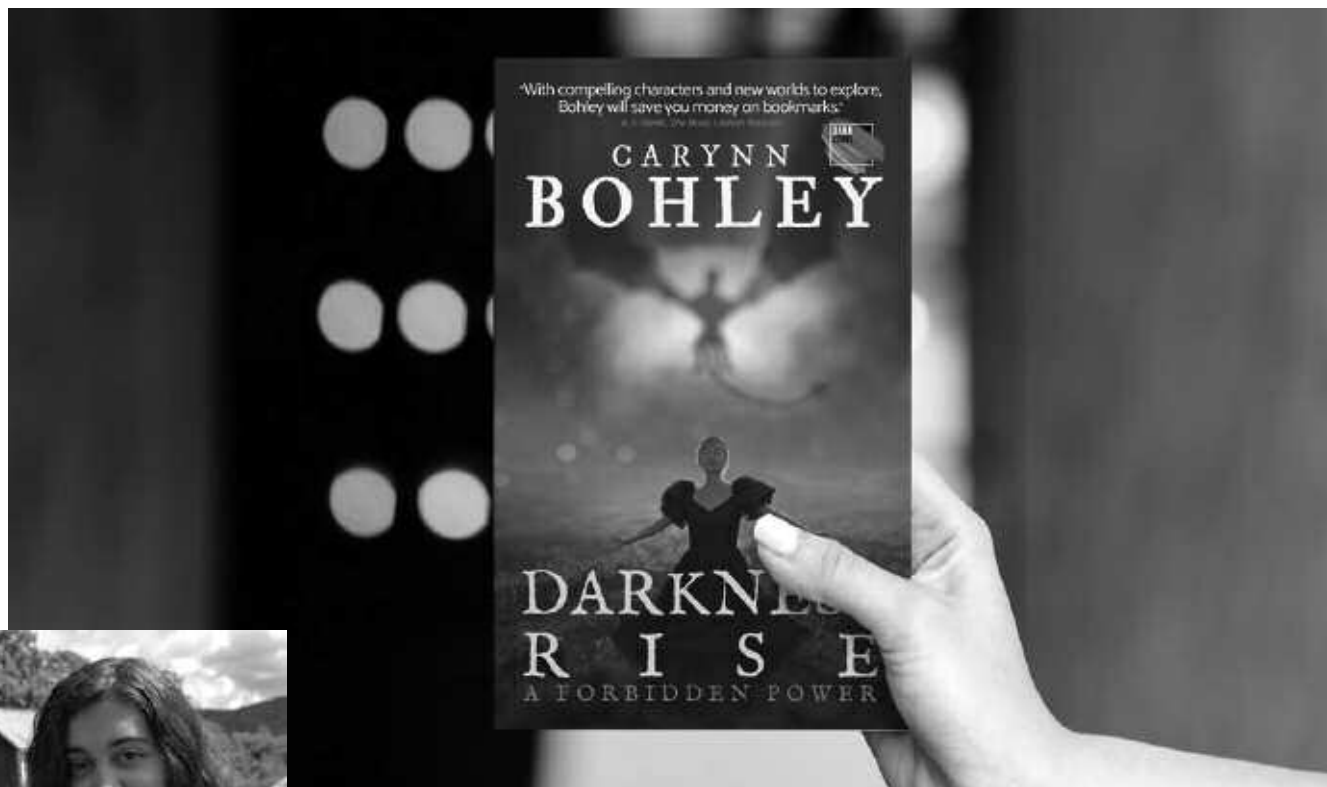
I have written before of my rather muddled relationship with fantasy fiction. One of the most challenging aspects of this genre for me is, what is called, world building. How does the author get the reader up to speed with the unique geography, history, social structure and all the other elements that surround their characters? The best of them follow the sage advice to “show not tell” and build a plot that introduces readers to this new world in ways that come naturally from the action. This isn’t easy and, too often, we are treated to pages and pages of background information that are awkwardly shoehorned in. This is where fantasy can lose me. The explanation scrolling into space at the beginning of *Star Wars* just about reached the limit of my patience.

Of course, the farther the story strays from what the reader can be expected to be familiar with, the more explaining needs to be done. A book I read this week created a fantasy world that is just different enough from what we know to allow for the impossible without taking us too far from familiar turf.

In *Darkness Rise: A Forbidden Power*, local author Carynn Bohley, of Salem, does this by setting her story in a familiar fairytale-inspired world and populates it with relatable characters. Kydessia Swift is a young woman who is burdened by her own history and by that of the walled city in which she lives.

Cut off from the world to protect its inhabitants from the dangers of magic, the city of Sospes could, in many ways, be any town in the US. There’s a diner and ice cream and high school. In fact, the opening scene finds us in class where we are given a short intro to the planet Mysticus, as the city prepares for a Founder’s Day celebration.

Kydessia, it turns out, is a descendant of the honored founder who, in spite of her contemporary voice, is expected to fulfill the role of the classic fairy-tale princess; looking pretty at events and marrying early and well. She also has a secret. In fact, there are all kinds of se-



crets and surprises that propel the action. The story quickly kicks into high gear and the rest is a minefield of spoilers, so I won’t go into detail about the plot. Suffice it to say that courage, friendship, empathy and ingenuity are all tested at an ever-increasing pace.

The settings are familiar from classic fairy tales: dark forests and witches’ cottages, as are the appearance of dragons and goblins, but they are used differently than the Grimm brothers ever imagined. This is a page-turner with a cliffhanger and a definite modern YA vibe. Which only makes sense, since the author is, herself, a teenager. Carynn Bohley is 17, has written and published two short stories and a novella and is currently working on *Castle of Glass*; a sequel I expect will get us down from that cliff in a most exciting way.

I confess that I hadn’t intended to review this book, as I couldn’t imagine enjoying the work of such a young author as much as I did. (OK Boomer) But I read it in one sitting and found,

at the end, that the notes I took were very positive. Ms. Bohley managed her world-building quite nicely and set up the action in a way that was, in context, very logical. She creates well-rounded main characters and we care about what happens to them. She also blends the contemporary and the traditional pretty seamlessly. On the whole, she packs a lot into a slim volume and does it as well as many more-experienced writers. I am happy I gave *Darkness Rise: A Forbidden Power* a chance.

Am I alone in being a bit in awe of someone with all this published work under her belt before her high school graduation? Do you have a story idea? Would you be inspired by meeting someone who can get the words out of their head and onto the page? Are you a fan of fantasy and adventure? Then you’re in luck! You can order her book through her website [darkness-rise.com](http://darkness-rise.com).

Annie Miller is Director of  
the Greenwich Free Library.



# September: Signs of the times

In September, Greenwich Mayor Pam Fuller analyzed the data collected from the **radar enhanced speed signs** that had been posted in four key spots in the village, at a cost of about \$2700 per sign. Our headline was: "These signs are watching." Interestingly, the data showed most people were driving the speed limit or less.

She wrote: "The first sign we put up was on Church Street, which as we know is used as a cut-through from Main Street in front of the library to Salem Street. From August 1-10, 13,461 vehicles drove up Church Street. Of those, 689 were traveling at a speed over 30. That is 5%. The speed limit on Church Street is 25, so cars going between 26 and 30 are speeding, but not excessively. On Main Street during the same time period, 38,723 vehicles passed the speed sign. Of these, 1,049 were traveling faster than 35

mph in a 30-mph speed zone, or just under 3%."

We also profiled the **Tech Monkeys, Christopher Payant and Vincent Vacirca**, computer experts servicing our region, who started their business just before the pandemic and are doing well, perhaps because of it – as more people are working remotely.

Our next September issue announced the official opening date for the new **Big Lots**, that took over a former Kmart.

**Political campaigns** heated up, as Congressional challenger Tedra Cobb (who would later lose to incumbent Elise Stefanik) had signs in the Village of Greenwich damaged, apparently by the same vandal who painted the N-word on a home with a Black Lives Matter banner. The perpetrator was never caught.

Meanwhile, Cambridge started debating whether the school nickname should continue to be **the Indians**. A group headed by former resident John Kane gathered 200 signatures against it.

He said: "I graduated in 1978. My high school experience was pretty good, I enjoyed it. But one of the spots that was always awkward was that me and my siblings were the only native family in Cambridge school that was wrapped into using a native mascot, and using a word that even at that time...wasn't accurate."

A number of residents are in favor of the Indian, however, citing tradition. The school board has yet to take a stance, so the fate of the mascot is still to be determined.



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# Now on Netflix: 'Bridgerton' is worth a look

**Caroline Framke**

*Variety*

*Special to Journal & Press*

At the end of an awful and exhausting year, let us give thanks for it at least having the good grace to end with "Bridgerton."

Based on Julia Quinn's romance novel series, this confectionary treat of a show knows exactly what you might want from it and delivers those fantasies on a silver platter with a dashing (and even surprisingly sexy) smile.

The new Netflix drama travels to 19th century England to tell familiar enough narratives of headstrong women and the gruff men who try their damndest not to love them. A straightforward adaptation would've undoubtedly worked well enough; swoony Regency era romances have been reliable crowd-pleasers dating back to...well, Regency era. But as Shonda Rhimes' first scripted series for Netflix, "Bridgerton" instead mixes age-old tropes and distinct Shondaland sensibilities together to make, as its characters might say, a formidable love match.

The eight episodes of this addictive first season fly by in a flurry of stolen glances and whispered ru-

mors, wounded pride and star-crossed love, lavish balls and string quartet renditions of songs that, upon closer inspection, are definitely Ariana Grande. As per the demands of its genre, "Bridgerton" is mostly concerned with the romantic entanglements of society's upper crust. It does, however, throw in an extra mystery in the form of "Lady Whistledown," an anonymous gossip columnist -- voiced by none other than Julie Andrews -- whose juicy updates keep everyone on their toes. (I can't say anything more about Lady Whistledown's identity other than it does come to light by season's end, and that I greatly enjoyed the reveal even though I saw it coming from a mile away.)

Created by "Scandal" producer Chris Van Dusen, "Bridgerton" both embraces its genre's roots and happily deviates from them. In an immediately noticeable and welcome departure from the usual period romance tradition, the cast of "Bridgerton" is deliberately inclusive, featuring several prominent Black characters whose actors would be relegated to the scullery in another adaptation. When a parade of white women arrive at court to bow in front of their Black queen (Golda Rosheuvel), it's a powerful moment that purposefully upends its audience's perception of how that scene is "supposed" to look. The only time this is acknowledged within the show itself is when someone briefly implies that the queen's relationship with the white King George is what ushered in a more tolerant world. This is, to say the least, a rather huge revelation to drop in

passing, raising far more questions than the season ultimately answers. (How many generations have lived in this transformed society? How do Black families in the show have titles and generational wealth? How did one interracial relationship solve racism?!) Having brought it up, the show would do better in future seasons to explain the confusing reasoning for its reality.

This first season, however, kicks into high gear once the queen's nephew Simon (Rege-Jean Page) sweeps into town with a devastatingly handsome glare and a chip on his shoulder so huge that it's a wonder he can walk at all. Played with scorching intensity by Page, Simon is both a powerful duke and a classic rake resisting every invitation to mature, much to the annoyance of his surrogate mother, Lady Danbury (Adjoa Andoh, turning in the show's most deliciously fun performance as its resident grand dame). He's even sworn never to marry-- but his resolve is tested once he quite literally runs into Daphne Bridgerton (Phoebe Dynevor) while she's busy scanning the room for potential husbands.

Daphne is the archetype of a romance novel heroine: a smart, determined woman with delicate features that please jealous suitors and frustrate her jealous peers to no end. Her brother Anthony (Jonathan Bailey), now the head of the Bridgerton family after their father's recent death, can't understand her desperation to get married until she reminds him of her *raison d'être* as eldest daughter: to bolster their family's fortunes by marrying well.

Daphne and Simon circle each other throughout the series with eyes equally wary and full of longing, which is great fun to watch unfold. But "Bridgerton" reveals its true strengths once it allows them to explicitly acknowledge what so many period romances of this ilk tend to dodge, namely that these characters don't just want to marry: they want to have sex.

This isn't altogether shocking material for Shondaland to mine for its first drama series absent broadcast constraints. Even the company's network dramas, from "Grey's Anatomy" to "Scandal," quickly normalized their characters having and talking about sex in ways both casual and scintillating. And so "Bridgerton," featuring just as sprawling and photogenic a cast as either of those shows, doesn't see the need to remain as chaste as its upper crust characters strive to be at their daily teas. Its men have sex out of wedlock almost as a necessity before marriage, mostly because they can. Meanwhile, women like Daphne remain obli-

**'Daphne and Simon circle each other with eyes equally wary and full of longing.'**

ous until their wedding nights, even as they can feel the exquisite agony of wanting to be close to someone whose very touch sets them on fire. In some of the series' best and most insightful moments, it highlights this troubling imbalance with sharp clarity. The utter lack of real sex education for women doesn't just keep them in the dark; it keeps them from being able to understand what they want, need or could possibly have.

## Need a winter coat?

L.E.A.P. is now shifting the focus of its Coat Drive to distributing coats to those in need, although they are still accepting monetary donations to cover the increased costs of cleaning, storing, and distributing coats this season. If you need a coat for yourself and/or a family member, the only requirement is that you must be a Washington County Resident. Proof of address will be requested (for example a piece of mail, utility bill, driver's license/other ID, etc.) Please call L.E.A.P. at (518) 409-5199 between 8:30am-3:30pm for any Coat Requests.

# Texas, I'll miss you when you secede

**Greg Schwem**

*Special to Journal & Press*

This time next year, anyone landing in Texas may be faced with a very long walk through the airport, a journey that culminates in a large room and an interview with a suspicious Texas ranger who demands to know just what you're planning to do in the Lone Star state. Ditto for anyone attempting to enter by motorized vehicle.

Sound far-fetched? Not if you're Texas GOP Chairman Allen West or Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, both of whom have floated the idea of leaving the United States of America following the Supreme Court's refusal to hear, but no doubt willingness to hysterically laugh at, Paxton's lawsuit seeking to invalidate 10 million votes cast for President-elect Joe Biden.

"Perhaps law-abiding states should bond together and form a Union of states that will abide by the constitution," West said in a statement following the decision.

Mr. West, my first instinct was to say, "Go ahead," as doing so significantly decreases the chances that I will ever meet you face to face. But then I envisioned what my life would be without Texas, a state I have traveled to often for business and, occasionally, pleasure. I would certainly miss the following:

Austin. No, I've never been to South by Southwest or Austin City Limits, but that's immaterial. I'm happy just strolling up and down Sixth Street, listening to all types of music the city has to offer. Sixth Street is like Bourbon Street in New Orleans, but without that annoying vomit smell.

Beto O'Rourke. I've always liked the guy and liked him more after

his emotions and pent-up frustration caused him to drop the F-bomb on live TV while being interviewed following the August 2019 mass shooting in El Paso. OK, he dropped it eight months earlier while conceding the Senate race to Ted Cruz; but so did I, and I don't even live in the state.

George Strait. No, he didn't write "All My Exes Live in Texas," but I became a fan after hearing the song. Surprisingly, it was an old girlfriend who turned me onto the tune, with lines like, "And Allison's in Galveston, somehow lost her sanity."

Truck Yard. Food trucks, dogs, picnic tables, live bands and a treehouse all crammed into one amazing Dallas dining, drinking and commiserating experience

So yes, I would miss all of that. But, Mr. West, if you do choose to form your own country, state, territory, playground or whatever you have in mind, it just means outsiders will no longer have to deal with the following:

Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. For some reason, American Airlines has decided that flights to any location worldwide must first stop at DFW. I have been forced to experience that airport while flying from Chicago to Minneapolis, Miami, New York City and multiple other destinations that required first traveling in the opposite direction and then backtracking.

Amarillo. I spent a week there



one afternoon. Swipe left.

Hearing "The Big D" ad nauseum. Attention, anybody not living within the Dallas borders: You do not live in "The Big D." Pull out a map if you need proof. I was first made aware of locationally challenged Texas residents in 1985 when I interviewed for a sports reporter position in Garland, Texas, and the editor offered me the job by asking if I was "ready to move to the Big D."

Yes, it's in Dallas County and yes, it boasts nearly a quarter million residents. But it's not Dallas and never will be. I live in the suburbs of Chicago, yet I don't identify as living in "The Big C." Or, just to spite Dallas lovers, "The Bigger C."

Mariachi bands. My outdoor dining experience should not have to include these guys.

Humidity. This might be irrelevant. Judging by the number of

100-degree days Texas records in a calendar year, the state may well burst into flames before West can carry out his plan.

Mr. West, your party seems to have already seceded from sanity. If you do in fact leave the country, just give me a few hours' notice. I might want to swing by and pick up some barbecue sauce or have one final Tex-Mex meal.

And, like the Supreme Court, ignore you should our paths cross.

*Greg Schwem is a corporate stand-up comedian and author of two books: "Text Me If You're Breathing: Observations, Frustrations and Life Lessons From a Low-Tech Dad" and the recently released "The Road To Success Goes Through the Salad Bar: A Pile of BS From a Corporate Comedian," available at Amazon.com.*

*Visit Greg on the web at [www.gregschwem.com](http://www.gregschwem.com).*



# October: Youth Center reopens; tractors sidelined

October had a good news/bad news announcement from the Greenwich Chamber: The Halloween Parade would happen, they said, but the **Lighted Tractor Parade** wouldn't. Some people on message boards wondered how one was OK, the other not; but the reality is the Lighted Tractor Parade annually brings in

thousands of people. The Halloween Parade maybe only 200 and they were fairly spread out.

"The Greenwich Chamber is excited to have a fall activity for kids during this year of seemingly endless event cancellations and uncertainty," said Kelly Stephen Eustis, Managing Director. "We are pleased to continue the almost 30-year tradition of holding a Halloween Parade in the Village of Greenwich."

Later in the year, people would decorate their own tractors, placing them in their yards.

The Greenwich Youth Center opened after having been closed for seven months.

Director **Jackie Waite** said: "We're really excited to have the kids back. There's been some challenges, like trying to strategically locate where the kids can sit and stuff like that...but once we got it, it worked out great."

She reported that the Youth Center had to spend around \$3,500 to get all the necessary equipment to meet state guidelines for reopening, including everything from hand sanitizer and masks to HEPA filters for better air circulation and an electrostatic cleaning gun.



## St. Joseph's Update

St. Joseph's in Greenwich will continue to post Sunday Mass on YouTube with Fr. Kacerguis as celebrant and Maureen Cossey as music minister. The link is [www.tinyurl.com/SJG-liturgies](http://www.tinyurl.com/SJG-liturgies).

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is only available by appointment by calling 518-677-2757 for an appointment.

Parishioners may wish to take a few moments to read the scripture readings for the day and to hear or read a homily or reflection on the readings. The links can be found at [stpatrikslifelongfaith.weebly.com/worship.htm](http://stpatrikslifelongfaith.weebly.com/worship.htm). There is an opportunity to share in a Bible Study of Mark, Part II, to be held on Zoom on Mondays beginning January 18 at 6:30 p.m. Participants will receive step by step instructions to connect by internet or phone. Participation in Part I is not necessary. Please register by January 1.

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## Meditation classes

Meditation Classes beginning in January (via Zoom):

**INTRODUCTION TO MINDFULNESS MEDITATION.** Designed for the beginner; no meditation experience required. Monday evenings from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. beginning Jan 11 (Eight Sessions).

**ON THE WINGS OF WISDOM AND COMPASSION.** Though there is no particular prerequisite, you will get more out of the class if you have some meditation experience/ Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. biweekly beginning Jan 12 (Eight Sessions).

For more detail, questions, or to register, contact: David Armbruster, Ph.D., 518-677-3329 or [daswan9@gmail.com](mailto:daswan9@gmail.com).

Armbruster, of Cambridge, has been a teacher/facilitator at the high school, university and corporate levels. Since the late 1980's he has studied meditation with a number of teachers in the Soto Zen and Vipassana traditions as well as with Thich Nhat Hanh and Jon Kabat-Zinn (mindfulness-based stress reduction.) While working for 3M, He co-developed a mindfulness-based communications and team building program for 3M's Information Technology Department; he also introduced meditation to 3M's Employee Assistance program. He also co-facilitated meditation sessions in Minnesota's prison systems. He has taught meditation in upstate New York and western Vermont over the past five years.





# Mayer is Green and Gold winner

Salem Washington Academy is pleased to announce that Finley Mayer was selected as a Green and Gold Scholarship recipient at the University of Vermont.

This full in-state tuition, four-year merit scholarship is awarded to top Vermont students in participating high schools meeting rigorous selection criteria. Finley has been admitted to UVM's School of Nursing and Health Sciences with a major in exercise science. She was also invited to join the Honors College.



## 355 turkey dinners

Aidan Fahy, the historian for Troop 27, reports:

“On Sunday, December 13, Boy Scout Troop 27, sponsored by Elks Lodge 2223, held their annual Community Dinner. This, being the first time in-person dining was not allowed, was still a successful event. The Scouts served 355 Turkey Dinners that were either pick-up or delivery. While taking on the challenge of serving this many meals, the Scouts received donations of food, personal care products, and money donations to buy these items for the Comfort Food Community. The Scouts donations totaled 1384 pounds. The Troop would like to thank everyone in the Community who donated to this cause. Some of the scouts and their leaders are pictured with Devin Bulger of Comfort Food Community. The Scouts are still holding meetings following State and Federal guidelines. If you are interested in Scouts and would like information about becoming a scout, please contact Jeff Conkey at [troop27greenwich@gmail.com](mailto:troop27greenwich@gmail.com) or look online for a group near you at [www.beascout.org](http://www.beascout.org).”



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# The stock market at 30,000

**Jill Schlesinger**

*Special to Journal & Press*

The post election stock market rally persisted throughout the month of November, culminating in a new milestone for the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA): 30,000. While the Dow is the oldest of the major U.S. stock indexes, it is the least useful because it only captures 30 companies and the index itself is calculated in a screwy way.

The Dow is "price-weighted," meaning that each of the thirty companies contributes to the value of the index based on its stock price. So Dow component United Health Group, whose stock trades for about \$350 per share, has 10 times the influence of Walgreens/Boots, which trades at about \$35 per share. The more relevant stock indexes are the Standard&Poor's 500 or the Nasdaq composite, because both are "cap-weighted," meaning the market capitalization (the price of the stock

multiplied by the number of shares outstanding) of each component determines the impact on the benchmark.

Nit picking indexes aside, does a milestone really matter? I know that "it's just a number," but those big, round numbers can act as psychological markers -- on both the upside and the downside. That's why I encourage you to put away your rally caps and refocus your energy on your personal goals and objectives. My worry is that with indexes rising, some of you may be tempted to ratchet up the risk in your portfolios. Now more than ever, you need a systematic approach to your investing and a better way to make higher quality decisions.

I was reminded of why having a smart process is so important after I interviewed Annie Duke, author of "How to Decide: Simple Tools for Making Better Choices." Duke, a former professional poker player and academic, drills down to explain why we make poor decisions and how we can

create and adhere to a better system to improve our choices.

According to Duke, we tend to conflate the decision making process and the outcome of that decision, due to a concept called "resulting." Resulting leads one to believe that if you get a positive result, you made a good decision. We do this because judging outcomes is easier than analyzing the decision making process. I asked Duke to explain resulting using the current backdrop of the pandemic.

She said with a simple premise: Any time you gather with others, especially indoors and unmasked, there is some probability that you could get infected with the virus. If you do this a number of times and don't get sick, was it a good choice to assume the risk? Of course not. "You can make bad decisions and have a good outcome because the outcome is probabilistic," says Duke. In fact, "there are only two things that determine how your life turns out: luck and the quality of your decisions. You have control

thought a four-legged dog is a lot happier. Knowing that curing cancer is impossible I spent three months reading everything in both human and vet oncology and implemented every protocol I could find.

Three months after diagnosis, the vet could find no evidence of cancer and my dog is now a happy four-legged dog. Maybe we got lucky, maybe what we did worked, but the impossible is worth trying if you care about a result.

If you have spent 2020 waiting for the virus and chaos to go away, then now is the time to stop waiting. Make a list of all the progress you want to make in 2021. Now make another list of all the steps you could use to network, market, research, learn skills, and negotiate to lay the groundwork for both the difficult and the impossible.

If people tell you what is impossible, be respectful and listen to their

over only one of those two things."

Applying the concept to investing, consider this: If you pile into stocks only because markets are reaching new highs or you have a "gut-feeling" that the rally will continue, that's a bad decision regardless of whether markets keep rising or if they drop. Instead, a robust decision making process would include contemplating various outcomes and weighing how they might impact your overall financial plan.

Duke warns that without a smart process, the outcome of a decision can lead you "to overlook or distort information about the process, making your view of decision quality fit with outcome quality ... When you make a decision, you can rarely guarantee a good outcome (or a bad one). Instead, the goal is to try to choose the option that will lead to the most favorable range of outcomes."

*Jill Schlesinger, CFP, is a CBS News business analyst.*



## A new work year

**Daneen Skube**

*Special to Journal & Press*

**Q:** *I've been waiting all of 2021 to make changes to my career. I figure nothing important happens in the middle of chaos. Now, with a New Year approaching, can you recommend a strategy to move forward?*

**A:** I'd recommend that if you keep your head in the middle of chaos you'll find unique opportunities. The two core problems during a crisis are 1) Most people freak out. 2) We give up too easily when progress looks impossible.

In over thirty years in counseling, corporate training and executive coaching I realize the main thing I teach clients is an effective problem solving process. The process is not something my clients learn right

away. Clients take time to develop both courage and a repeatable skill set.

I benefit myself, from this skill set, whether it is remodeling our cabin, parenting my kids or customer service issues. I come to each problem with these tools and a willingness to take risks. I feel pleased with the benefits I get from this two-step approach.

I believe it is true that the difficult takes a long time and the impossible just a little longer. When people tell me what I cannot do, I listen, take in data, then thoroughly explore the possibilities.

One of our cockapoos had a leg cancer diagnosis six years ago and vets said amputation was the only option. All the vets told me a three-legged dog could be quite happy. I privately

information. Sometimes when people tell us what is impossible and why they also tell us the factors we need to change to achieve success. Go out and see if there are any cracks in the walls people have warned you about and you may find a way through these barriers.

Lastly, don't be afraid to take a risk, look foolish, or fail. When the surgeon that wanted to amputate my dog's leg asked why I was waiting to amputate I joked, "Well I plan to cure cancer." He laughed and asked my plan. When I described my plan he said, "Well that is a good plan I'll be interested to see what happens."

All you need is the right tools and courage.

*Daneen Skube, Ph.D., is an executive coach and appears on FOX's "Workplace Guru."*



## Good skating; theft of a sewing machine, car

**Kaylee Johnson**  
*Journal & Press*

*Here are some snippets from past editions of The Journal & Press from early Januaries, many decades ago:*

**110 Years Ago**  
**January 11, 1911**

For many years, many attempts have been made to organize a literary society in the Fort Edward High School. These efforts have been in vail, until this year, when through the untiring zeal of President Lavery, The Platonian Society was organized in the High School November 19, 1910.

The aim of the society is to provide for "general and mutual instruction" in all fields of learning and usages of society.

The society is contemplating entertainment in the near future, which we earnestly hope will be well patronized.

**90 Years Ago**  
**January 14, 1931**

Good skating has finally rewarded the persistence of the Recreation Committee of the Greenwich chamber of commerce to maintain the rink on the Gray property near the school building. Mild weather has been against them until within the past few days but a few nights cold enough to make good ice have made a great improvement, and skaters old and young are making the most of the opportunity to enjoy the sport!

**80 Years Ago**  
**January 01, 1941**

Two West Pawlet, Vermont, youths were sentenced to ninety days in Washington County Jail in Salem, and a third was fined \$25 and given a thirty-day suspended sentence when they were arraigned before Justice of the Peace Cliffrod Day of Hebron on charges of petit larceny.

The youths are Miles Kelly, 18, his brother Eugene, 16, both of whom are in Salem Jail, and William McGrath, 16, who paid the fine. They were arrested Saturday by state police and officer Hugh P. Williams of Granville for the theft of a sewing machine Friday from the home of Jay Burch in Hebron. They also broke a radio and pulled a mounted deer head off the wall.

**70 Years Ago**  
**January 10, 1951**

Emmett Evertts, 41, a prison parolee, started the new year by repaying the kindness of his hosts by making off with their car and some of their Christmas presents. For that, Evertts is now in Washington County Jail in Salem.

His victims were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McLelland of Fort Edward, who invited the man to spend the New Year weekend with them. Mrs. McLelland had become acquainted with Everetts while he was a prisoner at Great Meadow Prison at Comstock through church work, and when he was paroled last month, the McLellands befriended him.

**60 Years Ago**  
**January 04, 1961**

The biggest and best news in Greenwich in 1960 was the completion of the new water system, which provides non chlorinated well water in unlimited quantities for the water users of the village.

Water has been a perennial problem and conversation piece in Greenwich since the memory of man, and for more than half a century there was almost always a summer shortage of water, and the continual complaint of the taste.

March 7, 1960, was the day that Mayor Meredith W. Hoag officially turned on the new well water, and since then there have been no causes for complaints.

**40 Years Ago**  
**January 08, 1981**

It's been quite a year! We had a winter without much snow, a summer and fall without much rain, and a resulting water shortage that reached the desperate point in some villages, including Greenwich. In between, we went through a census where we discovered we didn't have as many people as we thought, Greenwich got its first woman mayor, we all got a new president, and there were two grand and glorious celebrations as Salem's Washington Academy marked its 200th anniversary and Greenwich had its first Whipple City Days, both in the summer of 1980.

**20 Years Ago**  
**January 11, 2001**

A very frightening incident occurred during worship service on Sunday at the Shushan United Presbyterian Church.

Several very alert women realized that one member of the congregation was having serious health problems and immediately went to her aid. Relatives joined the group and rendered their assistance, called for aid from the Rescue Squad and First Response Team.

In less than five minutes, The First Response Team, Under the leadership of Tina Rowland, were in the church sanctuary to assist this stricken lady.



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# An interview with Salem's Blake Riche

**Evan Felicetti**  
*Journal & Press*

In a time of great uncertainty with sports at all levels, frequent cancellations to activity have not only been routine, they have become expected. However, this further stresses the importance of highlighting positive sports stories from our community. Blake Riche, a senior at Salem CSD, recently signed a letter of intent to play collegiate softball at SUNY Corning. The December 1st letter signing was done virtually over Google Meet, and was attended by important members of Blake's life, such as family, friends, and coaches. Blake was gracious enough to chat with me over the phone last week to discuss her career in softball, how she is handling the pandemic, and what words of wisdom she can offer other high school athletes.

**What was your inspiration to start playing softball in the first place?**

*In many ways, my whole life has really been defined by sports. I have been involved in multiple sports ever since I was young. However, softball has always been the standout for me. Multiple times while playing, I have been pulled up to an advanced age group, allowing me to play with higher level athletes. This helped me a lot with my competitive nature, and helped me love the game even more.*

*When I was in 7th grade, I was pulled up to the JV level, and when I was in 8th grade, I was pulled up to varsity. I was pulled up to the varsity level during sectional season, and I really respected those true athletes with whom I was able to play.*

**Was there a particular moment or event that made you**

**interested in pursuing softball at the collegiate level?**

*There wasn't a specific moment or event, but like I said before, I started playing softball ever since I was young, and I haven't really known anything else. I really don't want to stop playing, and I always want to be competitive. Additionally, I want to keep learning about the game.*

*With so much time off the field due to the pandemic, how have you been able to keep up with skills training and conditioning?*

*Honestly, it has been difficult. Having a whole school year without sports has been difficult, especially being that this is my senior year. Last spring, my mom and I would go down to the softball field and do fielding drills and batting practice.*

*Now, outdoor drills have certainly been harder with the snow. So right now I am focusing more on conditioning and agility, and have been working out at the gym. Additionally, I have a bownet in my basement, so that I can get some swings in as well. The bow net allows me to hit off my practice tee into a protective net.*

**What excites you most about playing softball in college?**

*Honestly, I am excited about playing at the NJCAA [National Junior College Athletic Association] level, which will allow me to get a lot more playing time right off the bat. This way, I will hopefully get looked at by some larger colleges after my time at Corning comes to a close.*

*I am also excited to play for Stacy Johnson, the head softball coach at Corning. I am excited to learn from her and to play for her.*

*Stacy helped to recruit me during the pandemic. We had a great Google Meet call over the summer, and within seconds of meeting in person, I just knew that this would be the kind of coach I would want to play for.*

**Finally, what is one piece of advice that you could offer other high school students who are looking to pursue playing sports at the college level?**

*My best advice would be to never let anything or anyone get in your way of working your hardest to become the best athlete you can be. Put in the hard work now because it all pays off in the end.*



## Thank You!

*The family of Kenneth Blackler would like to thank everyone who donated to the Greenwich Free Library Gill Room in his memory.*

**Free classified ads for  
local residents!**



Have something for sale? A job to offer? A service? Send 25 words or less to [editor@30wire.com](mailto:editor@30wire.com).

## Norman W. Allen, 98

Norman Waite Allen passed away peacefully at home, December 19, 2020. He was born September 2, 1922 in Troy, NY, the son of George Norwood and Edith May (Waite) Allen. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Gertrude and daughter-in-law, Paula Allen. He is survived by his 5 children, Judith (Joseph) Moore of Denver, CO; Norma (Allen) Rapp, George (Carol) Allen, Eric (Leslie) Allen and Cynthia (Timothy) Bulger, all of Easton, as well as a legacy of 16 grandchildren and soon to be 34 great grandchildren. He was the epitome of the WWII, "Greatest Generation"; hard working and a strong leader committed to the betterment of his family, businesses, community and country.

In his youth, Norm spent his summers helping on the family farm, now known as Allenwaite Farms. Following his graduation from Troy High School, he attended Cornell University until he was drafted by the Army. He was honorably discharged and as-

signed to farm production after the death of his only brother, George Eben. He met his wife, Gertrude (Durfee), through Cornell University and they married December 23, 1944. Norman completed his B.S. degree in Agricultural Engineering in 1946. He continued to operate the farm and also devoted his leadership abilities to agricultural advancement, education and community development.

He served on a number of notable agricultural related boards; the Central Bank for Cooperatives in Denver, Colorado, President Reagan's Advisory Council on Farm Credit, Eastern Artificial Insemination Cooperative, National Association of Animal Breeders, and the Empire Livestock Marketing Coop.

His community service included; a director of the regional BOCES district, Greenwich Central School Board for 23 years, and a director of the New York School Boards Association. He also served as a director of the Mary McClellan Hospital, a mem-

ber of the Easton Town Planning Board and a trustee of the Easton United Methodist Church. Norm felt especially honored to have received the Cornell University Outstanding Alumni Award and the Dyer Award for Distinguished School Board Service. He was most proud of his family and Allenwaite Farms as it continues to be operated and expanded through his sons and grandsons' stewardship.

His family feels so fortunate he was able to live out his 98 years in his home. They are grateful to his devoted caregivers who helped to make this possible and who always commented on the kind gentleman that he was.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions there will be no calling hours. A graveside service will be held in the Spring, followed by a memorial service, the details to be announced.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations may be made to the Agricultural Stewardship Association, 2531 NY Route 40, Greenwich,



NY 12834 or the Easton United Methodist Church, 12053 NY Route 40, Schaghticoke, NY 12154.

Arrangements are under the direction and care of Flynn Bros. Inc. Funeral Home, 80 Main St, Greenwich, NY, 12834.

Online condolences and messages to the family may be made at [www.flynnbrosinc.com](http://www.flynnbrosinc.com).

## Dean Brophy, 76

Dean Brophy, 76, a lifelong resident of Greenwich and owner of Brophy Construction passed away peacefully Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at Albany Medical Center.

He was born on October 27, 1944 in Glens Falls, NY, to Paul and Emily (Tefft) Brophy.

Dean graduated from Greenwich High School in 1962. After graduation he began his successful construction business, Brophy Construction, that he operated for the past 35 years. Many houses

and relationships were built in the Greenwich and surrounding areas throughout the years. He, along with his wife, also own and operate the laundromat in Greenwich.

Dean could be reserved at times, but he was always quiet and steady, the rock of the family. In his younger years he loved to garden, ski, and golf. He was a great husband, father, and son who was always there for his family and anyone who needed help. Dean was a down to earth, humble man who

will be missed by all who knew him.

He is predeceased by his father, Paul Brophy.

Survivors include his mother Emily Brophy; his wife of 49 years, Kathleen (Duane) Brophy; children, Dean

(Bridget) Brophy and their children, Emma, Molly and Riley; Shane (Jessica) Brophy, and their boys, Shamus and Daniel; 1 brother, Jerry (Diana) Brophy; several nieces and nephews.

A private funeral service will be held on Monday, December 21, 2020 at the Flynn Bros. Inc. Funeral Home, 80 Main St, Greenwich, NY, 12834.

Family and friends that wish to make donation's in his name may give to the Easton-Greenwich Rescue Squad, PO Box 84, Greenwich, NY, 12834.

Online condolences and messages to the family may be made to [www.flynnbrosinc.com](http://www.flynnbrosinc.com).



### Obituaries policy

The Journal & Press does not charge for obituaries from the families of longtime subscribers. Please send to [editor@journalandpress.com](mailto:editor@journalandpress.com). They should be under 400 words. If schedules permit, we may be able to write an original piece. Contact us for that possibility. If you are going through a loss, we offer our sincerest condolences.

# Movies/TV series now available on video

**Jay Bobbin**

*Special to Journal & Press*

You can order the DVDs or simply download these via your home streaming service. Here are some new video releases:

**"SPELL":** Sort of "Misery" in the wilderness, with a solid dose of the occult added in, this melodrama (denied a theatrical release because of the coronavirus pandemic) casts Omari Hardwick as a man who encounters very bad weather while flying his family to his father's funeral. He's separated from his relatives after the plane crashes, making him the injured captive of a woman (Loretta Devine) who's determined to heal him mystically by using a figure she created ... having used her prisoner as the source of the materials for it. With time of the essence before her questionable brand of magic kicks in, he desperately tries to escape. The screenplay is by Kurt Wimmer ("Law Abiding Citizen," "Salt"); Lorraine Burroughs also stars.

**"THE TWILIGHT ZONE: SEASON TWO":** The CBS All Access reboot of Rod Serling's classic suspense anthology series fared well enough in Season 1 to rate this second round. Hosted by Oscar winner Jordan Peele ("Get Out") – who's also an executive producer and one of the writers here – the program, in its fourth incarnation here, offers largely original stories while maintaining the eerie and frequently ironic spirit of the Serling-fronted edition. A good example of the first tale, "Meet in the Middle," in which a man (played by Jimmi Simpson) unadvisedly follows the guidance of the woman's voice that's in his head. Morena Baccarin ("Gotham"), Tony Hale ("Veep"), Billy Porter ("Pose"), Jenna Elfman, Topher Grace,

Kylie Bunbury ("Big Sky"), Gretchen Mol and "Star Trek" Icon George Takei are among the stars of other segments.

**"JONATHAN SCOTT'S POWER TRIP":** Popular as one of HGTV's "Property Brothers," Scott goes his own way as producer, director, co-writer and star of this documentary (shown recently on the PBS series "Independent Lens") about his crusade as an energy-choice advocate. That role began for him several years ago while he was putting solar panels on his Las Vegas home, and discovering local government rules that seemed to dissuade such power alternatives – and finding that wasn't the only geographical area in America where those applied. Scott then set out on his "power trip" to find beneficial uses of the solar resource, which he details here.

**"BURIED ALIVE":** Directed by Frank Darabont, of "The Shawshank Redemption" and "The Walking Dead" fame, this 1990 melodrama was a particularly edgy cable movie for its time. The variation on the premise of "Double Indemnity" and "Body Heat" stars Tim Matheson as a man targeted for wrongdoing by his wife and her lover (Jennifer Jason Leigh, William Atherton), who want to claim the insurance money yielded by his death. They think they commit the perfect crime ... meaning they haven't, of course, which they learn the hard way upon realizing the supposedly fatal drug overdose they administered before burying him wasn't strong enough. Country-music star turned actor Hoyt Axton ("Gremlins") plays the local sheriff.

**"SUDDEN FEAR":** Current circumstances have made this a time



Jordan Peele's reboot of "The Twilight Zone"

for studios and video companies to make a deep dive into titles that haven't gotten much attention on disc – and the release of this 1952 Joan Crawford vehicle is an example. She stars as a wealthy playwright understandably distressed to discover that an actor (Jack Palance) married her only for her money – and that he and his lover (Gloria Grahame) are planning to do away with her (it's a big week for that on home video). Crawford, Palance, cinematographer Charles Lang Jr. and costume designer Sheila O'Brien all earned Oscar nominations for their work here, and the score is by movie veteran Elmer Bernstein.

**"SCARY MOVIE"/"DANCE FLICK":** Two of the comedies that have benefited most from the premise of spoofing popular genres are paired now in the same DVD release. In 2000's "Scream"-targeting "Scary Movie," which launched a franchise, Anna Faris plays the heroine who has many reasons to fear for the safety of her friends and herself when a disguised killer strikes again and again; co-

stars include siblings Marlon and Shawn Wayans (who were cast in the film by another of their brothers, director Keenen Ivory Wayans) and Regina Hall.

**"THE 300-YEAR WEEKEND":** Some familiar faces are involved in this 1971 drama that has an interesting history ... to wit, it actually never got an official release, though it did have some test screenings. Several years before his star really began to rise, William Devane (also credited as a writer here) played one of several patients of a doctor (Michael Tolan), who gathers them for a 24-hour marathon session. Despite the en-masse assembly, each person gets to delve deeply into his or her own troubles, making it a long weekend indeed for the participants. The ensemble cast also includes performers ranging from Dorothy Lyman ("Mama's Family") and Carole Demas (of the children's series "The Magic Garden") to earlier "East Side Kid" Gabriel Dell.

# November: Water rates and the election

In November, we printed lots of cute photos of kids in costume from the **Greenwich Halloween Parade**.

We also detailed how Greenwich CSD was rated one of the 10 best in the Capital Region. The district was also No. 1 in Washington County and No. 2, after Saratoga Springs, in our immediate region.

The stats came from a Buffalo Business First study. Said Greenwich High School principal George Niesz: "I am very proud of how our students continue to do. You know how hard our students and teachers work. The great thing about the Buffalo rankings is that they are totally objective, no politics or anecdotes. They are totally based on performance."

With the election coming, we finished our series of candidate interviews – no other community paper in this region gave such equal time. Annabel Gregg wrote a two-page piece on how younger voters, Democrat and Republican, felt energized this year and planned to vote.

Party leaders debated if Donald Trump or Joe Biden would "win" Washington County. While Trump had beaten Hillary Clinton here in 2016, Barack Obama had actually won here four years before that. (However, it would turn out, Washington County had turned redder, as Trump would go on to beat Biden – here, at least.)

Our mid-November issue looks at a meeting held in Schuylerville as what to do with historic **Fort Hardy**

**Park**. One thought is to put a skatepark there.

We also found out what people are paying for **water** in the various villages: Greenwich is \$178 a year (to rise by \$90 more this year); Schuylerville \$480; Salem \$375; Schaghticoke, \$300 (to rise by \$400 more this year); and Cambridge, \$360.

Residents of Greenwich will get new Neptune meters, that will electronically send data to water operators for the Village to best determine future rates.



## Obituaries

### Michael Richard O'Donnell, 72

Michael Richard O'Donnell, 72, of Greenwich, New York passed away on December 24th, 2020.

He was born April 4th, 1948 in Brooklyn, New York to the late Charles and Florence O'Donnell.

In 1983 Mr. O'Donnell married Marlene Posa in East Northport, New York.

He served a tour of duty in the United States Army, serving in Germany during the Vietnam War. He then served a distinguished career as a New York State Trooper. For just over 30 years he served with great pride. He was assigned to the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid.

Trooper O'Donnell succumbed from a 9/11-related cancer stemming from his official deployment with the New York State Police as a first responder on September 11, 2001, supporting the rescue and recovery operation at Ground Zero.

Michael was a natural problem solver, always

working on new projects around the house and helping friends and family with their own various projects. Since retiring, Michael lived life to the fullest through his hobbies and simple pleasures.

Woodworking, good food and wine, beautiful views of the Batten Kill, traveling with his wife, and spending time with his family and friends. He will be missed greatly by those who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years Marlene O'Donnell, his brother Charles (Tim), his children Casey O'Donnell (Rita) and Mallory Donnelly (Matthias), and his beloved grandchildren Scarlett, Olivia, and Maxillae.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions funeral services will be postponed until the spring, where he will be interred in the Saratoga National Cemetery with full military honors.



Memorials may be made to the Greenwich Fire Department, 60 Hill Street Greenwich NY 12834, or the Greenwich Interfaith Van Go Program, PO Box 124, Greenwich, NY 12834.

Arrangements are under the direction and care of the Flynn Bros. Inc. Funeral Home, 80 Main St, Greenwich, NY, 12834.

Online condolences and messages to the family may be made at [www.flynnbrosinc.com](http://www.flynnbrosinc.com).

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# December: New hope

By December, police departments were starting to poll their communities, per a mandate from the state after the protests of the past summer. The Cambridge-Greenwich Police Department had a very inclusive plan to include as many citizens as possible while the Washington County Sheriffs received criticism for allegedly making the public comments process more difficult.

We also learned that the Village of Greenwich is one of this year's Preserve New York (PNY) grantees. Their grant of \$7,600 will fund a Building Condition Report of the Village Hall. The Preservation League of NYS and their program partners at the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) are thrilled to help

fund this important work.

Results from the previous month's election came into focus. Local incumbents and Dan Stec running for the open State Senate seat all won.

While the Lighted Tractor Parade was cancelled, all around Greenwich town (and beyond), people started placing lighted tractors on lawns and in front of businesses. This was organized by the Greenwich Chamber and local business owner Holly Harris. An interactive map of tractor locations was also created by the Chamber. We created a photo montage for this paper.

Judy Patrick organized the **Everlasting Lights** display behind Greenwich Town Hall. These 50 trees are decorated by families who lost

loved ones. She said: "The trees mean a lot to these families. Christmas is often a tough time of year for them. Two thousand and twenty has been a difficult year and having these trees lit can add just a little bit of joy these dark days of December."

We explore programs like Operation Santa and Operation Rudolf, providing toys to area kids. Santa organizer and Greenwich CSD's **Denise Smith** is pictured.

We were saddened to hear Greenwich native and country music icon **Hal Ketchum** passed on.

Sara Idleman used her column to detail all the work that went into revitalizing **Wallie's** restaurant in Greenwich. It will open once the pandemic ends.



## Cody's Column

# And now ... on to January (sigh)

**Cody Fitzgerald**  
*Journal & Press*

As the undisputed worst month of the year, January brings nothing but freezing temperatures, snow and seasonal depression. In the one New Year's resolution I won't break, I'm going to try and keep myself, and others, occupied during this time. Here's a list of ways to keep yourself entertained through this miserable month-

- Burn your Christmas tree
- Say you're going to find a new TV show but actually just watch the one you've already watched 12 times over again
- Find creative lies for when your family asks

you where the Christmas gifts they bought you went (after you've returned them)

- Try to keep up with the 8 feet of snow we get as you build a snowman
- Wear a mask
- Watch your delusional "Trump won the election" family members squirm when Biden gets sworn in
- Learn a new skill (driving in ice, not freezing outside, spreading the miserableness of January, etc.)
- Cry now so you don't have to on Valentine's Day
- Clear out your cupboards of all your Pringles

- Bask in the glory of the fact that you don't have to watch "A Christmas Story" for another year
- Read a book???
- Sleep your way through it.

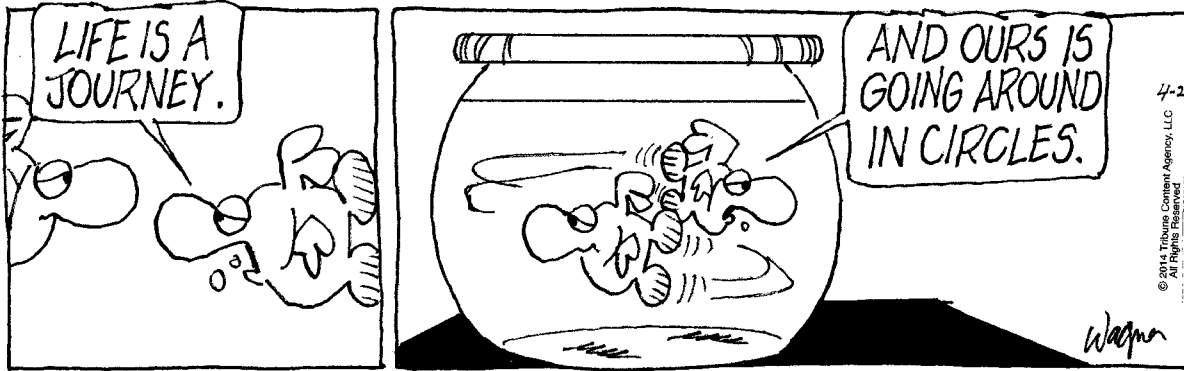
As you can see, even I can't pull much good out of this month. I'll leave you with a good luck.

*Cody Fitzgerald is a Schuylerville (NY) High School senior aspiring to become a screenwriter and comedian.*



# The Funny Page

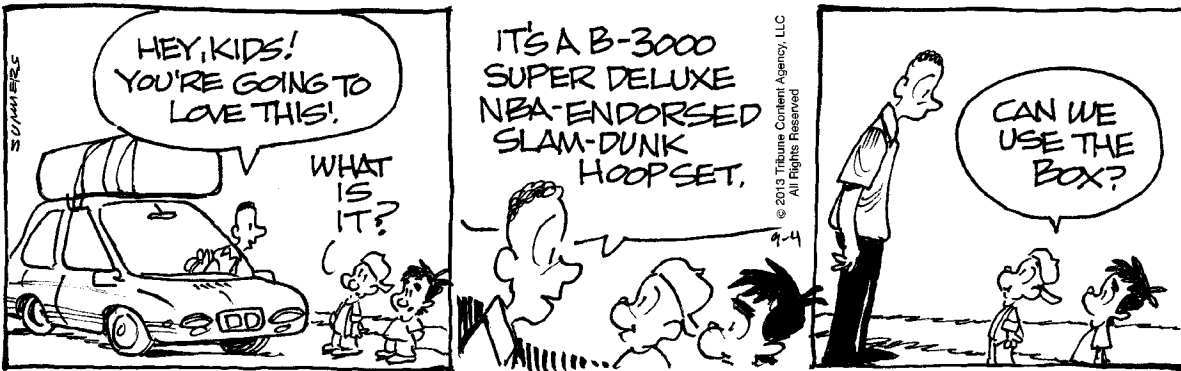
## Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



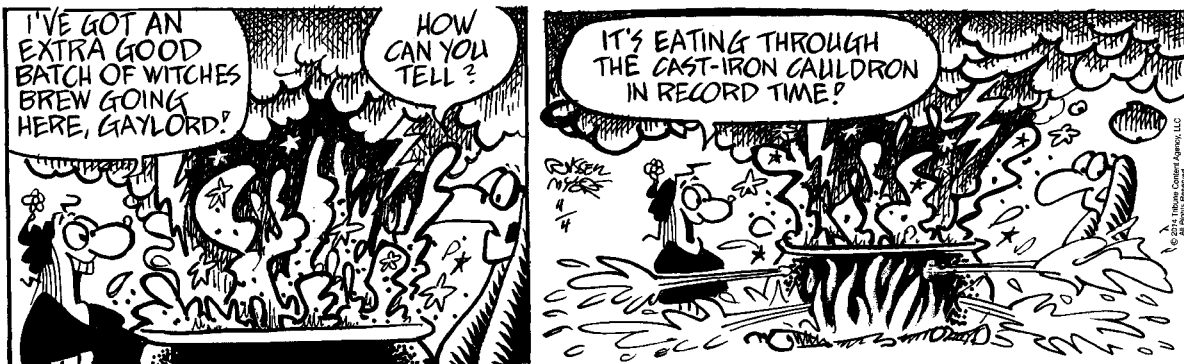
## Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



## Bound & Gagged by Dana Summers



## Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



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PAR SCORE 265-275  
BEST SCORE 326

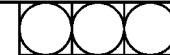
FIVE RACK TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_  
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN \_\_\_\_\_

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

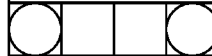
TLAWZ



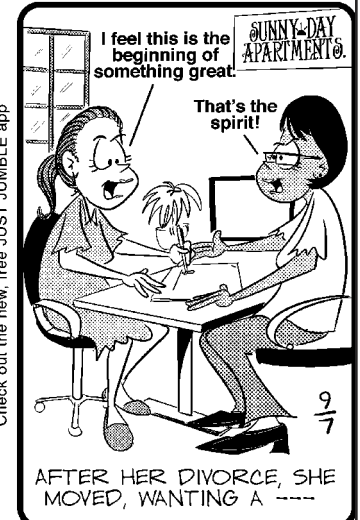
CETLE



NIHISF



EENVLE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.



Puzzle  
Answers  
Page 30

## Clarifying two recent stories

We recently reported two stories that could use some clarification. We will investigate these further in the New Year.

As for Greenwich Town's proposal to remove the Highway Supervisor elected position – which was recently vacated with the retirement of Stanley Mattison, who Supervisor Don Ward said did a fantastic job, but he feels that getting an employee of Mattison's quality through the election process will be difficult.

The voters in the Town of Greenwich will soon decide whether or not to make the newly vacant Highway Supervisor position an appointed one. Traditionally the civil service position was one chosen by the voters every two years, but Ward at Dec. 8's Board meeting put forward a comprehensive plan to completely change the position.

You can find the plan on our site, Journaland-Press.com.

If the new proposal passes, the position would be appointed by the town board, based on civil service qualifications. It would also expand the role of the Superintendent and the department itself, moving away from solely highways to potentially parks like the Hudson Crossing Park extension in Greenwich and the water department. The plan would also allow the town to

budget more accurately.

“By expanding what the Highway Department does, when we include parks and buildings in the future, all the town residents benefit from the tax dollars that get spent,” said Ward. “Next year, we'll have a water line set and done. The potential of that...would be good to have someone who has the flexibility to oversee that.”

Another story that was more complicated than originally reported was how the Town was cutting approximately \$20,000 from the Greenwich Free Library's discretionary allocation. This conversation consumed 40 minutes of the November board meeting. We feel that Greenwich's library is the best in our region, offering myriad programs for people of all income levels and backgrounds. However, with sales tax revenues down, the Town had the goal to stabilize property taxes for all homeowners – which it did do – and pulled some funding not only from the li-

brary but also senior and other programs. The Library had paperwork filed online that reported they were flush with funding; but the town misunderstood that that money is mostly committed to capital projects that will make the Library even better. Director Annie Miller does a stellar job, and the Town Board did not fault her for the miscommunication. It's also a bit misunderstood how the Library is funded. The school district pays the lion's share, while the town and village also kick in some. There also are donations. The town's cut will amount to some operational hours being cut at the Library, but it's undergoing renovations, anyway, and Covid has been a major bummer for all libraries. So maybe this is a case of no harm, no foul, and next year the Town and Library should be on the same page, so to speak. It would be great to see some (or all) of that lost funding restored.

## An Artist's Take

Political Cartoon of the Week by Drew Sheneman



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# Cambridge Crossword

(solution page 24)

## Across

- 1 \_\_\_-been: washed-up celeb  
 4 Shared again, as a story  
 10 Samantha Bee's network  
 13 Frequently found in poetry?  
 14 One with a hunger  
 15 Go bad  
 16 Citrus drink in a sea breeze cocktail  
 19 Philosopher Kierkegaard  
 20 Dawn goddess  
 21 Bridal veil trim  
 22 Packed in a slatted box  
 25 Like bath mats  
 27 Frivolous legal entanglement  
 29 Prez on a fiver  
 30 "Cream of" concoction  
 31 Lonely place, so they say  
 35 Former  
 37 Part of rpm  
 39 Actress Russo

- 40 Bury  
 43 Frontier lawman Wyatt  
 46 HBO rival, briefly  
 47 French luxury retailer since 1854  
 50 Gives a hand  
 53 Celebrity socialite  
 54 One who stirs the pot  
 55 Former flier  
 57 "Live" sign  
 59 2011 Dolly Parton single, and what homophonically happens twice in 16-, 27- and 47-Across  
 63 Night before  
 64 Most authentic  
 65 Generation \_\_\_  
 66 "Lust for Life" singer Lana \_\_\_ Rey  
 67 How theater seating is arranged  
 68 Hurricane center

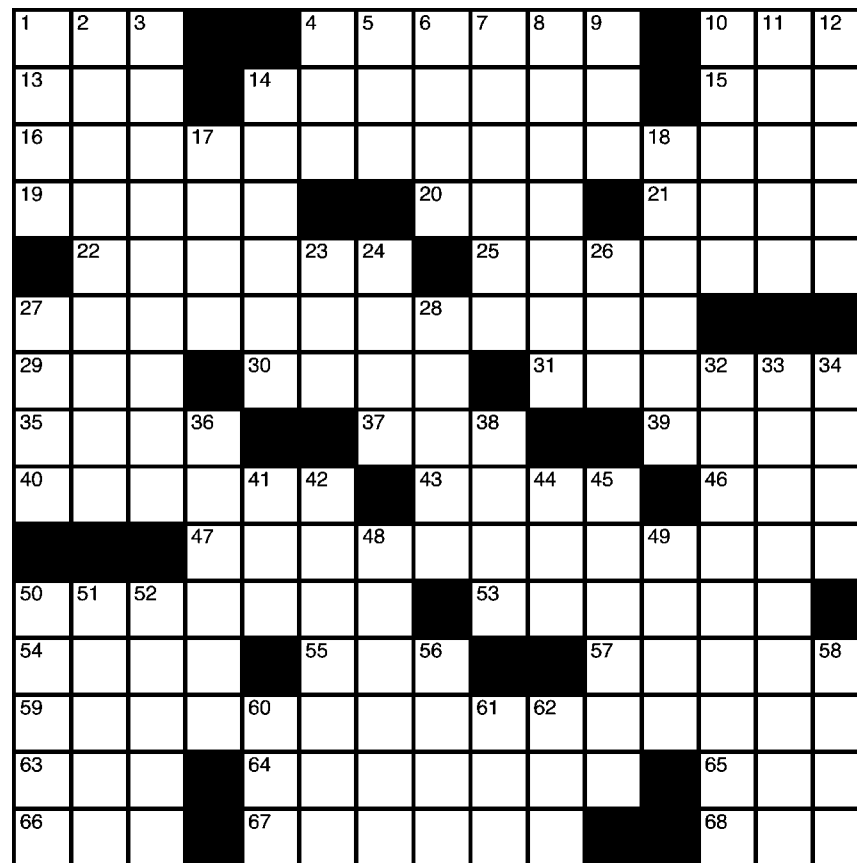
## Down

- 1 Keeps to oneself  
 2 Early form of Latin jazz

- 3 Like the most twinkly sky  
 4 Boxing official  
 5 Musician's asset  
 6 "Can't deny that"  
 7 They might bring you to tears  
 8 Releases from a cage  
 9 Basketball's Erving, familiarly  
 10 Dry run  
 11 Italian lawn bowling game  
 12 Pricey  
 14 Gossipy sorts  
 17 Podded plants  
 18 Coat named for an Irish province  
 23 "Music for Airports" producer Brian  
 24 Bra spec  
 26 Med. research agency  
 27 Tough spot to self-trim hair  
 28 Olympic swords  
 32 Simulated launch site  
 33 Taking a vacation, Brit-style

- 34 Lowly worker  
 36 English "L'chaim!"  
 38 Sitar master Shankar  
 41 Jan. and Feb.  
 42 Words introducing a plot twist  
 44 Road groove  
 45 Hit the buffet in a major way, say  
 48 "Scout's honor!"  
 49 Singer Turner  
 50 Played a part  
 51 Push roughly  
 52 Jason of "How I Met Your Mother"  
 56 Guthrie of folk  
 58 Like avocados ready for guacamole  
 60 Bi- plus one  
 61 Tree with elastic wood  
 62 WWII spy gp.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 26.



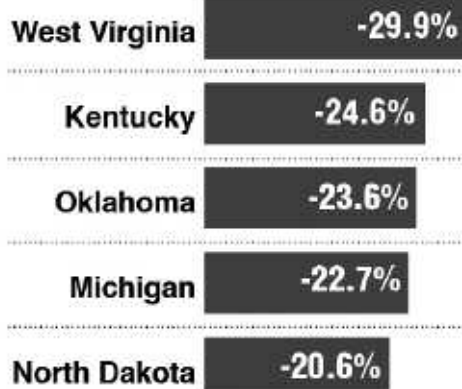
## 9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



## Fast Facts

### Personal income

Percent change in personal income between the second and third quarters of 2020, states with highest decrease



Graphic: TNS  
 Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

## Word Find

By Frank J. D'Agostino (solution page 30)

Find these words that are associated with the Covid-19 pandemic.

BANS  
 (Dr.) BIRX

BORDERS  
 CLUSTER  
 CORONA  
 COVID  
 CUOMO  
 DELIVERIES  
 DOCTORS  
 (Dr.) FAUCI

FRONTLINE  
 GLOVES  
 HOME  
 INFECTION  
 NURSES  
 QUARANTINE  
 REMOTE  
 SPIKE

SPREAD  
 STREAMING  
 TEMPERATURE  
 VACCINE  
 VIRUS  
 ZOOM

Find Mr. D'Agostino's puzzle books on Amazon.com.



# The vaccine for a culture of hokum

**Lance Allen Wang**  
*Journal & Press*

“You furnish the pictures. I’ll furnish the war!” was the supposed retort from the New York Journal publisher William Randolph Hearst to famed illustrator Frederic Remington, whom he had sent south to Cuba to cover a revolution against the Spanish. Remington had protested that there was no war to cover. Hearst, who had been selling lots of newspapers with sensational tales of Spanish atrocities knew the way to move papers was by using the old adage, “If it bleeds, it leads!” He had drummed up enough of a war fever that it was all too easy to sell America on going to war in 1898 by blaming the Spanish for a boiler explosion on the USS Maine in Havana Harbor with heavy loss of life.

I want to offer you the opportunity to immunize yourself against something that’s been a plague since the internet allowed everyone to present their opinions as fact, made everyone who can type and get online a journalist, and allowed every set of reading eyes to potentially be an on-ramp for deception and fraud. That is “fake news.”

## IS ALL OF THE MEDIA FULL OF HOKUM?

Ho – kum: noun, informal. Nonsense.

In another life, I was a Radio/Television major – I studied the science and art of broadcasting. Those who say “all politicians are crooks” tend to also be the ones who say “all journalists are liars.” I don’t consider either of these premises true for even a minute. The same nation that gave us Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Reagan also gave us Cronkite, Murrow, Woodward and Bernstein. So how do I determine which news sources are full of hokum?

Does the media source adhere to any national or international journal-

istic standards? For instance, the news magazine FRONTLINE on PBS is a member of an international organization called The Trust Project, which focuses on transparency in media. The Wall Street Journal is a member of the American Society of News Editors, which includes a constitution and code of ethics.

Is the article sourced and fact-based? In other words, does the article cross-reference with any other sources? Does it state where information comes from? Many reputable sites incorporate hyperlinks to other source material in their article.

Does the news source publish errata? Does the source publish corrections to its stories when it finds something in error? The New York Times, in their writer’s style guide, makes clear: “Because its voice is loud and far-reaching, the Times recognizes an ethical responsibility to correct all its factual errors, large and small (even misspellings of

## ‘Journalists do not make value judgments.’

names), promptly and in a prominent reserved space in the paper.”

Do the articles contain value judgments? Journalists do not make value judgments in their articles. They may write about the value judgments of significant newsworthy players in relation to the story, but a news article does not have value judgments.

Does the article survive a fact check? No legitimate news source should be afraid of their work being fact-checked. If a fact check is sourced and cited, with links to credible information and sources, then chances are the fact check has the correct information.



Does the news source claim or maintain an obvious bias? Steve Bannon, one of the architects of the current flavor of right-wing populism, used to run the website Breitbart. He claimed that Breitbart is “the platform for the alt-right,” with the “alt-right” term being the creation of Richard Spencer, a prominent white nationalist.

## TAMING THE FEED(ING FRENZY)

If you are reviewing news through social media, generally you have a feed which, through the technical wizardry of a predictive mathematical algorithm, “knows” what you want to see based upon your past history. So it knows that you always click on stories from certain news sources, always “like” posts from your Auntie Grizelda, and oh, you also tend to visit articles from “The Flat Earth Society.” So what will be at the top of your feed? You guessed it, a lot of articles from your favorite news sources (and ones that the algorithm predicts you will also probably like), lots of Auntie Grizelda, and more stuff about how the earth is flat.

How is this useful to you? Well to start with, since you now under-

stand how your social media feed is created, you can help shape it. Don’t click on stories and sources that don’t pass the smell test. Everything you click, you can expect more of. Social media exists to serve you up on a platter to advertisers – they want to know what attracts your eyeballs, so you can provide more “likes” and “shares.”

All of this of course, the intersection of the internet, social media, and news, is a field of emerging study. There is a lot we still have to learn. But I hope that this discussion is useful, as in the end, we each stand alone in a 24/7 online world, a “wild West” of information. Your ability to screen your own feed is a start to eliminating a culture of Hokum.

*Lance Allen Wang is a Councilman in the Town of White Creek who is also an Iraq Veteran and retired Army Infantry officer. He lives in Eagle Bridge, N.Y., with his wife Hatti.*



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## Answers

**Boggle:** EEL CARP TUNA SOLE SHARK TROUT PERCH SALMON

**Jumble:** WALTZ ELECT FINISH ELEVEN

**Final Jumble:**  
NEW LEASE ON LIFE

## Salem Sudoku

(solution below)

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   | 8 | 3 | 1 |   |   |   |
| 9 | 1 |   |   |   |   | 4 | 8 |   |
|   | 8 |   |   |   |   | 3 | 7 |   |
|   |   |   | 4 |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8 |   |   | 6 | 1 | 3 |   |   | 2 |
|   |   |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 5 | 7 |   |   |   |   | 1 |   |
|   | 9 | 4 |   |   |   |   | 3 | 5 |
|   |   |   | 7 | 5 | 9 |   |   |   |

## Boggle BrainBusters!

BUPH  
WOIS  
GOKL  
AGLM

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

**BOGGLE POINT SCALE**

- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 6 points
- 8 letters = 10 points
- 9+ letters = 15 points

**YOUR BOGGLE RATING**

- 151+ = Champ
- 101-150 = Expert
- 61-100 = Pro
- 31-60 = Gamer
- 21-30 = Rookie
- 11-20 = Amateur
- 0-10 = Try again

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | O | E | C | A |
| N | U | M | E | R |
| V | N | O | L | P |
| A | S | A | R | E |
| Y | H | C | T | K |

### Boggle BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST EIGHT FISH in the grid of letters.

\_\_\_\_\_

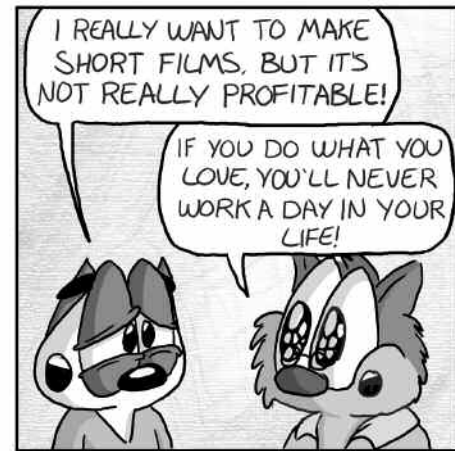
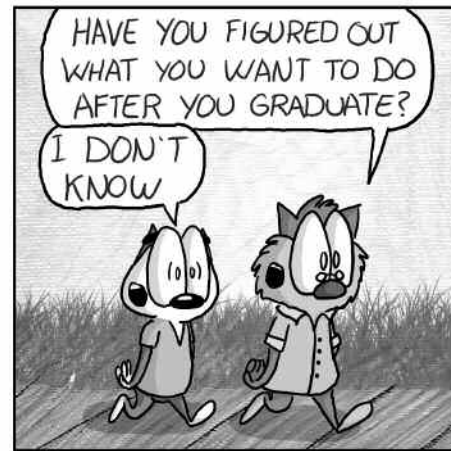
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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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|                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                    |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| F <sub>4</sub> | O <sub>1</sub> | O <sub>1</sub> | T <sub>1</sub> | B <sub>3</sub> | A <sub>1</sub> | G <sub>2</sub> | <b>RACK 1 = 63</b> |
| A <sub>1</sub> | S <sub>1</sub> | H <sub>4</sub> | T <sub>1</sub> | R <sub>1</sub> | A <sub>1</sub> | Y <sub>4</sub> | <b>RACK 2 = 63</b> |
| D <sub>2</sub> | A <sub>1</sub> | M <sub>3</sub> | A <sub>1</sub> | G <sub>2</sub> | E <sub>1</sub> | R <sub>1</sub> | <b>RACK 3 = 64</b> |
| H <sub>4</sub> | O <sub>1</sub> | T <sub>1</sub> | S <sub>1</sub> | P <sub>3</sub> | O <sub>1</sub> | T <sub>1</sub> | <b>RACK 4 = 70</b> |
| F <sub>4</sub> | L <sub>1</sub> | O <sub>1</sub> | T <sub>1</sub> | S <sub>1</sub> | A <sub>1</sub> | M <sub>3</sub> | <b>RACK 5 = 62</b> |

**PAR SCORE 265-275** TOTAL **322**

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|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 1 |
| 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 9 |
| 8 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| 8 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 4 |
| 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 7 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 8 |
| 1 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 9 |
| 9 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 6 |
| 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 7 |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Z | O | C | T | O | R | S | W | H | S | R | I |   |   |
| C | O | Q | S | O | U | P | S | O | N | O | C | Y |   |
| Q | U | O | S | G | R | E | V | A | V | U | M | Q |   |
| U | P | O | M | Y | V | O | B | V | A | B | C | E |   |
| A | R | E | M | O | T | E | N | E | C | O | X | C |   |
| R | O | M | L | O | K | W | L | A | C | R | G | C |   |
| A | N | G | U | I | Y | C | O | V | I | D | N | N |   |
| A | N | T | S | P | R | E | A | D | B | N | E | C | U |
| T | L | S | G | C | L | U | S | T | E | R | V | R |   |
| I | N | F | E | C | T | I | O | N | S | I | S |   |   |
| N | N | T | E | M | P | E | R | A | T | U | R | E |   |
| E | E | S | T | R | E | A | M | I | N | G | U | S |   |
| D | E | L | I | V | E | R | I | E | S | I | S | K |   |

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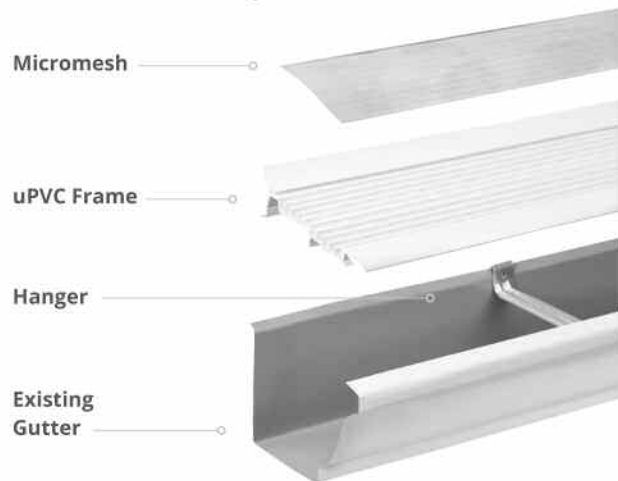
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