

# JOURNAL & PRESS

Of Southern Washington County, Est. 1842

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**DOUBLE ISSUE!**  
JULY 16-31, 2020



**SPLASH PAD! 2**



**BLM PROTESTS 5**



**A DIY PROJECT 31**



**5K 23**



**SOLVE 21**

**OUR BRANDS**

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**CAMPUS NEWS**

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## Fare, without the Fair

**It's official: No summer carnivals. But cheese fries and funnel cakes remain!**

Gov. Andrew Cuomo recently announced that no fairs will happen in New York State this summer. In this jam-packed issue, we talk to local fair organizers and food vendors about how this is affecting them. On a brighter note, the Washington County Fairgrounds has had weekend food trucks and entertainment on premises. Consider stopping by!

**Please read more starting on page 5**



## Welcoming the Amish

You may have noticed these signs popping up around Greenwich, and the lines of customers each Saturday in the Big Lots Plaza, buying baked goods from people who got there by horse and buggy. They are the Amish, and they recently attended a town board meeting. They say they like it here, and they are telling their friends.

**Please read more starting on page 12**



*-darren johnson photos*

FIND US IN THESE STORES:

The Schuylerville  
Turning Point



OUR REGION'S  
HISTORY  
- TODAY

# Socially distancing on the Splash Pad

**Pam Fuller**  
*Journal & Press*

Back in early June during our regular monthly meeting, the Village Board decided not to reopen Gannon Park and the Splash Pad. The Board was concerned about the guidelines from the state for opening splash pad facilities. The top concern, of course, is that someone will contract the COVID-19 virus while using the park. In order to prevent this, people need to maintain a 6-foot distance from non-family members, and when they can't do this wear face coverings. But most of the splash pad users are kids, who might not remember to keep the distance when they are running through the water.

Another regulation that seemed hard to meet is disinfecting the equipment every two hours while the park is open. Unlike some other larger communities, like Saratoga Springs, we don't have specific park employees who can be there to disinfect. And our regular DPW employees don't have weekend hours.

Another issue with opening the park was that people use it to exercise their dogs and don't clean up after them. The park was covered in dog feces in the early summer, which is unsanitary as well as unpleasant for the children and adults using it.

But it's going to be a hot summer, and kids need ways to cool off. The splash pad is a fun way to do it. We revisited the issue in a special meeting at the end of June (we consulted with Washington County) and decided to open the park and the splash pad, effective now. We are limiting the hours to 10 to 7, with the park locked during the closed hours.



*-darren johnson photo*

We also passed a resolution banning dogs from the park, with a \$50 fine for violations.

The splash pad is divided into 8 wedges, like a pizza. It happens that it's about 6 feet

## 'A new part-time DPW employee takes care of sanitizing.'

from the middle of one of these wedges to the next, so we limited the number of people on the pad to 8. The DPW painted a circle on the pad that indicates how far from the center kids have to be to maintain 6 feet. We provided hand sanitizer in the park, and we encourage people to use it often.

We will hire a new part-time DPW employee to take care of the sanitizing, including on weekends.

But the success of opening the park will be up to the people using it. Parents need to supervise their kids. We placed benches around the splash pad, so people can wait their turn. The playground equipment will be regularly sanitized, so kids can use that while they are waiting. Use the hand sanitizer. And have fun!

### Water and Sewer Bills

In other news, the Village voted to continue suspending late fees on water and sewer bills for the second billing cycle, because of the COVID-19 situation and the economy. The original bills will continue to be due, but we won't add the late fees. We had planned to raise rates this year, but we decided not to do this. If anyone is having difficulty paying water and sewer bills, please contact the Village Clerk at 518-692-2755 to arrange a payment plan.



*-pam fuller photo*

*Pam Fuller is Mayor of the Village of Greenwich.*



# BOE looks back on spring, toward fall

**Annabel Gregg**  
*Journal & Press*

At the Greenwich school board meeting on July 6, Superintendent Mark Fish commented on the Class of 2020's June 28th Graduation Ceremony at the Board of Education meeting Monday evening. "Under difficult circumstances, what a beautiful night it was for the kids – I couldn't be prouder of the time and effort put into it," said Fish.

The ceremony had to be socially distanced to follow state and federal COVID-19 guidelines, meaning graduates were placed in chairs 6 feet apart from one another, and had to walk on a stage set up on the football field outside of the high school.

"They lost 2 to 3 months of senior year," said 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 something to talk about!"

"The administration and staff that pulled that off did an excellent job," says BOE Member Laura Hall. "They definitely worked hard to meet safety requirements that were very challenging. I think they did an amazing job and I am very, very in awe of the work that they did."

The Superintendent also gave brief comments on the plans for reopening K-12 schools in the fall. The District is still working on determining a plan and whether or not classes should be held in person or virtually, as well as the timeline of the school year. "We

have a number of subcommittees working on individual parts," explained Fish. There are many committees within the administration related to COVID-19 aspects and obstacles of the upcoming school year, including a Virtual Learning Committee.

Fish also spoke about the District Committee, which consisted of "parents, students, and teachers" within the district that will help determine the validity of plans created by the district. "They will be the sounding board," he explained. The opinions of other non-administration individuals will impact the district's decision. Recently a survey was released to community members asking for opinions on reopening, and "people want [school] open in the fall," said Fish. "They all want their kids back in the fall. And I do too, but ultimately [the plan] will be determined by whatever Governor Cuomo says."

If classes were to go virtual again, Fish said they will be working on improving the system used during the spring of this past year. "We did a good

**'Congratulations to that class – they'll always have something to talk about.'**

job this year," he said, "but we have to do better if we're stuck with that [system] in the fall."

Like many colleges and high schools around the country, the District is also considering ending the fall term early as one potential option for reopening. "They could have an extended break after Thanksgiving, that's one option too. I'm hopeful, but I worry about the fall."



A marquee outside the school displays grad photos.

Fish said a decision will likely come in early August, after meeting with the NYS Education Department. More information will likely be available at the next Greenwich BOE Meeting, scheduled for August 17th.

The Board of Education members also completed a reorganization meeting on Monday evening, designating the schedule of regular meetings for the 2020-2021 year and the petty cash funds for different programs within the district, like prices for school breakfasts and lunches. It also approved the field trip for social studies students in the high school to Washington D.C. from March 14th to March 17th.

Board President James Nolan and Vice President Laura Hall were also nominated and elected for the 2020-2021 school year at Monday's meeting. Officers for the Board of Education were also appointed. Troy Tyler was appointed District Treasurer and HIPPA Compliance Officer,

Mark Fish was appointed Deputy Treasurer, Denise Smith was appointed District Clerk with a yearly salary of \$6,200, Tomarra McCall was appointed School Tax Collector with a salary of \$6,200 and Penny Shontz was appointed Internal Claims Auditor with a salary of \$6000.

BOE members approved the resignations of Special Education Teacher Russell Batty and Custodian Eugene Spiezio. They also approved the designations of numerous positions within the administration, including some notable positions like Tammy Rescott as the liaison for the homeless and Neglected/Delinquent Transition Liaison, Troy Tyler as Purchasing Agent, Chemical Hygiene Officer, and Sexual Harassment Officer, and Ben Cronin as Dignity Act Coordinator and DASA Investigator. Members of the Section 504 Committee, Committee on Special Education, and Committee on Pre-school Special Education were also approved for the next year.

# SU fan from Greenwich gets great call!

Natalie Jew  
Journal & Press

On a call, that he was told was for a story on Syracuse basketball fans, Michael Dow of Greenwich, NY, was in for a surprise. “I got the call and I honestly thought it was some sort of thing for all Syracuse fans,” Dow said. But it wasn’t. It was just for him.

The call became something he would never forget, as Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim, all three assistants and guard Joe Girard dropped in to meet him. They talked about everything from Glens Falls and Greenwich, to local basketball and past players, to his stage four lung cancer.

It was after he felt a lump on his neck and took some X-rays, that Dow got the news of his cancer. “Once the [doctor] did the biopsy, he told me ‘Oh I’ll contact you within four to seven days,’ but he contacted me within 24 hours, so I kind of figured it was something bad.”

To him, there is one word that says it all.

“It was heartbreaking,” Dow said. “I have three young kids and it was surprising for sure – very hard for my family. It was not what we expected, but we’ve been going at it ever since, trying

to fight it.”

It was his aunt and Mike Waters from Syracuse.com who put the call together for Dow – who has followed Syracuse Orange for years, has many Syracuse tattoos and even a daughter named Cuse.

“We had a lot of laughs. It was very light-hearted,” Dow said of the conversation. “Every time a

**‘We had a lot of laughs. It was lighthearted.’**

new coach came on it got more exciting. I was blown away. I’ve rooted for all these guys when they were players when I was growing up, and now that they’re coaches, I’m still rooting for them but just in a different way.”

To assistant coach Gerry McNamara, Syracuse fans are part of the team.

“The reason a guy like Joe Girard comes to Syracuse is because of the fans we have and the recognition we get,” McNamara said on the call. “We’re on the biggest platform because of people like you, because you have such a passion for Syracuse basketball. It means a lot.”



The call was something Boeheim couldn’t miss.

“I didn’t want to miss this opportunity to jump on with you and get a chance to meet you,” said Boeheim. “The reason why our program is special is because

of people like you that are committed to having that pride.”

To Girard, it’s what makes him want to play for Syracuse.

“It’s the little people that make it big,” he said about Dow and Syracuse basketball.

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# No fairs anywhere, but lots of food trucks

Natalie Jew  
*Journal & Press*

There won't be any carnival shows or Ferris wheels, petting zoos or music concerts this year. On July 8, Governor Andrew Cuomo canceled the last of the county fairs, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"There's no way to make up for the loss of no fairs for a year," said Tonio Viscusi of Angela's Concessions, a small, third-generation family business, that has been at fairs since 1974. "These fairs have been going on for over a hundred years. It's a good sense of community and only comes once a year."

The Washington County Fair is a celebration of Washington County culture, according to one of its coronavirus statements.

"Our Fair has been celebrating the agriculture industry in our community since 1890, this year the Washington County Fair would have been celebrating 60 years at our Old Schuylerville Road location," it read. "Sixty years of memories have been made by our fair community in the show ring, at the motorsports track, and even at the top of the Ferris Wheel."

But the Washington County Fair won't get a 60th birthday this year, and all we can do is hope for the next one. This year, however, food trucks are making their way through some of what would have been the fairgrounds, so people can celebrate from their

cars.

"It's nowhere near what it would be like to be doing a fair circuit in a normal situation," said Rebecca Breese, the marketing and sponsorship manager for the Washington County Fair. "There really is no plan except us honestly just trying to figure out how we can try to have these smaller events as best we can."

The food trucks at the fairgrounds are there to give people a taste of what the fair would have been like.

"We're having a drive-thru service only, people can come to the fairgrounds. [The community] can stop at a stand, order a fried dough and some fried Oreos and stop at the next stand to get a steak sandwich or a Greek gyro that they would normally get at the fair," Viscusi said. "They can get their fair food fix without leaving their car."

This will not be the last of the Washington County Fair, according to Breese.

"We're a pretty big part of this community and everybody plays some sort of role in our fair. If you were to stop someone randomly on the street and ask them if they have been to the fair, you would quickly get a variety of answers – whether they worked in a food booth, maybe they parked cars or it was their annual family vacation. It's pretty special," said Breese. "Fairs are a key part of our culture throughout New York state, not just if you're an exhibitor but also as a fairgoer."

To Breese, so much goes into that one time during the year.

"It's been devastating for us. It can be pretty detrimental when something like



COVID comes through – you have one shot, and it's been tough for us," she said. "There were a lot of tears the day after we canceled. The running joke is, you never go into business where you make all your money and all your heart is all sewn into one week. But that is exactly what is so special about a county fair."

What a lot of people don't know, however, is that counties may spend an entire year planning for their fair.

"We start planning next year's fair before the current year has even happened, so we already had quite a few months of planning all into one week," Breese said. "A lot of people don't realize this, but our vendors – this isn't something they just do on the side, these are their jobs."

But there is no plan out there that's going to make up for not having a fair this year.

"It isn't possible for us to make up the lost income that we've experienced," Breese said. "It's just not possible. Even with us having these small events it's not even a drop in the bucket to what the reality is. We're going to tighten out belt straps and just make it through this year and hope for a great 2021."

What everyone can now is to look forward to the next county fair according to Viscusi.

"Next year please come to the fair and support your local county fair because it's extremely important to keep these traditions going for the farmers, for the kids, the food vendors and the carnival operators," said Viscusi. "We will all get through this, sure [fairs are] going to struggle financially, but 2021 will be stronger than ever. Hang in there [for] 2021. The best has yet to come."



# Greenwich represents rural BLM protests

Annabel Gregg  
*Journal & Press*

As nationwide protests against police brutality and systemic racism continue to gain traction, larger cities like New York, D.C. and Philadelphia continue to draw national media attention and large crowds of thousands. But protests in small towns like Greenwich and Cambridge, although not as large or media attention-grabbing, continue to have a lasting presence on their rural communities.

In a recent NPR interview with culture writer Anne Helen Peterson, Peterson talks about the importance of these protests against racial injustice in small rural towns like Greenwich, Cambridge and the like. Because rural towns rarely have a significant minority population (Greenwich residents are 91.7% white and Cambridge 93.7%, according to Neighborhood Scout), issues surrounding racism are often not brought up in the form of consistent protests. “It takes a lot in a small town to say, ‘I’m going to stand on the corner of this small town, where everyone knows everyone, can see me and say, this is what I stand for.’” But this movement is different. There is nationwide support for the BLM movement in all different demographics. Support for the movement bounced to above 60% in early June, according to Rasmussen Reports, which is a jump of over 20% since 2016.

The first Greenwich protest for Black Lives Matter was held at Mowry Park on June 6th. This demonstration was organized by a group of Greenwich High

School students, including Molly Morse-Belcher, Katie Snell, Roxy Vanderhoff, Finn Brletich, Maeve Kelleher and Declan Kelleher. The group also had the help of Cambridge organizer Adam Catlin and Rural Soul Music Studio’s Chelsea Henderson. Surrounding Mowry along the sidewalk and facing cars passing by, demonstrators of all ages held home-made signs donning phrases like “Justice For George” and “Silence is Violence.”

“We had more than 200 people come to the protest, and we raised over \$500 for ACLU through donations,” said organizer and rising junior Morse-Belcher. She recounts that the protests held in town show “how strong Greenwich is, and how we as a community can come together and fight for black lives taken too soon.”

The protest on the 6th was not the only demonstration for Black Lives Matter held in Greenwich. Morse-Belcher is “planning to go to the weekly vigils at Mowry, and I don’t plan on stopping until there is justice for all those lives lost and a restructuring of the system

**continued on next page**



Greenwich student organizers, from left to right: Roxy Vanderhoff, Finnegan Brletich, Maeve Kelleher, Declan Kelleher, Molly Morse-Belcher and Katie Snell.



## Cambridge Chicken BBQ

Cambridge Valley Lodge #481, Free and Accepted Masons, a Fraternal Order and institution in Cambridge since 1860, will be holding a Chicken BBQ for TAKE-OUT ONLY on Saturday, July 25, from 12 Noon until sold out. They write: “Join us and take out

our mouth-watering famous BBQ chicken!”

Pick up at the Lodge, located at 6 Coila Road at the intersection of Coila Road and Route 372 across from the former Garden Shop. For reservations contact Arek at (518) 744-1315.

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**(cont.)**

that allowed those lives to be taken without repercussion. I want to spread the word about these vigils further, especially to the young people in the community.” The weekly vigils at Mowry Park, which have been occurring since the week after the first protest at Mowry, are organized by another group of Greenwich citizens, led by Bill Brown. Demonstrators can meet at Mowry Park between 12 and 1 p.m. every Saturday to participate in the peaceful vigil and protest.

Morse-Belcher also created an Instagram account called “Greenwich Against Brutality” to raise awareness of both the demonstrations and the issues surrounding them.

As young people make up a larger part of the national BLM movement, Morse-Belcher hopes that the protests in her home-

town continue to have a lasting impact on the community. “I just hope that the protests helped some people in our community educate themselves on the issues happening around the country right now, and that these protests show how strong Greenwich is as a community.”

Cambridge also saw its fair share of activism. “I thought to start a protest because I’m a bit ashamed of my white privilege,”

**‘Cambridge also saw its fair share of activism.’**

explains Cambridge organizer Catlin. Catlin worked together

with the Greenwich group at Mowry in June. “I want people in our area to know that this is real,” he said. “Just because we live in the country, doesn’t mean it’s not happening. I just hope that some of the passers-by saw us out there and it awoke something in themselves to treat people like people.”

One reason why these past seven weeks of protests have continued is because of the unified feelings and beliefs across



*-roxy vanderhoff photos*

racial, age and gender lines. Sparked by the unjust killing of George Floyd, the protests have woken up many Americans both Black and non-Black alike to the reality of racism permeating through America and its justice system. Catlin, like many of us, felt deeply about George Floyd’s death. “My heart broke when I saw George Floyd’s baby daughter on TV,” he explains. “My daughter is just a few years older. I couldn’t imagine what she was told.”

As protests rage on in cities

across the country, small towns like Greenwich, Cambridge, Salem and many others in our area are still working to be a part of the movement and will be important counterparts to bringing attention to systemic racism everywhere.

*Annabel Gregg is a Greenwich resident studying Political Science at Hunter College.*



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# If our wagon could talk

**Liv Thygesen**  
*Journal & Press*

Its red slats had faded and worn down over the years, yet “radio flyer” was dimly visible on the sides. The wheels were strong and stable as ever as the wagon bounced over the grass. Summers were long and full of adventure and if the wagon could talk, it would speak of the adventures it had seen over the last 12 years. From the time we were toddling tots, my father would pull us around town in our red wooden wagon. He would take us on long walks, the wagon bumping over the sidewalks.

As we grew, the wagon still accompanied us through town. We would fill it with empties we found along the street. The red sides overflowing with bottles and cans. My brother and I would haul our returns down to the local corner store, banging the door frame of the automatic doors with the sides of the wagon as we entered. Another ding in the paint of our majestic radio flyer. Once inside the store, we would wind our wagon around the shelves and aisles until we reached the bottle return machine. On occasion, we would end up a few nickels short of a dollar or two and knowing the shelves next to the bottle return machine were stocked with bottles, we would delicately pluck a liter or two of soda down from them and gently place them into the machine. To this day, I will never understand why the bottle return machine was smack dab in the middle of the soda aisle. Yet, there it was, waiting for kids to feed their empties and bottles into it. The bottles would spin, then enter the machine; followed by the most delightful POP and SPLOOSH your ears did ever hear. We would squeal with delight as our return funds rounded up to the next dollar. If our wagon could talk, what it would have said to us.

Eventually, our adventure companion began to show its age. The bottom was weakening and bowing. The wheels squeaked with rust. We never let the wagon’s age slow us down. Into our early teen years, we would tie the rusted handle



to our bicycle seats and pull one another around. As we moved into the country, we would take the wagon to the tops of the biggest hills we could find, remove the slatted sides, and ride down two at a time as fast as we could. The wagon would inevitably tip at the bottom, spilling us into the road each and every time. On one such

**‘We never crashed.  
We never broke it, or  
scraped the paint.’**

occasion, while barreling down the dirt road, the bottom of the wagon finally gave out. We laughed as it dragged our friends, stuck in the middle of it all the way to the end of the hill, their bottoms hanging out through the center of the frame. As silly as it was to watch our friends, we were also watching the demise of our longest and most faithful friend, our wagon.

Be not saddened. This was not the end of our cherished travel buddy. While its wooden pieces had decayed with age, the metal framework of the wheels were still strong and intact. I promptly set forth to reconstruct a stronger, bigger and better wagon. Using the two by fours we had in

the basement, I measured the width of the wheels and the length that would fit two fill sized teens. After measuring twice and cutting once, I screwed the lumber together into a massive wagon truly built for riding down the steep hills — fitting two at a time. We pulled the now bulky and heavy wagon, fresh with new red paint and strengthen interior to the top of the tallest hill. Two at a time we sped down the hill. The squeaking from the rickety wheels echoed off of the trees alongside the road. The wind in our faces. We never crashed; we never broke the wagon, nor did we ever scrape the paint. We had breathed life back into our old friend and gave our wagon a new life, with a new purpose. Our beloved wagon was alive with us again.

Even when friendships which hold secrets, wear down to the bare bones, we continue to treasure them. Nurture, value and rebuild what has become weak, and you both will become empowered.

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





# Happy half-year anniversary!

**Darren Johnson**  
*Journal & Press*

Happy half-year anniversary to the new Journal & Press! And what a half year it has been.

The first issue of the Journal & Press under our new ownership hit Jan. 1. We received a lot of fanfare and well-wishes when we took over this paper during the holiday season. One of the oldest papers in the country, founded in 1842, it was thought to be, well, history, having not published the previous two months.

But here we are, persisting, despite lots of serious setbacks:

- We lost practically all of our legal advertising due to the paper's November/December hiatus, when municipalities choose their official papers. That, and that we're independent and non-partisan, and other papers align to whatever parties are in the majority.
- COVID-19 decimated practically all of our display advertising, which relied heavily on businesses being open. We're not sure when, if ever, these local businesses will return to full strength.
- Events have almost wholly been cancelled. These not only give us fodder for the paper – helping newsstand sales – but also the larger events tend to buy advertising.
- Most meetings have gone to Zoom, which are awkward to cover and not as interesting for readers, we imagine, so this has resulted in some reader complaints.
- Our printer – who also prints other papers, most of which are suffering if not dead – saw business shrink to the point where they had to lay off most of their employees and reduce their schedule to a few days a week; so we have to juggle their reduced

schedule with a harried local post office that wants our paper a day before it actually hits. We received word the other day that the printing plant will go completely out of business later this month, so we'll now need to find a new printer. We'll have to redesign the paper yet again to meet the requirements of this printer. Ugh!

But there have been positive signs:

- We're actually a real newspaper now. Considering that everything is practically closed, we get far fewer of the press releases that used to fill space on these pages, so instead, we're hitting the pavement and finding worthy feature stories that we're not sure The Journal & Press ever covered.
  - Paid subscriptions are up from about 430 to well over 600 in these short six months. Our goal is to get to 1000. How many newspapers in the US are actually growing? So tell your friends to subscribe!
  - Newsstand sales have been relatively solid; I guess people didn't believe the initial hype that one could get germs from newspapers (the CDC eventually said this is highly unlikely).
- Also, we're trying to be a kinder, gentler paper, offering:
- Free announcements, obituaries, e-editions and classified ads for subscribers.
  - Free 1/8th page ads for small, locally owned businesses affected by COVID-19 and non-profits.
  - Free three-month trial subscriptions for people who haven't subscribed in recent years.
  - Free portraits for high school seniors in conjunction with Hudson Crossing Park.
  - Free Zoom seminars for small businesses to help them



market in these trying times in conjunction with the Greater Greenwich Chamber of Commerce.

So, here we are, alive and in print and keeping this historic newspaper alive. It will survive. I'd especially like to thank all of the people who work for us cheap or free. We all have a lot of pride, despite the initial lack of financial windfall. The writers are giving us excellent copy. Our ad salesperson continues to look for ways to help small businesses. And our graphic designer continues to give clients nicely designed ads. These are all gig workers or volunteers. I'm amazed at how much so many people care about the institution that is this local paper. Other regional papers don't really seem to attract such devotion.

And especially, I'd like to thank you, the readers. We've gotten 99 positive messages for every one negative. Thanks for

the support – it has meant so much and has really kept us going during these trying times.

We take the history of this paper seriously and regularly consult our 178 years' worth of archives for advice – our paper's history is our region's history. It's yours and my history.

Our goal is to be even-keeled, objective and inclusive of *all* of our area's residents. We also plan to improve issue after issue.

For all of you who have re-subscribed – thank you. Again, if you know of anyone who should subscribe, or advertise, please have him or her contact us!

*Darren Johnson lives in Greenwich with his wife and daughter and is publisher of this newspaper.*



## Stop comforting me with idioms

**Cody Fitzgerald**  
*Journal & Press*

In today's edition of "Cody is unjustly irritated at something mundane and wants to rant about it," we're going to discuss idioms. Idioms are the Kardashians of the English language. Yeah, they're fun, but they ultimately contribute nothing. As someone who wants to minor in English in college, this is most definitely self-sabotage and borderline blasphemy, but now I'm committed, so here goes nothing...

**"Breaking the ice."** – This is typically associated with something good, usually the start of a conversation. Breaking the ice is most often associated with hypothermia.

**"Fit as a fiddle."** – I'll have you know I've come across many broken fiddles in my lifetime.

**"Burning bridges."** – Illegal.

**"You can't have your cake**

**and eat it too."** – Has anyone ever gotten a piece of cake and not eaten it?

**"Getting a taste of your own medicine."** – Also illegal.

**"Fighting tooth and nail."** – Ouch.

**"There's no such thing as a free lunch."** – The cafeteria garbage cans beg to differ.

**"There's plenty of fish in the sea."** – I can't swim.

**"An apple a day keeps the doctor away."** – Hear that kids? Next time you break your leg, eat an apple!

**"Cut the mustard."** – Redundant.

**"Comparing apples to oranges."** – There are plenty of things to compare between apples and oranges. Except unlike apples, oranges can't treat terminal illness in lieu of a doctor.

**"You can't judge a book by its cover."** – Why do libraries put the books out cover

first and not open to a random page?

**"Easy as pie."** – As someone who often burns microwavable chicken nuggets, I can assure you making and slicing a pie is not easy.

**"It ain't over until the fat lady sings."** – So many things.

**"Best thing since sliced bread."** – Insensitive to those with gluten allergies.

**"It's a piece of cake."** – Insensitive to those with dairy allergies.

**"Don't cry over spilled**

**'I burn microwave nuggets. Making a pie is not easy.'**

**milk."** – Insensitive to those without dairy allergies.

**"Let the cat out of the bag."** – Please don't bag your cats.

**"It takes two to tango."** – Loneliness, alcohol and a copy of "Just Dance" prove this theory to be incorrect.

**"The whole nine yards."** – I actually can't comment on this one because I don't understand sports.

Well, there you have it. Idioms aren't that interesting and often cause you to wonder how they even gained traction to begin with, again, much like the Kardashians. I hope I was able to persuade you into my disliking of idioms, and they can be next on the roster after we incite the #WarOnPringles and finally get those cans fixed. Thank you and goodnight.

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



### ACC's technical trades program

SUNY Adirondack announced a new degree program, Journeyworker: Technical Trades Management, for its Fall 2020 semester. The associate of occupational studies (AOS) degree is geared toward journeyworkers interested in taking on a management role or opening their own businesses.

"We're excited to offer this opportunity to trained, skilled workers throughout the nation," said Kristine Duffy, Ed.D., president of SUNY Adirondack. "This degree provides a strong foundation in the best business and management practices to round out their invaluable hands-on expertise."

A journeyworker in building trades or

advanced manufacturing may earn up to 30 credits toward the new AOS degree. The remaining required credits will be earned in courses such as public speaking, business law, accounting, computer science and principles of business, among others.

"I could not be prouder of the relationship Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 773 has forged with SUNY Adirondack. The transformation the union has made over past 100 years is incredible, starting in rental facilities and ending up in the multimillion-dollar training facility we have today," said Mike Jarvis, business manager of Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 773.

For more information, visit [sunyacc.edu](http://sunyacc.edu).

### Reunion cancelled

The 125th annual McGeoch Picnic that had been scheduled to take place at Richard McGuire's on the 25th of July has now been cancelled for the safety of the family members, which includes many elderly. It will be rescheduled for the last Saturday in July in 2021. They ask family members: "While we are waiting to gather please keep family information on births, weddings, and deaths for the family book update."

Apparently, the family is so big, the newspaper is a great way for them to get the word out!

For further information, please contact Dolores Phaneuf at 518-854-7275.

# Revving up travel and tourism

**Natalie Jew**  
*Journal & Press*

On July 10, was a NY-21 Zoom meeting on travel and tourism, hosted by Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, about what it may look like when we can all move again.

“For counties, cities, towns, businesses and people that rely on tourism for their livelihoods and local and state taxes, the COVID crisis has been monumental and huge losses to everybody,” Congresswoman Daphne Jordan said.

“Those that rely on tourism have a specific window of opportunity (usually seasonal) to make what they need to get them through the year and so now we’ve been living under this COVID crisis for a couple of seasons which is really taking a toll on everybody across the board. The impact is very real. There’s going to be huge substantial losses.”

In Saratoga, tourism made up \$337 million for the city of Saratoga Springs alone and to the county \$978 million according to a Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership 2019 report. All of which will be lost due to the pandemic.

To Assemblyman Dan Stec, businesses and unemployment are what we must keep working on for Washington County.

“The businesses that I hear from that are still shuttered are very frustrated and they’re concerned about their survivability and we want to be safe from the health perspective but, on the other hand, we have very real jobs at stake, personal finances at stake and frankly state and local tax revenue issues at stake,” Stec

said.

There has to be a plan put into place so visitors for the Canadian border can come down to Washington County for the summer, according to Stefanik. It is the natural attractions in Washington County, such as the water and campgrounds, that many tourists from abroad will miss out on, according to Assemblyman Robert Smullen, who hopes the Enchant Forest Water Safari will open.

“The Adirondack Experience not going to open this year, the Adirondack Ainal Land has a modified opening [and] lots of tourist venues [including] all our beautiful lakes and campgrounds are way down in terms of attendance,” Smullen said. “The possibility of what this summer’s going to look like is very worrisome to me.”

In times like these, it’s up to the community to keep small businesses going.

“During this uncertain time of managing the COVID-19 Virus, it is even more crucial that our small business community and patrons of Washington County work together,” read a note from See Taste Explore Washington County. “Many of our small and larger businesses are being directly affected by the restrictions placed on travel, dining out, and events. Business in Washington County continues to maintain their world-class level of service and quality to customers and have adapted to the changes.”

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# Amish visit Greenwich board meeting

**Annabel Gregg**  
*Journal & Press*

The Amish are coming to Greenwich! Emily Van Driel and Amish community representative Andy Schreck attended the monthly Town Board meeting on Tuesday, July 14, to talk about their plans. “The Amish are interested in moving here,” explains Van Driel, an advocate for the local Amish. “They like the area, and there are some families thinking about moving here. There’s already two families living here.”

Van Driel believes that having Amish citizens move in to Greenwich will help with bringing in new business and will increase commerce on the local level. The Amish are interested in small-scale farming opportunities in Greenwich. “We want basically to bring back the aspects of small family farms, not necessarily these big factory operations,” explains Schreck, representing his community. “There’s a span of about 20 miles that we’d like to do business in.”

“I remember when people in this area *did* farm with horses,” elaborates Van Driel. “Since then we have seen a disappearance of this and an increase in industrial farming, which in my personal opinion, is a great loss to this area.”

Amish community members have already been integrating into Greenwich commerce, and hope to do so even more in the near future, from selling fresh produce at future farmers markets to continuing the already-successful bake sales held weekly in the strip mall parking lot.

Schreck says the Amish are already happy integrating into the Greenwich community. “Every-

one has been very welcoming to us,” he says. “We’ve been very fortunate for that.”

“We are super excited to work with you,” comments Supervisor Don Ward. “We’re happy you’re in Greenwich and you’re welcome here.”

## Summer Youth Program

Julie Mosher also attended the meeting, reporting on the many adjustments the Summer Youth Program has made to comply with local guidelines and state regulations to keep campers and counselors safe from COVID-19.

“This has been an interesting year, but I have to say I’m glad to see the youth program went on as planned. I really think the children of the community needed it. Kudos need to go to George Ostrowski, who is our camp director who is very committed to seeing everything go on safely,” says Mosher. The updated New York State regulations and safety plans came out in June, Mosher says, which is when the organizers started working on new protocols for the program.

There are daily temperature checks for campers, which are monitored regularly, as well as new drop off and pick up procedures for campers and their guardians. There is also a new policy of no cellphones allowed to be used by campers, and maintaining a 6-foot-apart social distance. Each camp counselor was also taught a comprehensive disinfection process.

Mosher mentions that the campers were trained for proper hand hygiene, and even went through activities to learn and practice social distancing techniques.

## Library Report

Greenwich Free Library Director Annie Miller commented on the library’s reopening to the public on Monday the 13th. “I actually missed the public,” says Miller. “Seeing the first kid come in through the door holding a book, we all just stood there practically weeping.”

The library had gone through extensive efforts since its closure on March 18th to continue to provide services to the public, including an online notary service, curbside pickup services, reading programs and book clubs, and online events of all kinds.

Miller and the library are also working to obtain internet for the Cossyuna Fire Department, and hopes to work with the town to provide better internet access for all of Greenwich. “The digital divide is a severe one,” she explains. “It’s a factor that plays into whether or not people move here, businesses come here, et cetera. We need better internet access, especially when you see kids who do homework in their cars in the library parking lot.”

## Historian’s Report

Town Historian Sandy McReynolds also discussed the history of July 4th, and Greenwich’s lack thereof. “I went back through the records to see how the 4th of July has been celebrated. I couldn’t find any photographs in the library or in The Greenwich Journal. I went through 1925, 1935, 1945, and 1955 – nothing! No mention of a parade, any bell ringing, or anything else,” she explains. She

mentions that there was one resolution made in 1965 made by then-Mayor Dolan to have the bells be rung at 2:00 p.m. that day, but otherwise, the town had a surprising lack of celebrations in the past for the holiday. “Greenwich just likes Memorial Day,” she confesses light-heartedly.

## Fiscal Worries

Supervisor Ward also commented on the state of the town finances. “In August we get the number for the 2021 budget,” he explains. “In summary, we have a little bit of making up to do, mostly in local revenues, but I think we can manage that. After

**‘I remember when people in this area *did* farm with horses.’**

next month I can give a run down on exactly how short we are. We won’t have a larger balance for next year.”

## Internet Deal

The town is planning on forging a contract for FiberOptic Internet from PrimeLink in the near future. At the meeting, the board authorized a four-year commitment contract with the Upstate New York provider.

## Rabies Clinic

The board authorized the Washington County Department of Health to hold a community Rabies Clinic on Saturday, August 1st from 8:30 to 3:30.

# The murderous Mr. Billings

**Rachel Clothier**  
*Journal & Press*

A good attorney friend of mine called me up after reading some of my articles and suggested that if I like good local true crime stories that I should check out the book "To Spend Eternity Alone" by Hollis Palmer. Since it will be a while before I get my hands on the book, I did a little research about the Billings family on my own. I found a ton of news articles on the fultonhistory.com website.

I found that Jesse Billings Jr. was a wealthy entrepreneur, ice harvester, boat builder and bank owner, who lived in near the canal at Fort Miller Bridge, Northumberland. Born in 1828, he was the son of Dr. Jesse Billings a well-known physician in Saratoga. He married Mary Eliza "Bessie" Harris in 1856, they had one daughter Jennie born in 1861.

Mr. Billings was an economic engineer, he made real estate and other loans to farmers, and he would, in turn, buy their goods wholesale and resell them. He was thought of as a good man by those that were good to him. As a consequence to his popularity, he had a reputation for hanging out with drunkards and being a ladies' man.

Mrs. Billings apparently did not approve of Mr. Billings's lifestyle, and either could be quite a nag, or her husband was just downright insolent towards her. Mr. Billings had been accused of plotting ways to get rid of his wife by drowning, or some other "accidental" means. Mr. Billings tried to convince his daughter to help him get Mrs. Billings put into an insane asylum. He threatened to cut young Jennie off if she took her mother's side, but she was loyal to her mother.

Mr. Billings made his contempt for his wife public and was seen at church flaunting another woman, Mrs. Curtis. Mrs. Billings did not hide that she was jealous of the affair and caused a scene. On June 4, just two days after Mrs. Curtis announced her intention to file a slander suit against Mrs. Billings, Mrs. Billings was murdered.

On the evening of her demise, Mrs. Billings was sitting on a rocking chair in her home discussing her brother's recent wedding with her daughter. From the garden below she could clearly be seen through the window by her assassin and was shot in the head. A neighbor, Mrs. Reed, heard the noise and ran to her window to look out. She and her husband went to another neighbors' home to get help, the news spread quickly.

Mr. Billings was not home at the time, his alibi was that he had left his home after supper around 6:30 to 7 p.m. and walked 3.3 miles to go salt his cattle. From there he claimed to have gone to George Washburne's and waited there until Mr. Washburne arrived home. Coincidentally Mr. Washburne had heard of

**'He tried to get Mrs. Billings committed into an insane asylum.'**

the trouble at the Billings residence while he was on his way home, leaving him with the unpleasant task of telling Mr. Billings that he needed to get back home to his wife who had been struck by a bullet around 8:30 p.m.

When Mr. Billings arrived on the scene in front of witnesses, he



*-chris smith illustration*

threw himself on the ground in a dramatic fainting episode. When the police arrived, they found footprints of rubber boots outside of the window and through the garden, Mr. Billings was known to wear that type of boots. Mr. Billings's friends stepped forward to claim that they witnessed a man running down the towpath, and Mr. Billings immediately claimed that there must have been a conspiracy against him. He went as far as to blame his wife's own family.

Enough circumstantial evidence existed that Mr. Billings was arrested and charged with his 45-year-old wife's murder. During the murder trial, Jennie openly accused her father several times of killing her mother, shouting "three times and out." This was referring to two of his previous attempts to kill Mrs. Billings with chloroform and kerosene. Jennie's finance John Sherman also refused to cover up for

Billings and provided testimony that there had been a gun in Billings store that was similar to the one found by investigators hidden in the well on Billings property. Mr. Billings countered by accusing Sherman of planting the gun in the well in order to set Billings up so that he could marry Jennie and inherit Billings estate.

Friends of Billings protested declaring his innocence on the Fort Miller Bridge. The most expensive and skilled defense team of attorneys were hired. Resulting in a hung jury for the first trial and an acquittal in the second. The man who could buy anything bought his freedom!

*Rachel Clothier is a history buff and legal researcher, in the Village of Greenwich.*



# 'Glee' star Rivera: 'fun, kind, generous'

Joe Otterson

Variety

Special to Journal & Press

The creators of "Glee" released a statement on July 14 regarding the death of series star Naya Rivera. Ryan Murphy, Brad Falchuk, and Ian Brennan paid tribute to Rivera, who drowned at Lake Piru in Ventura County, California the previous week.

"Naya wasn't a series regular when we cast her on 'Glee,'" they wrote. "She didn't have more than a few lines in the pilot. But it didn't take more than an episode or two for us to realize that we had lucked into finding one of the most talented, special stars we would ever have the pleasure of working with."

They went on to praise a number of Rivera's "Glee" musical performances as well as the "humor and humanity" she brought to her character's relationship with Heather Morris' character, Brittany.

"It was one of the first times an openly lesbian, high school relationship was seen on network television and Naya understood what 'Brittana' meant to the many young women who were seeing themselves represented on television for the first time," the three said. They concluded by stating they are currently in the process of creating a college fund for Rivera's son, Josey, age 4.

Read the full statement below.

Rivera had gone to Lake Piru with Josey on the day she disappeared. The child was found alone on a boat Rivera had rented. He told investigators his mother had put him back on the boat before he saw her disappear beneath the water.

Authorities immediately began a search operation to find Rivera, with her body being recovered five days later.

We are heartbroken over the  
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loss of our friend Naya Rivera.

Naya wasn't a series regular when we cast her on Glee. She didn't have more than a few lines in the pilot. But it didn't take more than an episode or two for us to realize that we had lucked into finding one of the most talented, special stars we would ever have the pleasure of working with. Naya could act, she could dance, and she could sing (could she ever sing!) She could nail a joke as well as she could crush you with an emotional scene. She could move between being scary tough and deeply vulnerable with ease. She was a joy to write for, a joy to direct and a joy to be around.

Naya is responsible for numerous iconic Glee musical performances- The Adele Mash Up, Valerie, Songbird- but her greatest Glee legacy is probably the humor and humanity that she brought to Santana's relationship with her best friend and eventual girlfriend/wife Brittany (played by Heather Morris). It was one of the first times an openly lesbian, high school relationship was seen on network television and Naya understood what "Brittana" meant to the many young women who were seeing themselves represented on television for the first time. Naya always made sure that Santana's love for Brittany was expressed with dignity, strength and with pure intentions. Naya was always moved by the girls who reached out to her to tell her how much Santana and Brittany's love affected them. Naya's obligation to them- and to all of her fans- was obvious. She had the rare combination of humility and endless confidence in her talent.

Naya was a real pro. Always on time, always knew her lines (which wasn't easy considering the giant mouthfuls of dialogue we often gave her), always kept



Naya Rivera and Josey Hollis

everyone laughing on the set. She was warm and caring and fiercely protective of the rest of the cast. She was tough and demanding. She was fun. She was kind. She was generous. There were ups and downs during the wonderful and stressful years we spent making Glee. We disagreed, we fought, we made up, then we fought some more, than we made up again. The kinds of things that

happen in a family. Naya was more than just an actor on our show- she was our friend.

Our hearts go out to her family, especially her mom, Yolanda, who was a big part of the Glee family and her son Josey. The three of us are currently in the process of creating a college fund for the beautiful son Naya loved most of all.

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## Stores take the day off; gone swimming

**Kaylee Johnson**  
*Journal & Press*

*The Journal & Press has had several iterations. At one point there were separate papers called The Greenwich Journal and The Salem Press. And for decades, the newspaper owned other historic papers, The Fort Edward Advertiser and The Schuylerville Standard, but dropped that from the masthead. You can find archives of these papers and more in the Greenwich Public Library's excellent Gill Room or online at [nyshistoricnewspapers.org](http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org).*

*Here are some snippets from past editions from late Julys many decades ago:*

### **100 Years Ago** **July 21, 1920**

Census figures for Washington County made public Monday by the Census Bureau at Washington show that the population of Washington County has decreased nearly three thousand, to be exact 2,890, in the past ten years. The drift to the cities has left most of the rural towns with some hundreds less population that they had in 1910, and practically the only towns that have held their own are those that include manufacturing villages within their limits. In these towns, the manufacturing villages have for the most part

grown, and the increase is about enough to make good the loss in rural sections.

### **90 Years Ago** **July 30, 1930**

Calm, quiet, peaceful, noiseless as the desert village is Greenwich on Wednesday afternoons. The usually busy streets are bare, except for an occasional wanderer. The usual sounds are missing and the quiet is broken only by the occasional passing automobile and the rumbling of the printing press as, sheet after sheet, The Greenwich Journal is printed.

Why this silence in the metropolis of Greenwich? Only because the merchants, overworked and weary are taking an afternoon off and the Journal crew, as they labor over the publishing of the paper often have time to wonder why the merchants had to choose the most important day of the week to tantalize them by closing their stores and going off to relax.

### **80 Years Ago** **July 31, 1940**

Baseball was the main attraction at the Greenwich Community Playground Monday when the older boys' baseball team met

the Schuylerville team. The game was the third in a series of games between the two teams, and the Greenwich boys scored their third victory over the boys from across the river. The score was 5-2.

### **70 Years Ago** **July 19, 1950**

The hot weather of the past few days has made the Battenkill Bathing Beach one of the most powerful spots around Greenwich. The beach has not lacked for patrons since its opening on June 28, but the extreme heat of the past two days has swelled the daily attendance considerably.

Miss Mary Alice Stewart of Salem has been engaged as a lifeguard and a swimming instructor, and she is working with William Gilehrest and Miss Nancy Nowell, the other lifeguards.

Instruction in swimming, which was a popular feature of the beach program during the past two seasons, is as attractive as ever. Over 100 young people are enrolled in children's classes and a class of adult swimmers is now being formed.

### **60 Years Ago** **July 27, 1960**

A two-headed pig was born recently on the farm of Frank Williams in Easton. This biological curiosity was one of a litter of 11. It lived only about twenty minutes.

Dr. Elmer Wilson, Saratoga Lake veterinarian, now has the specimen in a jar of embalming fluid in his office. He said the pig is more of a Siamese twin type,

having two heads, four front legs and two tails. Similar cases are known, but are extremely rare, the doctor reported.

### **40 Years Ago** **July 24, 1980**

The former Louis Chamberlain home on Vail Street in Salem will be the site of Washington County's first boarding home for girls run by the County Department of Social Services.

Girls ranging in age from 13 to 18 can stay at the home, which can accommodate a maximum of six. Two fourteen-year-olds are expected to begin residency by August 1.

Boarding home placement is a relatively new concept in care for boys and girls who are unable to cope in foster homes but can function outside of an institution.

According to Sandra Sweet, social services senior caseworker, the boarding home provides a less structured atmosphere than an institution but at the same time offers treatment, counseling and supervision.

### **20 Years Ago** **July 20, 2000**

Following last season's disastrous E-coli contamination of the Washington County Fair's water supply, many thought they had seen the demise of the century-old agricultural tradition. Not so, according to recent press releases from the fair. At a cost of more than \$100,000, The Washington County Fair has installed new deep wells and a water purification system superior to that of most municipalities in the state.

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# Let's talk about housing

**Jill Schlesinger**  
*Special to Journal & Press*

Housing data for the month of May paints a confusing picture: Existing Home Sales were off 9.7% from April and compared with a year ago, purchases were down 26.6%, the biggest annual slide since February 2008. But New Home Sales were up 16.6% from April and were 12.7% higher from a year ago. The National Association of Realtor (NAR) Pending Home Sales Index was even more impressive, up 44.3% from April, the highest month over month increase since the series began in January 2001. However, the index was down 5.1 % from a year ago, so the news wasn't all rainbows and unicorns.

What's going on? One issue is when the reports are compiled. Existing Home Sales are counted when transactions are closed; while New Home Sales and the Pending Sales Index are based on when contracts are signed, which means those later two generally

lead the former by a month or two. If we were not amid a health pandemic, then I would happily declare that the housing market likely bottomed in April. But as new cases of the virus spike in the South and West, it's too early to say that the worst is behind us.

While activity has been wobbly amid the lockdown, the pre-pandemic trend of high prices persists. You can blame the simple fact that there are not a lot of houses for sales. As of May, inventory for existing homes was down 18.8% from a year ago, the lowest level since at least the early 1990s. The lack of homes for sale has pushed up prices, with the median existing-home price at \$284,600, up 2.3 % from a year ago and the median sales price of new houses sold in May at \$317,900.

Does that mean you should put your house hunting on hold? Not necessarily. Although the economy has entered a recession, for those who have secure jobs and have run the numbers, there are

compelling reasons to consider purchasing a home. The most important is that mortgage rates have dropped to all-time lows. According to Freddie Mac, a 30-year, fixed rate mortgage carries a 3.13% rate, while a 15-year is at 2.59%. Those low rates have encouraged would-be buyers.

While it took more than 10 years for purchase demand to rebound to pre-recession levels after the Great Recession, Freddie Mac notes, "In this crisis, it took less than ten weeks." The quick turnaround also may have something to do with the pandemic itself, as many urban dwellers headed out of their cities, seeking space and non-elevator living of the suburbs.

Analysis by the American Enterprise Institute found that during the four weeks from mid-May to mid-June, home purchases (as measured by interest-rate mortgage application locks) in non-urban areas increased by a third more than in urban areas compared to the same period last

year. Economist Joel Naroff believes "the virus may be helping as people who were on the fence about where to live may be turning to less dense locations," but he also cautions that it will be a while before it becomes clear whether these moves were temporary are part of a longer-term trend.

Finally, many would-be buyers are reluctant to pull the trigger on a purchase, before their employers decide about work from home schedules. If more companies incorporate job sharing and remote working into their businesses, many workers could potentially live in cheaper areas that provide other benefits like more space or proximity to family, without sacrificing career advancement. That type of migration would be a game-changer for the real estate market.



*Jill Schlesinger, CFP, is a CBS News business analyst. She welcomes comments at [askjill@jillonmoney.com](mailto:askjill@jillonmoney.com).*

## Advice for working from home

**Daneen Skube**  
*Special to Journal & Press*

**Q:** *I fought for years to work from home and now I have to work from home. I'm glad remote work is acceptable but struggling with how to do the interpersonal stuff when home alone. Do you have ideas you are teaching clients on working remotely?*

**A:** Practical suggestions are:

1) Make time to connect with people that matter to you. Set up phone dates where you do more than dash to meet a deadline. Ask how they are doing and actually listen. The stress we are under can connect or divide us.

2) During phone calls pay attention to the music in voices. Research tells us only 7% con-

versational meaning is carried by words, 38% is in vocal tone, and the rest in body language. When you only have words and tone of voice if you don't listen attentively to tone you'll miss 38% of what's happening.

3) During video meetings, watch facial expressions, hand movements, and body postures with interest. Words can lie but our bodies always tell the truth. If you're confused about nonverbal meanings, ask yourself how you feel when you use the posture you don't understand in another.

Everyone is a lot more emotional right now. Work hard right now to consider that however people are responding to you there's a good chance it has nothing to do with you. The less per-

sonally you take people's reactions, the greater your chance to have influence. People that can maintain a tranquil head and heart in the middle of crisis inspire trust and model leadership.

In so many places socially there's an emphasis on tearing down. There's less emphasis on creating something better. We need our diversity, our respect for each other, and collaboration to find solutions.

Our country is on a precipice of vast, transformative and needed changes. The way we work, worship, live and are governed are all liquefying with the chance to be poured into better forms. The more we trust ourselves to be resilient, others to learn through suffering, and the

process of life itself the better we'll fare.

We've transformed as individuals before, and even as countries but never had the challenge of transforming so profoundly as a species.

Take the challenges day by day, work to trust the process unfolding within you and without, and appreciate you have the privilege of being alive witnessing a potential global shift in how we work with each other to create a better future!

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





# Welcome to the United States of 'do as you please'

**Greg Schwem**  
*Special to Journal & Press*

The warning alarm knifed through the humid air as my foursome exited the eighth green. Dark clouds overhead meant rain was imminent; the accompanying siren signaled lightning had been spotted and all golfers were to clear the course immediately.

IMMEDIATELY.

We scrambled into our carts and beelined for the clubhouse, never once considering remaining on the course and playing 10 more holes. Despite seeing pockets of sun trying to poke through the gloom, I've seen enough charred tree trunks on golf courses to know the power of a lightning bolt. Not to mention the fact that a golf bag is basically comprised of 14 metal sticks.

Besides, rules are rules, right?

As we approached the clubhouse, we saw plenty of other golfers heading ... the opposite direction. A foursome of cigar-chomping bros was teeing off on number one. A dad with his daughter, no more than 8 and the proud owner of a pink flowered golf bag, appeared ready to start their round, rain, lightning and rules be damned.

Such is the nature of living in a country synonymous with freedom. The Cambridge dictionary defines freedom as "the condition or right of being able or allowed to do, say, think, etc. whatever you want to, without being controlled or limited." And my, oh my, are we getting good at it.

Turn off our cellphones because it's time for the plane to push back from the gate? Sorry, I'm on an important call with my swimming pool contractor and my freedom takes precedence over an on-time departure.

Leash our dog in a bird-watching section of Central Park because that's what the signs say? Too bad. That's a violation of my dog's constitutional rights, never mind that my dog can't distinguish a copy of the Constitution from a rolled-up newspaper.

Wear a mask in a retail establishment because doing so might ward off a virus

that has killed more than 100,000 people and doesn't seem to be abating despite, um, warm weather? Excuse me, but nobody tells me how and where to breathe for doing so is a violation of my air intake freedom.

Looking back, I'm starting to question all the parenting decisions I made with my children, now 18 and 23. At the community pool, when lifeguards simultaneously blew their whistles at 50 minutes past each hour, it signaled "Adult Swim" for the next 10 minutes. If my kids dawdled, my wife and I yelled, "Out of the pool. You know the rules."

Think of all the valuable swimming time my children missed. I should have yelled, "Keep swimming, girls. Nobody can tell you to leave the pool. That's a violation of your Marco Polo freedom."

When they were high school students, and the temptations of alcohol began to appear, we were firm: No parties in our house

**'Keep swimming, girls.  
Leaving is a violation of  
your Marco Polo rights.'**

with liquor, for underage drinking is against the law. Silly us. I should have set up a fully stocked bar in my basement. And when police arrived to shut down the festivities, I should have scolded them for illegally entering my premises, verbally harassing the guests -- including the 15-year-old cheerleader puking in the bathroom -- and impinging on the kids' First Amendment rights to openly discuss the new Selena Gomez single. That's a veritable trifecta of freedom violations.

And what about my freedoms? The town



where I live has an ordinance stating I can only run my yard sprinklers on even numbered calendar days. Ha! My grass blades are on my property and it should be up to me to decide when they receive nourishment. If I'm slapped with a fine, I'll take my cues from our freedom-loving president and appeal this horrible injustice all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

I could go on and on stating all the times my freedoms have been trampled, but this column is due and I'm under strict orders to have it in by Tuesday morning.

On second thought, I'll submit it whenever I feel like it. Need I say why?

*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).*



# A rich fantasy life

Annie Miller  
*Journal & Press*

I have often heard that it is the presence of limitations that result in the most innovative works of art. Lack of materials, time or space becomes a challenge to someone whose creativity will not be denied. As a reader, I often find that the limits of what is available or the requirements of a particular assignment cause me to venture into unknown literary territory; sometimes resulting in me finding an unexpected new favorite author or genre.

This year's Summer Reading theme is "Imagine Your Story". As is usual with these, there is plenty of room for interpretation, allowing libraries across the country to use what they have and go with their strengths when it comes to programming. In Greenwich, most of the programming we had planned for this summer was rendered impossible by COVID 19 and there was a scramble to come up with fun, engaging activities that families could do without crowding together in rooms. In response to these limitations, my wonderful staff has devised a whole range of choices, from a Village Poetry Walk to Local Landmarks Bingo to Monarch Butterfly Raising Kits. In the face of such resilience and creativity, I decided to contribute by hosting virtual book clubs. (OK, not ground-breaking, but something.)

With the collaboration of our wonderful school librarians, Nicole Carner and Katrina Williams, the library will be conducting Zoom book clubs for children, teens and adults throughout July and August. (We are providing copies of the books for the kids and teens. Big thanks to Connie at Battenkill Books for helping me get them.) In keeping with the theme, all the books are either fantasy or science fiction, which presents a bit of an odd challenge for me. Because even though I read and love a lot of both, I always think I don't.

Somewhere along the way, I had decided that neither of those genres were for me. Dragons and robots were fun but silly. "Animal Farms" and book burning librarians were torn apart in classes and loaded down with MEANING. My obligatory teen Tolkien phase felt like the longest slog I

would ever go on. (I had yet to experience German literary criticism.) There was plenty to read, I could leave sci-fi and fantasy to the people who were even nerdier than I. (One always has to imagine that there are such people out there.) I happily read just about everything else for a couple of decades.

And then Thud!. I was perusing the stacks at the Greenwich Free Library (as a civilian, I wouldn't start working there for years) when I came across the book with that irresistible title and began my honorary citizenship in Terry Pratchett's "Discworld". Then Thursday Next hooked me into reading all of Jasper Fforde's series and I circled back to Douglas Adams and all the "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" books. Because these are all similar, quirky

## 'Dragons? I ended up loving the genre.'

British humor laced with not-so-subtle social observations, it was pretty easy for me to think that I had reached my limit in this arena. I just liked those guys, I didn't like fantasy.

While on an XC ski trip with some super-athlete friends, I found myself alone in the rental house while they finished their 50 kilometers, or whatever madness they were up to that day. Since this was the norm, rather than the exception, I had already burned through all the books I had brought with me. I started looking around online for something to amuse me and came across a site for sci-fi short story writing. I spent the next hour reading, and then ensuing 10 years thinking about, the story I read that day. I can't remember the name of the site, the author or the title (bad librarian!) but I remember the whole story and how beautifully it used

robots (yes, robots) to examine what it means to be human. But, I still wasn't really a sci-fi reader.

I have gone on to prove myself wrong time and time again by enjoying the "Tearling" series by Erika Johansen when none of my audiobook holds had come through, loving "Station Eleven" by Emily St. John Mandel when it was getting so much praise I felt professionally obliged to crack it open, the list goes on. The first book I chose for the adult book club, "The Bear and the Nightingale" by Katherine Arden, was recommended by Connie Brooks at Battenkill Books. I really only started it out of professional courtesy because, remember, I was not a fantasy reader. I ended up loving it, reading the second book right away and eagerly awaiting the third. This is the series that made me finally admit that I had liked this genre all along and that good writing comes in all forms, even the ones with robots and dragons.

There is still time to be part of the library book clubs. You can find the schedule in our newsletter <https://www.greenwichfreelibrary.org/newsletter/>. You will also see our new hours and procedures for a limited opening to the public. We hope to see you – from the mask up – soon and encourage you to take a chance and indulge in a little fantasy. After all, what's so great about reality?

Annie Miller is Director of the Greenwich Free Library.



## Get-Outside Bingo

Get a bingo card with all of Greenwich's attractions at The Greenwich Free Library from now until September 30. It will take you from local parks to hikes up hills. Each place you visit, take a picture and see [www.greenwichfreelibrary.org/bingo/](http://www.greenwichfreelibrary.org/bingo/) for more information. The prizes from bingo are courtesy of Argyle Brewing Company, Wicked Wicks and More, and DDC Roosting Box.

## Reading Challenge

All you have to do is read and log your hours (open to all ages) at The Greenwich Free Library from now until Aug. 29. If you're going to be stuck at home all summer, why not? The prizes include a free ice cream from Battenkill Creamery, a \$50 gift certificate from Battenkill Books and one other surprise. To sign up go to [greenwichfreelibrary.org/summer-reading](http://greenwichfreelibrary.org/summer-reading).

# Yes, farms, yes, food

**Kate Sausville**  
*Journal & Press*

Growing up in a large suburban area, I gave very little thought to where my food came from. My mother went grocery shopping and viola, we had food! I didn't know anyone who lived on an actual farm.

Twenty years ago, I met my husband and moved to Greenwich. Suddenly, I was surrounded by farms and farmers. I won't lie, it was an adjustment. Traffic jams were caused not by other cars, but tractors. And there is nothing like the fresh aroma of manure after it has been spread over the fields.

Then there is the "Fair." I had never been to the Washington County Fair before I moved here. I did not realize the magnitude of the Fair, until I had friends who have been attending the fair since they were born, as did their parents before them, and their grandparents before that, and, well, you get the picture.

I learned quickly that the only plans during Fair week are attending the Fair. My husband grew up in this area and is well versed in farm life. He recalls spending the night at his cousin's farm, only to have to stop playing and help with chores! As a high school teacher, he has a good number of students who are up well before the sun, to help with

milking and other chores before the school day begins.

One of the other things I noticed after I moved to Greenwich was the large number of roadside stands, offering everything from fresh cut flowers, to vegetables and eggs. Then there are the farmers markets. Every Wednesday in Greenwich, local farmers sell their goods, from farms all over the Washington County area. It doesn't get much fresher than that!

During the time I've lived in this area, the farm to table movement has grown considerably, driven by consumers who want to know where their food comes from, and that what they are eating is safe. I love that I can get most of my food right here in Greenwich, some from people I know personally.

Farming is not an easy life. Long hours, hard physical labor,

## 'Living in this area has opened my eyes.'

the odd government regulations, and financial stress are driving many away from farming. According to USDA statistics, the United States lost 12,800 farms from 2017 to 2018. It can be difficult for a farmer to recoup their

## Jenn Ward



expenses, much less turn a profit.

Farming can also be dangerous. According to the New York State Department of Labor, 287 farm workers lost their lives in farming accidents from 1991 to 2004. Many others are injured or maimed in farm accidents. Recently one of our own farmers in Greenwich suffered a catastrophic injury while farming and lost her arm. It is certainly humbling to realize someone could be injured doing a job that directly benefits you.

Living in this area has certainly opened my eyes up to a different world. Which is why I feel it is so important to support our local farms and agribusiness, especially during this uncertain time. It was announced that due to COVID-19 there will be no Washington County Fair this year, which I know is a huge disappointment for many people, including my family.

We won't be able to check out the rides, stroll through the barns, eat our weight in pie from the local Boy Scout booth, and take in the shows. We won't be able to pet the Mooney sheep, or take a break in barn 3 with the Andrew family. My kids won't

beg for a 10 lb bag of kettle corn that never seems to get eaten. Despite all this, our farmers will still be working the land, getting up early to do the milking, and other chores, and I will be doing my best to support my friends and neighbors.

\*Donations for Jenn Ward, who was seriously injured in a farm accident, can be made to either: gofundme/f/jenn-ward or if you would prefer to send a check directly, Ali Henderson has been collecting donations.'

Her address: Alana Henderson, P.O. Box 61, Greenwich, NY 12834.

Please make checks out to "Jennifer Ward" or "Hoosac Valley Farmers Exchange" for help with animal care. There is also a collection jar located in Lynn's Country Cafe for Jenn. \*

*Kate Sausville is a resident of Greenwich, a preschool teacher for Head Start in Saratoga County, wife and mother of two teenage daughters.*



## Basket raffle nixed

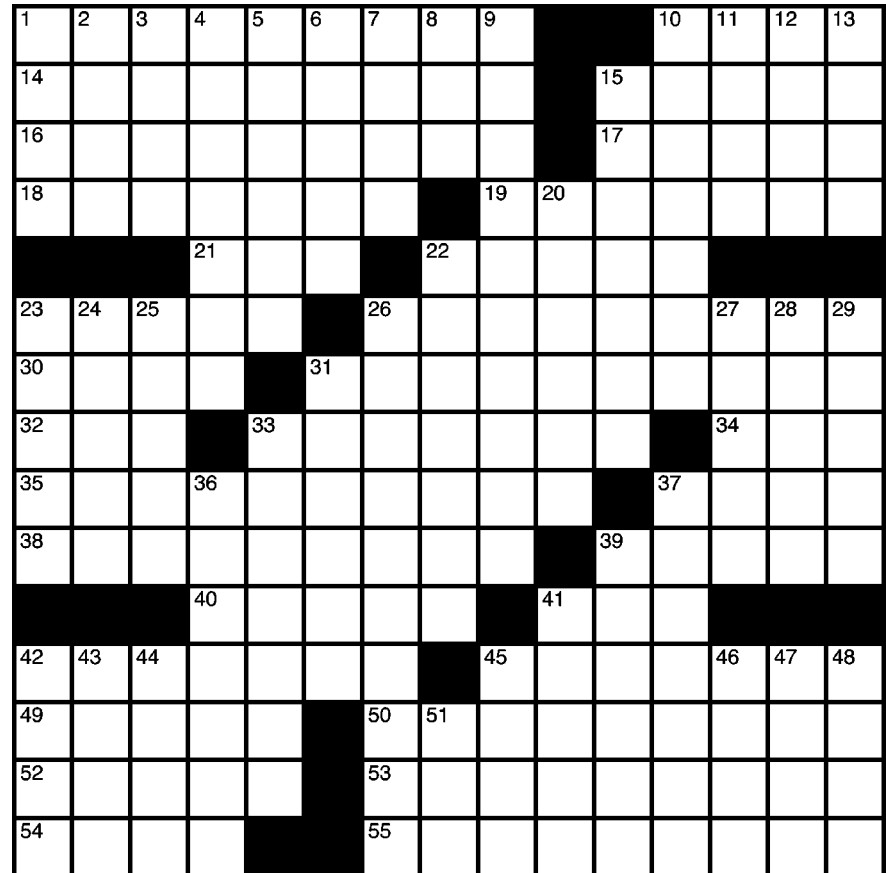
The Salem's Community Cats, a non-profit organization, has **cancelled** the basket raffle that was set to take place on Saturday, July 18th. You can still support the group's continued "Trap, Neuter and Release" efforts, and to assist cats in need in the Salem area. Visit: [fb.com/Salemscommunitycats](https://fb.com/Salemscommunitycats).

# Cambridge Crossword

(solution page 24)

## Across

- |  |   |   |                            |
|--|---|---|----------------------------|
| 1 Decorative border                    | 35 Classroom no-no                                  | 3 Landlocked African country                    | Medal of Freedom in 2014   |
| 10 Business investment?                | 37 Where le nez is                                  | 4 Fragment                                      | 28 Govt. issue             |
| 14 Regardless                          | 38 Typical ham feature                              | 5 Business VIP                                  | 29 Pot-using sportsman     |
| 15 Black-and-white vegetarian          | 39 More twisted                                     | 6 Freeze  | 31 2K, say                 |
| 16 Black-and-white                     | 40 Cleared the room, perhaps                        | 7 Careful handling                              | 33 Tailor's service        |
| 17 One putting two and two together    | 41 Inc. magazine subject                            | 8 Union foe in the 19th cen.                    | 36 Many Aberdeen residents |
| 18 Exit discreetly                     | 42 A museum in Pesaro, Italy, marks his birth-place | 9 Not woody, to a botanist                      | 37 Harness racer           |
| 19 Ivory, e.g.                         | 45 Alternative histories                            | 10 Tearjerker                                   | 39 Withdrew gradually      |
| 21 Unannounced, as a quiz              | 49 Possible response to "I raise"                   | 11 Command following "Oops!"                    | 41 Piece                   |
| 22 Beyond silly                        | 50 Words seen before a dollar sign                  | 12 Flash, maybe                                 | 42 Casino tool             |
| 23 Corroded                            | 52 Filmmaker's ___ light                            | 13 Weather protection                           | 43 Paella cooker           |
| 26 Protect against harm, in a way      | 53 Only you   | 15 Downtown challenge                           | 44 Clothing opening        |
| 30 It's about 40.5 for Pittsburgh, Pa. | 54 Casual food                                      | 20 Reason for a misunderstanding                | 45 Clothing material       |
| 31 Inspiration for a red shade         | 55 Formal choice                                    | 22 Black arts practitioner                      | 46 Off                     |
| 32 Tirana is its cap.                  |   | 23 Make law                                     | 47 Bellyache               |
| 33 One of ten in the Kentucky Derby    | <b>Down</b>   | 24 Quran deity                                  | 48 Gets it                 |
| 34 "Gr8 joke!"                         | 1 Swinging joints?                                  | 25 Stand with a leaf                            | 51 "Excusez-___"           |
|  | 2 Organic compound                                  | 26 Jefferson and others                         |                            |
|  |   | 27 Dancer posthumously awarded the Presidential |                            |



9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



## Olde Saratoga Word Find

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

Find these words that are associated with NYS trains!

Airtrain  
Albany  
Amtrak

Buffalo  
Coach  
Empire  
Fare  
Foliage  
Grand Central  
Harlem  
Hudson

Jamaica  
Line  
Long Island  
Metro-North  
New Haven  
New Rochelle  
Penn  
Rail

Scenic  
Staten Island  
Stony Brook  
Stop  
Subway  
Syracuse  
Tours  
Train

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

# Salem Sudoku

(solution page 30)

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

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk).

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By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus  
We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?  
Find AT LEAST FIVE EIGHT-LETTER COUNTRIES in the grid of letters.

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Answers on p. 30.

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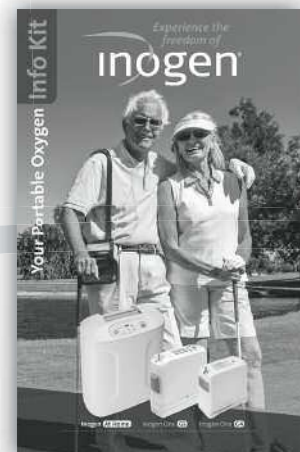
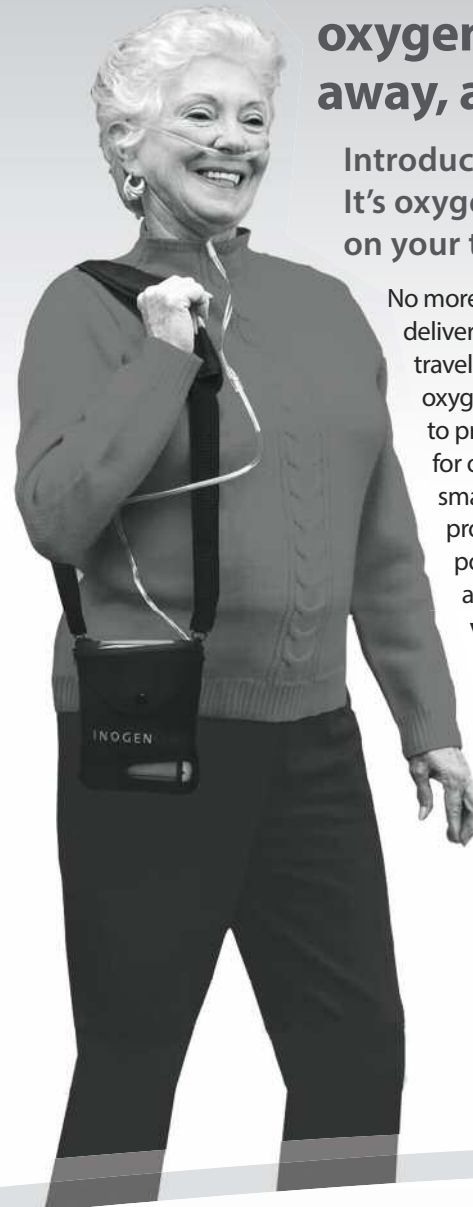
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MKT-P0108

# New videos now available

**Jay Bobbin**

*Special to Journal & Press*

Stuck at home? Here are some new video releases:

**“12 MONKEYS: THE COMPLETE SERIES”**: Inspired by the same-named movie, this Syfy show had a fairly healthy run, lasting four seasons. Using the same basic premise, it casts Aaron Stanford as a fugitive from the future, sent to the present day by those behind the so-called “Project Splinter” to eliminate the cause of a plague that eventually will wipe out mankind. A doctor (Amanda Schull) helps him, but only partially willingly, since assisting him sometimes forces her to go against her professional oath.

**“IMAX: JOURNEY TO SPACE”**: With astronauts having gone back to the cosmos recently in the first U.S. space launch in some time, there might be extra interest now in this documentary, making its DVD debut (an interesting twist, since that’s the physical home-video format that typically comes first) along with some other features made for the immersive IMAX theatrical format. None other than “Jean-Luc Picard” himself, Patrick Stewart, is the appropriate narrator as the focus is placed on the space shuttle program and its achievements — including its role in such projects as the Hubble Space Telescope and the International Space Station. Capping the program is a projection of a mission to Mars.

**“THE MAGICIANS: SEASON FIVE”**: After recently concluding its run, this Syfy show puts forth its fifth and final round on home video. The last set of stories begins with a meteor shower that indicates something has gone haywire in the realm of magic ... but in a more immediate level for the regular characters, the fate of some of them hangs in the balance, a situation that runs

right up to the closing moments of the series finale.

**“RIDE WITH NORMAN REEDUS, SERIES 1”**: His success with “The Walking Dead” helped cast member Reedus land his own AMC series, a documentary of sorts in which he joins other motorcycling enthusiasts to discuss various aspects of the biker culture, often while they’re literally on the road. Among his guests in this freshman season was someone who personified the theme for many people ... the since-deceased Peter Fonda, iconic for his starring role in the movie “Easy Rider.” Balthazar Getty and filmmaker Robert Rodriguez also are featured. The show, which has gone on to feature many more stars and their bikes, has been renewed for a fifth season.

**“KOBE: LIFE OF A LEGEND”**: Tributes surely were bountiful when basketball icon Kobe Bryant died with several others, very sadly including his daughter Gianna, in a helicopter crash last January. This documentary also recalls the athlete’s life and times, which encompassed many milestones during his two decades with the Los Angeles Lakers ... including five NBA championships. His not-always-smooth relationship with teammate Shaquille O’Neal is considered, as are his Summer Olympics stints that brought him two Gold Medals as a member of the USA National Men’s Basketball Team.

**“QUEEN ELIZABETH II: END OF A REIGN”**: It’s not over yet, so the title of this documentary is jumping ahead by foretelling the closure of the British monarch’s very storied time on the throne. Certainly, there is a lot to recount from the time she began her tenure in 1952 right up to this year, when her speech to her subjects and the world about the coronavirus pandemic received as much attention



— if not more — than her much-anticipated Christmas messages. For the staid image she always has projected, Elizabeth’s reign hasn’t always been free of scandal, a notable example (cited here, of course) being her famously strained connection to Princess Diana.

**“TROLLS WORLD TOUR”**: This animated sequel made news when it kept its original release date during the coronavirus pandemic, but debuted on On Demand as well as in any theaters that still wanted (and were open) to book it ... and it fared quite well financially in its first wave of home viewing. Anna Kendrick and Justin Timberlake reprise their voice roles from the first “Trolls” as Queen Poppy and Branch, who fight a plot to quiet all other music in their kingdom by a “Rocker Troll” who wants her sound to be the only one. Kelly Clarkson, Rachel Bloom (“Crazy Ex-Girlfriend”), “Saturday Night Live’s” Kenan Thompson, James Corden, Oscar winner Sam Rockwell and Ozzy Osbourne also are heard.

**“HOPE GAP”**: Writer-director William Nicholson’s (“Shadows”) drama boasts an

obviously fine acting duo in Annette Bening and Bill Nighy, playing a couple whose family reunion takes an even more emotional course than anticipated. The husband intends to end his 30-year marriage, of which he informs his son (Josh O’Connor) during a weekend visit, resulting in great stress and greatly amped-up feelings for all concerned. The coastal atmosphere of Sussex, England, adds greatly to the overall effect of the film ... which, as with so many recent releases, had its theatrical run compacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

**“GO GO MANIA”**: During the 1960s, movies showcasing some of the decade’s most popular music acts were big draws produced relatively inexpensively. Having the artists pretty much just stand there and lip-sync to their hits, this is one such film — though it’s particularly notable for the concert performances by The Beatles that open and close the picture. “Twist and Shout” and “She Loves You” are their selections, and in-between are appearances by such other “British Invasion” stars as The Animals (“House of the Rising Sun”).

# Let's hear it for 'The Cuomo Show!'

**Kaylee Johnson**  
*Journal & Press*

New York's favorite daily spectacle, *The Cuomo Show* stopped being daily in June.

For the previous few months, the show had been a hit with people across the state, acting as a reassuring agent of unity during such uncertain times. No matter your political beliefs or feelings about Cuomo, it is impossible to deny that the show had the perfect formula for success. Cuomo's presence, corny (sometimes poorly decorated) PowerPoint slides were strangely entertaining in a very *special edition* kind of way.

Perhaps the notion of living through such a pivotal moment in history with the COVID-19 pandemic and Black Lives Matter protests and brutal killing of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor coated the show with a layer of impact that it would not otherwise have.

The basic fundamentals of *The Cuomo Show* make it accessible and entertaining – the special guests (often his family members, but even Chris Rock and Rosie Perez at one point),

occasional personal touches and organization make it a unique entity. Quite notably, *The Cuomo Show* was powerful enough to interrupt morning game or talk shows at any given moment, unapologetically.

Confidently, I believe that Cuomo's briefing is a better show than the ultra vain filibustering that is *Kelly and Ryan* or *Today*. It also has much more substance than Wayne Brady asking people dressed as chickens to pick a curtain – it felt satisfyingly intellectual. I know morning television does not give viewers a lot to work with, but *The Cuomo Show* definitely had a style going. All it needed was a catchy, flamboyant theme song.

Daily live shows should try to emulate what Cuomo strung together, as his show targeted all, not just stay-at-home moms or older people – his material mattered and was relevant. He also did not worry about the frills and instead focused on consistency, coming out every morning to speak on the same topic using the same organized formula to explain it in understandable terms.

As New York's favorite morn-



ing show approaches its bitter-sweet ending, we should reflect on how far we have come as a state – protesting against injustice and racism, following the proper protocol to fight COVID-19 and dealing with a president

strategies to fix issues that are larger than us. One day those horrendously made PowerPoint slides will be in history textbooks and we will reflect with gratitude and a strong sense of community. Keep it up NY!

## 'Special guests were Chris Rock and Rosie Perez.'

who knows little to nothing about leadership. We have proven that in moments of crises we can unite and problem-solve in ab-

*Kaylee Johnson lives in Greenwich and recently graduated as a senior education major from the College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY.*



## Virtual 5K for Flint

The 3rd annual Run Fast For Flint 5k will be held virtually this year to comply with COVID-19 federal guidelines. As a Virtual 5k, runners will participate by running a 5k race (3.1 miles) on their own anytime before July 31st, 2020. To participate, runners register online at [yeswicc.com/virtual2020](http://yeswicc.com/virtual2020), run their 5k, then submit their "race time" online in a "Post-Run Form". Partici-

pants who submit a Post-Run Form will receive a 2020 race t-shirt in the mail. All proceeds from this race go toward supporting long-term solutions to end the Flintwater crisis, as well as providing short-term relief to residents in the form of water distributions. The 2020 race sponsors consist of many local businesses and organizations, including ComfortFood Community,

Wordhorse Strategies LLC, David Lynch, The Maple News, Hudson Crossing Park, Betterbee, Donna Frank Voice Talent, James Ballard Architects, Booth's Blend Compost, and Gather. This year's race is presented by the Water Insecurity Correction Coalition, a budding non-profit organization based in Greenwich aiming to raise awareness of



A scene from last year's race.

America's water insecurity crisis and educate the public on what they can do to assure clean water for all. For more information on the virtual 5k race and how to participate, visit [yeswicc.com/runfastforflint](http://yeswicc.com/runfastforflint).





# The still open wounds of the Civil War

Lance Allen Wang  
*Journal & Press*

“I think it wiser, moreover, not to keep open the sores of war, but to follow the examples of those nations who endeavored to obliterate the marks of civil strife, to commit to oblivion the feelings engendered.” – Robert E. Lee, August 5, 1869

Thus, former General Robert E. Lee refused to attend a meeting of former Union and Confederate officers at Gettysburg to place memorials and markers at the various positions of units in the famous and deadly battle and spoke his final words on the subject. The General knew that there was still a great deal of passion involved, and Civil War was nothing if not the ultimate manifestation of the competing passions.

Some American presidents attempted to soothe these passions with the spirit of reconciliation like President Lincoln who called for in his Second Inaugural – “With malice towards none, with charity for all, ... to bind up the nation’s wounds ...”

Interestingly, in that same 1864 Second Inaugural speech, Lincoln pointed out that one-eighth of the population of the United States on the outbreak of the Civil War were “colored slaves.”

## HISTORY – SELECTIVELY EDITED FOR EASY DIGESTION

We made great strides to reconcile with the white population of the South over time after the Civil War. Neither side ever really made any effort to reconcile with their own black populations. Northerners began to at least tolerate the “Lost Cause” myth and unquestioningly accepted the idea of heroes in both Blue and Gray. United States postage stamps honored General Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Stone Mountain and the United Confederate Veterans organization.

But using Lincoln’s math, at least one-eighth of the population wasn’t asked their opinion. Therefore, when statues began to appear in the South honoring Confederates, especially during the statue building boom during the Civil Rights era, no one in any position of power voiced objection enough to stop it.

We are always receiving a, usually comfortable, “version” of history just by virtue of the time available and thus the necessity of selective editing. As new facts and research emerge, sometimes history gets updated. Just as frequently, it does not.

The “Lost Cause” myth held that the Confederates were primarily honorable men fighting for states’ rights and slavery was a tangential issue. In actuality, the written documents of the period, particularly the Articles of Secession state differently. Of the seven states that actually gave a rationale for their secession, six specifically mentioned the institution of slavery as a primary motivation. Texas mentioned slavery 21 times in theirs.

In case the point wasn’t clear enough, The Vice President of the Confederacy said, “The new Constitution has put at rest forever all the agitating questions relating to our peculiar institutions –

African slavery as it exists among us – the proper status of the negro in our form of civilization. This was the immediate cause of the late rupture and present revolution...”

## ‘History is not as simple or black and white as we’d like it to be.’

### SO WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT IT?

To start with, history without context is close to meaningless. While I am opposed to the toppling of statues (which is an American tradition going back to the Revolutionary War era when we did the same to symbols of the English monarchy), I have no issue with the relocation of these statues to historical parks in order to provide education and context. We already have many historical parks that preserve our history – this can provide one more attraction to bring more Americans to what could be increasingly important places of learning.

But here is another challenge – we need to be willing to face our history. One can trace some black disaffection from the promise of

the Emancipation Proclamation and 15th Amendment to the actual experience of legally sanctioned segregation, lynching, the Klan, Bull Connor’s dogs and hoses, and on to an increase in white supremacist organizations today. I can’t personally feel the sting of going through 12 years of school saying, “with liberty and justice for all,” and then seeing that my reality doesn’t match it. But I sure can understand it.

### IS IT JUST THAT SIMPLE?

I will close this with a discussion that I had with my father over the Independence Day weekend.

“So, Lance, what is your opinion of Robert E. Lee?”

I thought for a moment. “I believe he was an excellent military leader. He served as an Engineer during the Mexican War and helped find a path for our Army to storm the citadel of Chapultepec. He later served as the superintendent of West Point. But he did violate his oath to our nation, and proceeded to fight for a cause that was what Grant called, ‘the worst for which a people ever fought...’”

But then I turned the question back at my father and said, “What about Fitzhugh Lee?”

My father waited for me to continue, leaving my question rhetorical. He knows this is an area that I have studied a great deal over my life.

“Fitz Lee was General Lee’s nephew. He was a Confederate cavalry General. He was later appointed a Major General in the US Army in 1898 by President William McKinley and was put in Command of Seventh Corps during the Spanish-American War.”

My father thought about it and nodded. History is not as simple or black and white as much as we would like it to be.

*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.*



# Dairy princess, alternates

The Washington County Dairy Princess Program held its 55th annual pageant on World Milk Day on June 1. **Molly Walker** of Landview Farms in White Creek was crowned Princess with Lauren Desorbe, Greenwich, and Audra Dubois, Greenwich, named as Alternates.

Walker, a Junior at Hoosick Falls High School is the 16 year old daughter of Randy and Rebecca Walker of Landview Farms. Molly is on both the basketball and soccer teams at her high school while also serving on Washington County Junior Fair Board and is an active member of the Post Corners 4-H Club. As the 3rd generation on her family's 1400-cow dairy farm, Molly's passion to tell the story of the dairy industry is what drove her to run for dairy princess and she feels that today's consumers are too removed from agriculture to understand where their food comes from.

The daughter of Anthony and Rebecca Desorbe, **Lauren Desorbe** is a graduate of Greenwich High School and will be attending Castleton University in the fall for nursing. While Lauren didn't grow up on a farm, it was her first high school agriculture class that sparked her love for agriculture. Through her agricultural education program, Lauren was able to lease dairy cows to show each year at the county fair which is what sparked Lauren's passion for dairy promotion.

**Audra Dubois** is the 17-year old daughter of Becky Mattison and is a Junior at Greenwich High School. In school, Audra is an active member of the Greenwich FFA Chapter and attends BOCES for Equine Care where she is in the National Technical

Honor Society. Her passion to educate others about the dairy industry and share her experiences working on a local dairy farm is what she credits for motivating her to run for Washington County Dairy Princess.

Due to COVID-19, the pageant was moved to virtual means this year with judges selecting the court based on a pre-recorded speech, answers to three dairy knowledge questions, the creation of an original social media post, response to an impromptu question and a video conference interview.



Lauren DeSorbe



Audra Dubois



Molly Walker

## Holy Cross resumes

Salem's Holy Cross Catholic Church has resumed Sunday Mass using special guidelines.

The church issued this release: "If the weather threatens, Mass will be inside and will be limited. Please contact the parish office on Friday between 8:30 a.m. and noon to be included. The phone number is 518-677-2757, or the parish email at parishoffice@battenkillcatholic.org. If the limit is exceeded, you may bring a chair for outside and a minister will bring communion. Please follow the following guidelines; Bring a contact form, arrive a half hour early, bring mask and sanitizer, remain socially distant, an usher will seat you, leave immediately after, bathrooms are not available. If the Mass is held outside, there is no attendance cap. You still need the health form, mask, and sanitizer. Please bring a chair. An usher will help direct you to maintain social distancing. People are reminded that they are not obligated to attend Mass at this time. People, especially those with medical conditions, are urged to stay home. There are many places to share in a Mass online if people wish. Further information is available in the newsletter and online at [www.battenkillcatholic.org](http://www.battenkillcatholic.org), and on Facebook."

## An Artist's Take

Political Cartoon of the Week by Drew Sheneman



# Obituaries

## Bruce Edwin Pearson, 68

Bruce Edwin Pearson, 68, a resident of S. Cambridge Rd passed away unexpectedly Friday, July 3, 2020 following a brief illness.

He was born in Cambridge, NY on November 13, 1951 to the late Casper and Anna Piehler Pearson.

Bruce graduated from Greenwich High School and after graduation worked as a logger his entire life. Bruce loved all types of animals especially dogs, his chihuahua Rosie will miss him greatly. He loved gardening, hunting and being in the woods.

Bruce was a good friend to all and had a free spirit, when he did things, he did it his way. For many years he served his community of Cambridge as a dog catcher.

The family takes great comfort knowing that he is reunited with the love of his life Melissa "Lisa" Ford.

In addition to his parents he was predeceased by his spouse Melissa "Lisa" Ford; brother Niel Pearson; father-in-law Fran Dennett; brother-in-law Pat Jennings; great nephew Charlie Pearson and sister-in-law Joan Pearson.

Survivors include his daughter Jes Dennett of Cambridge; grand-daughter Madelyn Dennett; sister Barb Jennings; nephews Charlie (Debbie) Pearson and their son Michael, Brent (Amy) Jennings, Brett (Tammy) Jennings and Eric (Patti) Pearson; nieces Dianne "Beatle" (Bob) Nobel and their children Robert and Nels, Becky Jennings and her children Jacob, Shane, Tahirih and Pascia Offield; 3 great-grand-nieces; aunt Silva Falkenbury and several cousins and many friends

Services will be private at the convenience of the family.



Donation's in Bruce's name may be made to any local humane society.

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

## Alice O'Connor, 77

Greenwich's Alice Lucille Clark O'Connor, born on June 22, 1943, went home to be with her Lord on July 13, 2020. She was married to Francis Joseph O'Connor for 49 years. Alice was known for her love and care of animals and for her years of coaching girls softball. She leaves behind her brother and his wife Charles and Patricia Clark. Online condolences and messages to the family can be made at [flynnbrosinc.com](http://flynnbrosinc.com). A graveside service in the Easton Rural Cemetery will be held at a later date.

### 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.

### Letters policy

Letters to the Editor should be 300 or fewer words and emailed to [editor@journalandpress.com](mailto:editor@journalandpress.com). They must be signed and written by local residents about local issues. Letters by or about political candidates are discouraged. Please buy an ad instead. Otherwise, we welcome your opinions!

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# SOAR To-Go kits for kids

While many summer camps, programs, and activities for children have been cancelled due to COVID-19, Hudson Crossing Park is pleased to offer the fun of their S.O.A.R (Science + Outdoor Adventure on the River) Summer Program as a take-home activity box.

The To-Go kit, geared towards ages 8-12, will include tools and materials for hands-on learning, such as an owl pellet dissection kit, nature scavenger hunt, solar photo printmaking, monarch butterfly kit and more, as well as special online access to accompanying video tutorials.

“While the HCP Park Education Team is of course disappointed that we couldn’t hold the

S.O.A.R. Program this year, we’re excited to offer the To-Go Box option as an alternative,” Hudson Crossing Park Director Kate Morse says. “It’s a great way to keep kids engaged and off the couch, exploring and experiencing all that the outdoors have to offer.”

To-Go Box ordering is available through the Hudson Crossing Park website at [www.HudsonCrossingPark.org/SOAR](http://www.HudsonCrossingPark.org/SOAR) and is open through July 17, 2020. To-Go Boxes are \$75 each and will be available for pick up the first week of August. For more information, email [kmorse@hudsoncrossingpark.org](mailto:kmorse@hudsoncrossingpark.org) or visit the park’s website.

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## Easton Library Notes

Interlibrary loan services are now in effect. Items may be loaned from all SALS libraries and shipped to Easton Library for pick up. Please order your items online at [easton.sals.edu](http://easton.sals.edu), or by telephoning the library at (518)692-2253 during operational hours. A staff member will contact you when your material is ready for pick up. You may also stop in the library for a staff member to place a material order, or to take an item from one of Easton Library's shelves for you while you briefly wait. Magazines and newspapers may be checked out upon request. (Just ask for an available list.)

Easton Library reopened on July 7 with a phased approach. The building is open to the public with precautions in place to promote social distancing. Normal operating hours are in effect, and the circulation desk is open for

material pick up only. Face coverings are required. The number of people in the building at one time are limited. All materials returned must be placed into the book drop and not carried into the library. Items returned to the book drop will be quarantined for 72 hours before checking them in. A limit of five items per patron is allowed. Staff can make copies, fax, or scans for patrons. Notary services are available.

Easton Library hours are Monday 1-5 PM, Tuesday 4-8 PM, Wednesday 9:30-12 & 1-5 PM, Thursday 4-8 PM, and Saturday 10-4 PM.

Plans are in place for Easton Library to move to the next phase where there will be computer usage and browsing. The timeline for that phase is undetermined.

*-Submitted by Jennifer DeCarlo*

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## Two local students earn FFA honors

May 15, 2020, may very well stand out as a day to be remembered for two local students. Phil Rea, a graduate of Salem Central School and Freshman at SUNY Cobleskill was selected to serve as the NYS FFA Sentinel. Ciarrhah Hebert, a junior at Greenwich Central School was elected virtually to serve as the NYS FFA District III President.

The National FFA Organization was formerly known as the Future Farmers of America. The largest national youth organization offers leadership and career development opportunities for students interested in any agriculturally related careers. One in five careers is found in agriculture. These careers are essential, current and lucrative. NYS FFA Sentinel Phil Rea will promote these opportunities to members, school administrators, businesses and legislators throughout the state. NYS FFA District III President Ciarrhah Hebert will represent FFA members from Saratoga to the Canadian border.

As FFA members, Philip and Cia-

rrah, took advantage of many of the opportunities that NYS FFA offers. The leadership skills developed in FFA lead to a talent for speaking, a knowledge of agriculture and a passion for servant leadership. As state officers, they will receive over 250 hours of training and spend the next year engaging with 8,500 FFA members and numerous supporters. They will be visiting schools, conducting workshops and presenting speeches to groups interested in agriculture and FFA.

Unlike any other year, Phil and Ciarrhah, began their year of service with virtual Base Camp Training. Time management, workshop facilitation, key message identification, and character-driven decision making were explored in depth during the four-day training. "It is a whirlwind experience but one that will be well worth the challenge. After all, every FFA member knows that serving as a NYS FFA Officer is the opportunity of a lifetime!" said Derek Hill, NYS FFA Advisor.



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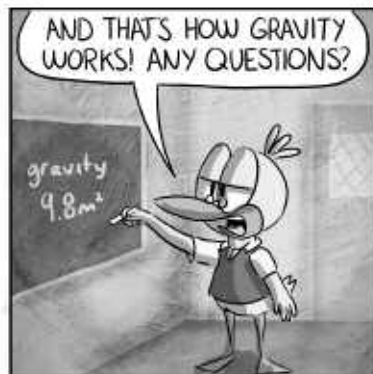
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T <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	M <sub>3</sub>	RACK 2 =	<b>59</b>
L <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	Y <sub>4</sub>	K <sub>5</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	RACK 3 =	<b>95</b>
P <sub>3</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	RACK 4 =	<b>60</b>
A <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	M <sub>3</sub>	P <sub>3</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	RACK 5 =	<b>61</b>

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## Answers

**Boggle:** CAMBODIA  
 COLOMBIA MONGOLIA  
 PORTUGAL PAKISTAN

**Jumble:** LLAMA FOAMY  
 SUDDEN LIKELY

**Final Jumble:**  
 LAND FILLED

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

L	P	N	E	W	R	O	C	H	E	L	L	E
O	O	N	E	L	T	R	A	I	N	H	A	D
N	T	A	S	V	R	S	R	U	O	T	R	N
G	S	R	C	Y	A	W	B	U	S	R	T	A
I	T	T	E	I	R	H	G	I	D	O	N	L
S	O	R	N	A	A	A	W	A	U	N	E	S
L	N	I	I	F	D	M	C	E	H	O	C	I
A	Y	A	C	K	O	E	A	U	N	R	D	N
N	B	U	F	F	A	L	O	J	S	T	N	E
D	R	F	A	R	E	R	I	P	M	E	A	T
C	O	A	C	H	A	A	T	A	P	M	R	A
M	O	E	N	I	L	H	U	M	G	T	G	T
R	K	J	L	Y	N	A	B	L	A	E	J	S

# Before you throw away this newspaper

**Paula Krieg**  
*Journal & Press*

Use this newspaper to make a bag, then notice the math.

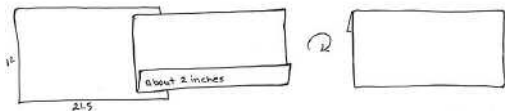
A full spread of the “Journal & Press” is 21 inches long and 12 inches high. You can use this newspaper to make a bag which holds itself together by using folds in a clever way. Crayons drawn on newspapers look good, so you might want to use crayons to decorate your bag, but all you really need to make this bag is the newspaper.

While you are making this bag, you just might, without realizing it, be engaged in mathematical thinking. Read to the end to understand what this means.

Carefully remove the staples that are holding the newspaper together. Throw out the staples right away so they don’t end up on the floor.

Take one full spread of the newspaper and fold up about flap, about 2 inches wide, on the long edge of the paper.

Flip and turn the whole paper over, so that the flap is now on the top of the underside.

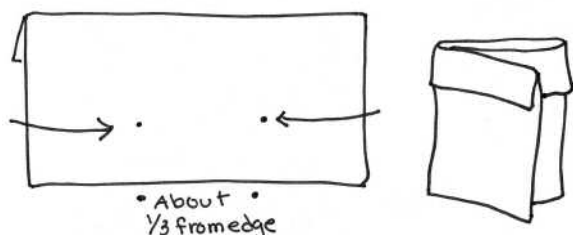


Next, fold the length of the paper into about thirds. Folding a paper into three equal sections is not something we normally do, so it’s likely these folds will not be truly equal thirds, nor do they have to be. Just estimate as well as you can.

You should now be able to see the first folded flap again, which is a good thing because we need it right now.

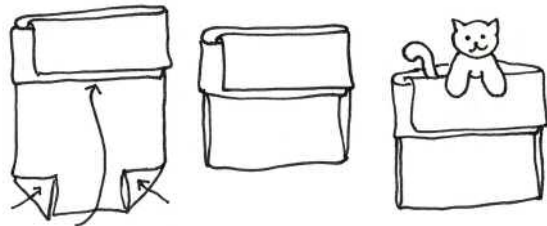
Slide one the sides (doesn’t matter which one) under the flap of the other side. Now it’s like the sides of the paper are locked together.

Fold the papers in half, this time from the



bottom to the top. Slide the edge of the fold under the flap. If it’s hard to slide under the flap, fold in, just a bit, the corners of the paper that you are trying to slide under the flap.

Now the bag is done!



I like to notice the math that’s involved in making things. I have a friend who teaches math, and who has a wonderful name. His first name is John, which is also my son’s name, and his last name is Golden, which I think is a beautiful name. I like to think of him as Professor Golden. I asked him if he saw any math in the making of this bag. This is what he said:

“Now that you have made this bag, you might be wondering, how is that doing math? It’s the wondering is the key.”

By simply following the directions and finishing, maybe you didn’t do math. But if you wondered, how is this going to work? Why does that measurement matter? How big will it be? Is this a bag or is it more like a pouch? Or if you were thinking “what if I tried it like this?” “why is the bag so sturdy?” “how much will it hold?” or “why doesn’t it just pull apart?” then you, my friends, are doing some serious math.

Professor Golden is helping me to enlarge my idea of what math is, beyond doing calculations. Being able to add, subtract, multiply and divide are handy skills, but thinking mathematically means more than that. It’s about being thoughtful about what’s there in front of me and, also, thinking about what could be in front of me.

If I think mathematically about what’s in front of me, I might have questions like those that Professor Golden posed above. I also might ask, what would change if I was way off when I estimated folding the paper into thirds? What if I made a three-inch flap instead of a two-inch flap? What would be dif-

ferent about orienting the paper differently from the beginning? What does it mean to orient that paper differently?

If I think mathematically about what could be in front of me, I might ask, can I make this bag from a regular piece of copy paper? What if I used a page from the “New York Times” instead of the “Journal & Press”? What if I started with a square instead of a rectangle? What if I used a piece of aluminum foil or waxed paper?

Make this bag, enjoy the bag, then let yourself wonder, which is how to have fun while doing serious math.



*Artist Paula Beardell Krieg pioneered methods of making books and other folded wonders with children starting in late 1980’s. She has been continually active teaching in classroom workshops in in NYC and Up-state, working with children as well as educators. Workshop venues have included The Center for Book Arts, the Museum of Mathematics, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Most recently her work with children has evolved to include using folded paper as a way to illuminate mathematical concepts.*



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