

# JOURNAL & PRESS

Of Southern Washington County, Est. 1842

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**DOUBLE ISSUE!**  
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## County fairs cry foul

### The State Fair adds to its schedule; now overlaps.

At the regular statewide meeting of agricultural fair organizations last month, the New York State Fair was conspicuous by their absence. When county fair leaders returned from the meeting, they realized why. Soon after, it was announced in the Governor's budget that the State Fair would get funding to add five more days to its fair, perhaps hurting local fairs.

Please read more on page 5



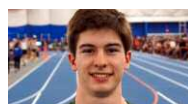
**NEW BREWERY 3**



**HISTORIC BRIDGE 8**



**CUMBY 31**



**SPRINT 7**



**HOOPS 27**



**SOLVE 20**

## How to get to Carnegie Hall

The old saying goes, "How do you get to Carnegie Hall? (Pause.) PRACTICE." And that's certainly true for Salem High School senior Lillian Butler, whose father, Richard, taught music in the district for decades. But the famous question can also be answered TALENT, which Lillian, 17, has plenty of – and she's headed to Carnegie Hall right now, as of press time.

Please read more on page 2



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# Carnegie bound

**Darren Johnson**  
*Journal & Press*

As of press time, Salem's Lillian Butler, a high school senior and musical talent, was headed to Carnegie Hall in Manhattan to sing with the Treble Honors Choir, a prestigious placement with a nationwide application process where only 100 high school students are taken from thousands of applicants.

She is rehearsing with her choir mates under nationally known choral director Dr. Timothy Seelig. They will perform a public concert at 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 2 in the storied theater.

"I couldn't have been more excited to be chosen," she said, though the experience isn't her first musical honor. She had also been accepted into the New York All-State Chorus and All-

Eastern States Chorus.

Butler's father Richard was a music teacher in the Salem school district for three decades. He obviously passed his love of music to his children, including youngest, Lillian, who is an alto singer and also can handle a sax and guitar. But Richard said that Lillian "has more of her mother's voice." That's Tammy, a Cambridge pre-school teacher.

Lillian Butler has applied to Binghamton University, where she would like to major in Arts/Music. She certainly has the academic credentials to go along with her musical talent; she's not only a member of National Honor Society but is also in many clubs, from mock trial to weightlifting to yearbook.

While her father was her teacher when younger, she also



**Lillian Butler**

has been trained locally by Zachary Eastman.

"I've been singing since I've been born," Lillian Butler said. "My family has always been very musical."

Richard Butler said he'd try to train his children the same as any other student, but learning music is more about diligence, and Lillian is a good learner.

"Basic talent is not enough. Hard work is everything," he said, "and that she does."

Her goal is to be a professional someday, and she even writes her own music, having performed some of it at Caffe Lena in Saratoga Springs. Her brother Aaron attended Berkeley School of Music and helped her with recordings.

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# Schuylerville brewery to launch

**Darren Johnson**  
*Journal & Press*

They say it's the first brewery in Schuylerville since Prohibition, and that their tap room is housed in a building that once ran a speakeasy and bordello.

But there's no time to fact check those statements. The beer has already started to flow. Bottoms up!

Evan Demler, Ryan Demler, Brett Demler and Pam Pradachith-Demler (the latter two are married; the former two are her brothers-in-law) have done it. They've gotten all the permits and licenses and, finally, their dream is happening. It was a long haul, and they have been paying rent since last June, waiting on the State Liquor Authority.

After a recent soft launch, Bound by Fate's Tap Room is open Fridays at 3 and Saturdays at noon. They were seen hanging their sign outside the 31 Ferry St., Schuylerville, location on Jan. 28. An official launch is slated for Valentine's Day.

They have a "farm brewery" in a cabin on their property on 7 Broad Street in the village.

(The farm brewery designation was approved by the state in 2013, and, since then, specialty breweries started popping up throughout New York.)

And while this brewery is new, the Demlers are not amateurs. Ryan lives in Buffalo and is the Director of Operations for Community Beer Works. Evan, who lives in Schuylerville on the family property, has spent 15 years in production. Brett was

raised in the area and returned after spending years in the Northern California homebrew scene, and his wife Pam is a nonprofit manager and spokesperson for the new business, also moving to Schuylerville for this venture.

"It's a coming home for us, but also a celebration of Schuylerville and the community," she said, noting that she's normally risk-averse, but the Bound by Fate business plan was 10 years in the making and the time is finally right for it to succeed.

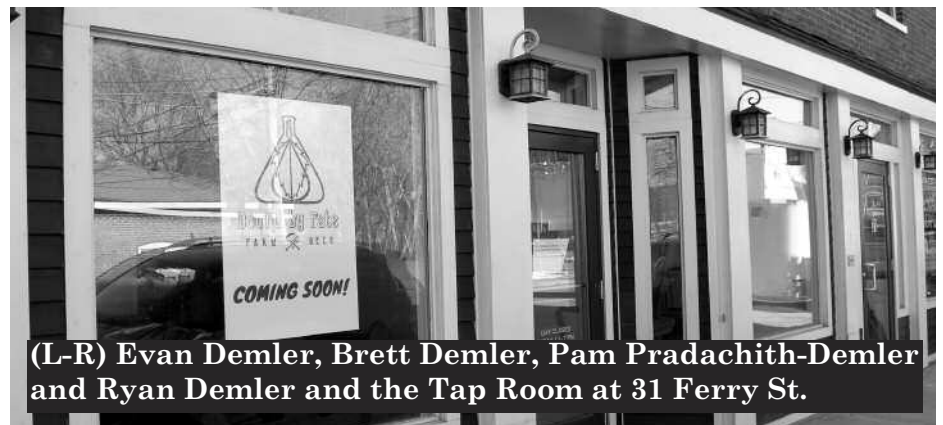
They won't have food yet, just snacks – "We're currently BYOF (Bring Your Own Food), but we're working on that," she said.

Though they will have well-crafted beers, at \$6 to \$8 a pint, ranging from a New England IPA to a Mexican-style dark lager to an English-style brown ale.

The location on Ferry Street has plenty of parking and is not far from the Surrender Site of the Battle of Saratoga, and maybe a quarter of a mile from the Greenwich border. There's an outdoor deck and a neat-looking bar made from wood that came from a barn on the Broad Street property.

"One of the reasons we moved here was for the Schuylerville School District, and there's nothing we know more than teachers need a happy hour," she said with a laugh.

"But mostly our goal is to just make great beer. We're living the dream, and this has all brought us Demlers closer together as a family."



(L-R) Evan Demler, Brett Demler, Pam Pradachith-Demler and Ryan Demler and the Tap Room at 31 Ferry St.

**'This has brought us closer together as a family.'**

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# Board picks historian, looks at lighting

**James Nolan**  
*Journal & Press*

The Greenwich Town Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 14. In attendance were Supervisor Don Ward and Councilmen Steve Patrick, Eric Whitehouse, Pat Donahue, and Jeff Duxbury.

After the meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM, the Board went into Executive Session to interview candidates for Town Historian. After the Board came out of Executive Session, they named Sandy McReynolds Town Historian.

At 7 p.m. the Board reviewed Audit Reports with Town Clerk Kimberly Whelan and unanimously accepted them.

The regular town board meeting started at 7:30 p.m. Several reports were reviewed

including Planning Board Minutes from December 19, 1999; ZBA Meeting minutes; Assessor Report, Code Enforcement Report, Dog Control Report, Highway Report, Supervisor Report, and the December Financial Report. All reports were accepted unanimously.

During the Comments session of the meeting, a member of the public asked about the status of the new Cumberland Farms building. Supervisor and Planning Board Clerk Kellie Blake responded that the building plan has been approved by the Planning Board and a demolition permit has been issued for the buildings on the new location.

A Public Notice to create a new commercial lighting district in the Route 29 and Route 40 area was read. New lights will be installed and main-

tained by National Grid. A member of the public asked if the lights would be down facing in order to prevent excess ambient light. It was pointed out that town code requires this. The Board unanimously approved the commercial lighting district.

Planning Board Chair William Tompkins reported that the Planning Board was in the process of evaluating proposals for two solar farms in the town. One is on Route 29 across from Reggie's Veggies and the other is near Bald Mountain and Thompson Roads.

Appointments were made to the Board of Ethics (Evelin Tooski, 5 year term), Planning Board (James Nolan, reappointment to 7 year term), and the ZBA Thomas Rybaltowski, (5 year term). No application

were received for a 3 year term on the Planning Board. It will be re-advertised.

Under New Business, the 2020 Tour of the Battenkill Professional Invitational Bike Race was approved for using town roads. Additionally, John Farndell was appointed ZBA Chairman through the end of his term, Dec. 31, 2022.

There were no budget transfers. After auditing bills and authorizing payments, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

*The board meets again Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. at Town Offices on 2 Academy St. If you'd like to be on the agenda, you need to contact the Town Clerk by Thursday, Feb. 6, at 4 p.m.*

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# Fairs cry foul

**Darren Johnson**  
*Journal & Press*

County fair organizers, including locally in Washington County and Schaghticoke (which represents Rensselaer County), were caught off guard in late January when it became apparent the New York State Fair, based outside of Syracuse, was adding five days to its schedule this year and now will run Aug. 21 to Sept. 7.

It's not that the Washington County Fair (Aug. 24-30) and Schaghticoke Fair (Sept. 2-7) are worried about the State Fair taking attendees. It is almost three hours away, and these two fairs have always overlapped with the State Fair. It's about vendors.

The State Fair, which attracts about 1.3 million people, now overlaps with the Erie County Fair in Hamburg on the Western Tier, which also hovers around a

million in attendance (the Erie event is the fourth largest county fair in the country). Vendors will need to commit to one or the other; should they choose the State Fair, these vendors will not be able to leave it until after Sept. 7, thereby missing both the Washington County and Schaghticoke fairs. More so, county fair organizers are crying foul, as they were not told of the state's plans, even though there is a statewide meeting where such things are discussed each January. This past January, the State Fair did not send a representative, according to those who attended the meeting.

The New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs (NYSAAF), which represents 52 agriculture fairs, issued a press release on Jan. 22: "Understandably, we are concerned about the local County Fairs with overlapping dates, as well as the limita-

tions this may create for those respective agricultural showcases and entertainment packages, as well as all of County Fairs throughout the State and how it might affect them also," NYSAAF President Jason Lawrence said. "At this point, we do not know the impact that this will have on county fairs throughout the state during this transition. We will be working with all of our county fairs to ensure that the communities are not negatively impacted."

Rebecca Breese, Marketing Manager for the Washington County Fair, which draws 115,000 – almost twice the population of its home county – said they were taking a wait-and-see approach. Vendors usually don't commit until springtime. By then, they will know which vendors will return to Washington County and which won't, and adjust accordingly. "It may affect some vendors, but it's too early to say how it will affect attendance," she said.

She noted there is a New York State Pass available via

nyfairs.org for \$100 where two people can get admittance to all NYSAAF fairs and the State Fair, plus parking. "Our hope is that people will attend as many fairs as possible, and that's why the state pass exists," Breese added. "All of the fairs have something wonderful to offer, and we want people to enjoy these fairs as much as possible."

David Moore, Secretary to the Schaghticoke Fair, said, like other fair organizers, he was taken by surprise by the state's announcement. "We found out through the news," he said.

"I don't think our attendance will be affected, because we've always run against the State Fair," he said. "But there may be a whole snowball effect; vendors who instead go to the State Fair instead of the Erie County Fair won't be available for our fair."

Quality vendors are obviously a huge draw for fairs. Moore said they will know more by April, when vendor contracts are signed and returned.



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# What's new on Facebook?

The Journal & Press has the most popular Facebook media presence in our region, by far. Posts get thousands of views and sometimes hundreds of likes and dozens of shares.

Since our last issue, several posts got lots of play, and we turned some of them into stories in this paper.

A photo of the new Wallie's, which is expected to open on Main Street in Greenwich later this year, got a lot of positive comments. Some people hope this version of the restaurant, based on a popular restaurant called Wallie's that had existed for 70 years

through 2006, will have some of the old menu items. As reported in previous issues of Journal & Press, Wallie's, through the Village of Greenwich, received an \$800,000 state grant to help with the renovations.

With the Super Bowl coming up, a poll was posted on our Facebook page, asking who will win. Most Journal & Press fans picked the Chiefs.

Some old covers of our newspaper, from the 1840s, were posted, to much discussion, including the cover of the original Washington Journal, as it was then called, serving Union-Village (now known as Greenwich). Readers were asked if they'd like us to print a novelty re-

production of an old edition. A slim majority was in favor. We'll consider it.

Our Facebook presence is lively, upbeat and optimistic – no wonder why so many people follow us there. You can also find breaking news. The site is more curated than what you'd find in a Facebook group. See our photos in full color there, too.

And small-business advertisers get an extra bonus – if you buy a print ad, we'll also post it there for free for lots of added exposure.



Wallie's -dj

Find our paper's Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/Journal-Press](http://www.Facebook.com/Journal-Press).

Also find our Schuylerville Turning Point Newspaper Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/Schuylerville](http://www.Facebook.com/Schuylerville).



## Salem Catholic News

Holy Cross Catholic Church of Salem has Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m. All children are welcome to attend the children's liturgy during Mass. All are invited to the monthly coffee hour to be held Sunday, Feb. 2 after Mass. Feb. 26 is Ash Wednesday. St. Patrick's K of C is hosting a spaghetti dinner, February 7 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. All are welcome and a suggested donation is \$10.

Jeff Peck, Kim Gariepy, and Mary Rosmus are hoping all parishioners are considering coming to this meeting with Joyce Solimini from the Diocese to look at not only the future of the Religious Ed program for the young people, but all aspects of faith formation

for all ages. She will discuss sacrament prep, including Baptism, as well as sharing services. The meeting will take place at Holy Cross on Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m.

Or attend the Bible study Genesis Part II beginning Feb. 17. More information can be found in the bulletin or at [battenkillcatholic.org](http://battenkillcatholic.org).

"The Heavens Proclaim the Glory of God" is the current topic of the adult faith website. Joe Paprocki explores way to teach people to interpret Scripture.

An MS Support Group meets at Proudfit Hall in Salem on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Call 518-791-4505 for details.

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# Junior breaks 26-year-old sprint record

Greenwich Central High School Junior Connor Smith ran a 6.82 second 55-meter dash to break the previous record held since 1994 (when Chris Crowd did it in 6.84 seconds). The event was The CNY Higher, Farther, Faster Invitational held at Utica College on January 23.

At the Invitational, the Greenwich indoor track and field team was one of 50 schools competing. The Witches produced several top-ten results:

For the girls: 4x800M Relay: Sophomore Emily Skiff, senior Brooke Wright, sophomore Nina Sgambelluri and senior Quinn Collins placed 1st (9:44.24).

1000M run: Quinn Collins placed 3rd (3:01.38) and Emily

Skiff came in 9th (3:08.57).

1500M run: Nina Sgambelluri came in 4th (4:51.71) and Brooke Wright came in 8th (5:00.08).

3000M run: Senior Brynne Wright placed 7th (10:18.79).

1600M Sprint Medley: 8th grader Molly Abate, freshman Bailey Bain, junior Sophia Traver and sophomore Lauren Marci combined to finish 7th (4:46.54).

Shot Put: Freshman Kiersten Alling placed 9th (33' 3.25").

For the boys: 300M Dash: Connor Smith came in 10th (37.74).

The Witches will compete in the WASAREN League Championships on Sunday, Feb. 2, at SUNY Albany.



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# Dix: A bridge between past and present

**Mike Bielkiewicz**

*Journal & Press*

You've heard "If you believe that, I'll sell you a bridge!" This expression was originally coined around 1883 when a con man, George C. Parker, successfully sold the newly opened Brooklyn Bridge to New York City newcomers. He was caught and sent to Sing-Sing for life for his con, and his victim's toll booths, which they surely hoped would provide a significant source of income, were torn down. A scheme like this might have worked in our area during this era as well: until the late 1800's any who wished to cross the Hudson River between Greenwich and Schuylerville by bridge or ferry were forced to pay tolls.

In 1895 Lumber merchant and hamlet namesake Lemon Thomson and Daniel A. Bullard, owner of the Schuylerville Paper Co., recognizing the value of providing a free crossing between the milling, manufacturing, shopping, and shipping centers of the Village of Schuylerville and the Hamlet of Thomson, contracted F. R. Hawkins Iron Works of Springfield, Massachusetts, to build a "toll-free bridge" that would connect the two communities.

The site that was chosen for the new bridge also had great historic significance. A well-traveled crossroad for the Native Americans who once inhabited our area, this location along the Hudson was also a site of importance during the Battles of Saratoga. Today, while standing in the center of the bridge and looking to the north, visitors can still see the cuts in the river-bank where British General John Burgoyne's troops crossed the Hudson on a bridge constructed of "Bateaux," 30' long flat-bottomed, flat-sided, double-ended crafts. More than 6,000 people traversed the Hudson here in the fall of 1777, and the crossing came to be known as Burgoyne's "Bridge of Boats."

Construction began on the bridge on June 5, 1895 and was completed a mere three months later. The Schuylerville Standard newspaper raved, "It is now possible for people on the other side of the river to come to this town to trade without having to pay a tax for the privilege."

Originally referred to as the Free Bridge, it would be many years until it was renamed after local manufacturer and politician John Alden Dix. Dix was the son-in-law of Thom-

son and eventually took over the Thomson Mills, developing it into the expansive Iroquois Paper Mill. He also served as New York State Governor from 1911 to 1912.

Closed in 1996 to all vehicular and foot traffic due to age and deterioration, this local landmark was originally slated for demolition. Thanks to a multi-partner community effort, using federal, state, and local funding, as well as private donations, the Dix Bridge was rehabilitated and reopened in 2013 after undergoing a \$3 million renovation.

Today the Dix Bridge is one of the cornerstone attractions of Hudson Crossing Park, and visitors enjoy walking through history as they cross each of the three spans of this landmark structure that formally links Saratoga and Washington Counties.

Reserved for pedestrians, cyclists, and, in the winter months, snowmobiles and cross

## 'The bridge underwent a \$3M renovation and reopened in 2013.'

country skiers, the Dix Bridge also serves as the local crossing for the N.Y.S. Canalway Trail, a 546 mile-long shared-use trail following along the N.Y.S. Canal System and the Empire State Trail, which, when completed in 2020, will be a continuous 750-mile route spanning the state from New York City to Canada and Buffalo to Albany, creating the longest multi-use state trail in the nation.

The story of the bridge's history and construction will be displayed in Hudson Crossing Park this summer along with a series of wayside signs created with support from Lakes to Locks Passage, Inc. The collection of displays will share with park visitors key elements of our local heritage spanning thousands of years and celebrates many crossings the area has



experienced through periods of war, peace, and prosperity.

Hudson Crossing Park is centered on Champlain Canalway Lock 5 Island, just outside of Schuylerville along New York State's Historic Scenic Byway, Route 4. It is open every day year-round from dawn until dusk and is free of charge. Visitors may enjoy picnic facilities, fishing and birding sites, a children's play garden and more than two miles of nature trails with panoramic Hudson River vistas and Champlain Canal overlooks. A floating dock welcomes through-boaters to stay for up to 48 hours and a kayak launch on the Riverwalk Sensory Trail provides access to the Hudson River and Champlain Canal.

Hudson Crossing Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. It is not a municipal park and relies solely on donations of funds and the help of volunteers to continue to provide our region with programs and events that add to the experiences of living in this dynamic area.

*For more information about Hudson Crossing Park and the Dix Bridge, visit [www.HudsonCrossingPark.org](http://www.HudsonCrossingPark.org).*





# February Is Black History Month

## A stop on the Underground Railroad

James Nolan  
*Journal & Press*

The Washington County Historical Society and the Village of Greenwich placed a historical marker in Mowry Park which shows a map of known Underground Railroad stops in Union Village (present day Village of Greenwich). Before identifying those houses, it is useful to know how the Village of Greenwich came to be a stop on the Underground Railroad.

In the years 1830 to 1860, thousands of enslaved Americans escaped to Canada and freedom. One of the well-established routes through upstate New York was the Champlain Line, so called because it roughly followed the route of the Champlain Canal.

The Champlain Line provided freedom seekers with a passageway from the Hudson River through New York and Vermont's Champlain Valley to Montreal, Canada. Historically, this same route was utilized by soldiers in the French and Indian War as well as the Revolutionary War.

The canal was a conduit of goods headed to market. The corridor was also a route to freedom for the enslaved. New York abolished slavery in 1827, but a southern slave could not simply escape to the North to be free. Slaves had to flee the country to ensure that slave catchers could not return them to bondage in the South.

Hiding in a shipment of

goods, a slave might come from a Southern state by water to New York City, then up the Hudson River and through the canal to Lake Champlain and on to Canada. Many slaves were escorted by sympathetic Whites or sometimes free Blacks, who guided fugitive slaves to stations along the route. It will never be known how many fugitive slaves passed through Washington County, nor how many doors were opened to them. But the Champlain Canal corridor was a well-worn path toward freedom.

Abolitionists, many of them members of the Society of Friends (Quakers), provided a system of safe houses through which fugitive slaves could make their way North. This was the Underground Railroad.

The Champlain Canal passed through Easton, home to many Quakers, and documented evidence of its use by fugitive slaves was first reported in several antislavery newspapers in 1837.

The old Coach Road (Route 40) was once an Underground Railroad route through Washington County. It ran parallel to the Champlain Canal and through Easton's farm country where there were several safe houses. Although there is no way to verify its truth, a story has been passed down through decades about the day when two slave catchers came after a



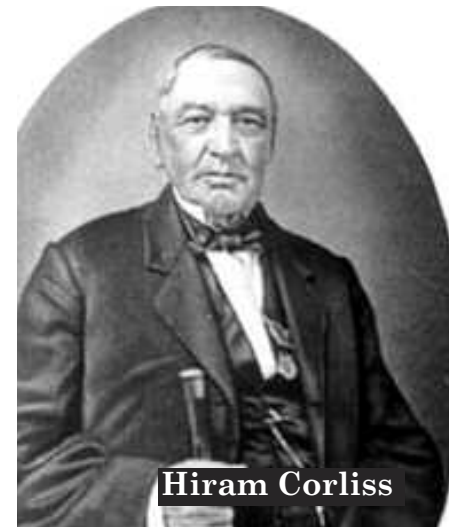
The Gibbs House

runaway Quakers Job and Esther Wilbur were hiding

Determined to defend himself, it is said the man grabbed a carving knife from the Wilbur's dining room table. The Wilburs objected, as they did not condone violence, but the man declared he would not be taken alive. Taking the knife with him, he scrambled up a ladder, opened a trap door and hid in the attic.

The slave catchers came to the house door and demanded that the Wilburs turn over their runaway. They denied any knowledge of the man and confidently invited the slave catchers to search their home. One of the pursuers noticed the ladder, climbed up, and opened the trap door. The frightened fugitive brandished the knife. The bounty hunter ordered the runaway to give up, but the freedom seeker said he would kill him if he came closer. The bounty hunters rode off on their horses to get help.

Hurriedly, Job hitched his team to his carriage while Esther dressed the freedom seeker in one of her dresses and a bonnet. As fast as he could race the team, Job drove the disguised



Hiram Corliss

man five miles north to Union Village (present-day Greenwich) to the home of Dr. Hiram Corliss, Washington County's stationmaster. Legend claims the doctor had a small windowless cellar room and that a tunnel led from it to the banks of the Battenkill River.

Because of the secrecy necessarily surrounding the stations on the route, there is no true "map" of the Underground Railroad. Today many old houses are suspected of being stations, but are not always confirmed. The politics of the homeowner at the time the Underground Railroad was in operation or

**continued on the page 11**



# Hooray for the Olde Saratoga Seniors!

**Darren Johnson**  
*Journal & Press*

And now let's hear it for the Olde Saratoga Seniors!

Mostly from Schuylerville, Saratoga Town and Greenwich, they meet twice a month at Saratoga Town Hall, and they get great turnouts.

I stopped by their Jan. 15 meeting, which had about 70 attendees. Like a board meeting, they do use the town's dais, have a meeting agenda and go over new and old business – but town and village boards could learn a lot from these seniors. They know how to keep a meeting interesting.

They brought in country singer Jeff Williams to start off the meeting with a handful of standards; I recognized Garth Brooks and Johnny Cash songs.

Coffee, cookies and other treats were included. The group plans trips to casinos and other locations (see below). They also talk about their good times – a grandchild who won

an award or a group member who is now cancer-free – and their concerns – for example, a grandchild in the military who was recently deployed overseas.

There is a genuine sense of community and empathy with these group testimonials. If it's your birthday, prepare to be serenaded.

Wouldn't it be great if all public meetings had such unconditional positive regard?

**'Music, laughs and positive regard.'**

And there was a 50-50 raffle. A lucky winner got \$36.

Mostly, it's a place for local seniors to meet and catch up. If you are 60 and up and would like to attend a meeting, stop by the first floor of Saratoga Town Hall on 12 Spring Street in Schuylerville at noon on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

Members are bringing potluck casseroles (some might bring soups, it was suggested), but if you're new, I'm sure they won't mind sharing.

For information contact Pat Temple at 518-338-2329 or email [patty61349@yahoo.com](mailto:patty61349@yahoo.com).



## Bus trips to Niagara Falls, Turning Stone

There are still seats available for the Olde Saratoga Seniors Bus trip to Niagara Falls, two nights three days on Thursday, May 28 to Saturday, May 30. Package includes round trip transportation, two nights accommodations at the Sheraton Niagara Falls, two breakfast buffets, two dinners (one is a dinner theater), admission to the Herschel carousel factory, one ride on the carousel, one day of local guide service, admission to the Niagara Adventure Theater, admission to the Maid of the Mist. Stop at Seneca Casino, stop at the Niagara Power Vista, and baggage handling. Price for double, two people in room, two beds \$588 each. Total payment due by March 31, but you must sign up as soon as possible.

For an itinerary and additional prices for one, three or four people per room, contact Pat Temple, 518-338-2329.

Also, the Olde Saratoga Seniors are hosting a bus trip to Turn-

ing Stone Casino in Verona, N.Y., on Monday, March 16. The bus leaves Saratoga Train Station at 6:15 a.m. or the American Legion in Schuylerville at 6.45 a.m. The bus returns at approximately 8:30 p.m. Seniors can play Bingo or Casino Bonus. The cost is \$10 for Senior members or \$15 for non-members. Contact Pat Temple at 518-338-2329 to reserve your spot.





## Houston meets CEO

Greenwich artist, Jacob Houston, visited with John Legere, T Mobile CEO, in his Florida mansion last month.

John Legere, CEO of T Mobile, is well known for his crazy antics on a Facebook video called "Slow Cooker Sunday," which he posts every Sunday no matter where in the world he is.

Greenwich artist, Jacob Houston, has admired John's business acumen as well as his high energy personality for several years. John even has one of Jake's paintings hanging in his home in Seattle where T Mobile is headquartered.

This past week, John invited Jacob to be a part of his show, filmed at his new home in Naples, Florida. Houston's family friend, Dave Carey (No. 2 man at T Mobile), filmed the show and added comments with John throwing many plugs for

Jake's art as he proceeded with putting together his slow cooker dish. Over 5 million people had viewed the show within 48 hours. Jacob was ecstatic as he later spoke of this fantastic visit where he was able to chat with John Legere at length and to see his new mansion. It is a day he won't forget soon.

If you would like to see the video, it is on Facebook under "John Legere" (scroll down to January 19th "Slow Cooker Sunday"). To see Jake's art, go to [www.jacob-houstonart.com](http://www.jacob-houstonart.com).



## Railroad (cont.)

the presence of a secret room or crawl space are often the only clues to potential involvement.

Homes of devoted Village of Greenwich abolitionists, which still stand on Church Street, are those of Henry Holmes and William H. and Angelina Mowry.

It is said that under the wing of the Mowry home there is a secret chamber which could accommodate 30 people.

Another home still standing on Church Street, the Gibbs House, is also thought to be a station on the Underground Railroad. This is largely due to who owned the house, lawyer Leonard

Gibbs. Gibbs was a known abolitionist and a friend of the aforementioned Dr. Hiram Corliss.

In summary, the village of Greenwich as well as the neighboring town of Easton played a major role in the road to freedom for many fleeing the oppression of slavery.

*History Happened Here is a regular feature in this newspaper, where we find a local state historic marker and expand upon it. See a marker you'd like to know more about? Snap a photo of it and send it to [HHH@journalandpress.com](mailto:HHH@journalandpress.com).*

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McReynolds on Susan's life in Greenwich  
Followed by Cake for our  
Hometown Heroine**



# Largest Starbucks, longest wait time

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

I am sitting on a wooden chair about the height of one used by a second grader because, after more than 30 minutes of standing and waiting, it was the only seat available.

I am drinking coffee at 10:30 a.m., but not because I am particularly in the mood for caffeine, or any beverage for that matter. I felt guilty talking a seat without making a purchase. Many seat-fillers around me don't seem to share my guilt.

I am listening to the establishment's playlist featuring not a single track I recognize. My music identification app tells me the song currently playing is "Chrysalis" by Empire of the Sun. Neither the song nor band title seem appropriate for my surroundings.

I am encircled by individuals whose phones are recording every moment of waiting in line, followed by every monetary transaction, followed by every moment of searching for an open seat.

I am at the world's largest

Starbucks, located on Chicago's famed Michigan Avenue, just two blocks north of a Starbucks and two blocks south of another Starbucks. Keep that in mind, Starbucks customers, if all you are seeking is your daily dose of java or chai. Actually, the Starbucks in the middle might not even serve your favorite; the menu is, uh, different here. "Cardamom Long Black for Katherine is ready! Katherine? Katherine?"

But if you're in Chicago, have already visited the world's tallest building and the largest indoor aquarium, and now you want to experience the world's largest place to wait in a sea of humanity, straining to hear your name called so you can, in my case, pick up a \$7 latte (that drink is still on the menu) and then hope it's not the victim of an errant elbow as you wade back through the line in search of a seat, then this Starbucks is for you.

As I write this column, taking advantage of the free Wi-Fi, other sore-footed patrons are eyeing me so enviously that I'm considering photographing my chair and posting the image in



the "For Rent" section of Craigslist.

"World's Largest Starbucks" is the more common name for this coffee behemoth, officially known as Starbucks Reserve Roastery Chicago, and featuring a lengthy slogan slapped on billboards scattered throughout the city: "The experience. The spectacle. The craft. The coffee. In a word, it's epic."

"Epic" might not be the first word I would use to describe the 35,000-square-foot establishment, formerly home to Crate & Barrel, purveyors of contemporary furniture and housewares. Now, instead of craving a mocha-colored couch, customers seek mocha-flavored drinks. When they aren't posing for selfies and posting Instagram stories.

No, the word I would use is, "wait," as in, "Wait in that epic line."

Seriously, I've seen shorter lines at Disney World. My kids never braved lines like this to cavort with Santa. Lines at airports to rebook flights cancelled by January blizzards seem tame by comparison. And, yet, nobody, sans me, seemed to mind waiting for Pizza al Taglio, chilled tiramisu or nitrogen gelato.

"Now we've been to the world's largest Starbucks and the first one, in Seattle," said Belinda Schmidt, 72, of San An-

tonio. Schmidt and her husband Ron were in town for their granddaughter's middle school music concert at McCormick Place. Ron waited 20 minutes for two lattes, a cinnamon roll and a bottle of water while Belinda found two adjoining seats next to me.

"We met a nice family behind us," Belinda continued. "They used to live in Seattle but wanted to come here because they hadn't been to a roastery."

Me neither. Well, maybe I have. In Paris. Or Vegas. Right now, I need to use the restroom but am afraid to leave my seat. Belinda graciously offered to watch my valuables while I went in search of relief.

I will eventually return to Starbucks Reserve Roastery Chicago. The clamor, and the lines, have to dissipate at some point, right?

Or maybe I'll just be that lonely-looking guy at one of the nearby Starbucks. At least I know there will be a seat waiting for me.

*Greg Schwem is a corporate stand-up comedian and author. Visit Greg on the web at [www.gregschwem.com](http://www.gregschwem.com).*



## Kids can learn ukulele

Kids can learn how to play the ukulele at the Greenwich Library! On February 3, a four-session program, "Rock that Uke: After School Beginner Ukulele Class," will take place from 3:15-4:00 pm. The library welcomes Chelsie Henderson of Rural Soul Studios and 3rd-6th graders for this free musical class. Kids can start playing music the moment they pick up the uke! Limited Space, preregistration is required. Ukuleles will be provided.





# It's banjo time



With the idea of keeping the holiday spirit shining, Slate Valley Center on State Route 40 in Granville had two events this month focusing on bluegrass music where the banjo was king. On January 10, Hudson Falls/Fort Ann's Chuck Petit played; he was in a band called 60s Villager as a teenager of the "we generation" 1960s. Chuck comes every month with his banjo to Slate Valley and he plays everything from Buffalo Springfield, to the Byrds and the Beatles.

"Chuck's style is fabulous," said Marijo Natale, Recreation Director at Slate Valley Center. "He has a wonderful style of bringing up a memory when he sings a song and it definitely

gets the residents reminiscing."

In addition to banjo flavored 1960s bluegrass, award-winning duo Al and Kathy Bain are no strangers to the Adirondack scene, and they also bring traditional country and gospel music to the residents and staff at Slate Valley Center. With Al at the banjo and Kathy on her upright bass, residents had a blast on January 14, as always when they come. Even some of the residents do things they don't normally do and the fun is never ending.

**Pictured:** Resident Carolyn Carlton got up to dance (usually does so pushing her walker) and grabbed her friend Ben Raino and pushed him around the "dance floor".

## DMV to visit Salem, Greenwich, Cambridge

Can't make it to the DMV offices in Fort Edward or at the Wilton Mall? Well, the Washington County Department of Motor Vehicles is coming to some towns in our coverage area. The DMV will travel to Salem's Bancroft Public Library at 181 Main Street on Tuesday, Feb. 18. Then they will be at Greenwich Town Hall at 2 Academy St. on Wednesday, Feb. 26. Or find them at the

Cambridge Village Office at 56 North Park Street on Wednesdays Feb. 12 or Mar. 11. Times for all appearances are 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

You can get regular licenses and other DMV documents done at these traveling DMVs, but not enhanced licenses. Call 518-746-2163 for additional information.

## Fair's statewide honor

At the annual New York State Agricultural Society meeting this January, the Washington County Fair was awarded the Ag Promotion Award. In Washington County, the fair has been bringing together the agriculture industry and the greater community since 1890. Orchestrated by an army of volunteers, the fair's mission is to provide an inside look to Washington County agriculture through a series of interactive exhibits, livestock demonstrations and shows, educational materials, and local food and drink samplings. Each August, the fair opens its doors to over 115,000 fairgoers for a week of family fun.

The New York State Agricultural Society was organized in 1832 to foster, promote, and improve the New York State Food & Agriculture Industry through education, leadership



development & recognition programs. "The Washington County Fair is honored to win the Ag Promotion award recognizing the work of our Board of Directors and volunteers that make the Washington County Fair possible each year," said marketing director Rebecca Breese.

**Pictured:** Jeannette Kreher from Kreher Family Farms, Mark St. Jacques of the Washington County Fair, William Gura from Alpha Zeta (Cornell CALS) and Todd Lighthall from NY FFA Foundation.

## A great coach

Greenwich Central High School's Steve Patrick has been named 2018-19 National Federation of High School Coaches Association Northeast Section Girls Outdoor Track and Field Coach of the Year. Coach Patrick was nominated by the New York Public High School Athletic Association for this honor. The award was based upon performance in the 2018-19 school year, lifetime community involvement, school involvement and philosophy of coaching.



Coach Patrick began coaching outdoor track and field at GCS in 1988. During this time, his girls outdoor track and field teams have won fifteen league titles and sixteen sectional championships. He is a Greenwich Central HS graduate (Class of 1973) and a retired GCS teacher of mathematics. He continues to coach cross-country, indoor and outdoor track and field and is the Varsity Club Advisor and a Greenwich Town Councilman.



# Sites to see while in Rome, Naples

**Rick Steves**

*Tribune Content Agency*

Rome is nicknamed “The Eternal City” and nowadays it could also be referring to the lines you’ll wait in. The city (along with Naples) is better organized than ever for the huge crowds that descend on it each year - but only for those who equip themselves with good information and use it. These tips may be wonky, but for smart travelers in 2020, they will translate into many precious hours saved – and lots of sweat avoided.

Rome’s big sights continue to tinker with ticketing procedures and crowd-control measures. For instance, travelers who want to tour the Colosseum must book an entry time when buying their ticket (which also covers the nearby Roman Forum and Palatine Hill). Reservations can sell out weeks ahead, so it’s essential to buy your ticket online, well in advance of your visit (visit [www.coopculture.it](http://www.coopculture.it)).

Even with reserved entry times, the Colosseum can still feel packed. I know it sounds like a sacrilege, but travelers may want to consider skipping the inside of the Colosseum to avoid suffering through the mob scene. In my opinion, half the thrill of the Colosseum is seeing it from the outside. Instead, you can enjoy the magnificence of ancient Rome with a thoughtful visit to one of the city’s quieter sights, such as the Baths of Caracalla, south of the Roman Forum. Even in peak season, you’ll often be all alone with the wonders of the ancient world, wondering, “Where is everyone?”

If you decide to skip the Colosseum interior, but you still want to visit the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill, purchase the “SUPER” combo-ticket, which also covers access to some smaller but worthwhile sights at

the Forum and on Palatine Hill (keep in mind this ticket does not include the Colosseum). These “minor” sights include the Palatine Museum, House of Augustus, House of Livia, and the recently opened Domus Transitoria – Nero’s first palace on Palatine Hill, complete with virtual reality headsets that help reconstruct what the palace once was like (you must book an entry time when you buy your ticket).

Rome might be famous for its ancient sights, but the modern Welcome to Rome exhibition near Piazza Chiesa Nuova gives visitors a fun and informative introduction to the Eternal City. A series of four high-tech dioramas featuring famous Roman sights – Castel Sant’Angelo, Imperial Forums, Forum of Augustus, and St. Peter’s Basilica - show how each was built.

At the Vatican Museums, home of the Sistine Chapel, Friday evening visits are now being offered consistently from mid-April through October from 7 until 11 p.m., when crowds are limited. Another less conventional option is to book a guided tour of the Vatican Gardens, which then lets you enter the

## ‘There are hefty fines to curb bad behavior.’

museums. Both of these must be reserved online in advance.

Pilgrims should note that the American Catholic Church in Rome has moved its headquarters to St. Patrick’s Church near the U.S. Embassy. The parish welcomes pilgrims to the city, arranges papal audience tickets, and lists convents that rent out rooms on its website ([www.stpatricksamericarome.org](http://www.stpatricksamericarome.org)). It’s an excellent re-



source for pilgrims.

In an effort to preserve Rome’s historic sights, the city has introduced hefty fines to curb bad behavior from visitors. Several tourists have been fined for jumping in the Trevi Fountain, and last year the city government enacted a ban on sitting on the city’s iconic Spanish Steps. Violators could face a 250 euro fine (or more, if they damage anything).

Italy intensifies as you go south of Rome to Naples, the country’s third largest city. Due to construction throughout the city, Naples’ tram – useful for connecting the cruise port to the center - is not currently running. To help visitors reach the excellent Capodimonte art museum (on a hilltop north of the city center), the CitySightseeing bus company now runs a shuttle from Naples’ center to the museum, stopping en route at the city’s famous Archaeological Museum.

Naples is less than an hour from Pompeii, and improved transportation options makes day-tripping there more convenient than ever. In the past, the standard way has been by the Circumvesuviana commuter train, which tends to be dingy,

hot, congested, and full of pick-pockets. But now, CitySightseeing offers a shuttle bus from Naples’ cruise port and train station to Pompeii. It runs three times a day in summer and takes just 30 minutes. Each bus has a set return time (about three or four hours after arriving) so riders must plan their visits accordingly. Another option is the Campania Express tourist train, which runs several times a day in peak season using the same tracks as the Circumvesuviana, but is less packed, more secure, and has air-conditioning.

My mark of a good traveler is how they enjoy Italy. And, when it comes to navigating the popular and crowded sights of Rome and Naples, enjoying Italy requires some planning ahead.

*Rick Steves writes travel guidebooks to the cruise ports of the Mediterranean and Northern Europe and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at [rick@ricksteves.com](mailto:rick@ricksteves.com).*





## The glue that holds us together

**Pam Fuller**  
*Journal & Press*

Pop quiz: 1. You're not sure whether you should rake your leaves onto the roadside or put them in bags. Who do you call? 2. You notice that the water coming out of your faucet seems like a different color. What do you do? 3. You see a grandmother struggling to push a stroller over a bumpy stretch of sidewalk. Who should you tell? 4. A holiday falls on a Thursday, and you wonder if there will be any garbage pickup this week. Who can give you the answer?

If you answered for all of these that you would call the Village Office, you'd be correct. And the Clerk and Treasurer would pass your concerns on to the Village of Greenwich Department of Public Works. Because these are all issues that fall under the areas of Village life that are managed by our DPW. And a lot more.

I sat down with our Superintendent Leo Flynn to talk about his department. Leo has worked for the Village for 41 years, and he's been the Superintendent since 1982. Leo is justifiably proud of his guys, six full-time employees with part-timers coming in as needed.

First, consider what it takes to provide safe water to our community. We are closely monitored by the New York State Department of Health, who oversee everything from the design of our facility, to the wells, to the water testing and other activities. Water is tested twice

a day each day. We're required to have operators on duty 7 days a week. In order to qualify, operators take a 30-hour course and an exam. Then they renew this training every 3 years. And the wastewater plant operates much the same, except that the exam is even harder.

Everyone pitches in on everything else, and this team is multi-talented. They read the water meters, patch roads, sweep roads, repair sidewalks, plow sidewalks as a service, mow the parks, check the hydrants, maintain the signs, plant and cut down trees as needed, and they also maintain and repair their own vehicles (the Village owns ten) and motorized equipment. Last November, they worked on a planned holiday to quickly vacuum up the leaves so they could jump right into snow plowing the next day. They work on holidays if needed so the rest of us can enjoy our family and friends.

As an added benefit to our community, six of the DPW employees are active volunteer firemen and are available for fire calls during the day, keeping us safer.

I think everyone in the Village should be proud of our DPW and the job they do to keep us running! I know I am.

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



DPW



Water plant -pf photos

## Have a news tip?

Feel free to contact us if you have a news tip or if you'd like to write something for the paper or our web site.

We should have an office running soon. There, you'll be able to bounce ideas off of us, or stop by if you have something to promote. We can even write a press release for

you or design an ad – to be published in *other* papers as well as ours.

Easiest is if you can just email us. Send a message to [editor@journalandpress.com](mailto:editor@journalandpress.com) to pitch a story idea, volunteer to help the paper, write a column or anything else.

# Why do people live paycheck to paycheck?

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

The labor market finished 2019 with a solid showing. The economy added 145,000 jobs, making December the 111th straight month of job gains, the longest stretch in 80 years of data. For the full year, employers averaged 175,000 jobs per month, a downshift from the 2018 pace of 223,000, though these numbers will likely change after the Bureau of Labor Statistics releases its annual adjustment to the numbers in February.

Adding to the positive news, the unemployment rate came in at 3.5%, matching the lowest reading since 1969.

Average hourly earnings increased by 2.9% from a year ago, which may not seem all that great, but given that the overall inflation rate remains under 2%, the bump is sufficient to stay ahead of rising prices.

Perhaps the best news on wages is that lower-earning and entry-level workers have been making steady progress over the past couple of years. That's due in large part to municipal and state minimum wage initiatives, which have pushed the effective average minimum wage to nearly \$12 per hour.

Despite the labor market's progress, it has been interesting to see a new Twitter hashtag called "with my next paycheck I will..." The posts are alternatively funny ("help a recently exiled Nigerian prince reclaim his throne") and depressing ("still be broke"). The trend coincides with reports that an astounding 74% of Americans say that they are living paycheck to paycheck, according to a survey conducted by the American Payroll Association.

Given the upbeat economic news, the big question is: Why are so many workers feeling under pressure? The answer is

complicated. While there have been wage gains, they are not spread out across every worker - just ask your friendly millennial or career switching Boomer about it.

Additionally, averages are just that - average. A recent Bankrate.com report found that half of American workers said they did not get a raise last year, and over a longer term, middle-income workers have been left in the dust.

Government data show that over the past 20 years, median household income has barely budged, after accounting for inflation. Today the median stands at \$63,179, a mere 3% increase from 1999's level of \$61,526. Add to those figures the weight of \$1.6 trillion in student loan debt as well as rising costs for housing in some areas, and you can see how monthly bills take a huge bite out of many workers' take-home pay.

But what accounts for those upper-class earners who also say that they are living paycheck to paycheck? I hear from a lot of these folks who consistently struggle to make ends meet.

Not to discount how these people feel, but after a few probing questions, I have found that many of these folks are counting cash-flow items like home equity lines of credit that were used to renovate the kitchen, vacation funds and kids' activities/tutoring as part of their non-discretionary spending.

Regardless of whether you are really scraping by or feeling like you are, the advice is the same: Comb your cash flow to find areas to cut and then automatically redirect those funds to savings.

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

## Find the calm amid the chaos

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

**Q:** People seem to be more chaotic and fighting bigger problems than usual as we go into 2020. Is this my imagination or do you also see this in your consulting work?

**A:** It is not your imagination that people are struggling more. You can navigate every else's chaos if you take full responsibility for managing yourself and your responses.

One of my readers sent an insightful Christmas note to me that she'd taken my advice about creating a heavenly snow globe for herself and avoiding other people's hell bubbles. She coincidentally had bought herself the same gift I gave clients last year. A snow globe that had

the word "Peace" on it to remind her she has the power to behave effectively regardless of her circumstances.

Effective interpersonal skills are only the beginning of creating a heavenly snow globe. We also have to be responsible for the emotional energy we bring into relationships with people.

For instance, many of us become indignant when others don't see our needs. If we come to negotiations angry then people smell our rage and back away. They don't listen for reasonable requests much less consider how giving us what we want could help them. If we can grieve that others don't see our needs, we are in a position to negotiate graciously and not angrily.

We all in the short run have

plenty of room to internally have intense negative reactions. The trick is to work these reactions out internally before engaging others.

For instance, we have a new baby, we expect our boss will see we now have to get off promptly at 5 p.m. We get furious that the boss keeps asking us to work late. What if, instead, we negotiate calmly with our boss on leaving promptly at 5 p.m.?

Your observation that people are more chaotic is accurate. One reason is that as people age our inner stuff gets worse if we don't volunteer to work on it.

Much indigenous mythology predicts our world entering a time where we all need to mature spiritually to take care of ourselves and the planet. If this

myth is true, the current chaos is an opportunity for deep self-development.

A final reason is that external chaos motivates us to find the calm center that exists in our inner world. If we refuse to enter that inner world, we have no refuge. Many people are scared of going inside themselves.

Make 2020 the year you venture into your inner darkness to find the calm center that exists within you so you have a personal sanctuary as the chaos swirls around you. You will not only benefit yourself but also create a haven of calm for those around you.

*Daneen Skube, Ph.D., executive coach, trainer, therapist and speaker, also appears as the FOX Channel's "Workplace Guru" each Monday morning. Contact her on [www.interpersonaledge.com](http://www.interpersonaledge.com).*



# Find wonder at your local art gallery

**Kaylee Johnson**  
*Journal & Press*

Upon entering my quaint campus gallery, I came to the realization that it's not a very approachable place. Snobbish curators purse their lips when telling visitors to sign in and leave their bags in the entryway, and there's an overwhelming attitude of false righteousness and superiority that usually scares away students who have not learned how to wear imposter blinders in the pompously feathered art world. It's a haven, advertised to a very specific clique of individuals, and nobody else. That's not to say there are not lavishly decorated flyers placed around the city of Albany describing the new shows, using words like "surrealism" and "avant-garde." But, by doing this, they are making art exclusive and elitist, while they should be focusing on using their resources to make the gallery a unifying part of both the campus and city. Art is for everybody, period. And if it's not meant for everybody, then it is not true art; it's a facade meant to seduce paper doll socialites in the "community." While some art is meant to be enigmatic and opaque, it should never be inaccessible to non-artists.

Recently I re-visited The Met in Manhattan, and found that it is much more inviting than the small, struggling art galleries I have visited in my college city. First, I questioned how that could be; The Met is home to some of the greatest pieces of art ever created; Pollock (pictured), O'Keeffe, Monet, Van Gogh. But, the relaxed security and spacious hallways allowed me to enjoy intimate moments with each piece, without feeling hovered over or judged. The immersive rooms, extensive play-space and organized galleries were surprisingly inclusive and yearning to be fawned over. College students can make any donation to The Met or Guggenheim, and the Whitney has Pay-What-You-Wish: Fridays from 7 to 10 p.m. So, these famous New York City museums and others of their caliber in big cities are trying very hard to make their mark on college students, and it makes sense, since social media has changed the fine arts so dramatically. Why pay thirty dollars to see a painting when you can look at a picture of it on your phone? But these museums are advocating that spending physical time with a work that strikes you is an emotional experience,



**"Autumn Rhythm No. 30" by Jackson Pollock at The Met.**

and simply cannot be felt so deeply by seeing a picture of it on Instagram. It's not an anti-technology attack, it's a peaceful philosophy that has been tested for decades; in fact all of the major art museums in NYC have great social media presences to make the younger generations feel comfortable and excited about art. But the ultimate goal is to get people so curious

## **'It's OK to feel attracted to a piece of art but not understand it in the moment.'**

about the art that they are seeing in their feed, to feel inclined to look at it in person.

Most small towns and college campuses have art galleries, and while the collections they house are not always prominent or classic, a lot can be gained from visiting. Firstly, even if you consider yourself a person who struggles to understand the "meaning" behind abstract works, beauty can still be celebrated in gentle brush strokes or paint color. You do not always need to formulate an intricate metaphor for a landscape or portrait. There is nothing

wrong with visiting a gallery solely to lust over the aesthetic. It is okay to feel attracted a piece of art, and not be able to understand or articulate what you like about in the moment. Art can be appreciated much like a sturdy, practical piece of furniture or garden, or it can be dissected and given life like a complicated, soulful poem. You pick.

Don't let unspoken rules and long-standing snobbery intimidate you and prevent you from enjoying the tranquility of both massive art museums and small town or campus art galleries. Who knows? Maybe you will find so much comfort in a gallery and the mysteries it beholds, that it will be your retreat; the place you flee too when you are feeling stressed and buried with burdens. Art adoration is one of the healthiest and most beneficial forms of escapism, and my personal favorite, as I have been known to leave my problems with Monet. Find your Monet.

*Kaylee Johnson lives in Greenwich and is finishing her bachelor's in Education at the College of Saint Rose in Albany.*





## Seedling Award for college-bound seniors

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” — Jane Goodall

Have you been striving to preserve the environment around you? Have you been working to promote and support your community? Do you serve as a role model and leader to your peers? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then you are invited to apply for the 2020 Hudson Crossing Park (HCP) Seeding Award.

The HCP Seedling Award is given to a single recipient who

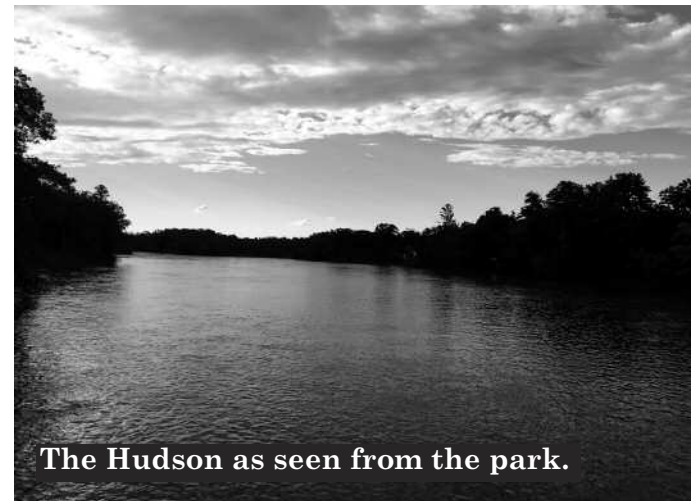
has demonstrated excellence and outstanding dedication to their community and/or the environment, serving as a role model to their peers and showing others that individuals are important and can make a difference.

Applicants are asked to submit an essay of approximately 1,000 words or a 3-5 minute video describing how their leadership and service has made a positive difference in the environment and/or community, and how they will continue to have an impact through college and beyond. Applicants should be a graduating high school senior, including those who are home-

schooled, in Saratoga, Washington, or Warren County, New York.

The HCP Seedling Award includes \$150 cash and three (3) tickets to Hudson Crossing Park’s Banquet by the Bridge on Thursday, June 25, 2020 for the winner and two parents/guardians/guests.

Submissions should be received no later than 5pm on Fri-



The Hudson as seen from the park.

day, April 3, 2020. They may be submitted via postal or electronic mail. Visit [www.hudsoncrossingpark.org/seedling-award](http://www.hudsoncrossingpark.org/seedling-award) for more information.

## 4-H Club visits Greenwich sheep farm

On January 12, members and friends of the 4-H Sheep and Kids Club of Washington County visited the Blue Moon Lamb farm owned and operated by the Davis family. Located at 820 McCormack Rd in Greenwich, the Davis’ manage a flock of 200 predominantly Dorper sheep on a strictly grass diet using no anti-biotics or hormones. They sell their lamb to

individuals and businesses.

The group enjoyed learning about Dorper sheep. Dorpers are a hair breed raised for meat production, and unlike most wool-bearing sheep, are able to breed at any time during the year. Club members also observed and discussed how the Davis’ manage their flock during lambing season. As of the 12th, over 60 lambs had been born, with many more expected. Of particular interest was their use of high-tech electronic ear tags in ewes and lambs to more easily track their growth and health. The early lambing will enable the Davis’ to have lamb ready for Spring holiday celebrations.

For more information Blue Moon Lamb, interested people can visit the farm’s Facebook page or web site at [www.bluemoonlamb.com](http://www.bluemoonlamb.com), where e-mail and telephone contact data are



available.

The Sheep and Kids Club’s mission is for members to learn about the different kinds of sheep, how to care for them and how to use their many products. Members can be seen demonstrating wool art at the upcoming Washington County Fiber

Tour, April 25, 26, and showing their sheep and fiber creations at the Washington County Fair. For more information about area 4-H clubs, contact the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Washington County at [Washington@cornell.edu](mailto:Washington@cornell.edu) or find them on Facebook.





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## Military talks

New York's military history will be highlighted in seven free talks being planned at the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs in February, including:

Feb. 8, 2 p.m.: "Left for Dead on Slaughter's Field: The 177th New York Volunteer Infantry at Port Hudson" – Using rare historic photographs and the recently discovered diary of Private William Henry Harrison Freligh, a 21-year old soldier from rural Albany County, retired National Guard officer and historian Pat Chaisson explores the little known Civil War battle of Port Hudson.

Feb. 22, 2 p.m.: "Charles Johnson Post: A Soldier's Life in Art" – Local author and historian William Howard discusses the remarkable life and career of Charles Johnson Post, a journalist, artist, adventurer, and soldier with the 71st New York during the Spanish-American War whose paintings are currently on display at the New York State Military Museum.

The New York State Military Museum is located at 61 Lake Ave, in Saratoga Springs. Call 518-786-4581 to learn more.

## Love Light on the Hudson

Hudson Crossing Park invites all who are looking for a unique way to celebrate this Valentine's Day to the third annual Love Light Luminary Walk, a candlelight walk on Friday, February 14th from 5-7pm. Dozens of glowing luminaries will light the path along the Hudson River to and from the Dix Bridge. Hanging lanterns, which can be carried by visitors along the walk, will be available for purchase as a beautiful souvenir of the evening. There is a \$5 per person suggested donation and lanterns will be available for an additional \$10. Cookies and hot cocoa will be available at the pavilion after the walk.



Kate Morse, Director of Hudson Crossing Park, says, "This is a beautiful way to celebrate the day for everyone – sweethearts, spouses, kids, friends, family – anyone you care about. Instead of focusing on expensive gifts of flowers or jewelry, people can spend quality time together away from the hustle and bustle."

For those interested in making it extra special, there will be a lantern decorating event at Revibe (94 Broad Street, Schuylerville) on Saturday, February 8 from 2-4 p.m. where participants can personalize a hanging lantern to surprise their loved one with at the Love Light event. All supplies will be provided and the cost is \$15 per lantern. All proceeds from both the lantern decorating and luminary walk go towards supporting Hudson Crossing Park.

# Cambridge Crossword

(solution page 24)

## Across

- 1 Did one part of a typical triathlon
- 5 Overwhelm
- 10 Camera output
- 14 Tuscan waterway
- 15 Smoothies
- 16 1899 gold rush town
- 17 It's nothing to Noelle
- 18 Pines, e.g.
- 19 Wavy lines, in comics
- 20 Start of a quip
- 23 Stuff in a sack
- 24 Dough shortage consequence
- 27 "Chicago P.D." detective Lindsay
- 29 Quip, part 2
- 34 Speaks
- 36 Durango day
- 37 Rotation meas.
- 38 Quip, part 3
- 42 Pranks, in a way, informally
- 43 Browser's

## find

- 44 Privileged groups
- 45 Quip, part 4
- 49 Wrapped up
- 50 See 52-Down
- 51 Swiss waterway
- 53 End of the quip
- 60 Hook for landing large fish
- 63 Wines named for an Iberian city
- 64 Pivot around
- 65 Plot measure
- 66 Mexican Academy of Film award
- 67 McCain's alma mater: Abbr.
- 68 Casino device
- 69 Spider's web, e.g.
- 70 Jury member

## Down

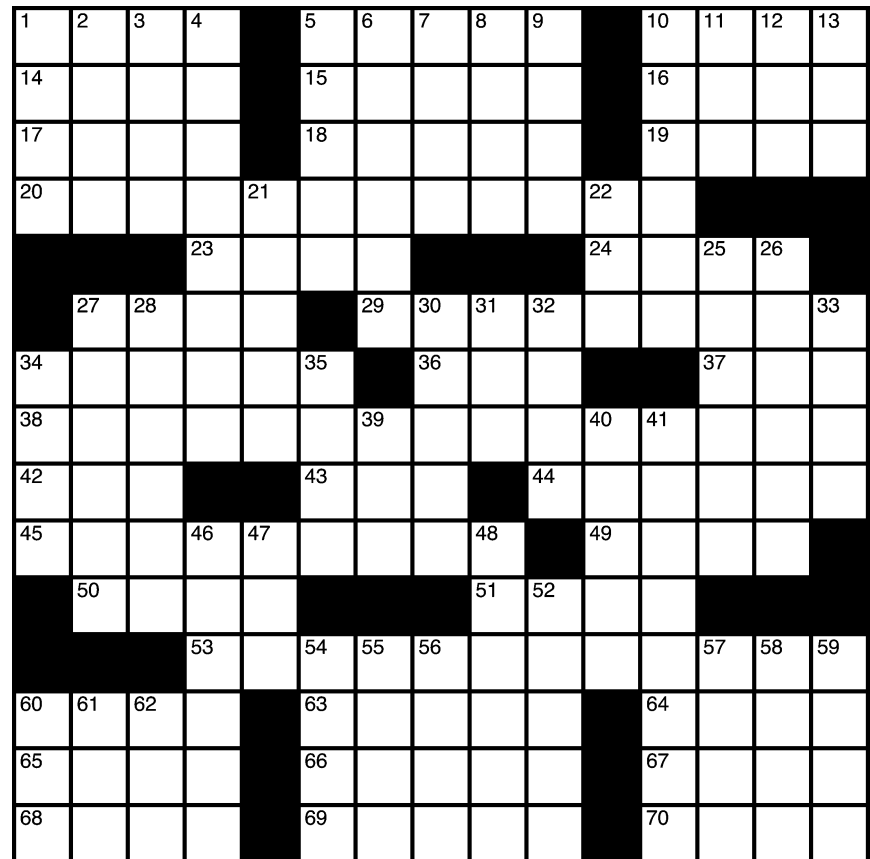
- 1 Asian garment
- 2 Legal paper
- 3 Once more
- 4 Yosemite's El

## Capitan, e.g.

- 5 Scrape
- 6 Affection
- 7 Europe-bound, perhaps
- 8 Athletic contest
- 9 "Hey, you!"
- 10 Common nocturnal disturbance
- 11 Wordless opinion
- 12 Te- : cigar brand
- 13 \_\_\_ stirpes: estate law term
- 21 Good-sized combo
- 22 First name in childcare writing
- 25 How many learn
- 26 High hat
- 27 Rages
- 28 Brawl in the sticks
- 30 Former "Access Hollywood" anchor Nancy
- 31 When repeated, mutually advantageous
- 32 Most liked, casually

## 33 Versatility list

- 34 Eye opener?
- 35 Close
- 39 NW Penn. airport
- 40 Ecuadoran gold region
- 41 Cheers
- 46 Tuition add-on
- 47 Abbr. in some Canadian place names
- 48 LDS part
- 52 With 50-Across, flier's option
- 54 Therapeutic resorts
- 55 Ambivalent
- 56 One of a tenor's repertoire
- 57 Word suggesting options
- 58 Ancient character
- 59 Sentence component
- 60 Yakking
- 61 German gripe
- 62 One way to sway



## 9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



# Schuylerville Word Find

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

Find these words that are associated with joking around!

Comedy  
Deadpan  
Delivery

Fool  
Funny  
Gags  
Ha-Ha  
Hilarious  
Humor  
Hysterical  
Jest

Jocular  
Joke  
Knee-Slapper  
Laugh  
Nightclub  
Parody  
Prank  
Punch Line

Puns  
Quip  
Riddle  
Routine  
Silly  
Sitcom  
Skit  
Standup

Story  
Wisecrack  
Witty

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



# Salem Sudoku

(solution page 30)

			3	8	6			7
							6	4
		7				8		1
		8		4			1	
								3
	5			9		6		
9		5				3		
8	2				9			
6			1	5	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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# Suffrage calendar available locally

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment granting women the right to vote, the Washington County Historical Society has created "Well-Behaved Women Can Make History!," a 2020 calendar honoring women's suffrage in Washington County.

The calendar features photographs of women from Washington County who were involved in the suffrage movement as well as photos of white and yellow suffrage floats from the flower parades at the Cambridge Fair in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Important dates relating to local women's suffrage, as well as those on the state and national levels, are featured throughout the calendar. If you like learning about local history and/or women's history, this calendar will be of interest to you.

The calendar is now available in the Green-

wich Free Library both upstairs at the main desk as well as in the Gill Room. It is also available in both the Greenwich and Easton Town Offices. Calendars can be purchased at the WCHS headquarters in The Wing-Northrup House at 167 Broadway in Fort Edward and also at the Old Fort House. It is available at the Old Wilson Homestead in Hebron, the Bunker Hill Inn and at Battenkill Books in Cambridge. They can also be purchased on a website, [www.wchs-ny.org](http://www.wchs-ny.org). The cost of the calendar is \$10.70 (including tax). Please make checks out to the Washington County Historical Society.



## Complete \$10 turkey dinner in Cambridge

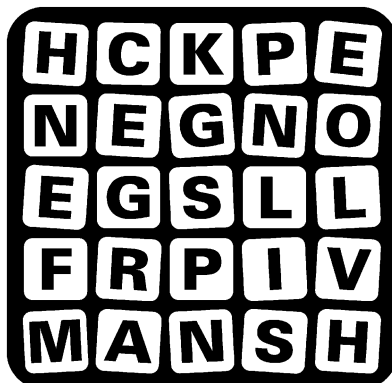
Does a nice home-cooked turkey dinner sound good on a cold winter night, especially when you don't have to do all the work? If so, come to the Cambridge Food Pantry on South Park St. next door to the NAPA store south of the village on Saturday, February 8th. Experienced chefs will cook up a feast to include turkey, mashed (real) potatoes, gravy, stuffing, corn, Vicki's famous coleslaw, dessert and beverage. And all for only \$10!

The dinner is sponsored by Cornerstone East with all funds going to the Food Pantry. Dinner will be served from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. There will also be take-outs available.



**Boggle**  
BrainBusters!

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 SIX LANGUAGES in the grid of letters. Write your answers below.

---



---



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Answers to Boggle BrainBusters: GREEK FRENCH GERMAN POLISH SPANISH ENGLISH

11-17-13  
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# Two comedic giants are snowbound

**Matt Donnelly**  
*Variety*  
*Special to Journal & Press*

An avalanche isn't the most desirable image to show packed movie houses at the base of a mountain in Utah, but it's used to great effect in "Downhill," an American riff on the Ruben Ostlund film "Force Majeure," which was set to light up the Sundance film festival this month.

Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Will Ferrell team for the first time on the project from directors Nat Faxon and Jim Rash ("The Descendants," "The Way, Way Back"), with a screenplay from the pair and "Succession" creator Jesse Armstrong. The pedigree is not by coincidence, as Louis-Dreyfus has been at work on the film for five years with her "Enough Said" producer Anthony Bregman and Searchlight Pictures (no more Fox).

"It was daunting, except to say that we never would have done it if we didn't have Ruben's blessing," Louis-Dreyfus told *Variety* in a conversation ahead of the festival.

"Force Majeure" was a well-received 2014 family drama that has found enduring life thanks to social media. A pivotal scene where a family on a ski vacation realizes that a far-off avalanche is rapidly approaching has become a forever meme, one that indicates blind panic and impending doom.

The premise of the first film remains deliciously intact: a nuclear family, with mom and dad and two kids, are sitting at a picnic bench when a crush of snow descends. The group has no choice but to brace for what feels like death, with mom wrapping up her children on their side of the table. Dad, on the other side, grabs his cell phone and flees the scene. When the family emerges

with no more than a light dusting of snow, there are hard questions to be asked and answered — about instincts, priorities and memory.

"We've all had 'Force Majeure' moments in our lives," said Bregman. "We're all subject to doing the wrong thing at the wrong time, and that becoming larger than the thing itself. It's the very idea that something like the avalanche could be extrapolated into something much bigger."

Louis-Dreyfus and Ferrell had never even met before shooting, which was done on location in Austria where cast and crew got dinged up on the slopes on their off days.

"The original film is sort of iconically a very Swedish film, so the idea of injecting an American sensibility into this European universe was intriguing to us, as well as opening up the gender roles even more so," said Louis-Dreyfus.

## 'Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Will Ferrell team up.'

Ostlund sees "Downhill" as a confirmation of the original film's impact, and even expressed a bit of envy at watching Louis-Dreyfus breathe new life into the film.

"As soon as I thought they had managed to solve a scene better than we did, I felt genuinely happy -- and jealous at the same time," Ostlund said. "But I've decided for myself to embrace the differences and look at it like when they put on classic plays in the theater: It's the differences in the reading that are a big part of what makes it interesting."

Despite grand landscapes and luxurious interiors, another feat the film achieves is to let two comedy heavyweights revel in small moments. When a con-



**Julia Louis-Dreyfus**

founder and furious Louis-Dreyfus has to share space with Ferrell after the incident, it's very easy to expect the wrath of Selina Meyer in an expletive-filled tirade from the pages of "Veep." Louis-Dreyfus never gives it to the audience, creating a delirious claustrophobia and heavy existentialism. This is by design, she says.

"I'm always looking for something that is not like what I've just done. I wanted to exercise those muscles. I have admired Will's dramatic chops since 'Stranger Than Fiction,' and the game of this for us was to keep as much judgment out of this story

as possible. To not go down a rabbit hole of shaking a shameful finger, because it becomes less interesting," she said.

Louis-Dreyfus and Bregman said they hope audiences appreciate their approach.

"In all respect to the original, we wanted to do a riff on it the way Joe Cocker does on The Beatles, the way Warhol does on Da Vinci," said Bregman. They certainly have the backdrop on their side in Park City.

"This movie was born on a ski slope, and it will come to the world on one," Bregman concluded.

## Online archive

*Missed a past issue or want to find a past story? Find them on our new web site, [www.ccn-news.info/journalpress](http://www.ccn-news.info/journalpress).*

*We have the only active news web site in Southern Washington County and Eastern Saratoga Town.*

The screenshot shows the front page of the Journal & Press newspaper. At the top, it lists various locations: VISIT BEAUTIFUL: GREENWICH | SALEM | EASTON | HESBON | ARDIE | JACKSON CAMBRIDGE | HARTFORD | FORD DENARD | WHITE CREEK | SCHUYLVILLE. The masthead reads "JOURNAL & PRESS" in a large, serif font, with "Of Southern Washington County, Est. 1842" underneath. Below the masthead, there are several article teasers with small images and headlines: "DOUBLE ISSUE! JAN. 1 & 2, 2020", "A BRIDGE UNITES!", "HISTORY HAPPENED HERE", "HOOPS SOLVE IT!", "OUR BRANDS", "A snazzy new logo", and "Greenwich Journal Press". The page also includes a "Newspaper Returns!" section and a "QUIZ REGION'S HISTORY" section.



# Column: Learning from the Royals

Lance Allen Wang  
*Journal & Press*

I've never been much of a celebrity watcher. I've never gotten along well with big egos, stuffed shirts, and self-importance. I've never idolized the rich and famous. And I've generally not been a "Royal Watcher." I didn't watch the various British royal weddings, nor am I intrigued by their pomp and circumstance. However, for the first time, I'm seeing some lessons that apply in the real world with the Royals.

Normally, I would dismiss the Royal sons, Harry and William, as just more rich kids who merit neither my time nor attention. However, Prince Harry has one quality that most of our celebrities do not have – he is a combat veteran of two tours in Afghanistan. Let's compare that to the sons and daughters of our Presidents, and we see that the last President that had a child serve their country and go to war was President Jimmy Carter, whose son Jack served in Vietnam as an enlisted man with the United States Navy.

Afghanistan affected Harry. Called "Captain Wales" by his

troops, he said he felt more comfortable being the Captain than he was as a Prince. "My father's always trying to remind me about who I am, and stuff like that," he said, "But it's very easy to forget about who I am when I am in the Army." And he recalled combat – "If there's people trying to do bad stuff to our guys, then we'll take them out of the game, I suppose. Take a life to save a life ... the squadron's been out here. Everyone's fired a certain amount."

War changes you – this was my experience in Iraq in 2007-08. Having a couple of dozen rockets dropped on you here or there, a few stray rounds flying over the wall, a hostile climate and a hostile country will force you to reevaluate your priorities. What seemed important was no longer important. But something that jarring to your worldview takes time to settle. I left the Army in 2009 after 21 years, and had some pretty dark nights between 2010-2012. No veteran asks for that to happen, it just happens.

One of the interesting things about the baggage that some veterans carry is the little-dis-

cussed aspect of "Post-Traumatic Growth." In other words, there can be positive side-effects of service in combat. While overseas, I discovered the importance of faith, for instance. Even in the period of dark nights after the Army, I found new, healthy ways to connect – I became a very active Freemason, for instance. I started taking on leadership roles in the community. And when I came through on the other side, back into the light, I think I was a better, albeit changed, person.

Perhaps what the Prince is going through is his own reevaluation of priorities. Maybe he realizes all of the pomp and circumstance means nothing in the real world. Maybe he realizes the Royal celebrity culture is not helpful for his marriage, and dealing with that while he still may be dealing with his own dark nights is too much to ask of him. In a country where only five percent of the population are military veterans, maybe asking for a little understanding is too much to ask of some Brits.



Prince Harry –TCA photo

America is not much different – about seven and a half percent have served. Maybe we can draw a lesson or two about understanding veterans from Captain Wales' experience.

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, NY with his wife Hatti.



## Musician's Grammy run

Capital Region artist Marty Wendell, who often plays at local events such as the Whipple City Festival, released the album "Rock & Roll Days" in early 2019. In November it became a contender for Best Americana Album in this year's Grammy Awards and made it to the final vote. The show aired Jan. 26.

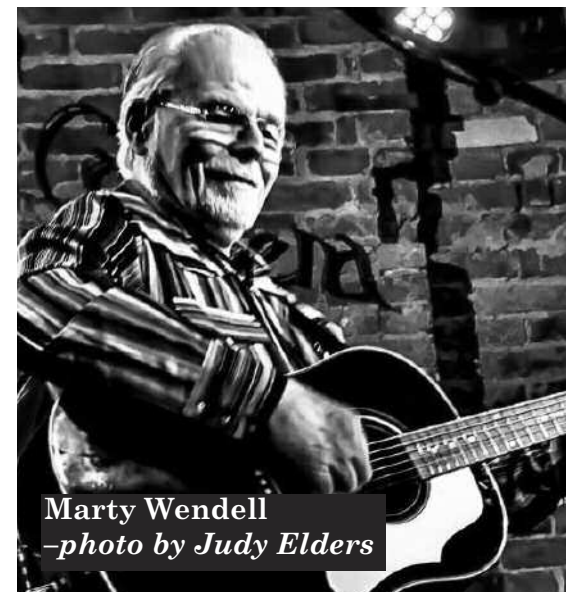
Wendell has been an artist for 55 years and to have his album recognized at this level

of the music industry was a great honor for him, he said. Though he did not receive the nomination, he was in the company of artists such as Bruce Springsteen and Cheryl Crow, who also had albums in the finals.

Wendell records for the Boston based Simply 21 Records and has received numerous awards including being in the Rockabilly Hall of Fame. He has continued to tour yearly

bringing his concerts to venues in the Capital District area and beyond. In 1968 he was an opening act for Johnny Cash on the tour when Cash was promoting his best known album, "Live at Folsom Prison."

More information and his tour schedule can be found at: [www.marty-wendell.com](http://www.marty-wendell.com)



Marty Wendell  
-photo by Judy Elders

# The Funny Page

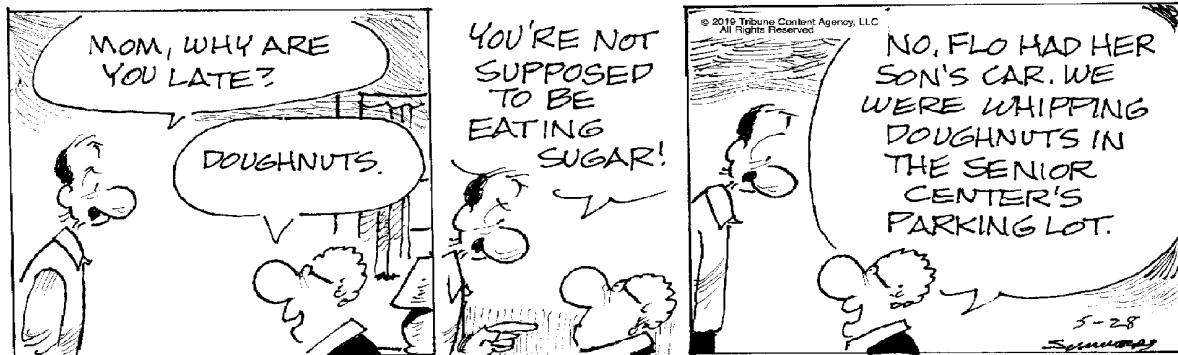
## Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



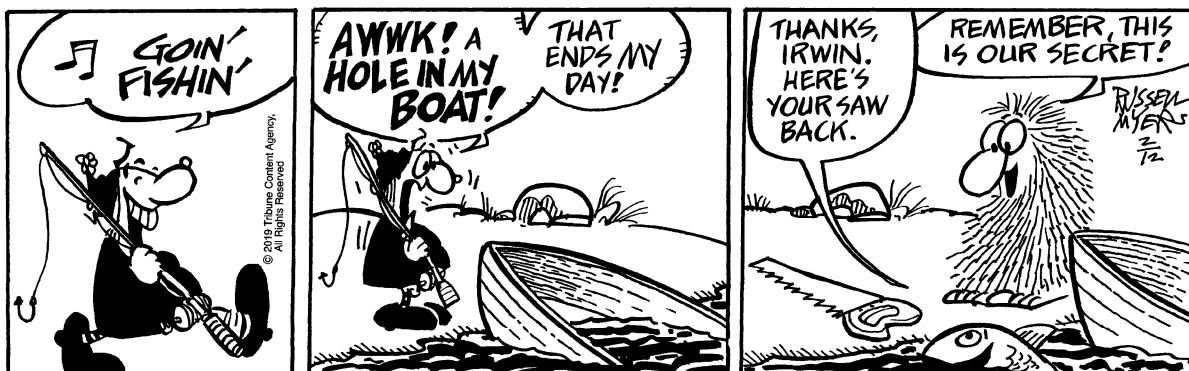
## Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



## Bound & Gagged by Dana Summers



## Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



## SCRABBLE BRAND

G<sub>2</sub> R<sub>1</sub> A<sub>1</sub> M<sub>3</sub> S<sub>1</sub>

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A <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	Y <sub>4</sub>	M <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	P <sub>3</sub>	Triple Word Score	RAK 1
A <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	K <sub>5</sub>	P <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>		RAK 2
E <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	H <sub>4</sub>	H <sub>4</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>		RAK 3
I <sub>1</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	G <sub>2</sub>	F <sub>4</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	P <sub>3</sub>	2nd Letter Double	RAK 4
A <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	H <sub>4</sub>		RAK 5

PAR SCORE 265-275  
BEST SCORE 350

FIVE RACK TOTAL  
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 4th Edition. SOLUTION page 30

For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com.

06-15

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

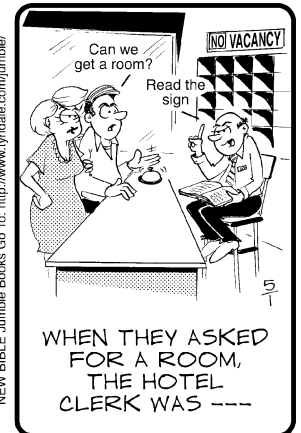
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LERED

REGUP

ICETOX

INCLEP



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

Ans: ○○○○○○○○○○○

Answers  
Jumbles: ELDER PURGE EXOTIC PENCIL  
Answer: When they asked for a room, the hotel clerk was - PREOCCUPIED





## Fires along Main St., Part I

**Sandy McReynolds**  
*Gill Room Historian*

*Part II will appear in a future issue.*

For those that have not participated in the yearly tour, here's a briefing of the historic fires along Main Street. The guided walking tour is offered on the Saturday of Whipple City Festival weekend (June 20th, this year).

The Galvin House, in former years known as the Thompson or Van Kirk house, was located on the corner of Academy and Main — where the library currently sits. This large, Victorian mansion was built in the 1870s by James Thompson.

In November 1966, on a nasty, sub-zero night, a fire began somewhere “around or beneath the fireplace in the living room.” The fire secretly crept through the cellar, up through the brick-lined partitions and false ceilings before the flames were noticed as they burst through the roof of the structure around three a.m.

When the fire department arrived, the smoke was so intense, approximately 350,000 gallons of water were used to extinguish the blaze. The house was destroyed and was later fully razed. What remained was the carriage house in the back of the property, which still stands today as a residence.

We'll travel further up the street towards St. Paul's parsonage, where in January 1925 a fire began in the kitchen. The structure, originally built in 1816, had an extensive renovation in 1905, including new windows, doors, and the rear wing raised to match the roof line. When the fire broke out, Mrs. Burton, along with her mother, her two small children and Mr. Burton were all inside. Panic ensued when Mrs. Burton could not exit the back of the house and was unable to unlock the front door, leaving all but Mr. Burton to escape through a window.

This was one of the times in the history of Greenwich that the fire alarm failed to sound a notification to the community. Coinciden-

tally, both switches were thrown at the same time, which in turn blew the fuse. All survived the fire; the building suffering much smoke and water damage however.

Now, we're perhaps to the most famous fire of all to the Village of Greenwich. The White Swan Hotel. The building that is still legend to all that reside here, even for the generations that were never granted the opportunity to experience it. We're a few weeks away from the 49th anniversary of this devastating fire, which tragically claimed three lives.

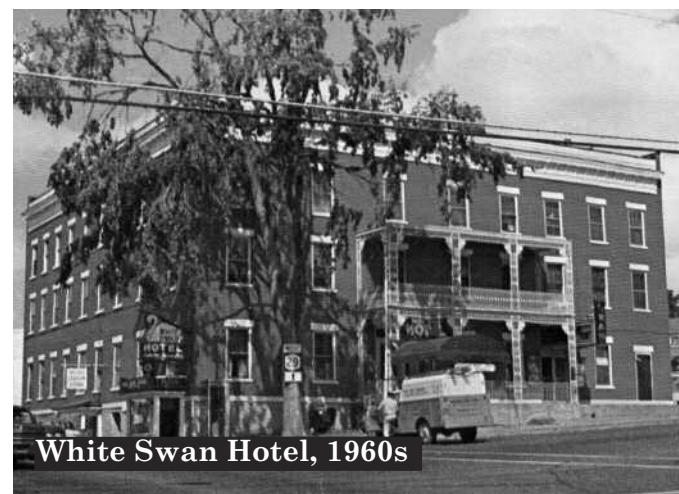
The three-story hotel was built in 1851 as a replacement to a smaller wooden framed structure, constructed in the very early days of our community (1810 by David Whipple). The famed destination has gone by several names over the years —The Hotel on Washington Square, Union House, Temperance House, Blakely House, Hamilton House, then finally as the White Swan. Now, the site is occupied by Trustco Bank.

In the early morning hours of Saturday February 13, 1971, calls were received by the village fire department — The White Swan Hotel was engulfed in flames. People were entrapped on the upper floors of the hotel, some hanging out of windows ready to jump to safety.

**‘On Feb. 13, 1971,  
the White Swan  
Hotel was in flames.’**

Men playing cards in the Elks Club across the street heard the screams and rushed to offer assistance, convincing the men on the third floor to remain there and not jump — help was on the way. A ladder from the Garret home was carried to the hotel by Miss Garret and Mr. William Murphy; the ladder only reached to the second story but was able to assist in the rescue of Mr. John Gleason. The men of the Greenwich fire company arrived minutes after the first call came in, their extension ladder was able to reach the three remaining men trapped on the third floor awaiting rescue.

Not everyone knew the hotel was on fire, there were some in the bar who had not an inkling as to the chaos going on above. It



wasn't until the firemen arrived to clear the building that they learned of the fire.

As part of the mutual aid call, the Hudson Falls department was called in with their aerial ladder truck (the closest one in the area as of 1971) arriving a half hour after the call. The aerial truck was credited with saving the adjoining buildings and bringing the fire under control. One hundred firemen from Middle Falls, Argyle, Cambridge, Easton, Salem, Schuylerville as well as Greenwich and Hudson Falls assisted in the battle. It was four hours after the first call came in before the fire was considered under control.

Sadly, the fire claimed three men who resided on the upper floors: Gail Gilchrist, 83; Edward A. Tefft Sr., 75; and Raymond W. Worden, 71. All the men were residents of the hotel. Six men were rescued. Four businesses were wiped out: Foster's Liquor Store, McCarthy's Barber Shop, Glenville Opticians, and the restaurant operated by Mrs. Florence Smith.

*To be continued...*

# Political nastiness drives cynicism

As of press time, endless Senate presidential impeachment proceedings are filling the morning TV airwaves, preempting soap operas and judge shows, and really going nowhere. The speakers on the right are all on one page, the speakers on the left are all on the other, so it's extremely hard to find the truth, which likely falls somewhere in the middle. Perhaps we should just have one of the preempted TV judges decide on this matter.

And all of this would be riveting theater if it also weren't so unfortunate for politics at all other levels, and governance in this country. What happens nationally filters down to us.

So what will happen is, local candidates for congress and other levels will now fill our airwaves, mailboxes and social

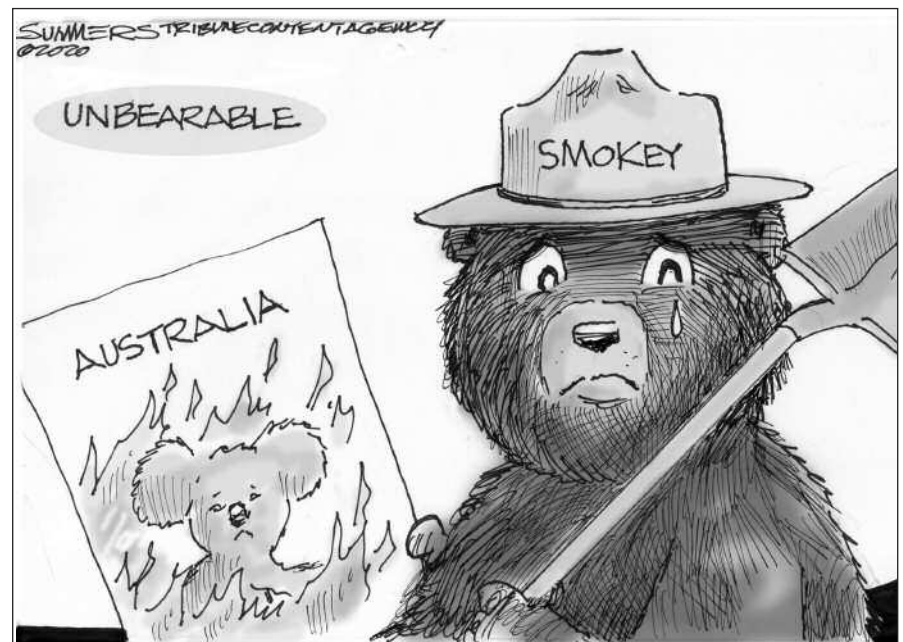
media feeds with negative ads, claiming everything that's "wrong" about their opponent, whether true or not. And we're all resigned to that.

Even Facebook states they will not fact-check any political ads. This year will bring us more Internet falsehoods than 2016, an election year that's been noted as a turning point in political strategy – the Internet is a place where anyone, from any country, can say anything about anyone and create rumors and innuendos. On Facebook, you don't even have to put your name on the ad – the ad could come from some obscure PAC, or someone who makes up a fake newspaper from his mom's basement. Such negativity also breeds apathy, and many would-be voters end up staying home on Election Day.

So here's what we'd like to see candidates do (and we'd like to see voters reward this): Positively campaign. Ignore the opposing candidate – tell us

about YOU. Don't tell us why we should vote *against* your opponent. Tell us why we should vote for *you*. Wouldn't that be refreshing?

### Political Cartoon of the Week by Dana Summers



# Why very few people go to meetings

We're relatively new to the local newspaper game, but we are veterans when it comes to going to government meetings and writing about them.

One thing that stands out to us, going to various meetings in our local coverage area, is how few members of the public actually attend most meetings. Sure, if a board is giving out proclamations for public service, or some other photo op, those being honored usually show up, but that's about it.

The lack of attendance at meetings should be of concern to local politicians. These are the people who vote, after all. More importantly, these are the people they serve. Without public attendance, a meeting is that proverbial tree falling in the forest.

Now, to be fair, local newspapers play a role in this problem. If local media actu-

ally analyzed the news in objective, reader-friendly ways, members of the public may feel more compelled to go to meetings. We at the Journal & Press are eager to improve such communications, as a public right.

**'Meetings need more exposition. Bring in experts, use PowerPoint. Educate us.'**

But the fault also lies with various boards, who feel informing the public comes down to publishing legal classified ads in tiny fonts in the back of newspapers, written in lawyer-ese, and, then, posting very spartan agendas on antiquated looking web

sites. Agendas need to be more fully written. Web sites need to be more inviting.

Meetings also need more exposition. Some meetings occur at a table not facing the audience. Some treat audience members who speak up as a nuisance. It seems some boards rifle through an agenda, and it's not clear what they are voting on. Often, it seems like a topic was pre-discussed before the meeting and the vote is merely a formality. More open discussion is needed. Elected officials should view meetings as an explanatory program *for* the public, where they clearly demonstrate why they are voting on a topic. Bring in experts, require potential vendors to make their cases at a podium, use PowerPoint. Educate us.

If the meetings are made useful to the public, they will attend. Isn't that what's wanted?



## Local Athletes

# Indoor track, basketball shines

**THEY DID IT AGAIN.** Pictured (L-R): Chris Albrecht, Charlie Gartner, Connor Smith and Bill Bink of the Greenwich Witches Boys Varsity Indoor Track 4x200m Relay Team at Yale University last week. As previously reported, they broke the 16-year-old school record for the 4x200 relay at the Armory in NYC with a time of 1:39.59 on December 20th, 2019 – and now have reset their own record on January 10, 2020 at Yale with a time of 1:38.70!

**NOT TO BE OUTDONE.** Members of the Greenwich Central HS Indoor track and

field team competed at the Yale Invitational and the Dartmouth Relays this weekend.

Notable performances at Yale included the girls distance medley team of pictured (L-R) Brynne Wright, Emily Skiff, Brooke Wright and Quinn Collins winning the large school (over 600) division in 12:44.30.

Quinn Collins was 7th in the 1000M race (3:03.92), and was followed by Skiff, who was 14th, in 3:09.42.

Brooke Wright ran a personal record 10:42.24 in the 3000M race as the first of three Witches finishing in under 11:00 min-

utes. Brynne Wright and Nina Sgambelluri were the other two runners.

At Dartmouth, Damon Brownell tossed the weight throw 41' 3/4" to become the 9th best thrower in Section 2. Freshman throwing standouts Kiersten Alling and Keegan Collins also had fine showings. Alling threw the shot 32' 4", just inches from her personal record of 33' 1 3/4", to finish 7th. She followed this with a personal record weight throw performance of 32' 8 3/4". Collins continued to climb in the ranks, throwing a new personal record of 28' 2 1/2" in the shot put.



**CURTIS SCORES 39; GREENWICH GRABS VICTORY AT SCHUYLERVILLE.** The Witches rode Alex Curtis's (No. 21) hot hand to a much needed win; he scored 39 points, a career high. Luke Pemrick (No. 5) chipped in 9 points in a come-from-behind victory to help take down Schuylerville 83-76 in overtime on Jan. 21. Jesse Kuzmich (pictured, bottom left) scored 17 points. Eighth grader Lukas Sherman dropped in a shot in from the lane, scoring 11 for the Black Horses. Owen Sherman (No. 5) had 9 points and assisted on a backdoor layup. (Photos by Dan and Kemm Pemrick.)

# Right Up Your Alley

**Paul Bodnar**  
*Journal & Press*

Did you watch the recent Pro Bowler's Tour? If not, you missed a terrible show and a piece of history. Tommy Jones was in the field the same week he was inducted into the Hall of Fame. He was the second seed in the tournament which had 26 year old Darren Tang as the leader. After Hall of Famer Chris Barnes, who, along with Tommy each had won 19 times on the pro tour, won his first two games very easily, he bowled his friend Tommy Jones. This game was far from a high scoring one which saw Tommy defeat Chris 190-169. Neither bowler could strike and there were some open frames. This set up the title match with 41 year old Tommy bowling 26 year old Darren Tang. After Tommy bowled that 190, no one knew what might happen as the lanes became increasingly difficult, but Tommy rolled a perfect game of 300 in the title match to defeat Tang who had rolled a 237! The last

three balls that Tommy threw were absolutely picture perfect. Each one seemed to get better than the last one. His 300 was the 27th one on National television and the third one which was rolled in the title match. The previous ones were Mike Aulby and Bob Benoit. The victory gave Tommy \$30,000 in tournament winning and a bonus of \$10,000 for rolling the perfect game. Quite a terrific week for Tommy Jones. It is one he will never forget. I am so glad I was able to watch this performance.

Local bowler Josh Magisano, not to be outdone, rolled games of 256, 279, 268 for a huge 803 triple in the Monday United league at the Barbecue. Congratulations Josh on a great effort. My only question is why did you have to bowl it against my team? He was locked in the entire night. He bowled his series on lanes 3-4. This was Josh's second 800 series this season. He has also rolled two perfect games as well.

Most everyone who has bowled somewhat regularly knows that the bowling lane is 60 feet to the headpin from the foul line. Most bowlers know that the foul line is there for a reason and if your foot or any other part of your body touches the lane past the foul line the bowler is credited with zero for that ball. When most bowlers foul it is because they stick on the approach and their foot goes over the line. Many centers do not put the foul lights on for one reason or another, so when they are not on, it is up to the bowler to "fess" up to fouling and taking zero for that shot. When the bowler continually fouls shot after shot and does not call the foul on themselves, "the friendly game of bowling" now isn't so friendly.

Obviously, if the bowler fouls regularly, he or she needs to change the length of their approach so they do not go over the foul line. No one wants to be considered a "bad guy" by informing the bowler they have fouled, but it is a clear violation of the rules. Even my 10 year old grandson and six year old

granddaughter know what happens if their foot goes over the foul line. Someone who has been bowling any length of time should definitely know that rule, if they do not know any other rules! This has been an ongoing problem and certainly can impact the outcome of a game or match. The person who fouls or their team will say that they are gaining no advantage by fouling, so why should anyone care and be a hard nose and enforce it. You want to win and lose fair and square, I have no interest in winning something I did not deserve to win. Obviously, some people disagree with that.

Many years ago we had a bowler foul on a league night when the foul lights were on and insisted he did not foul. He was the only bowler who fouled, in fact he fouled two or three times that night. He bowled an honor score that night and received recognition when he never bowled that game! So, do you say anything or say nothing? You be the judge of that. When you are on the losing end of this type of violation, I wonder how happy you will be?

## The Newspaper Archives

### Mayor passes; essay winner

*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 another historic paper, The Fort Edward Advertiser, 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 early Febru-*

*aries many decades ago:*

**FEB. 7, 1940** – There is said to be a good prospect that an appropriation of \$57,500 in the federal budget for 1941 for the purpose of enlarging and improving the Saratoga Battlefield park, according to dispatches from Washington. Rep. E. Harold Cluett of Troy has been working to secure consideration.

**FEB. 10, 1960** – Albert K.

Little, mayor of the village of Greenwich, died last Wednesday morning in Albany hospital after an illness of about three weeks duration. ... He was serving his second term as mayor ... and spent countless hours improving the water system and planning for the Greenwich Sesquicentennial. ... He was born Jan. 29, 1910, and in 1945 had partnered with the late John Lyttle in the operation of the Lyttle and Lyttle grocery store. On the death of Mr. Lyttle in 1952, Little be-

came owner. He was 50.

**FEB. 7, 1980** – Mrs. Orson K. Spurr of the Ondawa-Cambridge DAR spoke at the chapter meeting at the Brieman Building of the Cambridge United Presbyterian Church. Ms. F. Donald Flewelling conducted the business meeting. Guests Michele Clay and her mother, Mrs. Robert Clay, were introduced ... Michele is a fifth grade student at Cambridge School and her essay on "Hats in the American Revolution" was chosen as best essay. She was given a certificate and a flag pin.



# Events coming to your library

Love your local library? Here are some upcoming events.

**Schuylerville Public Library:** Same Page Book Club (for adults, all levels), Monday, Feb. 3 at noon; Beginning Knitting (bring a straight needle, size 8-10, yarn provided), on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 6 p.m.; “From Mindless to

Mindful Eating,” on Thursday, Feb. 6, at 6:30 p.m.; and Pokemon Tournament (for kids; feel free to bring a handheld gaming device), Saturday, Feb. 8, noon. Questions? Contact 518-695-6641.

**Salem’s Bancroft Public Library:** The Book Club, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2 p.m.; Scrabblers,

Wednesday, Feb. 5 and 12, 10 a.m.; Story Time! (for babies, toddlers and preschoolers), Wednesday, Feb. 5 and 12, at 10:30 a.m.; Lego Club (all ages), Friday, Feb. 7 and 14, 2:30 p.m.; Teen Takeover, Friday, Feb. 7, 6 p.m.; and Adult Craft Night, Thursday, Feb. 13, at 6 p.m. Details? Call 518-854-7463.

**Greenwich Free Library:** “Winter Blues and How to Beat Them,” Tuesday, Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m.; Film Screenings With the Agricultural Stewardship Association, Wednesdays at 6 p.m.; and “Sew a Reusable Grocery Bag,” Saturday, Feb. 15, at 11 a.m. More? Call 518-692-7157.

*Have a library-related event to share? Send it to editor@journalandpress.com.*

## Gun/bow safety

Cornell Cooperative Extension Washington County is hosting two 4-H Shooting Sports programs for youth. This eight to ten week series covers archery, air guns, .22 caliber rifle, shotguns, muzzle-loaders as well as conservation. The main emphasis is on safe handling of firearms. Hunter Safety Certification and the Bow Hunter Safety Certification are also included.

The two sites are: Hudson Falls Fish & Game Club for the north-

ern site, which begins February 5 and Salem Rifle & Pistol Club and the Owlkill Rod & Gun Club for the southern site, which begins February 1. Youth must be at least twelve years old to participate in this program. The fee is \$30 per youth for 4-H members and \$35 for non-members (this includes 4-H enrollment).

For more information or to register, contact the Washington County CCE office at 518-746-2560 or washington@cornell.edu.

## Jody Coffinger’s 80th

An 80th Birthday Open House for Jody Coffinger will be held on Saturday, February 1, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Bacon Hill Reformed Church on Route 32 in Schuylerville. An RSVP is not needed. Light refreshments will be served. Event organizers say, “Your present is your presence!”



## School News & Notes

# You can’t wiggle out of this assignment

Cambridge Elementary School has been active with extra-curricular activities. The school’s Agriculture Club created a worm composting bin with the plan of using the worm castings for growing seeds in the spring. Mrs. Rae Schraver’s classroom is now home to three composting bins. Participants are in grades 3-6. **Pictured** (L-R): Jack Rufo, Kadence Kelly, Dalton Blanchette, Ravi Bell (front center), Arthur Van DeWater and Franklin Ziehm.

On January 13, Katherine Danforth, Administrative and Artistic Associate at Hubbard Hall visited the 3rd and 4th grade Odyssey of the

Mind teams to share acting tips with them, which included voice projection, diction, dramatic movement, and improvisation. These skills will come in handy when the teams compete at the regional WSWHE BOCES Odyssey of the Mind on Saturday, February 29. The competition will be held at Queensbury Middle School and the public is invited to attend. Hubbard Hall is one of the district’s many strategic planning partners. **Pictured** (L-R): Mary Steele, Ravi Bell, Daisy Bassett, Rylee Santacroce, Cooper Townsend, Kade Webster, Hayden Kvinlaug and Quentin Schneider.



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miston, Clerk, Board of Education

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# Cumby's site remains untouched

**Darren Johnson**  
*Journal & Press*

The final page of text in this and future editions will be called *The Last Word*, and will sum up my feelings since the last issue.

It will mostly be a column – in other words, opinion – but with news elements.

And, for this premiere, I didn't want the space to be devoted to Cumberland Farms; you know, the gas station/convenience store chain. I had wanted to write about "Cumby's" in the *news* section of this paper. I drive all over the place, and have seen new, supersized Cumby's popping up in places like Mechanicville and Malta. They are an example of "if you build it, they will come," as these locations were instantly popular and heavily trafficked upon their openings. And one such store has been slated to happen in Greenwich.

So I studied scores of pages of minutes from the Greenwich Town Council and Planning Board and got all the details. The new Cumby's is to be 5275 square feet and to be on a quiet corner with an old-school sign that says "Lincoln Av." and an abandoned house, fronting Route 29, next to Whalen Chevy. It's maybe a football field or so away from the current Cumby's, which is in rough shape with a cracked lot and dirty facade. I had taken a photo of the building a couple

of weeks ago, after a 3 a.m. robbery there. The new site is supposed to have four pumps – each pump has four handles, so 16 cars could gas up at once – and 31 parking spaces.

Yeah, this store will be huge. So, next I contacted a person listed as the PR representative for corporate Cumby's. She seemed chipper and said she'd get back to me with some answers to my questions as to when they were going to actually break ground. The house on the property got a demolition permit, and that had to be acted upon within 12 months, so the ground breaking can't be far off. I'd seen the stores in places like Mechanicville pop up relatively quickly. They are more than gas stations. They have lots of fast food options, as well.

But, this past November, the larger Cumby's corporation was purchased by the EG Group, a British firm that has been buying up convenience store chains, like Kroger and Fastrac. And then, they moved their EG America headquarters to Cumby's hometown of Westborough, Mass., last month.

The PR flack got back to me and abruptly said she couldn't answer my questions, and not to refer to her by name in the article. She said the corporation simply had a "no comment," which seems like a strange response. The EG Group changeover must be somewhat disconcerting for the PR flack to suddenly change



**The site of the new location.**

direction like that.

The current Cumby's is just over the border, on town property, not village (interestingly, their competitor next door, Stewart's Shops, is on village property). In the past, Cumby's has requested water from the village, and Mayor Pam Fuller had said the village is considering, perhaps, running village water as far as the town traffic circle, as a moneymaker for the village.

When I posted a photo of the Lincoln Avenue property, with its green-on-white street sign, snow covered lot devoid of footprints and abandoned house with chipping paint, many people responded. Some said they had lived in the house and were sad to see it go, some worried about one of Greenwich's quietest corners – with its old-fashioned sign – becoming one of its busiest. Some wondered if there would be more traffic overall, or if that's the kind of business we really want here, but the reality is, "build it, and they will come."

Another story I've been cover-



**The current location.**

ing, about four locals opening a brewery in Schuylerville, contrasts the Cumby's story. If I have questions, I call the brewmasters, they answer. They don't send fancy lawyers to planning board meetings; they attend themselves. If something goes wrong, they will address it directly. No flacks to call. They are optimistic, not cynical. These are the kind of business owners we should be celebrating.

*And that's the last word ... for now.*

*Darren Johnson is publisher of this paper.*



**The house slated for demolition.**

## Ski/snowboard special

The Town of Easton, in cooperation with Willard Mountain Ski Area, gives Easton residents the opportunity to enroll in Willard Mountain's five-day February Holiday Camp at a reduced price. Get discounts on lift tickets, lessons, and rentals during this popular 5-day program, February 17– 21. Call 518-692-7337 for details.

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