



Auction Barn's new life

Argyle eatery unites a community

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closing, Tom made a snap decision to try to keep the restaurant open.

We tell their story on page 4.

Also in this issue, we have a good deal of sports coverage.

And we detail some big changes coming to this newspaper starting with our next issue.

This is our last issue of 2023. If you aren't currently a subscriber, consider getting all 24 issues in '24 via www.JPsubs.com.

We wish you the Happiest of Holidays and a Wonderful New Year!

Read more inside this issue



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Changes coming to this paper

Darren Johnson
Publisher

We're finishing our fourth year operating this newspaper. It's a long time, four years. Think of the time from the start of freshman year to graduation of senior year, how long that seemed; except we don't get winter, spring and summer breaks.

Regular readers will notice that I've tinkered with this paper a good deal, trying various things to increase readership, within the framework of an historic, paid-circulation community newspaper.

The thing is, ask 10 people and they all will say they want different things out of the paper – more government coverage, more school coverage, more sports coverage, police news, arts and entertainment.

And then there are regional concerns. This paper has tried to cover several towns, but people specifically want to see stories from *their* town.

The reality is, even if I hit the lottery and could hire people to do all of the above prolifically, times have changed and there just aren't enough people in sparsely populated rural regions like ours willing to pay for news, in print or online.

I've even tried offering dirt-cheap subscriptions for parents through the local PTSA with very few bites.

A recent study says that 2.5 newspapers in the US are going out of business per week; most of them historic papers with old-fashioned business models like this one.

This paper is not going to go out of business; while it would be a stretch to call it "profitable," I would call what I've done here "sustainable."

Since I revived this paper, I have been approached by two other historic newspapers in this state that, like this one four years ago, were about to go kaput. No one else wanted to own them.

I told the owners of those papers what would have to be done to save the papers – while improving their journalism – but they just didn't see it. One of the two papers simply ended up being given to an employee, the other totally ghosted its subscribers and is forever gone.

The Old-Fashioned Business Model

The Journal & Press is what is known as a paid-circulation newspaper with a periodical mailing permit. The only other local paper with a similar model is The Eagle of Cambridge.

Other papers may be termed "free" papers; even if they use the mail, it's a different type of permit they use.

Being a paid-circulation paper has some advantages, beyond the \$2 that people may pay for it at Hannaford. They are:

- They qualify to be an "official" newspaper, so can get legal classified ads from the towns they cover.
- They are taken more seriously as "papers of record" and are included in historic archives for posterity.
- Because of that, they also get obituaries, which bring in some additional revenue.
- The aforementioned periodical mail permit allows the paper to mail in-county affordably, but also anywhere in the USA at a somewhat reasonable cost.
- Because people are paying for the paper, they take it more seriously, as well, and read it more closely. Unlike free papers,

that wholly rely on advertising to survive, a paid-circulation paper is beholden to its readers foremost, and can be independent of the forces of local commerce.

That said, because of the above, a paid-circulation paper also opens itself up to more criticism because it does carry civic-minded pieces that may at times run contrary to one political faction or the next in the town. Thus, the threats are:

- People increasingly are offended and boycott media outlets that don't align 100% with their ideology.
- The idea of "legal ads" is problematic, and in the future, legislation will change and newspapers will no longer get this revenue. Though I tend to agree that such ads can be construed as "bribes" to some newspapers, and it's better for taxpayers if such ads were simply posted online for free by the municipalities. Putting an ad in a tiny newspaper is essentially *hiding* it from the public.
- As mentioned, younger generations are not used to paying for news, and they won't ever. That doesn't portend well for these newspapers, as it's necessary for them to gain readers as older ones move to, say, Florida.
- The same generation doesn't feel placing obituaries in a printed paper is as important, and this revenue stream will also be gone soon.
- The post office keeps raising its rates; and who knows what the future of the USPS is, anyway?
- But, at the same time, there just aren't enough people who live locally to make a news web site viable via web ads, which require lots of impressions and click-throughs to make money.

So, What's the Solution?

First of all, I think the print model is necessary for The Journal & Press to survive, and I don't want to make this wholly a free paper, which means it will just become another ad vehicle and not much else. People don't really *read* the free papers around here. They *peruse* them, perhaps, but *read*? No. Nobody does that. And, to me, that matters. I wouldn't want to be involved with a simple Pennysaver.

However, I have lived in regions with decent free papers. They can indeed have a lot of the same elements, and gravity, of the paid-circulation papers.

Here at the Journal & Press, we haven't covered as many town, village and school board meetings as we would have liked because we would run into the "can't please everyone" dilemma. Because if we cover one board meeting in one town, how about the other six towns we



also distribute in?

I'd like to cover one town really well. And that town will be Greenwich. It's where we're based, it's where the newspaper has historically been based.

In Greenwich, we will remain a paid-circulation newspaper, but add more coverage of town and village meetings and school meetings and sports even deeper than we have. The revenue from the paid model, even though it's not much, could help pay freelancers to cover more things.

However, in other towns, we will become a free paper with a somewhat different design and some different content (to maintain our postal permit, the paid-circulation paper needs to be notably different, if we print more than 50% of our total run for free distribution).

People in other towns can still get the fuller paper via paid mail subscription, but in most of these towns, there only is a Stewart's Shops for us to sell in. It's not a very great place to sell newspapers. Instead in those towns, we will have free racks and news boxes. Hopefully, many of the free readers will like what they see and opt for the paid version of the paper.

We proved with our Tractor Parade issue last month that we could pull off a hybrid paid/free model. The free version of our paper will be that small tabloid size and full color.

We're also going to enhance our web site and put out an e-newsletter. We gather so much content, but don't do much with it beyond print. This will help us grow new audiences, and maybe sell some subscriptions that way, as well.

If you are a paid subscriber, wherever you live, you'll still get this paper in the mail twice a month as expected. But for those who are more casual readers (who we'd like to convert to more serious readers), they will be able to pick up a free version of this paper via racks in towns outside Greenwich.

Based upon all I have learned with this newspaper and others, and the forces that are against us, I believe this paid/free hybrid model is the only way to go. I don't know of any other papers doing this, and maybe they are smarter than me. But we have to try something to keep from stagnating, and eventually, fading away.

Hopefully, you'll like all of this. Have a happy holiday season and great new year!

Explore the outdoors by birding

Maureen Cary
Journal & Press

If you're looking for an outdoor activity that's fun for adults and kids alike, consider borrowing a birding backpack from your local library. The backpack is stocked with everything you need to get started, along with birding tips from the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, Inc., (SAAS).

The birding backpack project was created by SAAS to encourage a new generation of local birders. Library members can check out and return the backpack from their local library just like they would a book. Libraries in Greenwich, Salem, Argyle, Cambridge, and Schuylerville participate in the program so far, along with 9 other libraries in the larger SAAS region.

"The goal is to encourage people of all ages and abilities to spend time outdoors, explore new places, pay attention to birds and the little things in nature, and in a perfect world, become more interested in protecting our environment," said Laurie Murphy, SAAS Treasurer and birding backpack project coordinator.

No birding experience is necessary to borrow and use the backpack. You can get started in your own backyard or a local park. Each backpack contains two pair of binoculars, a laminated guide of common birds of New York, birding tips, a list of birding spots customized for each library's location, and a journal. To keep kids engaged, the backpack also includes a Birding Adventures for Kids book and a Bingo game for kids to check off things from their outing, like squirrel tracks, signs of a woodpecker, the smell of evergreens, and a soaring bird.

Greenwich Free Library Director Sarah Murphy (no relation to SAAS's Murphy) said she's thrilled to add the backpack to the library. "It complements things like lawn games, fishing poles and a ukulele that are all available to borrow here, and it enables patrons to try things out they otherwise might not be able to try." She said response to the backpack has been positive since they acquired it in October but expects she'll see even more interest in warmer weather.

But SAAS's Murphy said a birding adventure in the winter can be a great activity for the whole family and can help fight cabin fever. She said winter birding is a good time to see species like hawks, eagles, and certain waterfowl. In addition to spotting familiar species that are here year-round, like blue jays, black-capped chickadees and American crows, Murphy said it's fun to look for some birds like dark-eyed juncos, rarely seen locally in the summer but more common in winter.

To help identify bird species by sight and sound, SAAS recommends downloading the free Merlin app from Cor-

nell Lab of Ornithology and visiting Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird site for bird species that have been spotted in this area. <https://ebird.org/explore>

Birding offers a way for adults and kids to rediscover local parks and trails and to explore brand new trails and conservation areas. Some of the birding spots recommended in the backpack are walkable from library locations while others are a short drive away.

Recommendations include Riverside, Mowry and Dorr Parks in Greenwich, Denton Sanctuary in Greenwich, Saratoga National Historic Park, Wilton Wildlife Preserve, Hudson Crossing Park in Schuylerville, Salem Art Works, Carters Pond Wildlife Management in East Greenwich, Lake Lauderdale County Park in Cambridge, the Hebron Nature Preserve, Merck Forest in Rupert, Vt., Betar Byway in South Glens Falls, the Glens Falls Feeder Canal Trail, and Washington County Grasslands in Fort Edward.

Librarians interested in obtaining a birding backpack for their library should contact SAAS's Murphy for more information at info@southernadironackaudubon.org.

SAAS is the local chapter of the National Audubon Society. It is a volunteer non-profit organization, whose mission is to preserve natural habitats for birds and promote environmental education. SAAS offers regular outings and events that are open to the public, like local guided bird walks, and a winter raptor safari, which are posted on their Facebook page and website. <https://www.southernadironackaudubon.org>

Upcoming SAAS events include its 40th Annual Christmas Bird Count on Saturday December 16th. The CBC is a community science event and a way to build birding skills by joining other birders to count birds in parts of a 15-mile diameter circle around the Glens Falls region. New birders do not need to be bird ID experts. They can help spot birds and keep team records during the day.

SAAS also hosts expert-led bird walks on the first Saturday of the month. Its first for 2024 will be on Saturday, January 6th at the Spring Run Trail in Saratoga Springs starting at 8 a.m.

For more information email info@southernadironackaudubon.org.



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Surviving the first year, ready for more

Robin Lyle
Journal & Press

Growing up in suburbia, I was envious of the small town life I saw on TV; places where people knew their neighbors and looked out for each other. Upon moving to a small town as an adult, however, I found that supportive community elusive. I didn't have children in the school system or belong to a church. It wasn't until I retired and had the time to join local organizations that I finally felt that connection. Argyle had always been a beautiful place to me, but now, it is much more like home.

We don't have a community center in Argyle for residents of different ages to gather together around common interests. But we do have a few places that fill that need. In addition to the school and churches, the library and Legion, it is also the places we gather to eat and drink that support connection. The Auction Barn Restaurant is one such place.

Tom Williams and his husband, Brian Hafner, had eaten at the Auction Barn since they were kids. Growing up, Brian remembers going there "since I was four." Tom went every Wednesday after the auction. But operating a restaurant was nothing either had ever considered before.

In the Fall of 2022, the owners of the Auction Barn decided to close their doors. They'd kept the restaurant going through the dark days of Covid. But managing three additional businesses and working overtime to cover labor shortages finally wore them down. Hearing that this community gathering place was closing, Tom made a snap decision to try to keep the restaurant open.

"We used to come here all the time. We came here for lunch one day, and learned they were going to be closing," Brian said. "Tom's like, 'let's go talk to Brady.' And I'm half paying attention. I'm on my phone, we walk over, and Tom says, 'hey, Brady, you consider renting it?' Meanwhile, I'm wondering who he knows that wants it."

Brian's late realization that Tom wanted to run the restaurant themselves didn't prevent him from supporting the idea. "With the age difference... I retired...I didn't plan on this. But I try to think, 'what did I do when I was his age?' I wanted to do this or that. And I did it. So if he comes up with some hare-brained idea like this, I'm going to support it."

The men used profits from their sideline of flipping houses to invest in the restaurant and took a few weeks to make some upgrades. Since neither had experience running a restaurant, they hired a chef from Lake George and scheduled a "soft" opening for January 18th of this year.

"We hired him to run the place, to teach us what to do and everything," Brian explained. "We decided to have a soft opening on a Mon-



Teresa, Brian, Tom, Jill, and Kerry

day morning – 40 friends and family to see how things would roll. And it fell apart right at the beginning. Second order that came in that Monday morning needed a product [that was supposed to be prepared ahead of time], and it wasn't made. And the chef shut the place down, went over and made it, and just glared at everybody while he did it."

With one day to recover before their official, public opening, the couple decided to let go of the professional chef and see if the staff could take over. "We came in Tuesday and cut the head right off the kitchen. He was gone," Tom says, explaining that ever since they've relied

'We came in Tuesday and cut the head right off the kitchen. He was gone.'

on the cooks and waitresses. "Of course, we've learned a lot in the last year, but they do the menus, they do the ingredients and everything. We count on them, and they know everything. And if we have any questions, we go to them. I mean, they are the ones that run the restaurant."

These days, two full-time and several part-time staff keep the restaurant humming. Jill Healy and Teresa Gardner are full-time cooks. Jill does all the baking, menus and shopping.

Tom and Brian are "hands on" managers, pitching in with waiting tables and cleaning.

The original chocolate cake recipe from the restaurant's beginning in 1959 is still on the menu and homemade desserts are plentiful. The daily salad bar has been expanded to include a baked potato bar and soups, and new specials are added regularly. A small gift shop selling Auction Barn t-shirts, and locally produced crafts and food sits along one wall.

Big tables and plenty of seating make it comfortable for larger groups. Often, tables will be marked "reserved" for a club or organization that relies on the Auction Barn for their meetings and social gatherings. The Greenwich retired teachers, Argyle Democrats, Car Club, Lake Ladies, and several alumni groups show up regularly. Ft. Hudson residents arrive for a monthly luncheon, as do military veterans for a free breakfast on the first Wednesday of every month.

This community gathering spot is assured at least another year as the couple just signed a new lease. "It is a lot more work than we ever expected. But thankfully, it's the girls out back and in here – they have our back. That's where we got lucky."

Come for a photo with Santa on December 16. Look for their one year anniversary celebrations in January. Stop in for the food, you just might see your neighbor. At least for another year, the Auction Barn will continue to nourish the community.

Police dog has its day

Taser, the Washington County Sheriff's Department's enthusiastic Australian Cattle Dog, and his handler, Sr. Civil Clerk Hannah Terrio, have successfully passed their TDI (Therapy Dogs International) Certification testing requirements.

Sheriff Jeffrey J. Murphy was approached last June and the idea of adding a Therapy Dog to the ranks was proposed to help enhance our department's community outreach and support. This idea was quickly embraced by Sheriff Murphy, and Taser joined our team shortly after.

Now, at 1.5 years old, Taser has been a symbol of dedication and happiness. Trained meticulously at North Country Paws for Obedience

since August 2022, he's become a cherished presence, offering comfort and support across various departments.

Their TDI Certification, a rigorous assessment of a dog's composure and ability in realistic service scenarios, is a testament to Hannah and Taser's partnership and commitment. Taser excelled in tasks crucial for a therapy dog, from maintaining calmness in bustling environments to navigating medical equipment and interacting peacefully with strangers.

Their success symbolizes more than just passing a test – it represents a new chapter in Sheriff Murphy's ongoing commitment to his 'Community First' motto. Taser and Hannah are not just a team; they signify a growing trend across



New York, where more law enforcement offices are recognizing the immense value of therapy dogs in fostering community relations and enhancing the work environment.

SUNY Adirondack adds board members

SUNY Adirondack Foundation welcomed three new members to its board of directors this academic year: James Burkett, Desma Sheerer and Robert Bullock.

“Our board is excited to welcome Desma, Jim and Bob,” said Bill Hart, board president. “As we continue our important work with SUNY Adirondack, their expertise and connections in our community will help us achieve our goals for access, completion and post-graduation success.”

Burkett is a member of the Warren County and New York State bar associations. A graduate of SUNY Binghamton and Albany Law School, Burkett is a principal at Bartlett, Pontiff, Stewart, & Rhodes, P.C.

He was an Appellate Court attorney for New York State Supreme Court, and prior director of The Estate Planning Council of Eastern New York. He is on the boards of directors of Adirondack Samaritan Counseling Center, serving as vice president; The Hyde



Collection, where he is on the executive committee and is chair of the Governance Committee; and Greater Adirondack Home Aides, for which he serves as vice president.

“I feel it is always critical to have convenient, affordable educational opportunities available to traditional and nontraditional students in our backyard,” Burkett said. “It provides each student the flexibility to enhance their knowledge and experience.”

Sheerer is a practice leader at Hudson Headwaters Women’s Health. She is an alumna of SUNY Adirondack who earned master’s degrees in Health Care Management and Teaching and Literature.

She served as project manager for Hunt Companies, practice manager at New York Oncology Hematology, practice administrator at Arizona Oncology, and practice manager at Arizona Oncology and Pinnacle Colon and Rectal Surgeons.

“I have a great appreciation for the access



to higher education this institution provides to students in the area,” Sheerer said. “SUNY Adirondack provided me with an education that opened doors to opportunities I otherwise would not have known existed.”

Bullock is an adjunct professor in SUNY Adirondack’s Business division and oversees the college’s StartUp ADK program. He was chief operating officer of Make-A-Wish of Northeastern New York and former deputy director for Operations at Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government. He served as president of New York State Archives Partnership Trust and director of Institutional Advancement at Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute.



He is a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force, serving 20 years as a public affairs officer for the New York Air National Guard. He earned a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Potsdam and a master’s in Business Administration from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Battenkill Chorale readies for concert

On Sunday afternoon, January 14, at 4:00 p.m., the Battenkill Chorale will present “From Light to Night” featuring John Rutter’s “Requiem” scored for chorus, soprano solo, and chamber ensemble. In the Chorale’s long history and vast repertoire, this marks the first presentation of John Rutter’s “Requiem.” Liz Nielsen returns as soprano soloist; Chorale Accompanist Erich Borden will play the organ in the chamber ensemble, joining forces with Perri

Morris, cello, Norman Thibodeau, flute, Karinda Caldicott, harp, Kelly Lockwood, oboe, Bob Halak, timpani, and Joan Eason, glockenspiel under the direction of Artistic Director, Gene Marie Callahan.

The program begins with “Season of Light” by Jacob Narverud, and includes Andy Beck’s “Carry the Light,” Kyle Pederson’s “Can We Sing the Darkness to Light,” Dan Forrest’s “Light Beyond Shadow,” and Susan LaBarr’s

“Where the Light Begins,” and a setting of the Welsh “All Through the Night” arranged by William Averitt.

There is one performance only for this concert and tickets will be sold at the door. General Admission is \$25; Student Admission is \$15. Reserve seats by credit card starting January 2, 2024, by calling (518) 531-6618, emailing battenkilltickets@gmail.com or on the website: battenkillchorale.org.

Cambridge finally gives up on Indian name

The State of New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division in Albany County rendered a decision Dec. 7 in the matter of the district’s logo and nickname. The appeal was dismissed, as moot, without costs.

In response, the district issued the following statement:

The Board of Education exhausted all avenues in relation to the mascot issue. The Board is now committed to moving forward in adopting a new mascot.

This fall, the class presidents, as well as the National Honor Society (NHS) and Student Council presidents, convened to bring student voice into the process of selecting a new mascot. The NHS and senior class president were selected to represent the student body to work with the Board in the selection process.

The Board has approved surveys to be distributed to members of the student body. The first survey asked about ideal characteristics of a new mascot and some potential mascot ideas. The top characteristics were: strength, pride,

power, loyalty and wisdom/knowledge. Additionally, the orange and black school colors will remain.

The Board has also met with the student leaders to discuss the mascot selection process. As a result of those meetings, the Board and students are developing another student survey that will be released in the coming weeks. All of the survey feedback will be shared with the Board for consideration of a new mascot.

The Board plans to take action on a new mascot in January.

High schooler awards

Hudson Crossing Park invites graduating high school or homeschooled seniors from Saratoga, Washington, and Warren Counties to submit an application for the 2024 Hudson Crossing Park (HCP) Seedling 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. Applicants are asked to submit an essay of approximately 1,000 words or a 3-5 minute video describing how their leadership and service have made a positive difference.

The HCP Seedling Award includes \$150 cash and three (3) tickets to Hudson Crossing Park’s Banquet by the Bridge on Thursday, June 13, 2024 for the winner and two parents/guardians/guests. Submissions should be received no later than 5pm on Wednesday, May 1, 2024. Send to info@hudsoncrossingpark.org.

Racing City Chorus concert

To add to the Holiday spirit, the Racing City Chorus, a men’s 4-part “a Cappella” harmony group, will present a Community Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 16 at 6:30 pm in the Greenwich Central School Auditorium, 10 Gray Avenue, Greenwich, NY. The chorus will sing a repertoire of their Yuletide songs and carols.

The event is sponsored by the Easton, Centenary, Stump, Eagle Bridge and South Cambridge Methodist Churches.

The proceeds will benefit local fire departments.

General admission is \$15. Senior, Student & Vet Admission, \$12.

Tickets are available from the church members, by emailing eastonchurch126@gmail.com or at the door. Visit www.eastonumc.com for more information.



Shooting a burglar; naked and afraid

Here's our regular look at articles that appeared in *The Journal* from decades past...

180 Years Ago

December 21, 1843

Correspondence of the *Newark Daily Advertiser*, Oct. 31, 1843

Perhaps a few of your readers have heard of old Mrs. Pye, of the halfway house between this city, and Troy. She is famous in those parts and known to thousands of travelers as the woman who shot the robber in her bedroom very many years ago. She has just been buried, and I know you will be amused and interested, with some reminiscences of her life.

In early life, she came to the country from England and married a man named Pye, who kept a small tavern on the turnpike to Troy, then the chief, and almost the only one in between the two cities. Though her husband's name was on the signpost, he could never say, as Boniface did, when a stranger drove up suddenly to the door and asked, "Are you the man of the house?"

"Yes," said Boniface, "my wife has been dead these three weeks."

Not with mine host of the halfway house. Mrs. Pye was the man of the two as could be proved by 100 facts. Take one. After they had lived some years in the place, paying an annual rent for it, a mortgage on it was to be foreclosed, and the place sold. Pye told his wife they must give it up, as he had not the means to buy it, but she went into another room of the house, and brought out \$5000 in silver, which she had boarded up in the shillings ... and, knowing that she would make a safer sub-treasurer than the nominal head of the government, she had taken charge of the funds, and now produced them in a time of need, so the place was paid for, and they became proprietors.

Sometime afterward, perhaps the report of Mrs. Pye's habits of hoarding specie being spread abroad, a thief undertook to remove the deposits, and, for this purpose, entered the bed chamber of Mr. and Mrs. Pye at the dead hour of night. They were both awakened by

his movements, and the timid man covered himself under the bed clothes, while the Amazon wife seized the loaded gun, which they always kept standing by the bedside, and shot the robber. Others state that she roused her husband, gave him the gun, and that he shot the robber as he was running downstairs. Whichever account is true, all the merit of the act belongs to the woman.

But Mr. Pye died in course of time, leaving the widow sole heiress of his now handsome property. There was but one drawback to Mrs. Pye's happiness, and that was a debt of \$500 due to the barkeeper for his services. She loves money so well, that she could not bear it apart, with so much in one sum, and so she compounded the debt by marrying the creditor!

But Mrs. Pye's usual prudence failed her in this marriage, for she forgot to secure her property, and when her second husband died, he left the bulk of the property to some relatives in England; while the widow recycled but a little sum, which, with industry in economy, was barely enough for her support. She had lived in the same neighborhood until last week, when, at the age of 98 years, she was gathered with the dead.

For some years past she had had her grave clothes prepared, and had been in the habit of dressing herself in them before the looking glass to see how she would look; all but her cap; she said the fashion of caps altered so often that she would leave that decision to be made when it was wanted. The gentry in the neighborhood had been in the habit of visiting her, and ministering to her, and she distributed among them all her effects, such as, a table to one, a chair to another, the gun to another (she always kept it) and requested that she might lie three days and then be buried, and on the fifth day that her legatees should come and get their things,

These facts, and many more that I might mention, are matters of notoriety. In the region of her life and death, and now that she has been buried, a large gold plate on her coffin bought with her savings for that express purpose, I do not know that any harm will come from publishing them.

130 Years Ago

December 21, 1893

A very amusing story has just reached me concerning a prominent young society man, who has just returned from Chicago. He was boarding at the home of relatives while there, and, as large crowds came flocking in during the last week, he was so accommodating as to give up his room and sleep on a sofa in the parlor. One morning, he overslept himself, and as his door was unlocked, what was his surprise to find three pretty Louisville young women enter the room. He had presence of mind enough to roll under the sofa, and back into a dark corner, before they threw open the shutters. But although he

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Ads from 100 years ago

had tucked himself away, he had neglected to hide his clothes, which were thrown across the rocking chair. The girls saw the clothes, but, believing they had been left there accidentally by the lady of the house, thought nothing about them, and began a lively chat about the matters of the day. The young man did not mind his imprisonment at first, but grew very nervous as the minutes gradually lengthened into an hour. He stood it for two hours, but at last grew so exasperated that he thumped upon the floor, and meekly put his head out from under the sofa, and asked the young women to leave him until he put on his clothes. It is needless to say that the embarrassment was great, and that none of them mentioned it while in Chicago, but as the young man has since recovered from the shock, he has been unable to restrain himself from telling a few friends of his awkward predicament.

100 Years Ago

December 26, 1924

A young woman brought a baby boy to the Whitehall Episcopal rectory one day last week, and telling the Rector, Reverend James G. Kerr, that she was sick and unable to care for her son, and that her husband had deserted her, left the little one with Mr. Kerr and his wife.

She told the clergyman that the baby was born in Troy, November 26, and said that she was a former Whitehall girl, and had attended Trinity Episcopal Church, of which Mr. Kerr is a rector. He was formally Rector of Christ Church in Troy, and recently came to Whitehall. The woman was an utter stranger to him, Mr. Kerr says, but he and Mrs. Kerr took the baby and the young mother departed, saying that she was going to place near Buffalo, where relatives would care for her. She begged Mr. Kerr to find a good home for her son.

Much interest has been aroused among Mr. Kerr's parishioners in the youngster, and it is believed that some of them will adopt him. Until his future is finally decided upon he will find shelter and care in the Kerr home.

Please read more on the next page

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THE GREENWICH JOURNAL

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Editor's Note: \$2 in 1923 is about \$36 today, which we're happy to honor if you live in-county! Ask!

Salem jail undermanned; a panther

90 Years Ago

December 20, 1933

A report of a regular inspection of the Washington county jail at Salem made on November 23 by Cecilia D. Patton of the state department of correction renews the recommendation made in several previous reports for certain improvements at the jail. It also recommends the employment of a night jailer. The report follows:

Inspected November 23, 1933. John S Henry, sheriff. There are also a deputy, turnkey, matron, and cook. Both the sheriff and deputy are frequently absent, making it necessary for the turnkey to be on duty at times for practically 24 hours. This is a very unsatisfactory arrangement, and a jailer should be employed. The population at time of inspection was 26, all males - 23 serving sentence, three held for the grand jury; one was a minor. The highest population during the past year was 58, the lowest seven, and the average 22.

When no women are detained, the section for females is used for minors, if any are in custody.

This jail was first occupied in 1906. It is three stories in height and contains 31 cells and two large rooms. It is practically fireproof, but is connected with the courthouse - an old structure, which is not fireproof. In previous reports of inspection, it has been recommended that the stairways in the jail be made fireproof, as a fire in the courthouse under present conditions might make it impossible to remove the prisoners. This change has not been made. It has also been recommended that the niche toilets be replaced by modern ones. The expense of this improvement could be spread over considerable time, as the change could be made a section at a time. No improvements of any moment have been made in the jail since it was built and these are necessary if it is to be kept in proper and sanitary condition.

A jail physician visits the jail when called. The jail and its appurtenances were clean and in good condition.

70 Years Ago

December 30, 1953

The big cat that Percy Barber saw a couple of weeks ago, near his home in North Greenwich, was spotted Sunday by Willis Johnson in that neighborhood. Willis met the Greenwich panther, face-to-face more than a year ago, and the cat spotted. Sunday was smaller, he be-

lieves, than the one he saw near Sherman's rocks, but considerably bigger than a house cat. Sunday's encounter for Willis was in the swamp near North Greenwich. Armed with a gun, he got one shot at the animal, but it was some distance away, and he had no luck.

60 Years Ago

December 26, 1963

A daylight theft occurred at Sharp's Market in Greenwich Saturday morning when someone entered the store, locked the owner, Bernie Wischlburger, in the cooler and took an undetermined amount of money from the safe.

The theft occurred shortly after 8 o'clock, Mr. Wischlburger had just opened the market, and unlocked the safe, which is located in the front of the store near the cash register and by the front window.

Leaving the safe door ajar, he went into the meat cooler on an errand, and left the door slightly open. While in there, he heard someone come into the market, and he called that he would be out in just a minute.

The door to the cooler was then shut tight and locked, with Mr. Wischlburger inside. It is possible to release the lock from the inside by pushing out a bolt, and this Mr. Wischlburger did, but that took a few minutes.

When he had worked the lock loose and pushed the door open, there was no one in the store, and the cash was gone from the safe. Mr. Wischlburger notified chief of police, Ernest Raemer, who started an investigation immediately. The state police are also working on the case with trooper Tollison in charge.

40 Years Ago

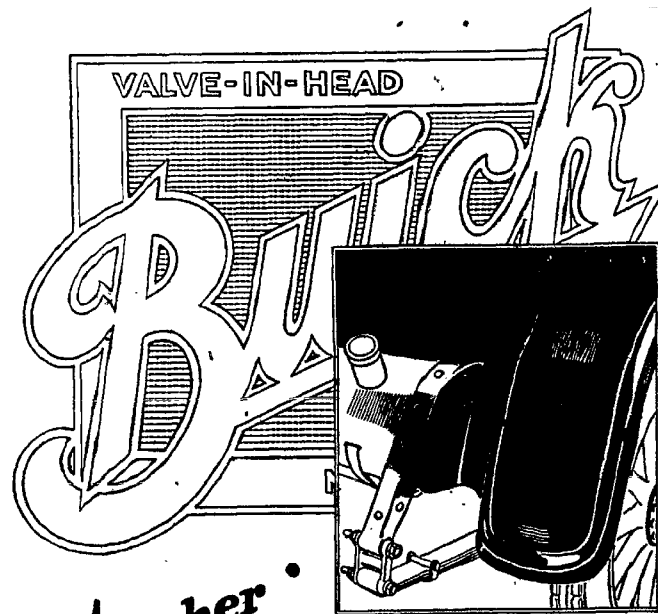
December 22, 1983

When Christmastime rolls around, Kenneth Savage is transformed into a mythical character, delighting the children of Quaker Springs, and Victory Mills. For almost 30 years, he has donned the red suit and arrived by fire engine to shouts of "Santa Claus, it's Santa Claus!"

In 1954, members of the Quaker Springs fire department eyed his 240-pound figure and proposed Mr. Savage play the jolly old elf at the firehouse. While his first beard came from the store, he now sports a cascade of real white whiskers to all the knee-sitters.

Mr. Savage has steadfastly refused payment for filling the role of Santa. He becomes adamant when any gifts are offered. "Who has the fun?" he retorts. "Is it the kids? No, it's me!"

Despite his objections, the David Nevins fire department presented him with a basket of fruit. A few days earlier, they gave Mr. Savage a plaque, thanking him for his years of commu-



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MARK A. PETTEYS
GREENWICH, N. Y.

WHEN BETTER AUTOMOBILES ARE BUILT, BUICK WILL BUILD THEM

Ads from 100 years ago

nity service. "That's worth more than money," he says proudly.

In October the 77-year-old Santa, who has trimmed his weight considerably, suffered a stroke, which threatened to cancel his appearance this year. Mr. Savage was determined that nothing would stop him and astonished his doctors with a miraculous recovery.

Mr. Savage lives his life by the old adage, "Where there's a will, there's a way."

Merry Christmas, Santa.

Just 2 Years Ago

December 16, 2021

A rare treat was offered as the Marshall House (est. 1770) opened for tours on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. More than 80 people showed up to see the home that nursed British troops and German mercenaries during the Revolution, along with Baroness Frederika Riedesel, who wrote about it in her memoir, "Letters and Journals Relating to the War of American Independence and the Capture of the German Troops at Saratoga."

This Saturday, the Baroness was portrayed by Deborah Bailey of Greenwich, who, in a German accent, greeted guests and told them a first-person account about her time here in Schuylerville.

People touring were of all ages, and got to hear the Baroness tell stories - about how, in 1777, just north of the Battles of Saratoga, they had to hide with 40 others in the basement as Patriot cannon balls flew in from across the river from Clarks Mills, how the house became a triage for injured British troops (one was there to get his leg amputated - a cannon ball flew into the room and took out his other leg!).

-Compiled by Darren Johnson

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A variety of ways to celebrate

Shirley Renauld
Journal & Press

Merry Christmas! Another day to enjoy your family and foods from our area:

- Vrolijk Kerstfeest! As we enjoy an easy breakfast as did the Dutch with platters of cold meats and cheeses.

- Hovaa joulua! As we thank the Finnish who came and built saunas in the Shushan as we have a lunch of rye basket bread flavored with cardamom, smoked herring and coffee for lunch.

- Frohe Weinnachten! to Nick from Germany spending this year as our neighbor in Easton and SCS—and to all the Tannenbaums we are enjoying. We will snack on their additions to the cookie platter: both the gingerbread of the

Lebkuchen and the Linzer with its raspberry filling showing through the open heart and giving us two cookies in one.

For our main meal, we will have a choice:

- Nollaig Shona! to the Irish, who came to dig our canals and build their church in Schuylerville. They are glad to find the potato-growing area of Argyle after the famine in their homeland of Ireland. Now we have Irish Stew with lots of potatoes in it.
- Joyeau Noel! to the French Canadians who came for lumbering, to work in the mills and to build their church in Schuylerville. From them, we have our French Canadian Meat Pie.
- Buon Natale! to the Italians who brought us so much pasta.

(We thank Schuylerville Pizza and Pasta for their Tuesday deals.)

- We sing Feliz Navidad! as we read “The Christmas Piñata” (Will you’ll be able to enjoy one?). We thank all the Mexicans and Guatemalans working so hard on the our area farms. (Rosemary and Yulisa got to see the Nutcracker!)

The pot in the piñata (and it’s twin) reminds us of visiting Saratoga Clay Arts for locally made products. We thank Doug for the plate he made with the picture of the mineral spring in Congress Park.

A local product just coming to those who have hives on their property, is honey. Locally, it’s the Better Bee folks who have extracted the honey and given jars of it to the property owners. (For the whole story, we read “The Bee-man”)

We gather the gifts that we have made from local products and decide how to wrap them. We have been saving tissue paper from boxes to wrap around the pots we have planted. We reuse boxes, print on them directly, or wrap them in paper bags to draw or print on, before or after we wrap them. We can reuse baler twine for tying them. We can decorate them by gluing two small candy canes to be a heart to show our love.

Then we remember Dick and Jane, read what they do in “Dick and Jane at Christmas” and follow their example: We enjoy making lots of different kinds of cookies, box them up and deliver them as thank yous. Who will you deliver yours to? Of course, save some for yourselves to enjoy with the beverage of the season: eggnog. Our local Stewart’s Shops are offering this local

dairy product now and we thank them for conducting their annual Holiday Match to benefit the community.

Your family is welcoming home those members who are away at school or work. We look at “Coming Home”, the painting by Schuylerville folklike artist, Richard Salls, as we await their arrival or greet them at the airport or train station.

It’s Christmas! All the candles on the Advent wreath have been lighted. You have opened the last door on the Advent calendar. Your family has shared traditions. Have a peaceful night.

When you wake up, it’s the 26th:

- It’s Boxing Day. It’s the day to clear out the boxes from yesterday. Which ones will you save to use again or for storage? Which ones will be used for playing in and with? Which ones will be recycled?
- As you work, you can sing “The 12 Days of Christmas” and imagine the Three Kings traveling from their countries on camels to bring their gifts (What were they?)to the new baby in Bethlehem. Take a rest after the cleanup to look at books representing the song. Favorites are the pop up version with the font look like paper cut-outs, and Jack Kent, version of the girl being overwhelmed by the gifts from her admirer.
- Kwanzaa begins so save three red candles, and three green, but find one black one to go in the middle. Light the first one today and additional one each day as your family shares family stories and foods of harvest, especially corn, one ear for each child.

Burgess in title game

Cole Burgess, of Greenwich, NY, will be a part of SUNY Cortland football history as the Red Dragons play in their first-ever Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl for the Division III football national championship on Friday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. on ESPN+ and ESPN+. If you’d like to watch with a local audience, stop by Wallie’s starting at 7 p.m. Get there a little earlier for a great seat.

The Red Dragons will travel to Salem, Virginia, to take on North Central College (Ill.), the top-ranked Division III team in the country and last year’s national champion. Ranked 11th nationally in the final D3football.com poll of the regular season, Cortland is 13-1 on the season and the first school from New York state to reach the Division III title game since 1991. Full coverage is avail-



Writers to read

Writers Reading returns to the Greenwich Free Library community room on Tuesday, January 9, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Writers wishing to read may claim their 15 minutes by contacting Claudia Blackler by e-mail: claudianortonblackler@gmail.com. Those who wish to attend as listeners are very welcome. This program will continue throughout the winter on the second Tuesday of each month.

Have a military story?

The New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center in Saratoga Springs has resumed its veterans’ oral history collection program, and is seeking interview subjects. To participate, email nysmm.oralhistory@gmail.com.

Alling keeps competing

Former Greenwich Central High School track and field luminary Kiersten Alling broke the Randolph College school record in the weight throw in her first college indoor track and field meet. Competing in the Bast-Cregger Multi-Invitational, Alling tossed the 20 lb implement 44’ 1 1/2” to earn a 6th place medal in a field of 29. Her throw shattered the old Randolph College record of 41’ 1 1/2”, and ranks the freshman 79th in the nation in NCAA Division III.

In high school, Kiersten earned six NY State Meet medals in the weight throw, shot put and discus in her senior seasons of indoor and outdoor track and field.



Greenwich shows potential, despite losses

Gary Danforth
Journal & Press

On Friday, December 8th, Tyler Herrington's Greenwich Central School boys basketball Team lost 77-49 to Alex Lilac's Mechanicville five. Numerous turnovers and a potent Red Raider offense finally ground down a game, hustling Witches team But, there were numerous signs of good things ahead for GCS.

The turnovers, unofficially, ten in period one and twelve more over the final three quarters, with a GCS turnover to start each quarter, put GCS in a one down position all evening.

Mechanicville jumped out to a 4-0 lead before Ryan Ingber's right baseline jumper got the Witches within 4-2 with 6:55 left in period one. Mechanicville spurted to a 14-6 lead on a 10-4 run. A Calvin Curtis runner in the lane and a pair of foul shots by Ingber were the only Witches points to break up the Red Raider run which ended with 3:43 left in the opening quarter. A Langston Hall three from the left corner and Curtis fastbreak score got GCS within 16-11 with 2:01 left in the quarter.

Four Witches turnovers helped fuel an 18-11 Red Raider lead after eight minutes.

GCS opened period two with a turnover and Mechanicville scored a fastbreak bucket. Ingber, the night's high scorer with 28 points, hit a left baseline jumper for GCS to get the Witches within 20-13.

A Colin Traver drive got GCS within 20-15. Mechanicville went on a 10-0 run to break out to a 30-15 lead with 2:54 left in the half. A Red Raider score, a Witches turnover, a Logan Starks three pointer from the left corner, an inside score by Colin Richardson and a three pointer by Austin Rozowicz put Mechanicville ahead, 30-15. Two free throws by Ingber got GCS within 30-17.

But, the Raiders closed out the half with a 14-5 spurt. Two free throws, an inside score, two fast break layups, an offensive rebound score, a three pointer from the left side, another fastbreak score and a jumper from the right baseline left GCS trailing 42-22 at the half.

The teams traded buckets for the first three minutes of period three with Greenwich down 48-28 with 5:16 left in the quarter.

But, there was no quit in GCS. Down 50-28, they went on an 8-5 run to close their deficit to 55-38 with two minutes left in the quarter. Jumpers in the lane by Curtis and Ingber, another Greenwich score and an Ingber fastbreak score got GCS within 55-38. Ingber hit a left side three and Richardson countered with a Red Raider three. A Starks fastbreak score put Mechanicville ahead, 62-43, heading into period four. But, the Witches had outscored the visitors 21-18 in the quarter.

With 6:32 to play the Witches were down 64-47 following an Ingber inside score and a fastbreak lay up. But, Mechanicville finally put GCS away in the final minutes. The Red Raiders outscored the hosts 13-2 over the remainder of the game, including ending the game with a 6-0 spur, to walk away with their 77-49 WASAREN League win.

Mechanicville moves to 2-0 in league play following a win over Waterford-Halfmoon earlier in the week. GCS moves to 1-2, overall, 1-1 in league play, also with an earlier win over Waterford-Halfmoon. The Witches had earlier lost a non league game to Schuylerville.

Leading GCS was Ingber (29), Curtis (9), Traver (6) and Hall (5). The Red Raiders were led by Richardson (18), Joseph DeVito (11), Starks (11), Cruz Goverski (11), Rozowicz (10), Jacob Eiseman (8), Chris Couser (2), Connor Dion (2) and Mark Pingelski Jr. (4).

Rebounding from Afar: GCS played hard for four quarters and easily could have folded. The late Red Raider spurt made the score a bit lopsided. GCS was playing without Joseph Skiff due to an injury from football season. A vocal student section and an enthusiastic crowd kept both teams in the game. I was impressed that this Greenwich squad played hard to the end of the game.

December 12 vs. Hoosic Valley

On Tuesday, Dec. 12, the Greenwich boys basketball team fell 60-40 to the Hoosic Valley Hawks in a turn over plagued game for Coach Tyler Herrington's Witches five. Try as they might, The Witches seemed a victim of their own pre Christmas gifts to the Hawks. But, the Witches continued to play hard in this early season WASAREN League encounter. It was a close contest with about two minutes left in period three with GCS only down by a 35-30 deficit.

But, here was where the ball game got away from GCS. With 1:55 left in the quarter, the Hawks went on a 7-0 run to take a 42-30 advantage. A right side jumper by the Witches Ryan Ingber had drawn the visitors within 35-30. But, HV went to work. Issac Wiley put his own missed shot home. Then, Mason Speanburgh stole the ball and went in for a lay up. Wiley then knocked down a trey from the left side to complete the 7-0 Hawk run, good for a 42-30 Hoosic valley lead.



Ryan Ingber -file photo by Dan Pemrick

There was:54 seconds left in the quarter. A free throw by the Witches Omar DeDeJesus with :50 remaining in the period left GCS trailing 42-31 entering the final eight minutes.

The Hawks had put together a similar spurt to open period three. Greenwich had played Hoosic Valley close throughout the first half, having ended the first eight minutes deadlocked 10-10.. Hoosic Valley outscored GCS 12-10 over the second stanza to open up a slim 22-20 lead at the halftime break. The Witches did all this while overcoming ten first quarter turnovers. In fact, GCS took it right to the Hawks. Down 7-3 with 4:32 left in the first quarter, the Witches got a left side trey from Ingber and a jumper in the lane from Ingber to push the Witches into an 8-7 lead. A Wiley right corner jumper was countered with the Witches Langston Hall hitting his own right corner jumper as the teams headed to period two tied at 10-10. Back and forth the two teams went in the second quarter, a Hall field goal getting GCS within 14-13 with 5:00 left in the opening half. A drive in the lane by the Hawks Wiley, an offensive foul on GCS and two charity tosses by the Hawks Landon Reilly put Hoosic Valley ahead 18-12 with 2:31 left in period two.

Back came this game Witches bunch. Ingber hit a left side jumper. Trailing 22-17, the Witches Ingber drained a right side trey to get GCS within 22-20 at the break. Five additional second quarter Witches turnovers made GCS work that much harder to keep things close at the break

HV spurted to a 33-25 lead when play resumed in period three. A Wiley drive, a Reilly free throw, a Logan Seror drive and another Hawk score off their fast break left GCS trailing 29-20 with 5:30 left in the quarter. Calvin Curtis hit a fall away jumper in the lane for GCS before a Jack Saunders trey from the right side left the Witches trailing 31-25 with 4:20 remaining in period three. GCs outscored the hosts 5-4 to trail 35-30 with 1:55 left in the quarter. That set up the last two minutes of the quarter for the HV spurt.

Hoosic Valley went on a fourth quarter run, aided by three Witches turnovers, good for a 54-35 lead with 3:50 left in the ball game. Seven fourth quarter turnovers helped do the Witches in. HV put the finishing touches on their 60-40 win by outscoring GCS 6-6 over the remainder of period four for their 60-40 victory

For GCS, Ingber (15), DeJesus (4), Curtis (7), Joseph Radovich(7), Saunders (3) and Hall (4) led the way. For the Hawks, Gabe Coffin (6), Connor King (3), Seror (6), Speanburgh (4), Reilly (17), Wiley (14), Aydin Wiley (4) and Chris Jones (6) led the way.

Rebounding from Afar:The Witches continued to play hard but it's hard to overcome so many turnovers and come up with wins. Hoosic Valley scored off some GCS miscues and that was the ball game. Withe loss the Witches fall to 1-3, overall, and 1-2 in league play. If GCS can clean up the turnovers and hit some timely shots they should be in most ball games. If not, luck runs out, good solid play stays with a team.

Ways to give back in 2024 (Part II)

Debbie Anderson
Journal & Press

What's your plan for the new year to be a contributing member of our community? There's just a little time to actually make it a New Year's Resolution but volunteering can happen any time, to fit anyone's schedule and interests. A friend recently reminded me of a great saying, "If not me, who? If not now, when?"

In the last Greenwich Journal & Press, I listed some of our most visible community organizations, all depending on volunteer help to perform important jobs. These included Comfort Food Community, the Greenwich Library, Youth Center, the Greenwich PTSA, the fire departments in Greenwich, Middle Falls and Cossayuna, but these are just the beginning.

Some additional ideas to consider:

Greenwich Chamber of Commerce – The Chamber of Commerce does much to promote business and activities in our community. The committees for the three largest events of the year, Whipple City Days, Halloween Parade and Tractor Parade, are always in need of volunteers to work on the planning. If attending meetings is a problem, there are many 'day of' opportunities as well. Contact Chamber of Commerce Director Kelly Eustis at info@greenwichchamber.org

If you prefer outdoor projects, opportunities abound!

Gardening – One of the most visible outward signs of a community that cares are its parks and public spaces. We are fortunate to have lovely green spaces in the village and town and hardworking DPW employees to maintain them but their schedules could never include the amount of gardening maintenance needed without volunteer help! The many flower beds are kept up by volunteers but

it's a massive job and one that always needs more help. At one time Greenwich had a very active Beautification Committee that coordinated all the gardening projects. This would be a great committee to revive if there were interested volunteers!

Contact the Village of Greenwich office if you are able to help out with gardening. clerk@villageof-greenwich.org

Parks and Trails – If you love working outdoors, there is a great need for trail maintenance. The recent work at the Thunder Mountain park will require cleaning up, trail re-establishment and marking. clerk@villageofgreenwich.org

Battenkill Conservancy – Focusing on the health and welfare of the Battenkill, this organization has opportunities for projects outdoor, hands on work at the preserves; events/behind the scenes work planning and organizing; PR/promotion/social media outreach; and board members or committee specific volunteers to keep the organization strong.

Contact: bkc@battenkillconservancy.org

Town and Village Council Committees – There are numerous opportunities for volunteering on the committees that make decisions on growth and changes in our community; Planning boards and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Driving Opportunities – The Interfaith Council hosts the Van Go program which provides transportation to people over 55 needing transport to medical appointments. This enormously important service is in need of new drivers for weekday appointments. Contact Gail Dewey at deweygail@yahoo.com

I'm sure there are other opportunities I have not included and welcome you to add your ideas! There are always ways to contribute on your own; monetarily, of course,



Chamber of Commerce Tractor Parade



Battenkill Conservancy Corridor Connection program

but even being a steward of the roadsides near your house. Our 4H group added daffodil planting to their roadside cleanup this fall. Make 2024 a year to find a way to make a difference in our community. The old saying, "Many hands make light work," is so very true! I especially love this quote by Coretta Scott King.

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

Debbie Anderson is a retired teacher from Salem Elementary School and church organist. She currently teaches piano, co-leads a 4H group, leads singing along with seniors in assisted living residences, and is a former board member of Comfort Food Community, busy grandmother and random volunteer wherever!



Lights of Love at Courthouse

Perhaps nothing is harder during the holiday season than remembering those who are loved but missing. The third annual Love & Light Memorial Tree Lighting Ceremony took place on an unseasonably warm evening, Saturday, December 9th, at the Historic Salem Courthouse. The purpose of the event is to provide comfort to those who are missing important people in their lives and to be held by the community around them. The event reinforces the Courthouse's vision to be a "place where people from every part of the community can gather, grow, contribute, and connect."

Leading up to the evening, members of the community were able to purchase a tree to decorate in the manner most fitting to remember their loved ones. Each tree clearly was unique and spoke to the life of the honoree. Colored or white lights, ornaments, garlands, photos, recipes, drawings, birds, children's toys, candy and special mementos were just some of the items adorning the trees. The common theme was cherished memories. The trees were sponsored

by Scotlander Brewing Company of Argyle. A small group of volunteers placed them on the Courthouse Green, the site of many festive community events in 2023,

The evening began at 4:30 p.m. with a chance to view the different trees. At 5pm, all were welcomed by Courthouse President, Herb Perkins, followed by the new pastor of the Hebron United Presbyterian Church, Bill Crawford. He joked lightheartedly about being new to town himself, thus he was being welcomed into the community at the same time that he welcomed the participants. His comments were followed by songs led by Stefanie Russell and her daughter, Hannah Gongola. At the conclusion of their rendition of "O, Holy Night," the switch was thrown and the trees were lit simultaneously. The participants were led in singing "Silent Night" before heading inside The Courthouse for a buffet of homemade and hand-decorated cookies, snacks and hot chocolate.

The Courthouse Board and staff invite those



who did not have a memorial tree this year to add an ornament of remembrance and hope to the Community Tree which is located to the left of the first row of trees as one enters the Green from the front of the Courthouse.

Shirley Elizabeth Garrett Friday, 99

Shirley Elizabeth Garrett Friday, 99, passed away two months shy of her 100th birthday, on Friday, December 8, 2023.

She was born on February 3, 1924, at Mary McClellan Hospital in Cambridge, NY, to the late Frank and Grace (Taylor) Garrett

On September 17, 1949, she was married to Lloyd John Friday in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Greenwich. They celebrated 53 years together. John passed away on February 11, 2003. Shirley was a member of St. Paul's Church for over 65 years. She was a former member of the Vestry and Women of St. Paul's. She was involved in many church activities including the chairing of its prayer chain. Shirley was always grateful for all the blessings in her life, of which there were many. She especially loved living near the Battenkill

River. One of her great joys in life was enjoying the Battenkill river and Lake George by boat and canoe, with her husband and family.

She was predeceased by her brother John T. Garrett in 1991.

She is survived by her children, Jean Kristen Friday Martin and her husband Ted of Saratoga Springs, grandson, Ethan John Martin of Saratoga Springs; son, Stephen Friday of Greenwich; "Favorite Nieces", Christine, Barbara, Betty, and Susan; "Special Nephews" Jack, David, and Michael.

A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's Church, 147 Main St, Greenwich, NY, 12834 at 2 pm on Saturday, February 3, 2023, with Rev. Meghan Keegan officiating. Spring Burial will be held in the N. Cambridge, Stump Church Cemetery.

Family and friends may call from 5 to 7 pm on Friday, February 2, 2023, at Flynn Bros, Inc. Funeral Home, 80 Main St, Greenwich, NY, 12834.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Washington Center Nursing home for their wonderful and compassionate care of Shirley.

Donations in her memory may be made to your local animal shelter, St. Paul's Church, or Saratoga Community Hospice, 179 Lawrence St, Saratoga Springs, NY, 12866.

Online condolences and messages to the family can be made at www.flynn-brosinc.com.



Richard Cosgrove, 82

Richard Cosgrove, age 82, of Queensbury, NY, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Monday, November 27, 2023 at Saratoga Hospital. Born on June 23, 1941, in Utica, NY, he was the son of the late Glen Cosgrove and Edna Kohler-Cosgrove.

Richard graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh with a degree in Nursing. He dedicated his

professional life to caregiving as a registered nurse at Albany Medical Center, hospice in Washington County and the Eddy VNA in Troy, NY, before retiring in 2013. Outside of his profession, Richard was a long-time member of the Greenwich Elks Lodge. Richard's passion for life was unmistakably reflected in his diverse hobbies. His zest for life was evident in his myriad of interests, which included hiking, riding motorcycles, listening to smooth jazz, nurturing landscapes, traveling, playing cards, dancing the night away and learning about the mysteries of outer space as well as a deep love of animals. He loved spending the winter months in Florida being near the ocean. He embraced every moment with enthusiasm and kindness, and he brightened the room with his laughter and sense of humor. Richard had a deep appreciation for his lifelong friends who enriched his life beyond words.

He leaves behind cherished memories with his loving wife of 57 years, Lulubelle Cosgrove; his son, Darren Cosgrove (Ranee); daughter, Alisha Cosgrove; brothers, Robert Cosgrove (Kathy), Dennis Cosgrove (Mary), and

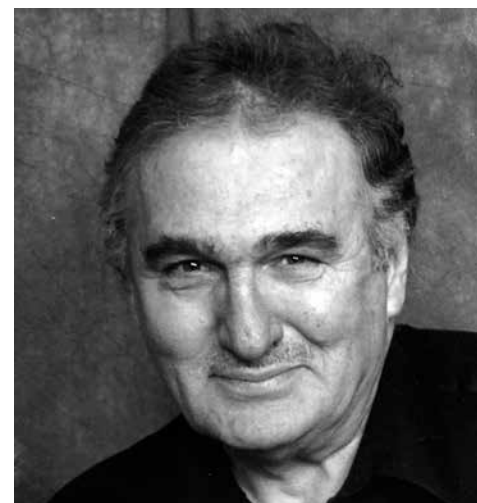
Nathan Thomas (Debra). The light of his life was his granddaughter, Delaney Cosgrove.

Calling hours were held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

on Saturday, December 9, 2023 at Compassionate Funeral Care, 402 Maple Ave., (Rte 9 and/or Marion Ave.), Saratoga Springs, New York. The funeral service for Richard was held at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at Compassionate Funeral Care, 402 Maple Ave., (Rte 9 and/or Marion Ave.), Saratoga Springs, New York.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Richard can be made to the Estherville Animal Shelter, 100 Russell Rd, Greenfield Center, NY 12833.

Those wishing to leave memories or messages of sympathy for the family may do so at www.compassionatefuneralcare.com.



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Lyme group forming

A Lyme Disease Study Group is forming for the purpose of reading and discussing "Bitten: The Secret History of Lyme Disease and Biological Weapons by investigative journalist Kris Newby.

Thursday, December 21, from 5 to 8PM will be the first meeting, with other dates planned for ongoing reading and discussion.

The cover photo from Newby's book shows ticks being force-fed diseases such as Q fever, tularemia, and equine encephalitis virus, as they are being experimentally weaponized at the Rocky Mountain Laboratory in the 1950s. Those who would like to join this Study Group are asked to bring a copy of "Bitten" and to watch the film "Under Our Skin" before the December 21st meeting.

There is no charge for this discussion series. Those who would like to participate are asked to register by emailing dionondehowa@yahoo.com. Dionondehowa Director, Bonnie Hoag will guide the study group.



Holiday hoops tourney in Salem

Salem Washington Academy will host its first Holiday Basketball Tournament during the holiday recess on December 27 & 28, 2023, in the high school gymnasium.

Salem Athletic Director Will Moore said, "The athletes, coaches, and myself are looking forward to hosting this event for the first time. We invite the fans to come out and support the athletes and start an annual holiday tradition."

There is no admission fee. The schedule is as follows:

December 27, 2023

JV GIRLS

9:00 a.m. Schuylerville (A) vs. Hartford (H)
10:30 a.m. Whitehall (A) vs. Salem (H)

JV BOYS

12:00 p.m. Whitehall (A) vs. Hartford (H)
1:30 p.m. BNL (A) vs. Salem (H)

VARSITY GIRLS

3:00 p.m. Spa Catholic (A) vs. Hartford (H)

VARSITY BOYS

6:00 p.m. Whitehall (A) vs. Hartford (H)
7:30 p.m. BNL (A) vs. Salem (H)

December 28, 2023

JV GIRLS

9:00 a.m. Fort Edward (A) vs. Schuylerville (H)
10:30 a.m. Hartford (A) vs. Salem (H)

Starting at noon, various consolation and championship games will be played.

4:30 p.m. Argyle (A)
vs. Salem (H)

Collins sisters vie

Former Greenwich Central HS track and field stars Quinn and Keegan Collins faced each other for the first time on Dec. 3 as NCAA Division I college rivals in indoor track at the Gillis Arena at West Point. In high school, Quinn was the Division II outdoor track and field state champion in the 800M, while Keegan was the indoor state and federation champion in the weight throw.

In the Crowell Open, senior, Quinn, competing for Army, won the 1000M race in a time of 3:02.16 and her 4x400M relay team was second in 4:04.11. Freshman, Keegan, competing for SUNY Albany, finished in the top 10 in the weight throw with a distance of 47' 7 3/4". It was the best performance by a freshman in the competition. It was the opening 2023-24 meet for both sisters and given their histories and starts to this season, more great performances are to be expected.



Dartmouth thrower

Competing for Dartmouth College, former Greenwich Central HS track and field standout Michael Gabriel won the track and field weight throw event at the annual HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) and Ivy Challenge at Harvard on Dec. 2

In high school, Gabriel was the indoor track and field state and federation champion in the weight throw and the outdoor Division 2 state champion in the discus. At Harvard, Gabriel's throw of 61' 8" with the 35 lb. weight was nearly four feet farther than the second place throw. Gabriel is a senior academically, but will have one more year of eligibility when he enters medical school following graduation.



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Baby Spinach & Radicchio Salad	Tomato Mozzarella Bruschetta	Halibut Oscar	Triple Chocolate Cake
Watercress & Roasted Beet Salad	Shrimp & Crab Cocktail	Long Island Duck Breast	Tiramisu
		Surf n Turf	

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Thanking AIM staff

Recently, members of the Historic Salem Courthouse held a luncheon to recognize the many contributions of the AIM Services workers who help to prepare the Courthouse for so many of its events and programs. Centered in Saratoga Springs, AIM Services, Inc. hopes to unlock “the power of potential” in individuals with disabilities through their employment support program. At the Courthouse, young adults David Wilkinson, Shawn Kasai, and Hunter McLoughlin help the non-profit organization through cleaning, moving items, and generally keeping the Courthouse looking its best!

The relationship with the Courthouse benefits all. David mentions that he “likes to help other people” and that his favorite Courthouse job is cleaning the bathrooms. His mother, who attended the luncheon with him, noted that it is a “great opportunity for David to get out in the community and be with people. He enjoys being with the other guys.” Courthouse Director

Krista Sullivan called the AIM participants “a bright spot on every other Thursday”.

Salem Rotary Club, which meets weekly at the Historic Salem Courthouse and Rotary International joined with the Courthouse in offering the luncheon. Salem Rotary Club President Randy Dumas related that their focus this year is Mental Health awareness. “As an organization, Rotary encourages and recognizes the importance of individuals with mental health challenges helping and working in our



community.” AIM professionals Kristine Boulden, Lisa Walker, and LaCretia Artis also were present, along with Salem Town Supervisor Evera Sue Clary, Hebron Town Councilwoman Jill Nadolski and others.

Ms. Artis, AIM Assistant Director of Employment Services at AIM Services, lauded the partnership, saying: “AIM Services is so proud of the relationship we’ve been able to develop and maintain with the Salem Courthouse...the support we receive provides an inclusive and diverse environment for the participants to learn and demonstrate transferable soft skills that will prepare them for competitively paid employment.”

Collaborations such as these are at the core of what AIM seeks in Washington, Warren, and Saratoga Counties, and the Courthouse’s motto, “Opening Old Doors to New Opportunities” certainly is embodied in this partnership.

Stop DWI program continues

The Washington County Sheriff’s Office along with other local law enforcement agencies and STOP-DWI Coordinators will participate in special efforts to bring awareness to the dangers of impaired driving.

The statewide STOP-DWI High Visibility Engagement Campaign start on December 13, 2023 and will run through the New Year holiday.

The STOP-DWI Holiday Season High Visibility Engagement Campaign is one of many statewide initiatives promoted by STOP-

DWI NY and the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee.

The Statewide STOP-DWI High Visibility Engagement Campaign also targets Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day/End of Summer, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Super Bowl weekend and St. Patrick’s Day.

Highly visible, highly publicized efforts like the STOP-DWI High Visibility Engagement Campaign aim to further reduce the incidence of drunk and impaired driving.

Chamber's Eustis is a rising star

Kelly Stephen Eustis, Executive Director of the Greater Greenwich Chamber of Commerce, has been named to the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) 2023 Forty Under 40 list of emerging leaders shaping the chamber of commerce industry.

This annual recognition program showcases 40 of the industry's top emerging leaders who have demonstrated success in their careers and made significant contributions to the communities they serve. The list includes CEOs and staff professionals from a wide variety of roles and chamber sizes. Honored for their creativity, dedication and commitment to identifying innovative solutions that will help shape the future of the chamber profession.

"I am inspired by these talented professionals who are making a difference in their organizations and the communities they serve," said ACCE President & CEO Sheree Anne Kelly. "Their passion and dedication not only foster positive change in their regions but also shape a promising future for those they impact."

ACCE has over 1,600 chambers of commerce and related business and economic development organizations as members, representing more than 9,000 professionals in the industry.

Eligible chamber professionals must be nominated by their chamber's president/CEO, direct supervisor or board chair. Candidates must demonstrate meaningful involvement in the advancement of their community and proven professional success within their chamber.

Kelly Eustis, a resident of Argyle, joined the Greater Greenwich Chamber of Commerce as its leader in 2019 and is a board member of the Chamber Alliance of New York State.

"Kelly has proven to be an effective leader and advocate for our members and local businesses. He has his finger on the pulse of the community and is constantly working on ways to support and advocate for our members," said Greenwich Chamber Co-Chair Evelyn Costello, who nominated Kelly for the award. "His ability to manage, organize and represent our members at the local and state levels is one reason our chamber is so successful. He is constantly looking for creative and innovative ways for our



members to grow their businesses and bring them together as a cohesive community."

The full 2023 Forty Under 40 list was announced publicly in the Fall 2023 edition of Chamber Executive, ACCE's digital magazine. View all the honorees online at <https://magazine.acce.org/>.

Greenwich's top student-athletes

During the just completed Fall 2023 athletic seasons, seven of the teams fielded by the Greenwich Central School District were designated as a Scholar Athlete Team.

To achieve this designation, a team must have had 75% of the varsity players earn a grade point average of 90% or higher. They are: Boys Cross Country, Girls Tennis, Cheerleading (Fall), Football, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer and Field Hockey.

In addition to the team recognition, the following student athletes earned individual designation as a New York State Scholar Athlete (had a GPA of 90% or better for the first marking period):

Varsity Golf - Brayden Stutzman

Girls Cross Country - Claudia Johnson

Boys Cross Country - Samuel Dixson, Hazen

Lilley

Girls Soccer- Molly Abate, Ava Aierstok, Grace Autiello, Allison Chuhta, Morgan Foster, Kate Fowler, Emily Gonzalez, Brooke Kuzmich, Elizabeth Marci, Eliza McQueen, Isabelle Miller, Luna Paradis Wiebe, Sarah Radovich, Julia Sgambelluri and Ella Smith.

Girls Field Hockey - Sydney Baptie, Sophia Boice, Ella Celani, Lyla Curtis, Olivia Davis, Kendall Hamilton, Taber Hunt, Alexa Jansen, Keira Kirk, Alyssa St. Mary and Avery Timmins.

Boys Soccer - Jackson Fortier, Mason Foster, Miguel Gonzalez, Leo Jordan, Hudson Logan, Hunter Logan, Brenden McClay, Evan Merrill, Johnathan Morency, Levi Murray, Max Nichols, Samuel Palacios, Eli Strasswimmer, Aaron

Stutzman, Colin Traver and Grant Traver.

Girls Tennis - Ludovica Bonfiglioli, Brooke Conlin, Madalynn Curley, Brooke Demianenko, Avery Hawrysz, Alexis Herbst, Allison McQueen, Esther Moore, Sophia Tomczak and Dorothy Van Pelt.

Cheer- Esmeralda Alvarado, Morgan Colby, Charlotte Collins, Sara Douglas, Mia Sausville, Kelsy Smith and Jordan Wilbur.

Football - Max Anatriello, Andrew Baptie, Kaden Bentley, Wyatt Cary, Peter Chuhta, Keegan Clayton, Noah Davis, Hunter Dupuis, Langston Hall, Ryan Ingber, Connor Kirk, Anthony Perry, James Perry, Joseph Radovich, Paul Sievers and Jackson Slater.

Comfort Food gets another large donation

On December 7, 2023, a truckload with 19 pallets carrying approximately 29,000 pounds of food from the Bishop's Central Storehouse in Salt Lake City, Utah arrived at Comfort Food Community (CFC). This is the second delivery CFC has received as part of a grant from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

CFC Executive Director Amie Collins expressed her gratitude for the partnership saying, "We are incredibly grateful for the generous support from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Our pantry attendance has skyrocketed this year, increasing by 25%. It is through partnerships like this that we can make a significant impact on food insecurity and create a more nourished future for all."

The delivery includes staples like canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, flour, and oats for the food pantry. CFC, who oversees the Greenwich Food Center and satellite food pantry at Cossayuna, offers a safe and welcoming environment for members of the community to access real, wholesome food. And as a food hub in a rural area, CFC also supplies area pantries in communities such as Schuylerville, Salem, Granville, and Whitehall.

The Greenwich Food Center offers three

weekly services allowing households the opportunity to 'shop' 1x per week. Days and Hours, Monday: 4 - 7 PM, Wednesday: 9 - 11 AM and 4 - 7 PM. CFC's satellite pantry opens on Tuesdays from 3:30-5:30 PM in Cossayuna. For more information, please visit their website at comfortfoodcommunity.org.

Serving nearly 175 households per week through their pantry services, CFC uses the power of good food to eliminate hunger, support the local food economy, and build strong, healthy communities. In 2022, CFC moved more than 500,000 pounds through its service area of Washington, Warren, and Saratoga counties.



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has over 30,000 congregations in more than 160 countries and territories. To contact a local congregation, you can go to their website at: churchofjesuschristalbany.org

Transforming communities

Sarah Murphy
Greenwich Free Library

It's usually a few times a week. I see the big van pull up, just as I'm arriving to the library at opening time. Often, the van beats me there. The van is from Battenkill Community Services, and when I see it I know that the library is about to become lively, busy, and very well used.

Battenkill Community Services, BCS, is a not-for-profit that, in their words, "assists individuals with developmental disabilities by providing 'Opportunities Without Limitations' through direct and indirect programming and supports. BCS was incorporated in 1999 and in 2001 was approved by the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to provide services in the underserved rural areas of Washington County, though its innovative 'Without Walls' Group Day Habilitation Program."

Groups and individuals from BCS visit the library regularly. They are enthusiastic borrowers of materials, especially books and DVDs, and they often attend our programs and special events. We can always count on people from BCS to join us at movie screenings, music events, and our annual summer reading celebration, the Endless Summer Party. BCS serves over 100 individuals and their families, many of whom are regular library users. In addition to using library services, groups from BCS frequently book our public space for their own programs such as book clubs, movie lunches, crafting and Tai Chi. Individuals from BCS will sometimes visit as guest readers or performers at our early learning programs for young children. On a recent Tuesday morning, holiday carollers from BCS visited the library's Building Blocks Kindergarten Readiness group, and on Monday the 18th, another BCS group will come to read and act out the Ukrainian Folk Tale, "The Mitten," which was the inspiration for their Best-in-Show winning tractor at the parade. The decorations from the tractor are currently hanging in the library, for all to see and enjoy.

In short, our staff and volunteers love serving patrons from BCS, and we know that they enjoy visiting our library, where they are always welcomed.

The library's relationship with BCS is strong, and our building, renovated most recently in 2021, is accessible to those with physical disabilities. Even so, we know that we can better serve the individuals at BCS, who have a



A visit by BCS

wide variety of developmental and neurological disabilities, including Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down's Syndrome, and more. In order to take action to better serve this key constituency, the library recently applied for an American Library Association grant for small and rural libraries. Called "Libraries Transforming Communities," the funding is meant "to increase

'Our staff and volunteers love serving patrons from BCS.'

the accessibility of facilities, services, and programs to better serve people with disabilities." Grant funding is difficult to obtain; there is always more need than can be met, and the fields are competitive. And the grant writing process is arduous. Most of us find asking blatantly for help or money to be unpleasant. Most of us also find it difficult to brag about how great we are. Grant proposals require both. Rejection is demoralizing. It hardly seems worth the effort to try sometimes.

But, in some cases, and certainly in this case, the process and planning that goes into a proposal can be positive and productive enough to make it a worthwhile experience in its own right. For this grant, we began by hosting a meeting with BCS leadership and staff, and we followed up with a conversation at the library attended by about 25 adults with developmental disabilities who are enrolled in BCS's programs and five professional team members from BCS. The group was asked to reflect on what they like about Greenwich Free Library, how the library could better support them, and how they would like to participate with the library in the future. The meeting, which lasted about an hour, helped to generate dozens of ideas. Even if we do not receive this funding, much of what we discussed is doable, and some of it has already been planned.

There is a need for supports for individuals with disabilities in our community. If we do get the funding, the library will seek to create a library environment and library collection that is more useful to and more supportive of the those at Battenkill Community Services as well as other individuals in our community with developmental disabilities. BCS's regular use of the library tells us that we are already fulfilling many of their needs, which happen to coincide with the needs of every member of our community: the need for public spaces, community gathering spaces, and resources and materials for learning and entertainment. Our meeting made it clear that the library can also offer increased library programming that supports people with developmental disabilities, more public awareness about disabilities, and a physical library collection that includes more of the items that BCS participants want.

It would be an incredible gift to receive funding for this project, but our commitment to welcoming and supporting individuals of all abilities isn't dependent on dollars. If you've ever been lucky enough to be at the library when the BCS van pulls up, you know that we have a lot to offer this group, and you know that their patronage makes our library better.



Sarah Murphy is director of the Greenwich Free Library.

Local scout troops honored

The scouts of Troops 6027G and 6027B had a busy weekend recently. A court of honor was held, at which scouts from both troops received advancements.

Mike Genevick and Senior Patrol Leader Seth B. were awarded the Jobbie and Helen Andrew award for distinguished service to scouting. This award is given out each year to acknowledge scouts and adults who exemplified service to the troop.

After the court of honor, preparations were made for the 17th Annual Community Dinner. The next day saw 440 people fed a free turkey dinner with all the trimmings! Donations of food and money were accepted for the Comfort Food Community.

Scouts BSA website is www.beascout.org. Anyone interested in learning more about scouting programs in the Greenwich area should contact either Jeff Conkey, Scout-

master Troop B-6027 518 - 321- 4926 or Lucy Lauzon-Fahy, Scoutmaster G-6027, adkdiver@msn.com.



Learn to earn success

Dr. Daneen Skube
Tribune Content Agency
Special to Journal & Press

Q: *I'm just starting my career and eager to learn but afraid asking questions undermines my reputation. I work with highly talented, experienced co-workers. How do I let them know I'm enthusiastic about being mentored without losing their respect?*

A: You only gain respect from your superiors when they see you're smart and resilient enough to be constantly learning. Also one of the nicest compliments talented co-workers receive is when other employees admire and want to learn from them.

In the finance world there's much advice about how profitable it is to use "other people's money (OPM)" to make money. As a corporate consultant, I recommend that it's equally important to use "other people's experience (OPE)" to be successful.

Woodrow Wilson, the 28th president of the United States, was fond of admitting, "I not only use all the brains I have, but all that I can borrow." Interestingly historians believe Wilson was dyslexic from childhood and didn't learn to read until 10. Apparently early adversity in learning left him with a permanent humility and capacity to learn from others.

If this habit is good enough for the 28th president, you can certainly borrow it when it comes to your workplace. Few people will be offended when you respect their skills and want to learn from them, especially if you're grateful.

The ability to express vast curiosity in the

workplace can even work during conflicts or power struggles. Nothing disarms hostility like you expressing a sincere interest in understanding another person's point of view. When people teach us about how they see a problem, we almost always can find common ground to collaborate.

Moreover, true enemies rarely have any interest in learning about those they perceive as foes. The mere expression of curiosity and desire to learn about someone else will neutralize most power struggles and conflict.

When I teach negotiation tactics in the workplace, I emphasize the need to learn about the other party. Many office battles continue because each party only has a superficial un-

'True enemies rarely have any interest in learning about their apparent foes.'

derstanding of the other party's goal. Effective negotiators ask enough neutral questions to get deep knowledge about the real goals to find win/win solutions.

For instance your subordinate might be upset about not getting a promotion. However, if you ask enough questions, it may turn out the real goal is to learn certain skills, or achieve broader visibility. When you learn a person's underlying deeper goal, creative ways for everyone to get what they want become apparent.

I teach my clients that one of the most valuable and rare skills is to be enthusiastically and humbly curious about nearly everything. The receptivity required to be a lifelong learner means that everything that happens to you turns into practical wisdom!

The last word(s)

Q: *I've been playing it safe for years in my career and am deadly bored. I'd like to take more risks, but they all have downsides. Is there advice you give your clients about risk taking?*

A: Yes, boredom for years is not just bad for your health but means you're learning nothing. As Ellen Glasgow (1873-1945), an American novelist, accurately and humorously summarized: "The only difference between a rut and a grave is the dimensions."

Daneen Skube, Ph.D., executive coach, trainer, therapist and speaker, also appears as the FOX Channel's "Workplace Guru" each Monday morning. She's the author of "Interpersonal Edge: Breakthrough Tools for Talking to Anyone, Anywhere, About Anything." You can contact Dr. Skube at www.interpersonaledge.com, or 1420 NW Gilman Blvd., #2845, Issaquah, WA 98027. Sorry, no personal replies.



JILL ON MONEY

Charitable giving 2023

Jill Schlesinger
Tribune Content Agency
Special to Journal & Press

According to Giving USA's Annual Report on Philanthropy, Americans were a little less generous last year than they were amid the height of COVID in 2020 and 2021.

Total giving (individual and corporate donations, bequests and foundation giving) slid by 3.4 percent to \$499.33 billion in 2022 from 2021 and the decline was a steeper 10.5%, when adjusted for inflation.

While individuals continue to account for nearly two-thirds of total giving, the rotten year for stocks and bonds, as well as inflation, put a dent into the results.

"Giving by individuals totaled an estimated \$319.04 billion, declining 6.4% in 2022 (a decline of 13.4%, when adjusted for inflation)." Additionally, Americans gave 1.7% of their personal disposable income to charity in 2022, the lowest level they had given since 1995. (The high-water mark was 2.4% in 2005.)

Despite the slide, people are still incredibly generous. With Giving Tuesday kicking off the year-end charitable season, here are some updated giving tips for 2023:

Only itemizers get a tax benefit

Past tax law changes require you to itemize your deductions, if you want to claim a tax benefit for charitable giving.

Only about 10% of tax filers itemize, but in a given year — perhaps one where you have made more money — you can try to "bunch" de-

ductions to push you above the itemized deduction threshold and accelerate charitable giving for that particular year.

Additionally, if you have a taxable investment account, you can gift highly appreciated securities to charities. You'll write off the current market value, not just what you paid, and avoid capital gains taxes.

Retirees can avoid taxable income and feel virtuous

If you're over 70½, consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), which allows you to gift up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to a public charity (not to a private foundation, a charitable supporting organization or a donor advised fund), without having to include the distribution in your taxable income.

If you use the QCD, you can't deduct the amount as a charitable contribution, but if you are lucky enough to not need the money for cash flow, a QCD will allow you to avoid paying taxes on the distribution, and it may also satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution.

Consider Donor Advised Funds (DAFs)

DAF accounts allow you to contribute cash, appreciated assets, or investments, take an immediate tax deduction on the contribution, and then grant to an eligible IRS-qualified public charity in the future.

DAF funds can be invested for tax-free growth and allow you to give in a year when you have had higher than expected income, or when you are trying to bunch deductions.

Many financial firms and community founda-

tions make DAFs available. Be sure to check on fees as well as account minimums.

Be cautious and vet your charity

Do not donate over the phone or give anyone your credit card or other personal information until you verify it's legit with the IRS's Tax Exempt Organization Search tool. The tool provides information about an organization's federal tax status and filings.

To see how much of your donation goes to supporting programs (versus overhead), access resources like the Better Business Bureau's (BBB) Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Watch, GuideStar, Charity Navigator and GiveWell.

Keep good records

For any cash or property valued at \$250 or more, you must have a receipt (bank record, payroll deduction or written communication) identifying the organization, the date and amount of the contribution and a description of the property.

If you are facing the end of year deadline, use a credit card, so the donation is deductible as of the date the account is charged.

Jill Schlesinger, CFP, is a CBS News business analyst. A former options trader and CIO of an investment advisory firm, she welcomes comments and questions at askjill@jillonmoney.com.



The blinded dove

Lance Allen Wang
Journal & Press

I haven't written much about the Middle East despite, or perhaps because of, the steady drumbeat of horrors that followed the terrorist attacks of October 7. A friend recently remarked to me that she had noticed that I have not been particularly outspoken about the Middle East's most recent war. She's right. I can't speak for others, but there's a part of it which feels so incredibly personal. And while I can simply rail about how I see the "black and white" moral clarity of it all, my relationship with the people and the region demands a little more thought.

Why does it feel so personal? A lot has to do with who I am, as a Jewish-American. Further, a lot has to do with when I grew up. When I was first being sent to religious school, three days a week, many of my earliest memories have to do with being taught by women with concentration camp identification numbers still tattooed on their forearms. I remember feeling the adults' tension about the Yom Kippur War, and I remember learning about terrorism as the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) began its campaign of detonating bombs on Israeli civilian mass transit in the mid-1970s.

Flash forward fifty years. A couple of days after October 7 attacks, I delivered remarks at my temple:

"The events in Israel and Gaza were not about meaning and purpose. Because the world has meaning and purpose, it does not mean the actions of man always have meaning and purpose. Actions of cruelty and brutality happen despite the world having a meaning and purpose. And I feel broken today... I grieve for what has happened. I seethe for what has happened. But my response? My response will be as it ever has been. I will continue to repair the world. As hard and with all my soul as I ever have. Harder even."

But now, with having had two months since the attacks, with the benefit of additional information and subsequent events having taken their own tragic course, we find ourselves in a new place. It is no longer the shock of a brutal unprovoked attack on innocent civilians, but rather now a full-blown war.

The "ruling body," for lack of a better word, of Gaza, is Hamas, internationally recognized as a terrorist organization. Elected to parliamentary power in 2006, in 2007 Hamas wrested control of the Gaza strip from the recognized ruling body at the time, the Palestinian Authority, who still administers the West Bank. Suffice to say that in 2023, Hamas is not an entity that rules with the consent of the governed.

Hamas' founding document, dated August 1988, reveals their radical worldview. Their preamble calls for the destruction of Israel: "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it." Not content with merely the destruction of Israel, it is Jews specifically whom they wish to kill, as referenced in Article 7 of their Covenant: "The Day of Judgment

will not come about until Moslems fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out: 'O Moslem, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him.'" This is the ruling body of Gaza. The one with whom half of the hopes for peace relied. You will begrudge me my sense of discouragement.

From the beginning, I have said "Do not confuse the Palestinian civilians with Hamas." During a brief period from 2006-2007, there was hope for Palestinian self-determination through the electoral process. But as surely as Hamas took over Gaza's government and drove representatives of the Palestinian Authority out of the territory, the government of Gaza devolved into a theocratic dictatorship, driven by Hamas' radical, fundamentalist approach to Islam. But I do not see the Palestinians that way. Sadly, that same courtesy is not extended to the Israelis by their opponents. One shouldn't combine disgust for a government and its policies into a hatred for the people in whose name they act.

Much like America after 9/11, Israel found itself in a sympathetic situation immediately following the October 7 attacks. The world was justifiably outraged at a brazen attack of such brutality, targeted specifically on civilians, by armed representatives of the Gaza regime. The use of terrorism, including murder, rape, torture, human shields and kidnapping as a weapon by a ruling body was anathema to civilized people. America lost a lot of its post-9/11 support when it turned its attention to Iraq based upon scant evidence. Israel has lost a lot of its support by merely defending itself.

"Defending itself?!!!" cry some. Yes, defending itself. Hamas declared what it intended to do in 1988. The Hamas Covenant lays out its intentions. Its actions since then – terrorism and a takeover of the Gaza government - have laid bare any claims that the Covenant is hyperbole. Using human shields, Hamas has given the Israelis what is known as a "Hobson's Choice," that is to say, no choice at all.

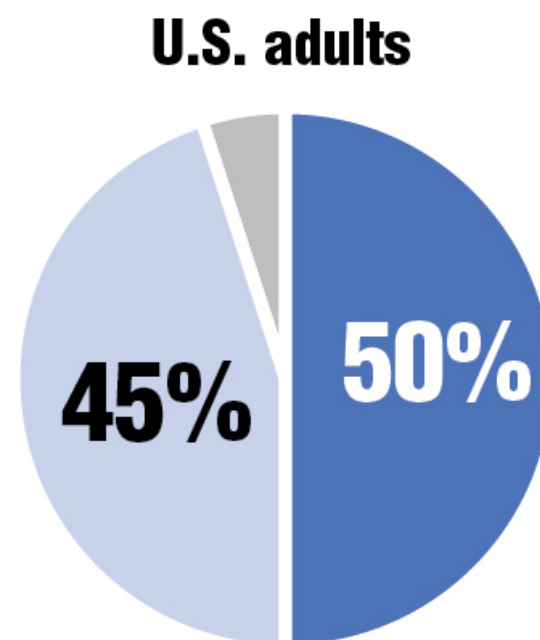
One choice is that Israel shrink from responding to, per capita, the equivalent to ten 9/11 attacks such as they received on October 7. No nation, or certainly no government, can long last if they are impotent to respond to such brutality.

The other choice is that the Israeli armed forces can respond, utilizing the best intelligence they have, firing through Palestinian civilians to destroy Hamas in their underground bunkers. Hamas has decided to use human shields, not just hostages but their own population, as unwilling, living barricades to protect those who condoned, planned, and perpetrated the October 7 attack. Israel can never allow this type of strategy to be rewarded lest it be

Action in Gaza

Americans' views of Israel's military action in Gaza

- % Approve
- % Disapprove
- % No opinion



Source: Gallup
Graphic: Staff, TNS

repeated.

The saddest moment of all for me was the realization that just like the world spent decades kicking Hamas down the road like an empty can, leaving Israel to deal with them, I'm afraid that a tenuous, fragile peace has disappeared down the road as well. I didn't foresee actual lasting peace coming soon, but it is something I truly believe will come - so long as there are willing people to do the hard work. Outside the governmental sphere, I do see Israelis and Palestinians who do the hard work. My dear friend Rabbi Michael Cohen gives six months of his year to working in Israel with the Arava Institute, where young Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians work side by side on mutually beneficial environmental projects. The seeds of the next war are often planted during the current one. I pray that these young people can see past the immediate crisis and know, in their heart of hearts, the most important truth – we share, and must share, our common humanity.

Lance Allen Wang is Supervisor-elect in the Town of White Creek who is also an Iraq Veteran and retired Army Infantry officer. He lives in Eagle Bridge with his wife Hatti.



LEGAL NOTICE

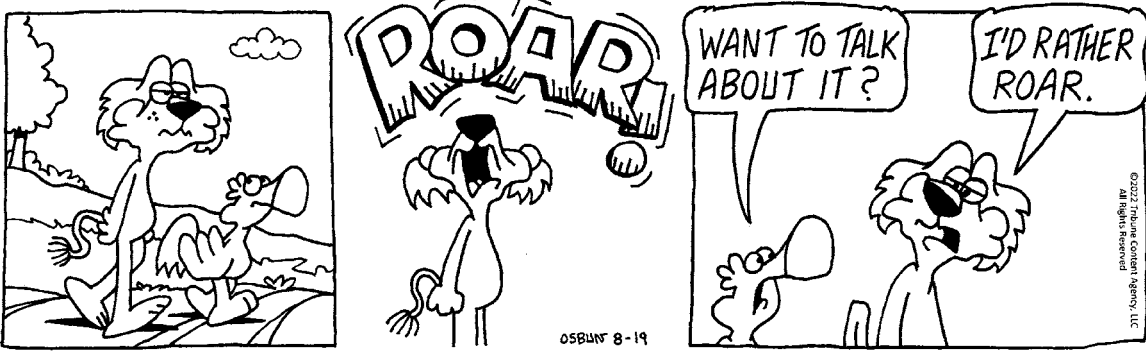
Notice of Formation of Reforest Holdings LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 10/10/2023. Office Location: Washington County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 101 Dobbin Hill Rd. Cambridge NY 12816. Purpose: any lawful activity. 6Xthru1/1/24

LEGAL NOTICE

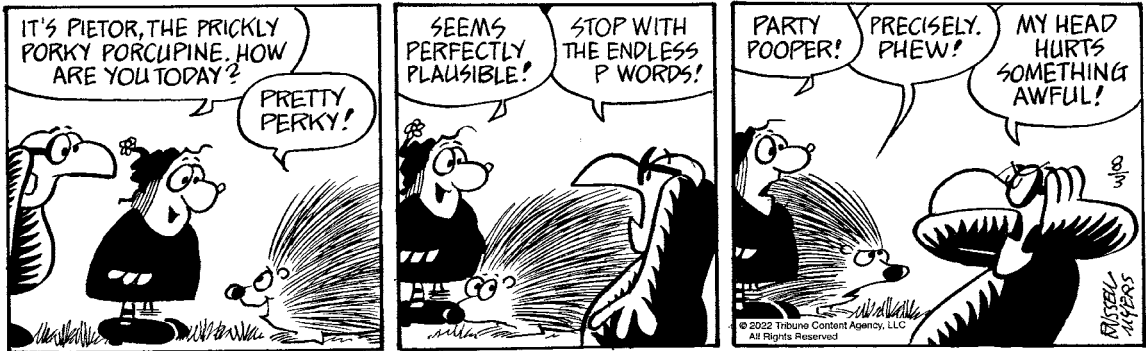
Notice of Formation of a NY Limited Liability Company. Name: Windy Hill Wellness 312, LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was 09/29/23. Office location: 106 Main St. Greenwich, NY, _Washington_ County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail copy of process to 312 Windy Hill Rd. Greenwich, NY. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS laws. --6Xthru1/1/24

FUN, GAMES & FAST FACTS

Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



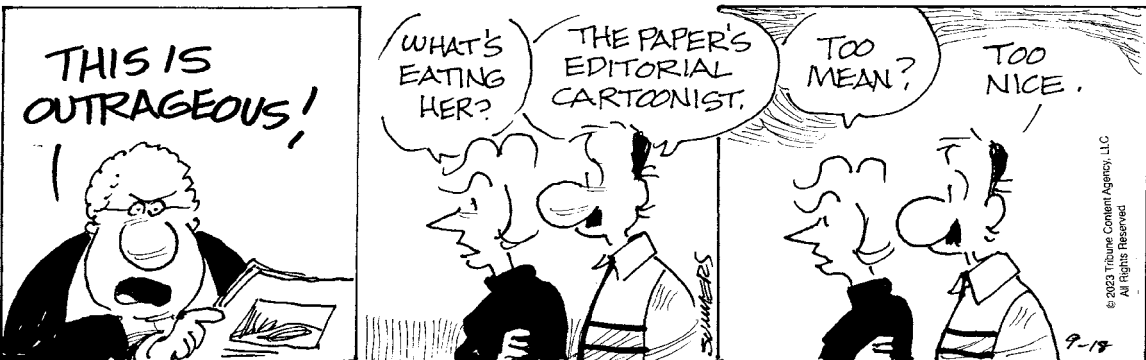
Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



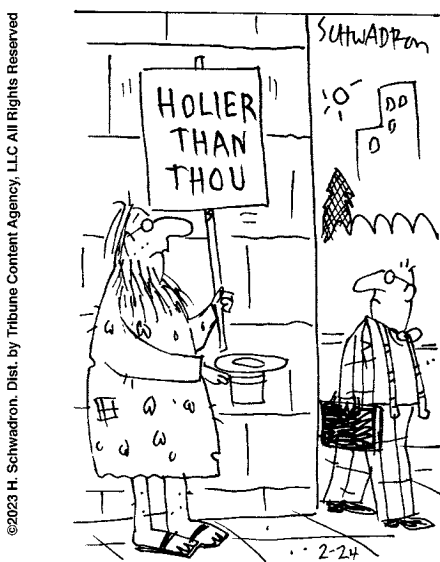
The Middletons by Dana Summers



Rover's World by Jim Gray



9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



Fast Fact

Holiday 2023 gift card trends

What type of gift card do you plan to purchase this year?

\$29.31B



Expected spending on gift cards

3-4



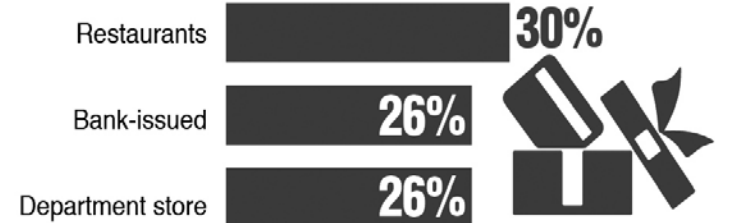
Average number of cards purchased per person

\$49.43



Average value on each card

Top gift cards

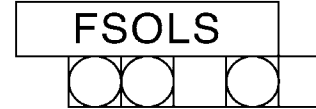


Source: NRF
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Word Play Answers Page 20

JUMBLE

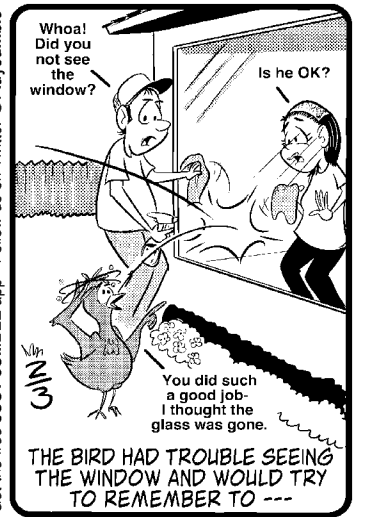
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



THE BIRD HAD TROUBLE SEEING THE WINDOW AND WOULD TRY TO REMEMBER TO ---

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



Argyle Acrostic By Frank J. D'Agostino

- | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|---------|
| Find these words associated with Winter (and find Frank's acrostic books on Amazon): | Boots | Overcoat | Socks |
| Arctic | Chill | Parka | Stove |
| Blanket | Cold | Plow | Sweater |
| Blustery | Fireplace | Polar | Winds |
| | Fleece | Scarf | Wintry |
| | Freeze | Season | Woolen |
| | Frosty | Sled | |
| | Gust | Sleet | |
| | Harsh | Slush | |
| | Mugs | Sniffles | |



SCRABBLE G R A M S

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Five racks of Scrabble tiles:

- RACK 1: A1, E1, U1, H4, N1, D2, R1
- RACK 2: E1, I1, U1, L1, B3, C3, C3
- RACK 3: A1, I1, Y4, L1, H4, D2, S1 (Triple Word Score)
- RACK 4: I1, U1, H4, L1, S1, D2, L1 (1st Letter Double)
- RACK 5: E1, E1, I1, L1, G2, K5, M3

PAR SCORE 260-270
BEST SCORE 343
FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

Boggle BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

WPTSM
EHEOI
TRNSR
ACIUB
FLECO

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 = 5 points
8 letters = 10 points
9 letters = 15 points

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

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

MORE FUN & GAMES

Filbert by LA Bonté

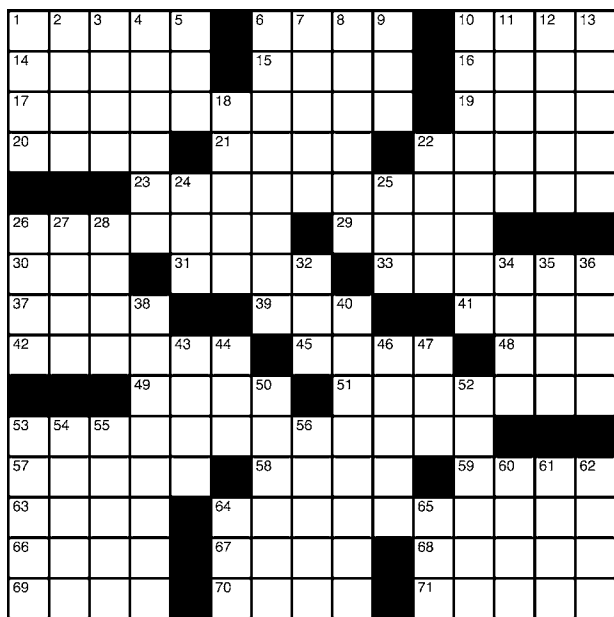


Political Cartoon of the Week by Dana Summers



Cambridge Crossword

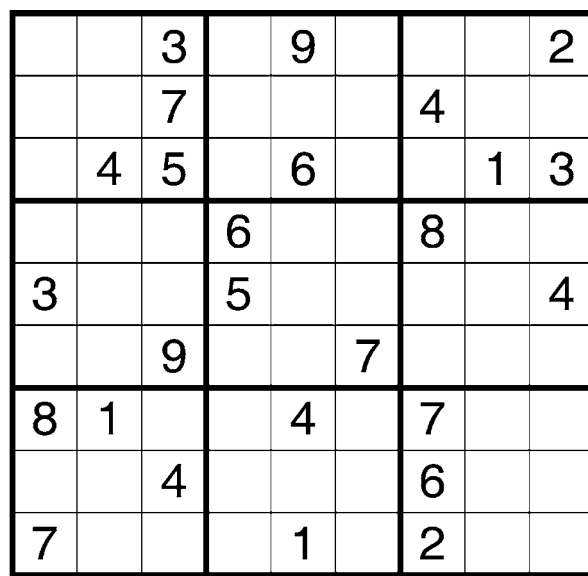
- Across
- 1 Where to hear cutting remarks?
 - 6 Tiff
 - 10 "The one over there"
 - 14 "Gotta run!"
 - 15 Sharpen
 - 16 Corned beef
 - 17 There's an element of doubt to it?
 - 19 Crazy about
 - 20 Prosecco kin
 - 21 Start to matter?
 - 22 Sing smoothly
 - 23 There's an element of romance to it?
 - 26 Increased
 - 29 Carving of a Polynesian god
 - 30 "Hips Don't ___": Shakira hit
 - 31 "Yikes!"
 - 33 Nana alternative
 - 37 ___ pressure
 - 39 Keebler baker
 - 41 Gazpacho, por ejemplo
 - 42 Fla. coastal city
 - 45 "The Daily Show" correspondent
- Lydic
- 48 Fellows
 - 49 ___ Bradley bags
 - 51 If nothing else
 - 53 There's an element of mystery to it?
 - 57 Leg joints
 - 58 Target on a putting green
 - 59 "Got it"
 - 63 Walkman descendant
 - 64 There's an element of humor to it?
 - 66 Course catalog?
 - 67 Father of Eros
 - 68 Shoyu flavor
 - 69 Cold spell
 - 70 Action at the track
- Down
- 71 Analyze grammatically
 - 1 Dancer/YouTube star
 - 2 Jojo
 - 3 Reddit Q&A sessions
 - 4 Ann Taylor
 - 5 One end of some commutes
 - 6 Org. with Giants and Titans
 - 7 Tibia
 - 8 Coastal city on the Iberian Peninsula
 - 9 Choose, as a successor
 - 10 Uniform number for Sue Bird
 - 11 Decade that is less than a decade away
 - 12 Location of Hoan Kiem Lake
 - 13 ___ Martin: British car
 - 14 Flip-flop
 - 15 Habitat for humanity
 - 16 Celebratory slice
 - 17 Big fuss
 - 18 ___ sum: bite-sized Chinese fare
 - 19 Range for yodelers?
 - 20 Nutrition regimen
 - 21 Profound
 - 22 Outdated
 - 23 NYC home of Frida Kahlo's "Self-Portrait With Cropped Hair"
 - 24 Chimps and gorillas
 - 25 Desire
 - 26 Really got going
 - 27 Like skeleton racers, seemingly
 - 28 Some concert merch
 - 29 Mistakenly hit reply all, e.g.
 - 30 Trusty mount



- 47 ___ de la CitŽ: Paris landmark
- 50 On dry land
- 52 Puzzle
- 53 Leafs (through)
- 54 How contracts are usually signed
- 55 "Bleeding Love" singer Lewis
- 56 Cleaner sold in green canisters
- 60 Rocket
- 61 Shady bunch?
- 62 Singer Brickell
- 64 Taxi
- 65 "You betcha"

Salem Sudoku

Each column/row must contain the numbers from 1 to 9, without repetitions. The digits can only occur once per block. The sum of every single row, column and block must equal 45.

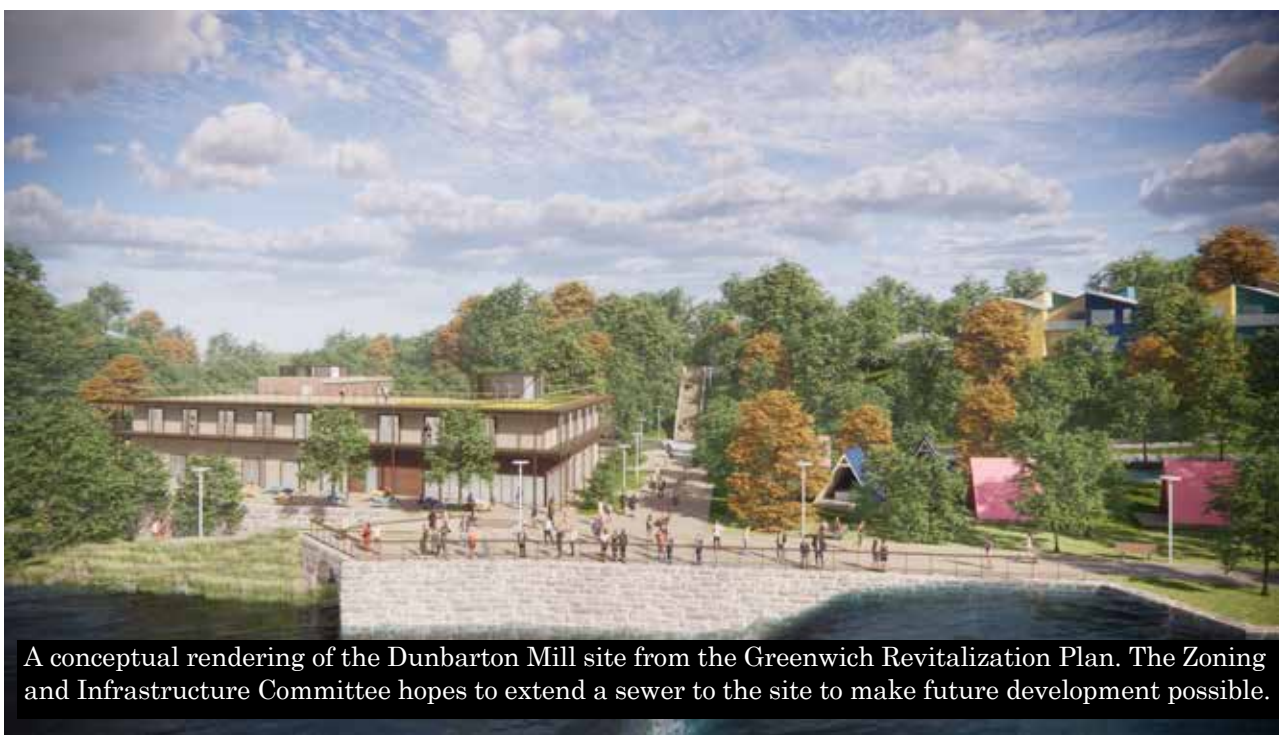


Greenwich town/village planning update

The Town and Village of Greenwich recently announced that the planning process for zoning updates and critical infrastructure expansion has begun. These efforts will advance goals that came out of the 2021 Greenwich Revitalization Plan, a 2021 Preliminary Engineering Report for water expansion, and the 2023 Town and Village Comprehensive Plan.

The planning efforts hope to focus on updates to the Village and Town zoning, extending water infrastructure along the Town's commercial Route 29 corridor, and extending sewer to the former Dunbarton site. In total, these efforts will seek to clear the way for transformative community projects like the redevelopment of the Dunbarton Mill site, senior housing, and other mixed-use development to address community-identified housing and economic development priorities. The project is funded through a \$166,500 Department of State grant that covers 90% of the project expenses.

The planning efforts are led by the Zoning and Infrastructure Committee, which includes Town and Village elected officials, Planning Board members, and business and community



A conceptual rendering of the Dunbarton Mill site from the Greenwich Revitalization Plan. The Zoning and Infrastructure Committee hopes to extend a sewer to the site to make future development possible.

leaders and is supported by LaBella Associates, Barton and Loguidice, and Clothier Planning and Consulting.

"This effort continues the productive collaboration between the Town and Village and will further our efforts to achieve the shared vision for Greenwich as outlined in the 2024 Town/Village Comprehensive Plan," Jim Nolan, Town Supervisor, said in a press release.

The project kicked off with the first Zoning and Infrastructure Committee meeting on November 1st. Work on zoning updates and water and sewer expansion will progress in parallel and continue through Fall 2024. Extensive pub-

lic engagement will be solicited for all three project facets, including stakeholder engagement, public workshops, and public hearings, to ensure that community members have opportunities to weigh in and provide feedback. The first public workshop will be held in early 2024.

The press release continued: "Town and Village will issue regular updates on progress and announcements about public meetings on their websites and social media accounts, so we urge Greenwich residents to follow the sites and check in to stay informed."

"We plan to engage the public in multiple ways in order that the final plans reflect diverse perspectives," says Pam Fuller, Village Mayor.

Winter concert

As part of the Sounds in Winter concert series, the Lark Strings will be performing in the Long Room of Brookside Museum on Saturday, December 30 at 3pm. The concert is free and open to the public. Please register at brooksidemuseum.org. Brookside Museum is located at 21 Fairground Avenue in Ballston Spa.

The Lark Strings, composed of three local, professional musicians, Jessica Belflower and Heather Chan (violins) and Brian Axford (piano and guitar), will present an energetic program mixing classical music heavy-hitters with American fiddle icons.

OK, Instagram, why don't you pack my bags?

Greg Schwem
Tribune Content Agency
Special to Journal & Press

Leave it to Instagram to tell me I do not know how to organize.

I've always considered myself a tidy person, living, since college, with nary an article of clothing tossed on floors, slung over furniture or hanging from ceiling fans. OK, the fan incident occurred once, but I believe it had something to do with a bet, as in, "I'll bet you can't toss your boxers onto the fan while it's spinning and get them to stay there."

Ah, good old frat days.

However, the Instagram algorithm seems to differ. By now it has figured out that, yes, I do travel extensively. In the past month, my Instagram followers have seen me posing happily in far flung locales such as Kotor, Montenegro; Valletta, Malta; Hilo, Hawaii; and Ravenna, Italy. I traversed all of these destinations in one, tightly packed suitcase but made the mistake of, in jest, posting an Instagram photo featuring a tangle of charging cords and adapters. The caption read "The joys of international travel."

That was all Instagram needed to begin pushing a nonstop barrage of ads to my feed for products designed to make my life less cluttered.

First up? The Ridge Wallet. Instagram has been showing me these ads for a few years, but they have increased exponentially. Designed, according to its website, to let users "carry less and live more," Ridge wallets are made from alloys ranging from aluminum to 24-karat gold, the latter for people who apparently have never lost a wallet. The Ridge appears no larger than a credit card but can hold, if you believe the unboxing YouTube video I watched, SIX cards and four bills.

"That's it?" I thought.

But What if I Need my My Speedy Rewards Card?

My trusty leather wallet currently contains 10 cards. Yes, I could probably transfer my Chicago transit pass to my phone and close one credit card, but I'd feel positively naked without my Costco membership card, my ATM card (for dispensing four bills) and my driver's license. Do Ridge users not own vehicles? Apparently they never get sick either, because I didn't see a medical insurance card or COVID-19 vaccination card in the mix. Ridge, I love your concept, but I just don't think my pants pockets are ready for such a minimalist approach.

So, let's move on to the Solgaard Carry-On Closet suitcase, the other product I am now familiar with thanks to Instagram. From the outside, it looks like a regular rollaboard suitcase, the kind preferred by air travelers who refuse to check luggage even if it means every item will emerge from their bags looking as if an elephant had had its way with the contents mid-flight.

Does It Have a Junk Drawer?

The Solgaard contains a patented "built-in shelving system," so, if packed correctly, your items magically appear on shelves that, when unfurled, hang from the case's handle. The creator, Adrian Solgaard, aka "Adrian the Canadian" to his social media followers, starred in his own YouTube video and promised his invention could hold everything from bulky sweaters to toiletries to charging cords. I could probably squeeze my vaccination card in there or maybe even a Ridge wallet.

I'm looking at my upcoming travel schedule, which includes stops in Juneau, Alaska; Phoenix, Arizona; and Fort Myers, Florida. Is it time to abandon my Fossil wallet and American Tourister luggage in favor of the Ridge and the



Solgaard? Will doing so allow me to smirk at fellow travelers, knowing the chaos that awaits when they attempt to pay for a dinner check or locate a clean pair of boxers? A pair not hanging from a ceiling fan?

I am undergoing a life change and attempting to live a more simple existence, one void of clutter and "stuff." On the surface, that makes me an ideal candidate for both products. But, as someone who still uses a desk calendar to hand write important appointments, it may take a little more convincing before I make the transition.

What I really need is a pair of underwear that folds into a wallet.

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



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FUN & GAMES SOLUTIONS

Boggle: SON UNCLE COUSIN
MOTHER FATHER SISTER NEPHEW BROTHER

Jumble: FLOSS CRAZY INTAKE OCTANE

Final Jumble: STAY CLEAR OF IT

SCRABBLE G|R|A|M|S SOLUTION

U ₁	N ₁	H ₄	E ₁	A ₁	R ₁	D ₂	RACK 1 =	61
C ₃	U ₁	B ₃	I ₁	C ₃	L ₁	E ₁	RACK 2 =	63
L ₁	A ₁	D ₂	Y ₄	I ₁	S ₁	H ₄	RACK 3 =	92
D ₂	U ₁	L ₁	L ₁	I ₁	S ₁	H ₄	RACK 4 =	63
G ₂	E ₁	M ₃	L ₁	I ₁	K ₅	E ₁	RACK 5 =	64
PAR SCORE 260-270							TOTAL	343

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

S	A	L	O	N	S	P	A	T	T	H	A	T	
I	M	O	F	F	H	O	N	E	H	A	S	H	
W	A	F	F	L	E	I	R	O	N	I	N	T	O
A	S	T	I	A	N	T	I	C	R	O	O	N	

S	N	I	F	F	L	E	S	S	Y	S	Z	I
F	O	B	L	A	N	K	E	T	H	B	I	
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Seasons Greetings!

MaryAnne Brown
Journal & Press

Happy New Year! Don't worry now. You didn't take a Rip VanWinkle nap and miss the month of December. Many faith traditions have entered into the season of Advent. In Christianity this period of time is the four weeks before Christmas during which people prepare their souls by offering prayer, studying scripture, participating in special services, in an effort to ready themselves to celebrate the birth of Christ. Advent is also considered the beginning of a new liturgical year, a new year of public worship. So, Happy New Year!

Have you already felt put upon by the holiday rush to shop, prepare, party and shop some more? Often people find the interval between Thanksgiving and Christmas a season of deep funk or a few weeks of profound pressure. Ouch! This can be a painful awakening when we think about the care of our soul. Perhaps

we can approach the holidays by finding some stillness in our busyness to answer the question, "How can I prepare the way that will be less hectic and more spiritually rich?"

Rather than surviving the holiday rush, how can we prepare a celebration that will be more spiritual and less materialistic? How can we relax and enjoy the celebration and help others see that Christmas is more than just presents? I have been sharing a special "Advent Calendar" that offers a more peaceful and meaningful holy season. If we follow this Advent Calendar, we may find we are better able to focus upon the holy season that can be a time of quiet growth and eager preparation. (Email me if you would like a free copy.)

Remember our milk stool of wellness with its physical, emotional, and spiritual legs? During this season our wellness will need great care that will include healthy practices, a streamlined, meaningful schedule, guided by careful boundaries, gentleness, and simplicity. Also, it

is wise for us to remember that the best gifts do not come in packages.

Holidays become blessed days when we pause to pray and are attentive to God's holy nudges and live our common purpose to serve others. Any deep funk or profound pressure will surely fade away. May this become our best season of preparation ever! Happy New Year! Oh, yes, and Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah! Happy Kwanzaa! Happy Holidays!

MaryAnne Brown, RN, BSN, MA is a music minister at St. Joseph's Church and has a special interest in spirituality and health. She serves as the current President of Greenwich Interfaith Fellowship, Inc. Email: Cricket0038@gmail.com



News from local churches

From the Bottskill and Lakeville Baptist Churches

The Bottskill Baptist Church will be hosting a Live Nativity Scene at the Greenwich Mowry Park on December 16 starting at 5:00. Hot drinks, Popcorn, Cotton Candy, Homemade Cookies and Holiday Music will begin the evening between 5 and 6:00 with a Live Nativity Scene starting at 6:00.

Bible Studies will be held on December 16th starting with a starting time of 9:00am at the Bottskill church, led by Steve Morse and they will be studying the Book of Mark.

A special Advent Bible Study will have been held at the Bottskill Church starting Dec 5th led by Pastor Lydia Widbin. This Study Group will continue to meet every Tuesday starting at 10:30 for the duration of six weeks. Contact Pastor Lydia for more information at lydia.widbin@gmail.com.

A Blue Christmas Service will be hosted by the Lakeville Baptist Church beginning at 6:00 on December 21st by Pastor Lydia.

A Special Christmas Eve Candlelight Service hosted by the Lakeville and Bottskill Churches will be at Bottskill Church starting at 4:30. A beautiful service is being planned celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. Everyone is invited to this service, so we welcome you to make it a cherished part of your Christmas Eve celebration.

All are welcomed to our Sunday Services, Bottskill at 9:15 and Lakeville starting at 11:00, as they join together in faith led by Pastor Lydia Widbin. Sunday School for all ages is held at Bottskill during the worship service.

The Lakeville church is located at 625 Co. Rte 49, Cossayuna and the Bottskill Baptist Church is at 26 Church Street in Greenwich.

Roman Catholic Churches

Holy Cross Church offers Mass on Sundays at 8:15, St. Patrick's at 11:30, and Immaculate Conception has Mass on Saturday at 4 PM and Sunday at 10 AM.

The famous Christmas Cookie Sale returns to the Day Chapel after Mass on December 17. The Altar Rosary Group hopes to have all delivered on Saturday at 10 AM. Help will also be needed after Mass to change the decorations from Advent to Christmas. The more hands on deck, the quicker it gets done. The new offering envelopes are available on the table outside the chapel.

St. Patrick's is again giving food baskets. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to give a cash donation, leave an envelope in the collection basket, or mail it to church. December 17 is the deadline.

The 4th Sunday of Advent will have an altered schedule. Saturday, December the 23 is a vigil Mass at 4 at Immaculate Conception. Sun-



day, December 24 is a 10 AM Mass at St. Patrick's. There will be no morning Mass at Holy Cross or Immaculate Conception. The Christmas Masses are as follows: Christmas Vigil Mass on Sunday, December 24 at 2 PM at Holy Cross; Christmas Vigil Mass at 4 PM upstairs at Immaculate Conception. St. Patrick's will hold a Mass on Monday, December 25 at 10 AM. There will be no Mass at Holy Cross or Immaculate Conception. There will be no morning Mass at Holy Cross on Tuesday, December 26.

At this giving time of year, please remember your local food pantry, it is often a critical time of year for families to provide food and gifts.

Easton Methodist Church

The Easton Methodist Church, 12053 State Route 40, invites all to a candlelight Christmas Eve service beginning at 6:30 pm on Saturday, December 24. The service will be led by Pastor Melissa Weatherwax and will include Christmas reading and hymn singing. Those who are not able to attend may join the service on Zoom. Email eastonchurch126@gmail.com to have information sent to you or visit eastonumc.org.



The state of local manufacturing plants

Michael Levy
Journal & Press

“Another One Bites the Dust” is a song from the early 1980s by the rock band Queen. Could it become the anthem for manufacturing firms in Washington County?

Essity announced earlier this year that a total of approximately three hundred people will lose their jobs when it closes their tissue manufacturing operations across New York state. This includes its South Glens Falls paper mill, the Greenwich converting facility, and its Saratoga warehouse/distribution center off Geyser Road. The South Glen Falls mill is closed and from what I have been told, the Greenwich facility will be totally shut by February 2024. Many Essity workers have found other local jobs, but I did talk to one who is moving to an Essity plant in Kentucky at the company’s expense. Essity makes paper products for the “away from home” market under the Tork brand name. If you ever were at a business establishment and used toilet tissue in a public restroom, paper towels from an automatic machine, or pulled fast-food napkins from a dispenser at a restaurant, you have used “away from home” paper products.

Let us look at this from a historical perspective. It was about a decade or so ago that medical instruments maker Covidien, the former Tyco Healthcare, closed its Argyle plant, eliminating two hundred jobs. Whatever happened to “Catheter Valley”? It does feel like history is repeating itself.

It is imperative that we make manufacturing viable and profitable in Washington County. Manufacturing companies provide stable jobs. With a thriving manufacturing sector, countless smaller businesses will consequently prosper as a result. Stable jobs additionally stimulate the local economy because workers’ money is injected into neighborhood businesses. People who have good jobs do not move away and they invest both their time and money in the immediate area. They buy real estate and get involved with the local schools and civic groups. They participate in local politics. This is how communities grow and flourish.

Not all is doom and gloom. Here are some manufacturing firms in southern Washington County of which I am aware. The information provided below is mostly taken from the websites of these companies and/or other public sources.

Fort Miller Company (688 Wilbur Ave, Greenwich, NY)

Since 1948, Fort Miller Precast has excelled in manufacturing essential precast concrete infrastructure designed for highways, bridges, airports, railroads, and utilities. Renowned for our expertise in precast customization and cutting-edge manufacturing processes, our diverse product lines span from small drainage structures to complete bridge systems. Notable projects include manufacturing of precast concrete products for the main span of the iconic Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge (Tappan Zee), and the development and manufacturing of custom support structures for Little Island at Pier 55 and MTA’s Grand Central Terminal. Our products are integral to ensuring your safe travels, secure living, and the exploration of the world around you.

Tymetal (678 Wilbur Ave, Greenwich, NY 12834)

TYMETAL is the leading U.S. security gate manufacturer, providing commercial/industrial security gates, correctional gate systems, and

other crash barriers with thousands of installations since the company was founded in 1985. TYMETAL manufactures over 25 different perimeter security products.

BDP Industries (354 NY-29, Greenwich, NY)

BDP has been a family-owned design and manufacturing business located in Greenwich, NY since 1978. Initially, the business started as a company supplying belt dewatering press (thus “BDP”) equipment and service to the paper mill industry and more. The company now provides solid / liquid separation and composting / drying technology to most industries and municipalities.

Over the years, we have branched out to supply specialized solid liquid separation equipment under a private label agreement for Eimco and Ahlstrom.

Since 1989 BDP has designed and manufactured agitators and other components for In-Vessel Composting systems by others. As of 2013 the company is now offering BDP’s own completed turnkey In-Vessel Compost / Dryer System. A partnership agreement with BacTee

‘It is imperative we make manufacturing viable in Washington County.’

Corp provides aeration, process control, ventilation, and odor containment components for a complete turnkey system.

Hollingsworth & Vose Company (Easton Mill - 3235 County Route 113, Greenwich NY and Greenwich Mill - 2322 State Route 29, Greenwich, NY)

Hollingsworth & Vose Company is a manufacturer of nonwoven materials and engineered papers used in filtration, energy, and industrial applications.

Phantom Labs (2727 State Route 29, Greenwich, NY)

Phantom Laboratory has manufactured dependable, high-precision phantoms and innovative custom solutions for the medical imaging and radiation therapy fields since 1989. From the beginning, we have focused on product design and refinement. We have introduced several patented designs and continue to work on new products and product refinements to keep pace with new and evolving medical imaging and radiation therapy technologies. Along with developing our own products, we are continually developing OEM and custom phantoms to meet the testing and research needs of our customers. (Note: I am not related to Josh Levy of Phantom Labs, just in case anyone was wondering.)

Cambridge Valley Machining (28 Perry Ln, Cambridge, NY)

Cambridge Valley Machining provides comprehensive design through manufacturing ser-



vices for startups, Fortune 500 businesses, and other domestic and global customers. Cambridge Valley Machining designs and manufactures custom mechanical, pneumatic, and electrical equipment. We provide precision machining services on a prototype or production scale. Our service team installs and services custom and production machinery. Our manufacturing plant and home office is in Cambridge, NY in a 50,000 sq. foot facility.

Cambridge Pacific (Route 22, Cambridge, NY)

Cambridge Pacific is a world-class supplier of specialty packets, pockets, and labels. Humbly nestled in an old chicken coop, between cornfields in Cambridge, New York, we utilize sheet-fed offset, roll offset, and digital imaging to protect, inform, and capture your trust.

Printing to GRACol standards using the G7 methodology, we image plates with Heidelberg Suprasetters and print on Heidelberg offset presses as well as web offset presses. We constantly measure dots, tonal values, and densities as we produce your image, digitally or lithographically.

Morcon Tissue (62 Owl Kill Rd, Eagle Bridge, NY)

At Morcon Tissue, we take pride in providing our customers with high quality napkin, towel, tissue, and specialty paper products. For more than three decades, our paper tissue converting company has been the trusted choice for those in a variety of Away-From-Home industries, including food service, healthcare, education, industrial market segments, and more.

These are but a few of the businesses located near here. The scale of the manufacturing sector in southern Washington County needs to be preserved, if not expanded. It is imperative that our local leaders get actively involved and keep our manufacturing sector strong, growing, and vibrant. Local politicians need to strongly advocate for the residents and their jobs. They need to broker deals between companies, the state and federal governments, and do whatever else is needed to keep these jobs in Washington County. My random thought for this issue - now is the best time to stop the next manufacturing plant closure!

Michael Levy is a government manager residing in Greenwich NY. He is also a Commercial Pilot and a Ham Radio operator.



Shushan Grange Hall gets facelift

The Order of Patrons of Husbandry, commonly known as The Grange was established in the United States in 1861 to advance methods of agriculture as well as to promote the social and economic needs of farmers and to support rural life in general.

Unlike many national groups which sprouted up during that time, The Grange supported equal treatment of women and was the first national organization to do so. Like many rural towns in Washington County, Shushan was one of the hamlets that had a Grange Hall. Unlike most towns, Shushan stays the only active Grange in the county.

The Shushan Grange #1233 was Chartered in 1911 and the Grange Hall was located where the “new bridge” is now. The original Grange Hall was torn down in 1960 to allow for construction of the steel deck bridge that replaced the covered bridge. It is believed that the Grange meetings were held upstairs over the old Shushan Post Office, across the street from Yushak’s Market until The Grange bought the Parsonage from the Methodist Church in 1963.

The Shushan Grange Hall, once a hub for social gatherings, has fallen into disrepair over the years. Dwindling membership and aging of



Grange members has made it difficult to keep up with necessary repairs and updates. The most distressing and obvious signs of issues with the Hall were the condition of the entrances, especially the front and rear porches.

and he and Grange Hall neighbor, Cole Loveland, built a stand for the sign in the front yard and Cole and Pascia Offield repainted the sign in keeping with the original design.

The front porch roof of The Grange Hall was in danger of collapse, and Leslie Parke, a long-time renter above The Grange Hall was distressed by the dangerous conditions it posed. Grange members and Grange Master, Medrick Christman agreed that something needed to be done. With the permission of Medrick Christman, Leslie hired Bryan Cook, a carpenter from Massachusetts. A complete reconstruction of the porch was beyond what either she or The Grange could afford, but as much of the original design as could be saved was preserved. Bryan removed the porch roof and added new siding where the porch came off the building. He preserved the balustrades, rebuilt them, and designed and installed the staircase, as well as further repairs to the cement in the front. A sturdy handrail was built to help with safety for those entering the building through the front door. Bryan continued to the back entrance and was able to salvage the back porch, removing a large wasp’s nest, then supplying safety and stability to the structure.

Overseeing the renovations on behalf of The Grange was long-time Master of the Grange, Medrick Christman. This project could not have been completed without the help of friends and neighbors willing to roll up their sleeves and open their wallets. Those helping with the renovations include Medrick Christman, Leslie Parke, Bill Parke, Steve McLenithan, Bryan Cook, Emily Gaimari, Cole Loveland, and Pascia Offield. Paint was donated by Jeff Greene, the former President of Evergreene Architectural Arts when the entire Grange Hall was painted. There was enough paint left over to cover the areas that needed painting for the current renovation.

Many groups have used The Grange Hall over the years, and it is hoped that this building will survive and allow for more gatherings. Currently The Grange hosts card parties on Saturday evenings from 6-9 pm and anyone wishing to play pitch are welcome to come and play.

There are other renovations that will need to be done, including chimney repair. Anyone wishing to help with renovations or to rent The Grange Hall can contact The Shushan Grange, PO Box 744 County Rte. 64 Shushan, NY 12873 Attention: Med Christman.

–Submitted by Joanne Peters Steele

A sign that once graced the front porch, taken down years ago, was found in the barn behind The Grange Hall. Steve McLenithan took the sign out of the barn



DAR Good Citizens

At the December 1, 2023 meeting of the Daughters of the American Revolution, local high school students were awarded the DAR Good Citizens Award. High school seniors who are selected by faculty and the senior class as a DAR Good Citizen must have the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. Recipients of this award pictured are Anna Bailey of Cambridge Central School, daughter of Peter and Jennifer Bailey, Gwyn Vincent of Hoosick Falls Central School, daughter of Wendy Vincent, and Nathan Fiske of Hartford Central School, son of Hillary Fiske. Also shown are Carman Bogle, Regent, and JoAnn Trinkle who presented the awards. Following the ceremony, members and guests enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by Faith Kuebler and Mary Smith. The next meeting of the Chapter will be March 1, 2024.



It's story time

On Friday, December 22 at 3:30pm author Rachel Vogel will bring Nugget and Bandit's Blizzard Book Tour to the Greenwich Free Library to read a chapter featuring her award-winning characters, Nugget and Bandit the raccoons. In this adorable “tail” Bandit teaches Nugget how to ski on West Mountain. At this special reading, families can enjoy delicious customized sugar cookies with hot cocoa, marshmallows, and whipped cream. Registration is required. Intended for ages 5 and up. For more information: 518-692-7157 or smurphy@sals.edu.



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