

# CAMPUS NEWS

College  Paper

SANDRAPOSEY.NET PAGE

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## Putting 'care' in healthcare

Meet Raiyan Spiteri, an energetic senior majoring in biochemistry who plans on becoming a trauma surgeon.

**Read more on pages 14-15 – and other great stuff within!**



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# COLLEGE EDGE

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Busy?...

YES, BUT COME ON IN.  
WE CAN CHAT.  
I NEED A BREAK  
FROM GRADING.

WELL, AT LEAST  
YOU PROBABLY  
BECAME A PROF  
BECAUSE YOU  
LIKE TO READ  
RIGHT??

YES, THAT'S TRUE... IT'S JUST UNFORTUNATE  
MOST OF MY STUDENTS DON'T LIKE TO WRITE.

SLACKERS.  
FAIL THEM.

OH, BELIEVE ME,  
I AM.

THIS MAY BE A BAD TIME  
TO ASK ABOUT MY GRADE...

## Write for us!

Are you a student, faculty member or staff member with something to say to the Campus News audience? Then consider writing an article, essay or opinion piece.

Contact [editor@cccnews.info](mailto:editor@cccnews.info) to get involved, or visit us online at [cccnews.info](http://cccnews.info). Get published and reach thousands of people.

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This could be a nice side gig for someone young, someone older and wiser or someone at the mid-point of their life. Practically anyone old enough to work.

The job's pretty straightforward – read and understand this paper. Get excited about it. Believe in its mission. And then contact businesses that would benefit by being in front of our audience. You'd present them the rates, wheel and deal a little bit, help them get their creative juices flowing and come up with a design per our page specs, get us that ad and maybe gently needle them if they take too long to pay. A good amount of emailing and sometimes a phone call. That's about it. Think you can do this? Contact [editor@cccnews.info](mailto:editor@cccnews.info) to inquire. Please do!

## A podcast about newspapers

Ever wonder how this newspaper is made, and all of the journalistic decisions that come with managing a newspaper? Then listen to publisher Darren Johnson's Weekly Newspaper Podcast.

You can find it on your favorite podcast app or go to [WeeklyNewspaperPodcast.com](http://WeeklyNewspaperPodcast.com).

You can also sign up for his daily Substack newsletter at [journalandpress.com](http://journalandpress.com).

Johnson mixes talk about the business of small-town newspapers with national journalism trends, often using his hometown The Campus News as an example, as well as his independent college paper, Campus News.

Johnson is also a Visiting Professor of Multimedia Journalism at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.



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# **NY ECK Soul Adventure Seminar**

**April 11– 13, 2025**

**Hilton Garden Inn, Clifton Park, NY**

## **OUR FEATURED SPEAKERS**

**Dr. Alain Le Guillou**

**Laura Blank**

**Liz Mallett**

**Steve Mallett**

**Alain's focus will be on mastering practical aspects of the spiritual life. Developing an approach to apprenticeship and a working relationship with fully realized beings.**

**Laura's topics will focus on developing self discipline and patience and how these help us to maneuver through the ups and downs of everyday life.**

**Liz will share her journey of navigating fear and worry, while exploring the spiritual art of surrender and inner peace.**

**The journey only truly starts with recognition and acceptance of who and where we are in this very moment. Steve shares tips on practicing the art of loving life in any situation.**

### ***Sample Seminar Topics:***

**Apprenticeship: Mastering the Small Steps. Working with God-Realized Beings**

**Raise Your Spiritual I.Q.—Intro to Eckankar**

**A Journey through Consciousness**

**Loving as God Loves: A Secret to Spiritual Living**

# How to protect your ears in a noisy world

Michael Bergen, Au.D.  
*Special to Campus News*

As a music enthusiast and an audiology professor at the City University of New York, where I have worked on busy, vibrant, and sometimes loud campuses for three decades, I realize that life can be noisy. When I'm not at work, I spend plenty of time in loud settings: on the subway, attending concerts and shows, and listening to podcasts and music.

Fortunately, there are simple ways to enjoy life's great sounds while protecting your ears.

I'd like to share with you some experiences and expert tips that stem from my work so that you can protect your ears and avoid hearing loss in our noisy world.

As the director of the Davidow Speech Language Hearing Center at Brooklyn College and a professor in the audiology doctoral program at the CUNY Graduate Center, I collaborate with faculty members and students to promote healthy hearing habits.

Recently, two patients visited our campus clinic to address noise-related concerns. Their experiences are common and illustrate the ways, many of them very simple, to mitigate the damage of loud sounds. (I changed their names to protect their privacy.)

Rob, a professional photographer and videographer, works at dozens of celebratory events a year: weddings and holiday parties that he described as "crazy loud." He was concerned that job-related noise levels might harm his hearing. After testing and counseling, Rob decided to have a set of custom earplugs made. These have filters that allow him to adjust the level of noise reduction depending on the expected sound levels at the venue and can cost \$100 to \$200 or more. At a follow-up visit, Rob shared that he simply selects the most aggressive filters so that he can experience greater levels of noise reduction; he shared that these plugs provide peace of mind while he's working.

Juanita, a university-based marketing and media specialist who is also a college student, had been in a band for several



Bing Create

years but stopped playing bass following the onset of tinnitus — the sensation of ringing or buzzing in the ears. She hoped to return to her love of playing music, but only if she could do so safely. I outlined some relatively simple techniques to help reduce risk, such as considering her distance to other sound sources (instruments, speakers); emphasizing low frequencies relative to other, potentially more damaging, sounds; elevating woofers and subwoofers off the floor; and wearing some type of ear protection when noise levels seem intense.

There are musician-friendly earplugs, some of which are quite inexpensive (as low as \$10 to \$15), and which can help to maintain natural sound characteristics of music and speech — features that are critically

important to pitch identification for a musician, while limiting her risk.

We also discussed how Juanita can use a sound-level meter app to estimate noise levels, helping her to better anticipate when her auditory system might be at risk.

While it's tempting to rely on news outlets, social media, and search engines as a primary source of health information, those resources can be fraught with misinformation and certainly aren't tailored to individual needs.

So, how can you protect your ears in a noisy world? Consider the following:

**Be Aware**

**Please read more on the next page**

# (cont.)

Situations are riskier for your hearing when the sound is louder and prolonged. Consider this whenever you're exposed to noise. When the sound is so loud as to be uncomfortable, you should try to reduce the intensity, use ear protection, or remove yourself from the environment when possible.

## Try an App

To estimate noise levels and risk, you can refer to and use sound-level meter apps, some of which are free, such as the NIOSH Sound Level Meter app. These applications and other portable sound level-meter devices have limitations but can provide useful information about potential for noise exposure.

## Consult Reliable Sources

There are a variety of evidence-based online resources to help you consider noise levels and potential impact. The American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) and the American Academy of Audiology (AAA) are excellent organizations that provide consumer information on noise

and other ear-related concerns.

## Talk to an Audiologist

If you experience tinnitus, hearing loss, discomfort, or fullness in your ears, you should consider contacting a licensed audiologist, an expert in hearing health care. While noise can certainly contribute to these symptoms, there are many reasons that can be identified, with intervention varying by the diagnosis and unique needs of the individual. If you have not experienced symptoms but are concerned about being at risk for hearing issues, an audiologist can help to plan strategies to limit future risk.

The good news is that with awareness and planning, you can protect your hearing and savor music, conversation, and other wonderful sounds for years to come.



**Michael Bergen** –Photo by David Rozenblyum/Brooklyn College

*Michael Bergen, Au.D. directs the Diana Rogovin Davidow Speech-Language Hearing Center at Brooklyn College and is a founding faculty member of the CUNY Graduate Center Audiology Doctoral Program.*

# Queensborough to assist transfers

Queensborough Community College announced its selection to participate in the Cohort Four Transfer Student Success Intensive, a prestigious initiative led by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program (Aspen) and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). Supported by the Ascendium Education Group, this year-long program empowers colleges and universities to improve outcomes for transfer students through data-driven strategies, peer learning, and expert guidance.

“Seamless transfer from a community college to a four-year institution is crucial for the many students who depend on community colleges as their entry to higher education,” said Queensborough Community College President Christine Mangino. “We are

excited to have been selected to participate in this cohort and know this work will ensure success for our students.”

Cohort four includes ten teams of ten four-year institutions and thirteen community colleges representing ten states. Over the next year, these partnerships will collaborate to create sustainable transfer reform strategies tailored to their institutional and student needs. Since 2021, the Transfer Intensive has supported 91 colleges, including 41 AASCU members, impacting 16,000 transfer students across 23 states. Queensborough Community College will join this growing network of institutions committed to ensuring successful bachelor's degree completion for transfer students.

“The Transfer Intensive is a hands-on program that gives institutions research and

proven practices that help them reimagine and improve their transfer pathways,” said Tania LaViolet, Director of Research, and Innovation at the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. “Through this initiative, we are helping institutions address systemic barriers and develop actionable plans that if implemented, should improve transfer rates and bachelor's degree attainment for students who begin at community colleges.”

The Transfer Intensive offers institutions access to a research-based curriculum, individualized consultations, and workshops to accelerate institutional progress toward transfer reform. Participating institutions will focus on data collection, goal setting, and peer learning to enhance outcomes for transfer students in the communities that they serve.

# Let's make it Black History Authors' Month

**Warren Schultz**

*Special to Campus News*

I have always been an avid reader, inspired by my grandfather who had read me Dickens and

Twain as I sat on his lap as a young boy. When I became a teenager my reading habits were more pedestrian, including sports novels, science fiction and fantasy, and perhaps an occasional Kerouac novel, passed down to me by my big brother.

Then, the summer before I entered high school as a fresh-faced 14-year-old kid, I was presented a reading list including novels such as *Brave New World*, *Kon Tiki*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, and *Animal Farm*, all of which broadened my horizons. There was another book on the list that intrigued me, *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison. It was not, of course, a horror or science fiction novel as I had hoped. Instead, the invisible man of the title was a Black man, and his invisibility was more cultural than physical. He was, by virtue of his race, invisible to large segments of the population. Reading that book, I was able to slip into the skin of a Black person and begin to understand the hardships and racism they experienced. That was the first black-authored novel I read. In fact, I don't recall having read any novels with Black characters except for Jim in *Huckleberry Finn*.

Over the years, Black authors have made themselves visible with books that demand you to look at them and recognize them as fellow human beings. Reading those books gives people of all races insight into lives challenged by disrespect, hate and brutality.

It is heartening to see these authors finally receive their well-earned acclaim, while earning prestigious awards such as the National Book Award, the Caldecott Medal, the Newberry medal, and the Pulitzer Prize. And yet, grouping them under the collective term "Black writers", does them a disservice. Their genre encompasses writers of many different styles and beliefs. And it has

evolved considerably over the years. Many of the earliest Black writers in America, dating back to colonial days, wrote about their experiences as slaves. One of the earliest novels by an

African American author was *Clotel or the President's Daughter* by William Wells Brown, based on the then-rumor (and now established fact) that President Jefferson had fathered children with the enslaved Sally Hemmings. Another early popular Black work was *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, himself once an American slave. Other early African American works were spiritual narratives and religious writings. Around the same time, writers such as Sojourner Truth and Booker T. Washington wrote confrontational works about slavery.

In the 1920s and '30s, a movement known as the Harlem Renaissance was fueled by the great migration of Southern Black people moving to Northern cities and documented by writers such as Langston Hughes and Zora Neal Hurston. Up until this time, African American literature was mainly read by African Americans. But the Harlem Renaissance brought their work to a larger audience. The novels that rose from this time were often about the travails of common Black life—urban and rural.

In the 1970s, books by black authors, such as *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, and *Roots: the Saga of an American Family* by Alex Haley entered the mainstream. Since then, popular black authors such as Ntozake Shange, Ishmael Reade, Jamaica Kincaid have topped the best-seller list with works of all styles, best epitomized by Colson White-



Toni Morrison and Colson Whitehead

head who has produced post-apocalyptic fiction, mystery, memoir, literary fiction, crime, magical realism—all to much acclaim.

The books of these writers are now read by people of all races and all ages. In fact, my first-grade granddaughters routinely read works by Black authors, such as the picture book, *Get Up, Stand Up*, based on the Bob Marley song.

Still, it is no surprise that books by black authors have been banned by many libraries. Those include books by Toni Morrison, Ibram X Kendi, Richard Wright, James Baldwin, and more. But, of course those books, or any other books, are not banned at our library.

If you would like to read works by these (or any) Black authors unfamiliar to you, Black History Month is a perfect time to get to know them. Check out our display of books by Black authors or ask at the desk for suggestions.

*Warren Schultz is an author and playwright who has worked in five libraries; currently the Greenwich Free Library. He is an upstate native.*



# Quiet photog captures quiet moments

**E. Marlay**  
*Campus News*

“A Love Letter to New York City” is an exhibit that is on display every Saturday from January 16th through February 15th. The photography exhibit is being held at Vital Art Studio’s Gallery and is scheduled to last four hours from 12 pm to 4 pm every day that it is open. The work is created by photographer Paul O’Malley and curated by Raluca Anchidin, a curator who focuses on working with art non-profits and local artists.

O’Malley is originally from Ireland. He has work on his website titled *Alone* Volume one and two, where he explores his longing for solitude.

His website says, “These images are not just of people, landscapes, city scenes, the sky, the sea, or inanimate objects—they capture my feelings.”

According to him, he came to New York City because “I have a brother that lives in Connecticut and I wanted to be closer to him. And also, who doesn’t want to live here. This is a great place to be a photographer. There’s so many different things to photograph.”

Looking at the exhibit you can really see how much he loves this city. Each work shows beautiful quiet moments in New York City, varying from an unidentifiable man sitting in a subway to three people sitting on a beam, with an object blocking out everything around them. Looking at the shots it’s easy to forget just how busy it must have been at the time they were taken.

“I’m extremely introverted, that nature tends to show itself because I look for quiet moments in a busy city like New York,”



O’Malley said.

When asked what inspired this exhibit O’Malley said, “So much can be painted about NY being cold or having so many problems we tend to at times have a love hate relationship with the city. I love to romanticize the city. So many people long to live here and the photographs depict a lot of the reasons people want to.”

His process when it comes to figuring out what he wants to photograph is, “An ongoing natural process. He knows there will be times in the future when he is showing a series of works, but does not have a plan laid out.

O’Malley has found quite a bit of success as a photographer in the city. Having sold some pieces and exhibited work in various galleries, including the Culture Lab Long Island City.

However, according to O’Malley, “I would like to be recognized in artistic circles, but I’m not interested in making it a career. I think for me if I were to focus on making money I would lose the reason why I got into photography in the first place which is for the enjoyment of it.”

To him his photography is his passion, a therapeutic outlet through which he can express himself.

This sentiment was seconded by Katie Gadowski, a local photographer and photojournalist based out of Brooklyn, who said, “Paul is shy, but by looking at his photographs you can learn more about him.”

While there are not any exhibits scheduled after February 15th for Paul O’Malley, his exhibition “A Love Letter to New York City,”



is on the small list of locations being visited during the Valentines’ Day Sunnyside Art Walk on February 14th at 1 pm. Other locations being visited during the event include Cool Beans Coffee House (where it starts), the clothing store Tiapalli Artesanias, Aubergine Café, and Stray vintage which sells vintage jewelry, clothes & midcentury modern furniture, etc.

On top of that another exhibit is showing work by O’Malley, as well as many other local artists’ works, from January 24-26th at the Berry Campbell Gallery. The work at the Berry Campbell Gallery is titled “Postcards From the Edge.”

O’Malley’s website says that “Postcards From the Edge” is, “way of bringing a community of artists from across the globe together to support artists living with HIV and the legacies of those lost to AIDS by donating original, small scale works that are exhibited and sold at a partner gallery each year.”

This event took place on Saturday 1/25 from 12–5pm and Sunday 1/26 12–4pm for in-person shopping and order pickup, but the online sales for the work were available on the 25th at 10 am, each piece costing \$100.

# THE PROFESSOR'S OFFICE HOURS

## The future of work is changing. So must you.

**Prof. Robert M. Donnelly**  
*Special to Campus News*

Technology/AI is altering the nature of work and in the process is reducing traditional job opportunities for college students like you. Floating through life living from paycheck to paycheck will no longer be a viable long term career option.

That means you must begin planning for how you are going to survive and thrive for the upcoming 40 years of your work life and more importantly for the 20+ years of life after work – *right now!*

It is imperative that you explore your internal skill set and determine what you are really good at and enjoy the most. It's a fact that many people never figure that out and spend their careers working at jobs that are not personally fulfilling and financially insecure. Unfortunately, this also results in them struggling in their senior years.

You probably know of some seniors who are currently in this situation, too.

Other factors to consider are that many college students select majors when they begin their studies that their parents advised or they "heard" were good career opportunities. Then usually after their sophomore year they change their major to the next "hot" career trend.

When graduating most take jobs doing something that has very little to do with what they majored in just to get a job. Most often this leads to an unfulfilled work life of jobs, not a career doing what you do best and enjoy the most.

So what should you do now?

The first thing is to take an aptitude test to determine what you are good at. Many aptitude tests are available these days on the internet. Alternatively, you can also take the standard Myers Briggs Personality Test will give you an idea of job types that fit your persona.

These tests should be an indication of the type of careers that are best for you. In some

cases the results may also be a surprise.

Next you should do an honest personal SWOT analysis. In other words what are my Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats? The more honest you are the better in terms of being able to formulate your unique value proposition.

Then you need to make a list of between 25 to 30 words that you feel describe you. You then need to cull this list down to just 3 words that capture the essence of you. Once you have these 3 words you need to share them with someone whose opinion you value because others often perceive you in way that's more valuable than the way that you do.

Lastly, you need to take a personality profile examination to determine exactly what your personality type is, and more importantly to be able to recognize the personality type of all those that you come in contact with personally and professionally.

As you probably already realize, people have a continuum of conflicts and misunderstandings with each other throughout their lives. This is primarily because they do not recognize the personality characteristics of others and behave in a way that is natural to them not realizing that that type of behavior is disturbing to other personality types.

The success in anyone's career and life is to be able to "get along" with those that they need to develop a positive productive relationship with. So you need to be able to recognize differing personality types and the way in which to deal with them productively and successfully.

The 4 personality types are Drivers, Expressives, Analytics, and Amiables. Explanations of these personality types are available on the internet, as well as the ways to deal with them.

Once you understand the characteristics of each personality type, including your own, the more successful you will be communicating and dealing with others for the



balance of your life and career.

Now you have all the ingredients to develop your unique value proposition and persona for a more successful career doing what you do best and enjoy the most, which will result in a much more fulfilling and financially secure career.

You also need to take your unique value proposition and create your Personal Brand to market yourself more successfully in the new world of work on social media.

My last recommendations are that you take the resume' that your college counselor has helped you develop and use it to create your own website, as well as your LinkedIn profile.

These will be the most effective tools that you will need to promote yourself and your unique value proposition to the right opportunities for you upon graduation.

**GET STARTED NOW!**

*Professor Robert M. Donnelly is a Distinguished Professor at Rushmore University, a global online university.*



# Getting 20,000 guns off the street

**Eric Adams**  
Mayor of New York City  
*Special to Campus News*

From the moment I was sworn in as your mayor three years ago, our primary mission has been to create safer streets, safer subways, and a safer city for New York families. That means tackling the issue of gun violence head-on and working to get illegal guns out of the hands of criminals before they can cause more harm.

The numbers are in, and I am proud to say that our administration made significant progress in getting guns off our streets and out of our communities. As of last week, we have confiscated more than 20,000 illegal firearms since we first took office. That is 20,000 weapons that no longer threaten the safety of our neighborhoods, our families, and our children; 20,000 fewer chances that a New Yorker is shot or killed; and 20,000 rivers of violence dammed up before they flood our city. This statistic is more than just a large number — it's a major milestone for our city and a clear shift in the right direction.

We've also taken 3,000 more guns off our streets from 2022 through 2024 than in the previous three-year period. And of the 20,000 guns we have seized, more than 1,400 of them have been identified as ghost guns — the untraceable firearms that are far too easy to obtain and assemble. We are removing dangerous guns off our streets and keeping our communities safe — and our strategy is working.

For three years in a row, the number of homicides and shootings have both declined by double digits: homicides are down by almost 23 percent, and shootings are down by more than 42 percent. That means we've saved 268 additional lives and seen 1,500 fewer shooting victims.

And last year saw the lowest amount of gun violence in the history of Brooklyn, while overall crime plummeted by 15 percent in December across the entire city. Because of our steadfast focus on eradicating gun violence, New York City continues to be the safest big city in America.

As we begin the New Year, our priority remains the same: keeping New Yorkers safe by continuing to address gun violence and removing illegal firearms from our city. NYPD officers have already confiscated over 350 firearms in the first few weeks of 2025. But we can — and we will — go further.

In the last few months, we have seen random acts of violence

that have shaken many New Yorkers. We all know safety is about more than just statistics — people must be safe and they must FEEL safe. Nothing does a better job in translating perception to reality than the presence of that familiar blue uniform. So, we are putting hundreds of additional police officers out on patrol, including two officers on every single subway during the overnight hours to keep New Yorkers safe.

That was my promise to you three years ago and continues to be my promise to you today. When others wanted to defund the police, I defended them, because fighting for your safety is what you elected me to do. And the NYPD will keep working hard — seizing guns, dismantling trafficking pipelines, and preventing shootings before they happen — to make New York City even safer.

We are also supporting efforts to stop recidivists from committing more crimes, building stronger bonds between the police and the communities they serve, and creating opportunities for young people to stay safe and find purpose. With initiatives like our Neighborhood Safety Teams and the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, we will continue to make the smart, upstream investments that dam the rivers of violence and prevent crime from happening in the first place.

As I said in my State of the City address earlier this year, we must make New York City the best place in the world to raise a family — and that starts with safer streets for our families to walk down, safer transit to ride on, and safer parks to play in. Every gun we take off our streets gets us another step closer to that goal. And every day, I will continue to work to end gun violence in our city and our nation.

*Find more of Mayor Eric Adams' op-eds on [cccnnews.info](http://cccnnews.info).*



# REGIONAL EDITORS WANTED

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# STAC's new Exercise Science master's

St. Thomas Aquinas College announces the expansion of its in-demand STEM academic offerings with the launch of new graduate programs in Exercise Science in Fall 2025. These programs build upon the College's successful undergraduate Exercise Science program and are designed to prepare students to assess, evaluate, and develop exercise programs tailored to individual health needs and performance goals.

"The launch of our new graduate programs in Exercise Science reflects our unwavering commitment to academic excellence and innovation," said Ken Daly, President of St. Thomas Aquinas College. "As we launch our first-ever STEM Master's programs, we are equipping students with the knowledge and skills to tackle pressing challenges in health and wellness. These programs embody our mission to prepare students for impactful careers, while advancing the greater good."

The new offerings include a 33-credit Master of Science degree and a 12-credit Advanced Certificate in Exercise Science. Both are part of the College's "ADVANCE: Graduate and Certificate Programs for Lifelong Learners" initiative, which provides affordable educational paths to support lifelong learning and professional development. Courses will be offered in a hybrid format, with a combination of in-person evening and online classes.

"As the healthcare landscape continues to prioritize preventive and holistic approaches, the demand for exercise scientists with advanced degrees is expected to rise steadily," said Dr. Bianca Wentzell, Dean of the School of STEM at St. Thomas Aquinas College. "Our programs will provide students with the expertise needed to excel in this field."

The Master's degree program will equip future students with a versatile skill set, enabling them to pursue diverse careers such as Exercise Physiologist, Clinical



Exercise Physiologist, Wellness Coordinator, Strength and Conditioning Coach, and Sports Scientist. Graduates can apply their expertise in designing tailored exercise programs, managing wellness initiatives, enhancing athletic performance, and conducting research to optimize health and fitness outcomes.

As part of the new program rollout, students who apply to the MS in Exercise Science program by March 15, 2025, will be eligible for a special \$10,000 financial award toward their degree. Through the admissions process, applicants will also be considered for scholarships, tuition discounts, and financial aid opportunities. The 12-credit Advanced Certificate will be offered at a 50% tuition discount. This financial support demonstrates the College's commitment to affordability as students advance their education and prepare for impactful careers in a growing STEM field.

Interested applicants are encouraged to visit the MS in Exercise Science webpage

and complete our interest form. They are also invited to attend the College's upcoming panel discussion "Exercise Science & Health Innovation: Transforming Modern Wellness" on February 5. For more information, please contact Dana Caponong, M.A., Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions at [dcaponon@stac.edu](mailto:dcaponon@stac.edu) or 845-398-4220.

Since its inception on Earth Day 2021, the College's School of STEM has introduced new programs, launched the STEM Exploration Program series for high school students, established the College's STEM Advisory Board, and created innovative learning opportunities. Students gain hands-on experience through the Exercise Is Medicine On Campus initiative, which fosters education and awareness around exercise and physical activity to promote healthy habits within the campus community. The new SKAE Astronomy Center is slated to open Fall 2025, offering research and experiential learning with a state-of-the-art telescope.

# SUNY announces first cohort of EOP interns

State University of New York Chancellor John B. King Jr. announced the inaugural cohort for the SUNY Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Career Development Internship Program. The program builds on SUNY's vision of providing an internship or other high-quality experiential opportunity for every SUNY student prior to graduation. Up to 50 eligible EOP students will participate in one of three cohorts in year one and receive up to \$5,000.

“For over 50 years, the SUNY Educational Opportunity Program has been a driving force in student success and upward mobility,” said SUNY Chancellor King. “The launch of the EOP Career Development Internship Program marks another significant milestone in SUNY's mission to empower our incredible EOP students with the resources they need to thrive. This initiative offers invaluable professional experience with New York State agencies, setting students on a clear path to successful careers, including in public service.”

The SUNY Board of Trustees said, “SUNY's Educational Opportunity Program is a pathway to student success and positive lifelong outcomes. Matching EOP students with public service internships will continue to open up doors of opportunity for our students as they prepare for thriving careers after graduation.”

The EOP Career Development Internship Program will connect students with New York State agencies as they pursue completion of their degree and prepare for the launch of their careers by providing them with real-world professional experience and skill development within a field that aligns both with their academic pursuit and personal interests; personalized mentorship; as well as financial support that helps students develop personal budgeting, as well as basic needs support in the event a student has transportation or other accessibility hurdles that would otherwise prevent them from participating in the program. The program is made

possible through funding allocated to SUNY by Empire State Development.

Last February, Governor Hochul announced SUNY campuses will invest nearly \$10 million in recurring state funding to provide 3,000 SUNY students with internships and other experiential learning opportunities before graduation. The funding was secured through the historic \$163 million increase in direct operating aid to SUNY's State-operated campuses for FY 2024.

The inaugural group of students in the SUNY EOP Career Development Internship Program for Cohort 1 are:

- Mohammed Ahsan, Erie Community College
- Marzia Amin, Stony Brook University
- Nicole Buitron, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- Frank DePalma, III – Hudson Valley Community College
- Kalyiah Haynes, SUNY Cortland
- Ladnijirah Lightner, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- Janielis Rivera Bauzo, SUNY Cortland
- Tatienna Samuels, SUNY Oswego
- Esdras Velazquez, University at Buffalo

State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, Chair of the Higher Education Committee, said, “SUNY's EOP provides assistance for students who face significant obstacles along their higher education journey. The Career Development Internship Program is another way SUNY will provide these students with the experience and opportunity for meaningful careers in areas of economic growth. EOP is one of the many programs keeping SUNY a driver of upward mobility.”

State Senator Robert Jackson said,

“As a proud SUNY EOP alumnus, I carry firsthand the transformative power of this program. The EOP Career Development Internship Program is more than an opportunity—it's a bridge between dreams and reality, equipping students with the skills, support, and vision to thrive. By intertwining real-world experience with academic ambition, this program is nurturing a generation ready to lead, serve, and soar. This is the promise of EOP: turning potential into purpose and possibilities into progress.”

Assemblymember Phara Souffrant Forrest said, “As an EOP graduate who is now a State elected official, I applaud the creation of the EOP Career Development Internship Program. I hope it will inspire more students like me to go into public service and see themselves reflected in our government.”

Assemblymember Latrice M. Walker said, “The SUNY Educational Opportunity Program has helped more than 85,000 students across five decades to pursue their academic and career goals. I was one of those students. Having grown up in Brownsville, I know all too well that most young people need opportunities, and they need support in order to succeed. The EOP Career Development Internship Program will connect promising students to state agencies, providing access to mentors and valuable experience that will help launch their careers. I commend Governor Hochul and Chancellor King for their leadership and Empire State Development for their financial support. And, of course, I offer my congratulations to the initial group of students who will participate in the Career Path Initiative during its first year.”

For more than 50 years, SUNY EOP has served students, helping more than 85,000 participants graduate from college. EOP also contributes to New York's workforce development, with more than 78% of EOP graduates staying in New York to live and work.

# Emphasizing the ‘care’ in healthcare

**Dave Paone**  
*Campus News*

Healthcare in America is a hot-button issue and it’s been brought to the forefront recently with the murder of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson by what appears to be a disgruntled patient.

Raiyan Spiteri is a senior at Stony Brook University on Long Island with a major in biochemistry and plans on becoming a trauma surgeon.

Even though she hasn’t started medical school yet, she already has a few problems with the country’s healthcare system. Like it or not, the healthcare system is a business that’s dependent on repeat customers.

“My whole issue is that I don’t agree with the business model,” Raiyan said. “I don’t want to indulge in that type of practice. My intention and my incentive for helping people is to simply help them and not just put a Band-Aid over the problem. I like to get to the root issue and the root cause of things so you don’t have to keep coming back to me. I want to see you once and never again.”

Raiyan said her sociology textbook actually replaced the word “patient” with “client.” She feels this is “propaganda” that says, “In a sense it’s better to put a Band-Aid on the [problem]” because that will result in repeat customers.

Essentially, she’s advocating for a healthcare model that places preventative care at its center.

Raiyan attended Farmingdale State College for two years. For a year during that time, she worked full-time at a doctor’s office managing “manipulation under anesthesia” procedures while taking classes at night.

“I would work from nine to five and then directly after I was taking night classes from six to 10 pm at Farmingdale,” said the 21-year-old.

Raiyan’s interest in medicine began at a young age when she accompanied her mother on a run while riding her tricycle along-

side.

Her mother was running the track around a high school football field when a teenage lacrosse player thought it would be funny to fling his lacrosse ball at the fence behind her to give her a startle.

The ball missed the fence and hit her in the eye and she ruptured her orbital globe. She’s had 19 repair surgeries since.

“She still can’t see out of her eye,” said Raiyan.

For the rest of her childhood Raiyan saw her mother’s pain and the need to see doctors regularly.

“I just always felt like I wanted to do more to help and I didn’t really understand how to and it definitely made me more empathetic,” she said. “It just kind of sparked that need in me to want to do more.”

Raiyan accompanied her mother to her doctors’ appointments, so she was constantly around medical professionals and other patients.

She admired how educated the doctors were and looked up to them as role models.

It was in sixth grade when she took her first biology class which really interested her that science became a definite college and career option.

Ask any MD if he had a favorite doctor television series in his youth and the answer will most always be yes. Which one was Raiyan’s?

“I want to say Grey’s Anatomy but it’s cliché,” she said with a laugh. “Of course there’s the drama part of the scenes that make it interesting to watch, but I was actually more interested when it got into the OR parts.”



—dp photos

When the characters mentioned a disease or an infection by name, she’d look them up while still watching the episode.

An applicant for medical school need not have a degree in science or anything medical-related; a degree in any subject will do, which came as a big surprise to Campus News.

“You can be an English major, a math major, communications – anything,” said Raiyan. “As long as you take the required cours-

**Please read more on the next page**

# (cont.)

es needed to be tested on the medical exam and then get into medical school.”

Raiyan’s current class load includes the courses she needs to be ready for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), which is an eight-hour exam.

While Raiyan is not looking for repeat customers, she knows healthcare is a business and is learning the “back office” (the business part) as well as the “front office” (the medicine part).

“I’m learning about the insurance, I’m learning about the medical records, I’m learning about the HIPAA [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act], I’m learning about all the paperwork-type information and I think that’s very valuable. Any place loves to have a doctor that knows how to work the back and the front,” she said.

As a trauma surgeon, Raiyan could be on-call for a hospital (or several hospitals) because that’s where trauma victims are taken, but then have her own practice for

post-surgery and long-term care.

However, Doctors Without Borders and Mercy Ships may be other options, which don’t deal with insurance and copays, making them attractive to Raiyan.

Additionally, those two organizations administer to underprivileged areas, which is also attractive to her.

When she tells people she wants to be a trauma surgeon, often the first reaction is, “Ah, you’re gonna make a lot of money!” which irks her.

“Why is that your first thought?” Raiyan



said. “It’s beneficial to know the paperwork aspects and the business model of the medical industry but it’s only beneficial if you use it for the right reasons.”

It appears Raiyan knows what they are.

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# A Q&A with artist Christopher Smith

**Darren Johnson**  
*Campus News*

Christopher Smith is a well-known local artist based in West Rupert, Vt., who regularly exhibits in the Battenkill Valley. A Rhode Island School of Design graduate whose work mostly involves vibrant, wildly imaginative paintings and drawings, along with other forms, Smith says his subject matter “springs from a variety of unexpected sources, making for subconscious revelations about self and society, past and present.”

His new exhibit, “Going Places,” will be on display in the Greenwich Free Library Community Room in Upstate New York starting with an opening reception with food and refreshments on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 6 to 8 p.m., and run through March 15.

I recently caught up with the artist. Here is our Q&A:

**DJ:** *So why did you title your upcoming exhibit “Going Places?”*

**CS:** Most of 20 works that will be on display are a metaphor for you going places in the world, but they also are a metaphor for going places in my imagination and psyche. And so the pieces will be a variety of subject matter. All oil and acrylic paintings on canvas, half of them will be actual locations and another third portraits and the rest will be objects. And they are rendered in a style that combines the concrete physicality of people, places, and things with an imaginative twist. People are going to see the absolute best work I can possibly come up with.

**DJ:** *What is your approach to making the art?*

**CS:** I approach it from my so many different angles. I approach it from a technical standpoint, spiritual standpoint, literary standpoint, a musical standpoint. There is nothing I’m not influenced by. ... It starts with me looking at the woods, but once I get started, I’m IN the woods.

The show is “Going Places” because most of the time I’m on a path and make discoveries along the way; there is also walking off



the beaten path in the woods. I go through this journey. ...

Sometimes I leave the woods but will go back into the woods and see it in a new way. I will paint back over something and let the colors of the previous efforts shine on through the colors of the new subject. One brush stroke over another, creating formally, creating colors, shapes. Stuff I could never could have anticipated if I just started with a white canvas.

**DJ:** *Are you looking forward to the reception on Feb. 13?*

**CS:** It’s West Rupert meets the larger community. A lot of effort was put into selecting these works, and developing the theme of



Self-portrait

“Going Places.” I want everyone to take the journey with me. I want them to be invigorated and have a great experience and feel that it was worthwhile having seen the works and having been there. I look forward to meeting everyone and seeing and hearing their reaction.





# Sean Rowe kicks off Writers Project

American singer-songwriter, musician and recording artist Sean Rowe will speak at 12:40 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10, in SUNY Adirondack's Visual Arts Gallery as part of the Spring 2025 Writers Project series.

Rowe's sound and emotional conviction demand attention, and were described in NPR's "All Songs Considered" as so powerful, "he can just crush granite with that voice." The Wall Street Journal proclaimed, "Mr. Rowe's ringing baritone is as timeless as his approach, recalling the ecstatic intensity of late-'60s Van Morrison and stark subtlety of late-era Johnny Cash."

Rowe has graced the stage of Mountain Jam, Wilco's Solid Sound Festival, opened for Robert Plant and the Alabama Shakes, and performed at Caffe Lena. His voice reached international audiences when his song "To Leave Something Behind" was featured in the film "The Accountant," starring Ben Affleck and Anna Kendrick.

His latest release, "The Darkness Dressed in Colored Lights," was recorded at The Hive in Wisconsin by Grammy-winning engineer Brian Joseph (Bon Iver). Rowe writes heartfelt songs strongly rooted in singer-songwriter tradition, urging PopMatters.com to say his lyrics "have the poetic sto-

rytelling quality you expect from Tom Waits and Leonard Cohen."

An avid naturalist and renowned forager, Rowe often speaks of his fascination with the woods and his connection to the land. He is touring in support of his new album.

SUNY Adirondack's Writers Project series continues with the following events, each held at 12:40 p.m. in the Visual Arts Gallery:

- Monday, Feb. 24: Memoirist, audio book narrator and actor Marni Penning;
- Monday, March 17: Poet David Graham;
- Monday, April 7: Fantasy novelist Philip Chase;
- Monday, April 28: Author and journalist Megan Mayhew-Bergman;
- Wednesday, April 30: SUNY Adirondack Creative Writing majors will



read from their works.

All Writers Project events are free and open to the public. They are also aired live via Zoom and can be watched at [us06web.zoom.us/my/mccoyoffice](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9123456789).

## New baseball coach at SUNY Ulster

SUNY Ulster announced hiring Randy Delanoy as Head Baseball Coach. Delanoy brings nine years of coaching experience and many accomplishments as a coach and player to the position.

Starting his coaching career at SUNY Ulster in 2016, Delanoy helped secure the title of Region 15 Champions in 2019, 2021, and 2022. He moved on to organize and manage 12 travel baseball teams as Owner and Head Coach of Hudson Valley Select Baseball where he ran the baseball facility, provided hitting lessons and clinics, and helped his athletes develop relationships with prospective colleges.

Delanoy graduated from SUNY Ulster in 2013 with an associate's degree in Individual Studies and transferred to St. Bonaventure University where he received his bachelor's degree in Sports Management. At SUNY Ulster, Delanoy played second and third base and was Team Captain in 2012 and 2013. He was also the Team Captain at St. Bonaventure in 2015.

One of Delanoy's first responsibilities will be to build a strong team for the Fall 2025 exhibition season and Spring 2026 season. Ryan Snair, Athletics Director at Ulster says, "It is unfortunate but Ulster has decided to cancel baseball for the upcoming spring 2025 season. We just didn't have enough pitching to get through the rigors of a season without threatening injury to the pitchers we did have. We are confident that Coach Delanoy will lead our program back to prominence for the upcoming fall exhibition season and ultimately our spring of 2026 season."



# Mackenzie Spencer: Talkin' About My Generation

**Adam Harrison Levy**  
*Campus News*

**Adam:** *Where are we driving?*

**Mackenzie Spencer:** We're driving on Rt 22 just outside Salem and this is my favorite view. My Dad loved this view with the mountains of Vermont and the silo and the sky.

**Adam:** *Why did it mean so much to him?*

**Mackenzie:** Probably because Salem was the place that he settled down the longest with me and my brother and then my Mom. I see the sunset when I come home from work and it reminds me that I'm going home, it's very symbolic.

**Adam:** *What does home mean to you?*

**Mackenzie:** Home has never been a place for me. It has always been the people that I love. I learned that from a young age because I moved around a lot but I always had the same people around me. Home is more of a feeling. That's a cliché thing to say, but it's true.

**Adam:** *Salem has been your home since you've been...*

**Mackenzie:** Five. I love Salem, but also I've traveled a lot recently, doing photography, enjoying live music, and going out to see concerts and see the world. And part of me is getting pulled from my tiny town to see more.

**Adam:** *Does that put you at odds with your friends? Are you breaking the rules by wanting to get out?*

**Mackenzie:** I learned the rules so that I know how to break them! My friend Sophia, moved away with her partner, Curtis, to Alaska in May, and that was kind of the jump start for me, learning that I also have autonomy in my life. She knew that I would miss her if she left, but she ultimately de-

ecided to go. I learned that I was allowed to make decisions like that for myself. I still talk to her almost every day. We stay connected like nothing changed, it's just that she's not physically here. Our friendship is magical, she's the one person who completely sees and understands me and accepts everything about me, and that's just so important.

**Adam:** *What road are we on now?*

**Mackenzie:** This is Black Creek Road.

**Adam:** *Is this road special to you?*

**Mackenzie:** This is the road that I would drive during the summertime when it was nice out and I wanted to just put miles on my car and listen to music. It was soothing. If ever I'm stressed give me an hour in my car listening to music and I'm good especially when there's wind in my face. I roll my window down all the way and sing songs and drive, just drive.

**Adam:** *What is calming about being in a car and listening to music?*

**Mackenzie:** I like listening to music because it distracts me, it gives me one thing to focus on, versus all of the thoughts in my brain, which are like a staticky sort of noise. I can clock out and just sing a song. I'm a person who, if something happens, wants to completely remove myself from the situation, process it, and then go back to it and handle it,

**Adam:** *So you need your space?*

**Mackenzie:** I like being alone. I like listening to the same song seven times in a row. This is something that my Dad did when I was young. He just enjoyed listening to music in his truck. He would sit in the parking lot of our apartment building, and he would listen to music and I would go out there sometimes and sing with him.

**Adam:** *Is driving a source of inspiration*



*for you?*

**Mackenzie:** A lot of people have their thoughts in the shower. I have my thoughts while I'm driving. I'll have this little notebook, and I'll have a pen next to me. It takes everything in my power not to start driving with my knees while I write my ideas down.

**Adam:** *What was it like to be a kid in Salem?*

**Mackenzie:** I struggled to make friends, and then I lost my Dad, and then there were the catty high school girls. I was figuring myself out so I just kind of floated.

I wasn't honest with myself about the things that I enjoyed because not everyone else enjoyed them. I've never been born to do things in a traditional way. I typically do things the hard way. I've been told that the way my brain works is different.

**Adam:** *So you've learned to do things your way, even if it's the hard way?*

**Mackenzie:** I'm a hyper-independent

**Please read more on the next page**

# RIDE ALONG

## (cont.)

person. I would rather do everything myself than ask somebody for help. My Mom is the same way. So I learned from her that I can do anything I need to do myself. I moved my entire apartment by myself - I have muscles! I want to have just what I want. The only way you can do that is to earn money. It's simple. I'm gonna get it now instead of waiting for somebody to hand me money, wait for a birthday like other kids would, or just ask their parents relentlessly.

**Adam:** *When did you find your independence and start working?*

**Mackenzie:** My first job was at Stewarts in 2020 and I was able to support myself through college. I learned to multi-task, scooping ice cream while ringing someone out while at the same time, my neighbor is asking how my day is going and the pizza oven is beeping. I felt my most connected to the town when I worked there because everyone came in, it was a hub.

**Adam:** *Did Salem prepare you for life?*

**Mackenzie:** It depends on how you feel about life and what you want out of life. I'm not gonna lie. I have resentment against this town but also appreciation for it.

**Adam:** *Why resentment?*

**Mackenzie:** It's the lack of opportunity. If you want to try something that is not already here, it's wrong. Nobody seems to be open to suggestions. It feels like if you're trying new things or exploring, this town is very much the "Oh, so you left and went to college, and now you know all this stuff about the world?" It feels like there's a box around



Salem.

**Adam:** *Why appreciation?*

**Mackenzie:** We're definitely on an upswing - the theater is growing and Salem Art Works, they're doing a lot. And we have Jackos and On A Limb, which is phenomenal - Michelle really knows how to make a cinnamon roll!

**Adam:** *So what's the problem?*

**Mackenzie:** I want people to be more open to change because that's all we have and if it doesn't work, then it doesn't work. But where we're at right now is not working for everybody either. If you want this town to continue to flourish, everybody has to be amicable.

**Adam:** *What are some of the pressures on your generation?*

**Mackenzie:** The first thing that my generation dealt with was 9/11. That immediately changed the world. And then we had the housing market issue. And then the wars that we were facing. There was always something life-changing and historical happening to us and then there was the 2020 election and Covid. And nobody wanted to explain anything to us, and we got this generic education. And then we're just thrown into the world and expected to figure it out.

**Adam:** *So you're frustrated?*

**Mackenzie:** I just think that there's desensitization. I've seen the footage of Gaza and they were showing us dead bodies of 9/11 in High School. You want us to care about things, but you're not doing anything to change what's happening. Does that make sense?

**Adam:** *It sounds like what you're saying is that your generation is overwhelmed by all these historical events but you weren't given the tools to process them?*

**Mackenzie:** Right. And

then we're blamed for not having a toolbox. But it's like, nobody brought us to Home Depot to show us the toolbox to get through life! So now we're just figuring it out. I think the state of the world is against people of my age right now. And some of us took advantage of the easiness of technology and we learned not to have a work ethic.

**Adam:** *So you think technology is a way for your generation to compensate for these overwhelming historical events?*

**Mackenzie:** It's a way for people to escape their real life. So like, when it comes to dating, you have online dating apps - people are seeking love through their phones! That's just abnormal. That's just odd. We should be devoid of media. I think we should bring physical media back. We're doing this interview for a newspaper. I think newspapers need to come back.

**Adam:** *That's good to hear!*

**Mackenzie:** Ownership has gone down in this generation - we just don't own anything. Everything is a streaming service or a subscription service. Everything is fleeting and not permanent.

**Adam:** *Are you going to stay in Salem?*

**Mackenzie:** Forever? Probably not, I want to get out again for a little while, reassure myself that I'm an adult, can do the things that I think I can do, and then come back.

**Adam:** *You seem a little unusual.*

**Mackenzie:** I've been told. Do I chalk this up to my life experiences, or is this something that I was born with? My Mom would say I was naturally born with it. She used to call me a little Tasmanian devil because I had so much energy she couldn't even keep me down for a hug.

*Adam Harrison Levy is a freelance author and journalist (The Guardian, BBC). He teaches writing at the School of Visual Arts and offers workshops and private lessons in Salem, NY.*



# Tyler Perry calls out insurance companies

**Zack Sharf**

*Variety*  
*Special to Campus News*

Tyler Perry recently took to Instagram to slam the “pure greed” of insurance companies amid the devastating L.A. fires. The director’s statement was published shortly after a report from the Los Angeles Times informed readers that companies like State Farm General, the largest home insurance business in California, decided not to renew thousands of insurance policies last year in Altadena and other fire-prone neighborhoods in the Pacific Palisades that are now burned down. The cancellations have left many victims with no means of covering their losses in the fire.

“Watching a daughter use a garden hose to try and protect her 90-year-old parents’ home because their insurance was canceled was just gut-wrenching to me,” Perry wrote in his statement. “Does anyone else find it appalling that insurance companies can take billions of dollars out of communities for years and then, all of a sudden, be allowed to

cancel millions of policies for the very people they became rich on?”

“People who have paid premiums all of their lives are left with nothing because of pure greed,” he added. “As I am in the process of trying to figure out what steps to take to do all I can to help as many as I can, I am keeping everyone in my prayers.”

While some insurance companies canceled plans, others jacked the prices of plans so high that it was no longer feasible for some residents in the Pacific Palisades area to purchase. For instance, homeowner Francis Bischetti told the Times that Farmers Insurance boosted the price of his insurance policy from \$4,500 to \$18,000 last year. Bischetti had no choice but to drop the plan, leaving him without insurance by the time his house burned down in the L.A. fires this month.



*Tribune Content Agency file photos on these pages*

“It was surrealistic,” he told the publication. “I’ve grown up and lived here off and on for 50 years. I’ve never in my entire time here experienced this.”

According to the Times, State Farm General announced last year “it would not renew 30,000 homeowner and condominium policies -- including 1,626 in Pacific Palisades -- when they expired.”

# Beyoncé tour dates announced

**Ellise Shafer**

*Variety*  
*Special to Campus News*

Fresh off her album of the year win at the Grammys, Beyoncé has finally revealed the dates for her much anticipated “Cowboy Carter” tour.

The 22-show run will kick off in April with four nights at Los Angeles’ SoFi Stadium and proceed to Chicago, Ill.; East Rutherford, N.J.; London, U.K.; Paris, France; Houston, Texas; Washington, D.C. and Atlanta, Ga.

London’s Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and East Rutherford’s MetLife Stadium will also get the four-show treatment, while Beyoncé will play two concerts each in Paris, Chicago, Houston, D.C. and Atlanta. Her D.C. stint

will see her performing in the U.S. capital on July 4, in what’s sure to be an Independence Day celebration for the ages.

Multiple presales will take place before tickets hit general sale on Feb. 14 at 12 p.m. local time via Live Nation. The BeyHive presale begins Feb. 11 at 12 p.m. and an artist presale will follow on Feb. 13 at the same time. Fans can sign up for the artist presale now through Feb. 6 at 8 a.m. ET here for U.S. and U.K. shows, and here for the Paris dates. There will also be Citi and Verizon presales in the U.S., as well as Mastercard presales in the U.K. and France. There are also travel packages available through Vibee, which include premium tickets, two-night hotel accommodations and more. All ticket information can be found on Beyoncé’s

official website.

In addition to album of the year, “Cowboy Carter” took home the Grammys for best country album and country duo/group performance on Sunday night. “I just feel very full and very honored,” Beyoncé said in her acceptance speech for album of the year. ... I will just hopefully keep pushing forward, opening doors.”



# Lady Gaga just saved her pop career

Daniel D'Addario

*Variety*

*Special to Campus News*

Lady Gaga has cycled through many iterations in the time we've known her: disco diva, Warholian punk, country-inflected barroom balladeer, star of movies both successful and not. But with the Grammy-night debut of her video for the new single "Abracadabra," she's returned to the mode many fans hold dearest: a joyfully bonkers maximalism. With a new generation of aspirants grasping for her crown, Gaga has proven that rare thing: a pop star's pop star.

The "Abracadabra" clip debuted in a commercial break during the Feb. 2 Grammys broadcast; Gaga was in attendance as a nominee (and eventual winner) for the Bruno Mars duet "Die With a Smile." That song has an earnest, dutiful quality; one senses both performers straining to produce a wedding-song standard. "Abracadabra," by contrast, is about nothing but itself.

Watching at home, I was instantly blown back in my seat; the elaborate video, depicting legions of dancers flanking two Gagas (a white-clad innocent and the wicked "lady in red" of the somewhat nonsensical lyrics) looked and felt big. The choreography is crisp and frenetic, the costumes are baroque and nod to Catholic grandeur (a rich vein for this Italian American pop queen just as it was for her forebear, Madonna). And the song's impact has only grown; it opened at No. 8 on the global Spotify chart and has risen since then.

Then there are those lyrics. "She is the master of just like saying sounds," my husband texted me late on Grammy night; I'd kept watching the broadcast, while he read a book and streamed "Abracadabra" an undisclosed number of times. The 2009 song "Bad Romance," Gaga's signature hit and the moment she leveled up her ambition, had its mesmerizing "Gaga, ooh-la-la" chorus. More than 15 years later, "Abracadabra" has ... well, Genius renders it as

"Abracadabra, amor-oo-na-na /  
Abracadabra, morta-oo-ga-ga /  
Abracadabra, abra-oo-na-na."

It's not quite wordplay Gaga's doing, but she's clearly savoring the ways she can toy with and draw out the song's absurd, extravagant title. And having fun looks good on her. In the years since her 2020 album "Chromatica," intended as a dance-floor filler, saw its release hampered by COVID, Gaga has focused on her movie career with diminishing returns ("House of Gucci," sure; "Joker: Folie à Deux," no way). And what music we've gotten from her -- from "Die With a Smile" to her excavations of the American songbook for "Joker" -- has tended toward proving her bona fides as a student of music history, not to, well, making sounds. Even "Disease," the lead single for her next album, leans toward the morose; "Abracadabra" injects the campaign for that album, "Mayhem," with a suitable dose of pure chaos.

And it comes at just the right moment. As Gaga has been scaling back, younger artists have emerged with a sense of spectacle they may well have learned from watching the "Bad Romance" video as kids. Sabrina Carpenter uses every stage she's on -- especially the Grammys -- as a platform for self-parodying, ultra-glam camp. Billie Eilish's performances are staged with increasing grandeur as her songwriting grows still more sophisticated. And Chappell Roan -- the obvious comparison to Gaga among today's newest stars -- infuses her work with a drag-inflected let's-put-on-a-show spirit, as well as an eagerness to use costumes and makeup to help tell her stories.



What story is "Abracadabra" telling, exactly? Many, many listens and viewings deep, I feel further away from the answer. Say this much: Like too little of Gaga's work since the glorious and triumphant one-two punch of "Bad Romance" and the "Born This Way" album, it's done in the spirit of fun. The horned red hat Gaga wears, the growled admonition that "the floor's on fire," the mere concept of a "poem said by a lady in red" -- it all contributes to our sense of Gaga as not just all the things she's tried to achieve in recent years. We know she can act. We know she knows jazz and Americana. But she can, when she wants, take her imagination to the limits of sense, and keep us along for the ride. Abracadabra, indeed -- it's something like magic.

# A polar vortex now doesn't sound so bad

**Greg Schwem**

*Tribune Content Agency  
Special to Campus News*

The recent California wildfires have restarted the “why would anybody live there?” conversation. These doomsday chats always seem to surface whenever the Golden State endures an epic disaster be it fires, mudslides, earthquakes or the LA Chargers’ playoff performance.

Ditto for Florida, scene of “once in a lifetime” hurricanes that now seem to occur during any year containing a 2.

I reside in Illinois, currently in the grips of another polar vortex. The last one occurred almost precisely one year ago. It has taken my car battery nearly 12 months to thaw.

I’ve often thought about pulling up stakes and moving elsewhere, but which state do I choose? Last weekend I wrote down the names of the 49 other options and then tried to think of one plus for relocating. Sadly, the minuses came to me faster. So here are 49 reasons why I won’t be moving anywhere, at least not immediately:

**Alabama:** I refuse to scream “ROLL TIDE” at random moments, like when I’m pumping gas. Also, Tommy Tuberville.

**Alaska:** Would consider it if the calendar year spanned June through August.

**Arizona:** Melting sounds like a horrible way to die.

**Arkansas:** Worried I may run into a “Razorback” after dark.

**California:** I think we’ve discussed this.

**Colorado:** Would eventually grow tired of asking everybody, “Are you high now?”

**Connecticut:** Too hard to spell.

**Delaware:** I’m not even sure Google Maps knows where it is.

**Florida:** I like golf, but not THAT much.

**Georgia:** When I realized Atlanta had an intersection of “Peachtree” and



Scene from Greenwich, NY, Feb. 4, 2025

“Peachtree,” that solidified it.

**Hawaii:** If my move involves a nine-hour flight, I’d just as soon move to Paris.

**Idaho:** The color blue doesn’t look good on certain things. Like a football field.

**Indiana:** Its residents talk about Chicago like it’s light-years away and requires a passport to visit.

**Iowa:** Its residents talk about Indianapolis the same way.

**Kansas:** Not sure that state even exists except during college basketball season.

**Kentucky:** It’s where people go when they can’t get a restaurant reservation in Cincinnati.

**Louisiana:** I can only handle so much spice. And alcohol.

**Maine:** What would happen if the state ran out of lobster?

**Maryland:** Same reason as Maine, but with crab legs.

**Massachusetts:** Only if I could find a bar that did not host “Good Will Hunting”

Trivia Night.”

**Michigan:** Nobody should ever describe their address by holding up their hand and saying, “I live just above my thumbnail.”

**Minnesota:** Another name for “polar vortex” in that state? “Wednesday.”

**Mississippi:** I enjoy reading. Based on test scores, the rest of the state does not.

**Missouri:** Afraid I would eventually get stuck behind Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce’s motorcade.

**Montana:** “Running out for milk” usually requires a full tank of gas.

**Nebraska:** I once requested ketchup at a steak house outside Omaha. The governor asked me never to return.

**Nevada:** Its residents lie! Well, not all of them but definitely the roulette dealer who told me 33 was a “popular number.”

**New Hampshire:** Its most famous residents are leaves.

**New Jersey:** It’s where New Yorkers go to find an available public restroom.

**Please read more on the next page**



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Newburgh, New York



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## (cont.)

**New Mexico:** ‘Breaking Bad’ was filmed here, starring a guy who cooked blue-colored crystal meth. Now I’m starting to question what’s in that turquoise jewelry I bought in Albuquerque.

**New York:** I long for New York City. I can afford Binghamton.

**North Carolina:** I’d be surrounded by former Florida residents trying to justify why they first moved to Florida.

**North Dakota:** Ever seen “ Fargo?” It’s shockingly accurate.

**Ohio:** The state’s definition of a “three way” involves chili, cheese and spaghetti. What does that tell you?

**Oklahoma:** A very welcoming state...for tornadoes.

**Oregon:** A ski hat in summer is not a good look on me.

**Pennsylvania:** Full of cheaters, fraud-

sters and incompetents. Also known as “2020 election poll workers.”

**Rhode Island:** Can you even get a direct flight?

**South Carolina:** For a while its most famous resident was a guy named “Hootie.”

**South Dakota:** A fun Saturday night there is talking smack about North Dakota.

**Tennessee:** I have relatives there. That’s a plus and a minus.

**Texas:** A state that teaches kids patience. I mean, you have to be at least 5 before you can purchase a gun.

**Utah:** Tempting, but only if I could have a conversation in a bar with a drunken Mitt Romney.

**Vermont:** See “New Hampshire.”

**Virginia:** I’d live anywhere but Norfolk. Mispronouncing that name could get me in a whole lot of trouble.

**Washington:** Microsoft is headquar-

tered there. Microsoft invented Teams. Teams sucks.

**West Virginia:** John Denver described it as “almost heaven.” So what happened?

**Wisconsin:** If my diet consisted of beer, cheese curds and cigarettes, my U-Haul would already be packed.

**Wyoming:** I’ve seen Starbucks lines that exceed the state’s entire population.

I guess I’m stuck in Illinois until President Trump annexes Canada.

*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.*



# Computer training courses

In partnership with the nonprofit Can-Code Communities, Holyoke Community College is offering a free six-week computer training course starting Feb. 25.

The real-time, instructor-led online classes will run Tuesdays and Thursdays Feb. 25 to April 3, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The program is aimed at helping individuals build essential computer skills for both personal and professional development. Participants will explore the Microsoft Office (Microsoft 365) suite of programs (Outlook, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and OneDrive), learn how to create resumes and presentations, manage calendars and tasks, create spreadsheets, send email, and organize and share documents using cloud storage.

“This course is perfect for those with ba-

sic computer skills looking to level up their Microsoft 365 knowledge for work, school, or personal use,” said Arvard Lingham, HCC executive director of community education and corporate training.

Tuition assistance is available for qualified Massachusetts residents 18 and older. Limited seats are available. Laptops and WiFi hotspots for Internet access will be provided for students who need them.

Funding for the program comes from the Western Mass Alliance for Digital Equity.

To sign up for classes, please send an email to [admissions@albanycancode.org](mailto:admissions@albanycancode.org), or go to [cancode.org/apply-now](https://cancode.org/apply-now).



# Apply Now!

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Visit [albany.edu/apply](https://albany.edu/apply)  
or scan the QR code.



# Queens' place in history

**E. Marlay**  
*Campus News*

On Tuesday January 21, 2025, the Bayside Historical Society, located on the Fort Totten Army Base in Queens, held another part of their Author Talk at the Castle Series. These Talks allow for people to talk to authors and get their questions, regarding the authors work, answered.

According to Breeda Q., the Director of the Bayside Historical Society, "We have a committee of eight people who decide on what books we will have for our Talks. We often use Arcadia publishing... And while we will occasionally consider books that are historical fiction, we prefer to talk about non-fiction books about local history."

For this event they invited Rob MacKay to talk about the History of Queens. MacKay has a strong connection with the Queens area. He is currently working for the Queens Economic Development Corporation (QEDC) where he is responsible for writing press releases and brochures, placing stories in media outlets, providing information to the public and news agencies, organizing and promoting various events in the borough, and spearheading the Queens Tourism Council.

On top of working for the QEDC he also runs social media channels that are meant to promote businesses, like shops and restaurants in the borough and has published two books about the history of Queens, NY. The first book, which was discussed at a previous Author Talk, is titled "Historic Houses of Queens," explores the borough's most notable residences--their architecture, owners, surrounding neighborhoods, peculiarities, and even their fates as some disappeared over time. The second book, which was the topic of discussion at this event, is titled "Famous People of Queens." The book covers a diverse group of people who were either born in or lived in Queens for a significant amount of time and added to the history of Queens. Throughout the book you learn about Queen's residents who were athletes,

scientists, singers, politicians, and even fictional characters (Spiderman).

"Many people say the Bronx is the birthplace of rap, but Queens and Queensbridge have good claims to the rise of rap," MacKay said during his presentation.

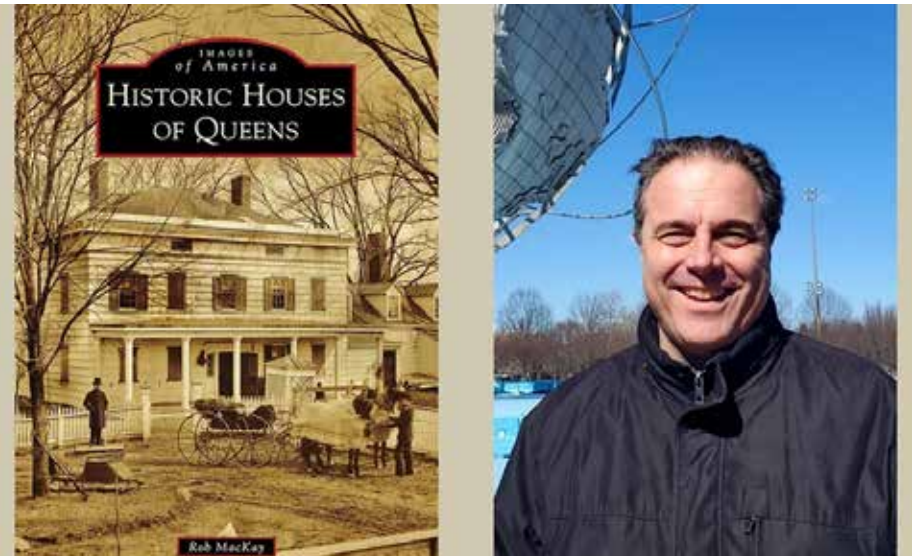
The example he gave of that was Lolita Shonte (Roxanne Shonte). Talking about how she would go up against men at the age of 13 in rap battles. When she was older Roxanne released "Roxanne's Revenge." From the song she had made so much money she was able to retire at the age of 25.

From there MacKay went on to talk about a well-known Queen's family in Flushing. Many people know of Awkwafina for being the first Asian American to win and Golden Globe for Best Actress, but she also is related to a Flushing Legacy. Jimmy Lum, Awkwafina's great grandfather, had immigrated to NYC in 1946. He worked to save up enough money to open a restaurant called Lum's, which was the first Chinese restaurant in Flushing. The restaurant had kept its doors open from up until the 80's.

And some of the people he mentioned not only are an important part of the history of Queens but are currently impacting the area in the present.

Marie Maynard Daly graduated Queens College in 1932 and from there went on to be the first Black woman to get a PhD in chemistry.

"She endowed Queens College... so one black woman can study chemistry at the school," said MacKay. The scholarship in



question is titled the Ivan C. and Helen H. Daly Scholarship and it offers the recipient between \$250 - \$1,000.

This event seemed to be a big hit amongst the small crowd that showed up with its mixture of history and humor.

"I totally enjoyed it. I really did. It was well worth coming out in the cold. Very interesting. I've lived in Queens my whole life, and I enjoyed the speaker. He was very good," said Doreen Schwartz, one of the attendees.

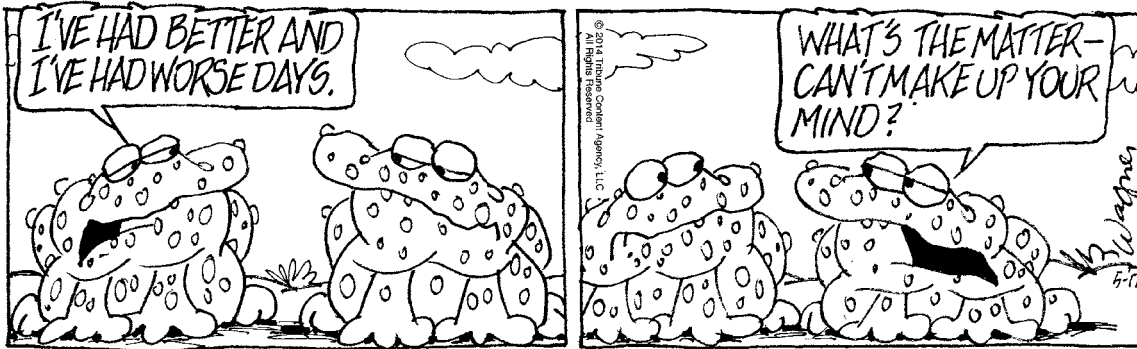
Another person from the crowd was Paul DiBenedetto, former Bayside Historical Society President and current Vice President buildings.

He said, "I thought it was excellent. Rob MacKay is very entertaining. He gets everybody excited about history, and he's very knowledgeable. And his presentations are always really cool, so I'm very happy with it."

The next event in the series that the Bayside Historical Society will be holding will be taking place on Thursday, February 13th, 2025, at 7:30 pm. At this event Richard Melnick will be talking about his book which covers the military, political, and cultural history of Long Island City, during 1776 when the Revolutionary War was going on.

# FUN & GAMES

## Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



## Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



## Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



## The Middletons by Dana Summers



## 9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



## Word Play Answers Page 28

### JUMBLE

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

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

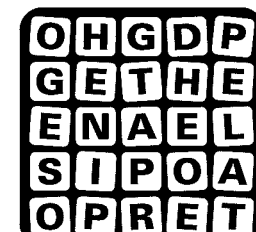
CRATT	<p>THE RETRIEVER THAT WAS BETTER THAN THE OTHER DOGS AT PLAYING FETCH WAS A ---</p>
KYOLE	
GEDREN	
YGOEVA	

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

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

## Boggle BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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

BOGGLE POINT SCALE	YOUR BOGGLE RATING
3 letters = 1 point	151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points	101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points	61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points	31-60 = Garner
7 letters = 5 points	21-30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points	11-20 = Amateur
8+ letters = 15 points	0-10 = Try again

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

Answers to Last Sunday's Boggle BrainBusters:  
FIC DATE LIKE PEAR FEACH APPLE MANGO CHANDE APRICOT

# FUN & GAMES

## More Word Play Answers Page 28



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E <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	K <sub>5</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>	P <sub>3</sub>		RACK 1
I <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	W <sub>4</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>		2nd Letter Double RACK 2
U <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>8</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>		RACK 3
O <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	M <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>		Triple Word Score RACK 4
E <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>		RACK 5

PAR SCORE 210-220  
BEST SCORE 277

FIVE RACK TOTAL  
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition.

## Word Find By Frank J. D'Agostino

Find these words associated with being happy (and find Frank's acrostic books on Amazon):

Adore  
Beautiful  
Bliss

Delighted  
Elated  
Excited  
Exultant  
Fulfilled  
Genial  
Glad  
Glorious  
Great

Grin  
Happy  
High Spirits  
Humored  
Jolly  
Jovial  
Joyful  
Lovable  
Merry

Nice  
Paradise  
Satisfied  
Smile  
Sunny  
Thrilled  
Tickled Pink  
Upbeat  
Walk On Air

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

## Filbert by LA Bonté

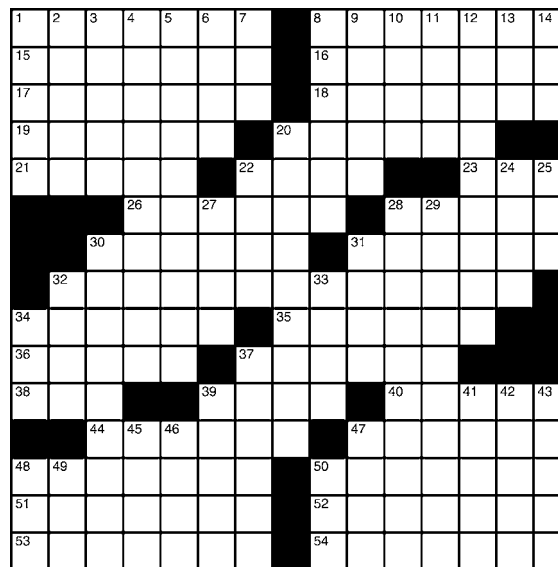


## Political Cartoon of the Month by Joel Pett



## Crossword

Across  
1 File  
8 Go as low as  
15 Tightens, say  
16 Observation when Porky leaves  
17 Ready  
18 "I'll do it"  
19 Pass with a wave?  
20 Up to one's eyeballs  
21 "Street Scene" playwright  
22 Water line?  
23 D.C. United's first home  
26 Obscure  
28 Belinda Carlisle album with French songs and Irish musicians  
30 Corkers  
31 Pub freebie  
32 Confection that reportedly improves heart health  
34 Small tower  
35 Lots  
36 Companion of Dionysus  
37 Fit  
38 TY preceder, maybe  
39 "Never \_\_\_ the com-



ments"  
40 Scoring instructions  
44 Saved for later, in a way  
47 One of the Istars, in Middle-earth  
48 Tinkerer  
50 Disinfectant distilled from needles  
51 Humdinger  
52 Feature of an assured fit

11 Member of the Siouan family  
12 Images on Clemson Tigers merchandise  
13 Cook with a lot of Apples?  
14 Shout of support  
20 "My goose is cooked"  
22 Lead-in to draw or hold

## 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.

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

53 On point  
54 Scottish dogs

Down  
1 Stopped lying?  
2 \_\_\_ artery  
3 Maintain  
4 "Bruised" director  
5 Party exercise  
6 Rather  
7 Suffix for records  
8 Defeats soundly, in sports slang  
9 Piñata feature  
10 Look that causes discomfort

24 Furnace part  
25 Dennings of "2 Broke Girls"  
27 Tear \_\_\_  
28 Midwinter honoree  
29 Grated ingredient in cranberry relish, often  
30 MVP of the first two Super Bowls  
31 Clown whose voice inspired Krusty of "The Simpsons"  
32 Binary  
33 Down \_\_\_  
34 One of six in a fl. oz.  
37 "Toss a can my way"  
39 City on the Seine  
41 Don DeLillo title inspired by an Andy Warhol print series  
42 Hold dear  
43 Runs without moving  
45 Market unit  
46 Singer-songwriter Suzanne  
47 "Sideways" subject  
48 S.A. country bordering five others  
49 Novelist Rita \_\_\_ Brown  
50 Sound of a sock

## The ghosts in the Redbox machine

**Darren Johnson**  
*Campus News*

Abandoned things often become invisible to everyday passersby over time.

I was just saying to our newspaper printer yesterday as we passed some old wire newspaper racks at the plant that during my decades of publishing, I don't think I'd ever actually bought a wire rack. I just wait for other newspapers to go out of business, and, after a suitable amount of waiting time – say a few weeks – noticing their racks remain empty, and even starting to collect trash and become litter themselves – I add them to my newspapers' family of mismatched racks. Mainly, I clean up the abandoned racks and start to put my newspapers in them. I don't actually take the racks. Just claim their turf. If the old publisher were to somehow return, that person could just remove my papers – though that never happens. When people quit the legacy media business, they quit for good.

My latest curiosity has been these Redbox machines you can still see in places like grocery stores, convenience gas stations and such. Redbox went completely out of business last year, and apparently they have abandoned their huge red kiosks. Being a purveyor of legacy media, they interest me. But it's not like I can bring in a handcart and just wheel out these machines. They certainly are still valuable enough to lead

to felonies if taken. But it is odd that these behemoths that had for so long just cheerfully dispensed DVDs, Blu-rays and even video games, are just ancient ruins, next to Coinstars and the few living newspaper racks that remain.

Almost all the stores that host these forgotten kiosks have paper signs on them that say they are no longer in service. However, I have been noticing that the Redbox in Market 32 in Wilton, New York, has been left plugged in. Its big poster display still has movies from last year. No one is servicing this machine, apparently. But the video touchscreen still works, so I decided to try it out to see if I can get a video out of it.

One never knows the last time they will be doing something. What was the last video you rented? Do you even remember?

There allegedly is one Blockbuster Video store still in the U.S., but, for all intents and purposes, the chain is dead. Thus the store is mostly about nostalgia. The same could be said for the last Howard Johnson's restaurant, which was in Lake George until last year. We decided to go there toward the end for a meal, and it was overpriced, not well organized, and very outdated. Without the corporation behind it, these franchisees eventually just go their own way. I even hear there are other thought-to-be-dead chains that still have hold outs, like Roy Rogers and Ground Round. They somehow



Most Redboxes are unplugged

are keeping their menus — barely — alive.

Part of me would like to open a video store, even today. I know this would be a retro idea, and of course it wouldn't make its money via renting videos. But I pass through Upstate towns like Gloversville and Fort Edward, and see abandoned old video stores, and figure I could get their signs and racks for free, with the permission of the landlord. If I did own a video store, it would be a place to hold events, do podcasting, lay out the newspaper. It would be a monument to legacy media, and video stores are one of the last hurrahs of legacy media in our streaming age.

As for these Redboxes, I'm sure there is a

**Please read more on next page**

## FUN & GAMES SOLUTIONS

**Boggle:** ANTE-  
LOPE ANTEAT-  
ER ELEPHANT  
HEDGEHOG POR-  
POISE

**Jumble:** TRACT  
YOKEL GENDER  
VOYAGE – REAL  
GO-GETTER

**SCRABBLE** BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION

P <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	K <sub>5</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	RACK 1 =	<b>66</b>
S <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	W <sub>4</sub>		RACK 2 =	<b>10</b>
N <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>8</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	RACK 3 =	<b>64</b>
R <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	M <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	RACK 4 =	<b>80</b>
A <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	RACK 5 =	<b>57</b>
PAR SCORE 210-220							TOTAL	<b>277</b>

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ARCHIVE	STOOPTO
RELACES	PIGTAAIL
ONALERT	ALLOWME
SAILBY	INDEEP
ELMER	WAKE
BEDIMS	VOJLA
BEAUTS	BARNUT
DARKCHOCOLATE	
TURRET	DOZENS
SATYR	BELONG
PLS	READ
TIVOED	WIZARD
AMATEUR	PINEOIL
RAREGEM	ONESIZE
GERMANE	WESTTES

FULFILLEDPYWELW
BEAUTIFULLKROVN
SUNNYWALKONAIR
AOIDBACODRIVR
TFCKLGRKRETSYU
IGENIALDIBRSPM
SEYWSOELREORXPO
FJXDSFEITIDPYAR
IOCCALPRVXPRHE
EYOJLOVIADIND
DFEMHLOVABLENA
GUSOCCXULTANTK
LLIPARADISEOGQY
AHTHRILLEDGREAT
DELIGHTEDUPBEAT

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

## FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

### (cont.)

lot of legal red tape to commandeer them, considering the bankruptcy. And maybe all capable parties who had worked for the company are now gone. Ghosts. I pass by the abandoned College of Saint Rose campus in Albany every now and then, which had just announced closure last year, and it already has that ghostly feel to it. These Redbox machines also seem to linger like ghosts, and maybe most people don't even see them anymore. Not everyone can see ghosts.

It would be nice if these machines could be donated. Perhaps local entertainers could have their DVDs and CDs stocked in there. Local bands, comedians, anything. No rentals or returns, you just buy whatever's in there.

Or maybe these kiosks could be donated to local libraries. I notice a lot of local libraries still have huge DVD collections. This would allow local libraries to be 24/7. They could put a Redbox outside and people could come and borrow movies and video games easily. Perhaps, instead of a credit card, they could swipe their library cards to get the items. Maybe limits could be placed, so someone doesn't go and wipe out the whole machine. Add a camera to discourage theft.

I decided to test out the Redbox at Market 32. I scrolled through the titles on the touch screen. Again, there was nothing newer than mid-2024 available. I'd say maybe "The Barbie Movie" was the newest title advertised. Just for kicks, and perhaps meta-

phorically, I picked a 2018 movie called "Happy Death Day." I went through the motions, selected it, and hit "checkout." It asked for a credit card. I used a card that I know has a low limit, in case it's a scam. And it worked! "Happy Death Day" popped out of the slot! I took it, put it in my grocery bag, and left.

(My DVD player is in the basement, though, so I probably won't bother to watch it. If I do, I will review it here!)

I have no idea who is monitoring these transactions. The Redbox company is dissolved, no? Where did the money go? I checked my credit card statement when I got home and there was no charge listed there.

Now, maybe I'll get charged if I return it, or maybe they will charge me the value of the movie if I don't? (Though who's "they?")

Did I dream all of this? Ghosts?

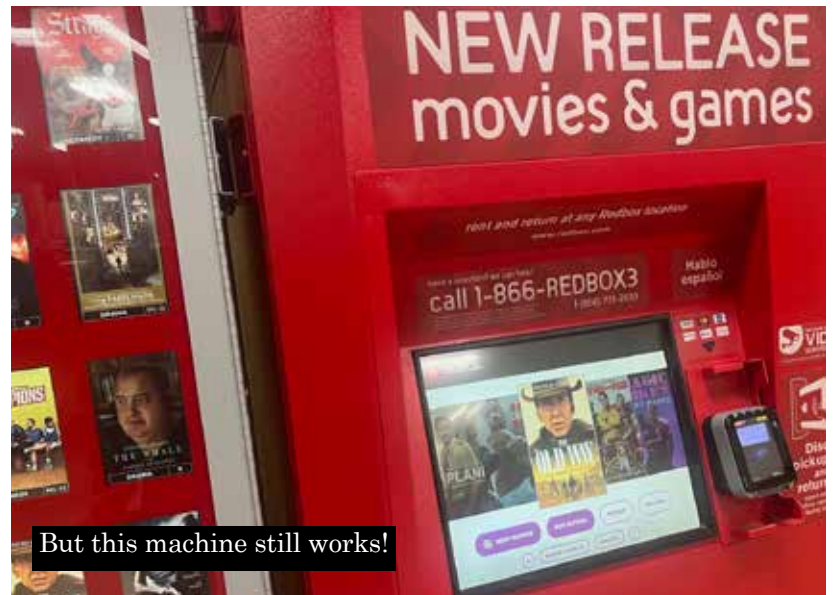
I remember having had gotten confirmation emails from Redbox in past years when I had rented from these kiosks, but this time I didn't get a confirmation email, even though it again asked me for my email address.

As an experiment, I am going to keep this movie a few days. See what happens. I mean, there's not much value in DVDs anymore, so it's not like it's worth my while to just raid this kiosk and take every movie they have, apparently for free. But I wonder about these things.

I'll return it eventually. To be a good citizen. In case someone else wants to see "Happy Death Day" in a legacy format.



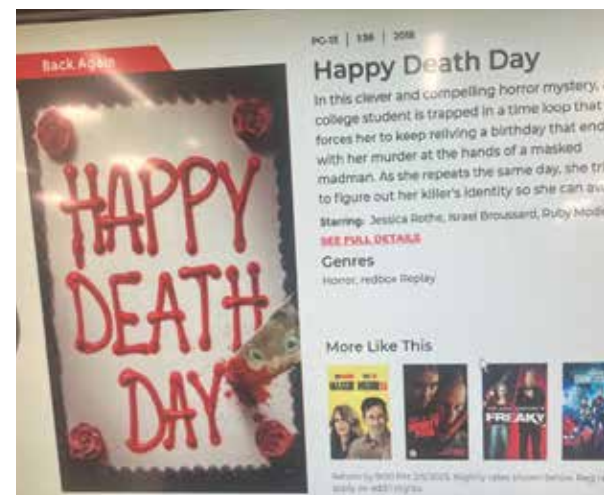
An abandoned video store in Gloversville



But this machine still works!



An abandoned video store in Fort Edward



# Five words for the 2025 economy

**Jill Schlesinger**

*Tribune Content Agency  
Special to Campus News*

The year 2025 will be about change, as a new administration enacts policies that will ignite debate and conversations that could be confusing. To prepare, here's a cheat sheet of five terms that you are likely to hear.

### 1. Tariffs

A tariff is a tax or duty imposed on a particular class of imports or exports. The exporting country does not pay for the tariff; rather the company that imports the good is on the hook for the extra charge.

The importer may choose to absorb the extra cost, reducing its profit, or pass it along to consumers. The concern among economists is that a fresh round of tariffs could reignite the inflation rate, though most agree that we are not likely to see that frightening 9.1 percent post-COVID inflation rate as a result of new tariffs.

Those who favor tariffs see them as a bargaining chip in international negotiations; as a means to beef up tax revenue; and as a way to shield domestic producers from foreign competition.

They also note that there could be special carve-outs for some countries and products that might tamp down the overall impact

of tariffs. President-elect Donald Trump pledged that he would slap a 25% tariff on products coming into the U.S. from Mexico and Canada and an additional 10% tariff on Chinese products, though those percentages could change.

### 2. Immigration

Trump has promised to clamp down on immigration, potentially deporting some portion (perhaps up to 1 million) of the approximately 11 million undocumented population. There will also be an effort to clamp down on border crossings.

The total economic impact of these policies is difficult to gauge, because according to Capital Economics, "undocumented immigration is disinflationary, while deportations would likely be hugely disruptive for those sectors most reliant on undocumented workers, including agriculture, food processing and construction."

### 3. Taxes

The 2017 Tax Act and Jobs Act (TCJA), which took effect in January 2018, made corporate tax cuts permanent, but tax changes for individuals are set to sunset at the end of 2025.

The Trump Administration will seek to extend most of the provisions of the individual code, including: lower tax rates, a higher standard deduction amount, increased family tax credits, a cap on state and local tax deductions, repeal of the Alternative Minimum Tax, and an expansion of the estate tax exemption.

During the campaign, Trump suggested that there would be additional tax cuts, but there may not be an appetite for further reductions due to the impact on the nation's finances – more on that in the next section.



### 4 & 5. Deficit/debt ceiling

When Congress debates the extension of the TCJA, there will be an analysis of the impact on the nation's balance sheet — primarily whether the cuts increase the budget deficit.

A federal deficit is the amount of money the government spends (outlays) minus the amount of money it collects from taxes (revenue) each year.


According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), in fiscal year 2024, the federal budget deficit totaled \$1.8 trillion — an increase of 8% from the shortfall recorded in the previous year. The cumulative amount of money the government has borrowed over time is the national debt, which currently stands at over \$36 trillion.

The debt ceiling is the legal limit on the total amount of federal debt the government can accrue. If the debt limit is reached, the government must raise it, suspend it, or risk defaulting on its legal obligation to pay its bills.

Increasing the debt ceiling IS NOT authorizing new spending — it is simply allowing lawmakers the ability to pay for the obligations it has already made.

*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. Check her website at www.jillonmoney.com.*

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# Rockland lauds new state funding

Dr. Scott J. Kalicki, Officer in Charge at Rockland Community College (RCC), this month applauded Gov. Kathy Hochul for pledging in her 2025 State of the State agenda to deliver ongoing state funding to sustain and expand the proven Advancing Success in Associate Pathways (ASAP) and Advancing Completion through Engagement (ACE) programs, transformative models that have been widely demonstrated to increase student completion rates and narrow opportunity gaps, including at RCC.

ASAP (for students pursuing an associate degree) expanded to the SUNY system in Spring 2024 through the SUNY Transformation Fund. As of Fall 2024, more than 4,200 students now participate in ASAP|ACE across 25 SUNY campuses, including 150 students at RCC's ASAP program.

"We're deeply grateful for Governor Hochul's ongoing commitment to the ASAP program, which has played a pivotal role in unlocking our students' potential through robust academic and financial support," said Kalicki. "This initiative not only cultivates a richer learning environment but also significantly enhances our students' ability to persist and succeed. At Rockland Community College, we've seen firsthand how this support bridges opportunity gaps and propels our students toward timely graduation, fully equipped to excel in their future endeavors."

Since launching ASAP at RCC, students have felt immediate tangible benefits, with positive impacts on academic momentum,

including higher credit-completion and retention rates and high levels of student engagement.

"The RCC ASAP program has impacted my educational journey in ways I never thought possible, including helping me finance my classes and worry less about money," said Natalia Benitez Levina, a RCC ASAP Student." It also helps me feel safe and supported as a student. I am so grateful and so happy to be part of it."

Governor Hochul's 2025 State of the State agenda will make it possible to sustain ASAP|ACE and expand it statewide to reach 10,000 SUNY students.

"SUNY is committed to success for every student, and ASAP|ACE programs are the nation's leading, evidence-based model for helping students stay on track to graduation," SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. said. "We are grateful to Governor Hochul for her commitment to ASAP|ACE in the 2025 State of the State agenda and look forward to working with the governor and our champions in the legislature to continue to scale this proven investment in student success."

ASAP|ACE programs provide wrap-around support to ensure student academic success, retention, and on-time graduation.



An array of resources and supports — including academic assistance, personalized advisement, career development activities, and funding to cover textbooks, groceries, transportation, and other costs of attendance — help Pell-eligible students overcome barriers that can prevent them from achieving their goals and obtaining a degree.

Across SUNY, ASAP students' credit completion rates for the Spring 2024 semester were 20% higher than similar non-participants, and ACE students saw 9% higher credit completion rates compared to similar non-ACE students. ASAP|ACE-student retention rates from spring to fall 2024 also outpaced those of non-participants.

For more information on ASAP and ACE programs statewide, visit [www.suny.edu/asap-ace](http://www.suny.edu/asap-ace).

## ABOUT CAMPUS NEWS

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