

JOURNAL & PRESS

Of Southern Washington County, Est. 1842

Vol. 181, Iss. 20 No. 9272 \$2

THIRTY-TWO PAGES!
OCT. 16-31, 2022



GOLDEN TICKET 29



LIBRARY COLUMN 21

Spirit of the season

Our writers, as well as local community groups, celebrate Halloween

Besides all the political letters, a recurring theme throughout this issue is Halloween. A parade in Greenwich, scarecrows in Schuylerville. Our writers encourage more ghoulish fun all around. "Before some new pop sensation twerks to *O Come All Ye Faithful*, can we please have Halloween?" impores Avery McReynolds.

Please read more throughout this issue



REAL RESULTS



★ **Lowering Energy Prices & Supporting Upstate Farms**

Fighting to stop Joe Biden's war on American energy & lower prices of gas, heating bills, & utilities. Leading to save family farms from Albany's assault on rural New York.

★ **Improving Access & Lowering Healthcare Costs**

Secured over \$100 million funding for rural hospitals & health centers. Delivered \$4 million in recovered Social Security & Medicare benefits to Upstate & North Country seniors.

★ **Creating Jobs & Fighting To End The Inflation Crisis**

Supports Upstate small businesses & manufacturers. Opposes reckless government spending causing inflation. NEVER voted to raise taxes.

★ **Supporting Troops & Veterans**

The chief advocate for Fort Drum. Delivered \$5.5 million in owed VA benefits to NY-21 veterans. Wrote & passed the largest pay raise for our troops in a decade.

★ **Backing the Blue, Opposing New York 'Bail Reform,' & Securing our Southern Border**

Elise wrote legislation to end dangerous "Bail Reform" & has fought to oppose Kathy Hochul's failed policies. Fighting to stop the historic border crisis and secure our southern border. Elise is endorsed by every local & state police union & the border patrol.



VOTE NOVEMBER 8TH

Paid for by Elise for Congress

'Charlie Bucket' visits Salem CSD

Dr. Peter Ostrum, better known for his role as Charlie Bucket in the 1971 class movie *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* visited Salem Central School District elementary and drama students on Friday, October 7, 2022. Dr. Ostrum spoke to them about his journey as Charlie Bucket and the production of the film.

Dr. Ostrum is a large animal veterinarian who primarily focuses on dairy cattle. He was particularly influenced by the veterinarian who tended to his family's horses. Dr. Ostrum earned a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1984. Dr. Ostrum is a senior partner at Countryside Veterinary Clinic in Lowville, NY, where he enjoys working with small and large dairy farms.

Class of 2015 graduate, Rob Skelly joined the visit via a video call. Mr. Skelly played the role of Charlie Bucket in the elementary drama club's 2009 production of "Willy Wonka." Mr. Skelly and Dr. Ostrum

are living parallel lives, as Mr. Skelly is studying to become a veterinarian at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

In addition to speaking about his role as Charlie Bucket, Dr. Ostrum also spoke with the students about having a good work ethic, being responsible and accountable, and appreciative of the supporting adults in their lives. The students were attentive, engaged, and asked well thought out and articulate questions.

Dr. Ostrum will be able to show his Salem pride wherever he might travel, as the drama club officers presented him with a Salem CSD t-shirt, an



Lexus Marquis, Dr. Peter Ostrum, Adir Hoge and Mary Kate McPhee

elastic band bracelet, and a vinyl car decal. Dr. Ostrum presented the school with an autographed photo of the movie cast.

Dr. Robert Ceglowski, who is also a large animal veterinarian and longtime colleague and friend of Dr. Ostrum arranged the visit.

Succulents

Pictured below are participants in the recent succulent program at Bancroft Public Library. We're pleased to announce another program on growing and caring for succulents will take place this month. Learn how to design, maintain, and care for beautiful succulent arrangements! Each participant will make their own arrangement of 3-4 plants. All materials will be provided, but feel free to bring your own pot or decoration if you have your own. "Make Your Own Succulent Arrangements" will take place on October 20th at 6:30 p.m. Please pre-register for the program by contacting the library at 518-854-7463 or slm-director@sals.edu. The program is limited to 15 participants. The class will be taught by Rachael Armstrong.



Greenwich plans Halloween parade

The Greater Greenwich Chamber of Commerce announces its 31st Annual Halloween Parade to take place on Sunday, October 30, 2022 in the Village of Greenwich. This community event has become a beloved tradition for three decades in the Village of Greenwich, drawing crowds of children and adult participants, with many others lining Main Street to watch. It is truly a fun-filled afternoon for Greenwich and surrounding communities to celebrate Halloween and the fall season.

Participants will gather at 1:00pm at the corner of Washington Street and Main Street. The parade will march north along Main Street, left onto Academy Street, and end at the parking lot of the Town of Greenwich building where judging will take place. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

All children receive a treat bag and a participant ribbon for marching in the parade. Judging will take place in five categories: The Best Dressed Pet, The Most Original, The Funniest, The Scariest, and The Best Group/Family. Best in Parade will be chosen as the winner of the \$100 prize.



Library event's 'awake dream work'

"An Afternoon of SoulCollage®" with Judith Prest will take place in the Community Room of the Greenwich Free Library on Saturday, October 22, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Join members of the Greenwich (and beyond) community for this relaxing afternoon of meaningful card making, using collage as the medium. SoulCollage® workshops are interactive, reflective and very "hands-on." There will be an overview of the process, along with opportunities to create and dialogue with the cards. Anyone can make these cards – it does not require any artistic talent or training. The tools are simple: images from a variety of sources, scissors, glue sticks and pre-cut card stock. All materials will be provided by the facilitator.

SoulCollage® cards are small collages, created on 5"x 8" card stock. Each unique card, reflects back to the artist the energies and influences present in the artist's life, and can be used for writing prompts, meditation, or divination just like any other deck of intuitive cards. The difference, of course, is that each person's deck is unlike any other deck, and uniquely in synch

with the images that resonate for that person. Making the cards and working with them is a lot like "awake dream work." The process blends creativity, insight and spirituality.

SoulCollage® was developed in the 1980's by Seena Frost, a family therapist and artist. Over time, the SoulCollage® community has grown world-wide, and there are facilitators on almost every continent.



Judith Prest trained in 2008 as a SoulCollage® facilitator and has been doing workshops and retreats on this process ever since. Judith is also a poet, photographer, mixed media artist and creativity coach. She has been giving workshops, classes, and retreats on Creativity and Healing, Creative Writing, Poetry, and

Expressive Arts locally and around the country since 1999.



Judith Prest and a card made at a previous workshop

Health and safety at the event: This FREE workshop is intended for those 16 and older and limited to 14 participants. All materials will be provided by the facilitator. Pre-registration is required. To register, email grn-director@sals.edu, or call the library at 518-692-7157, or visit www.greenwichfreelibrary.org to reserve a spot.

Your Full Time Superintendent



Stan Mattison, Jr.
For Highway Superintendent



Paid for by Committee to Elect Mattison

Vote November 8

Stan is Our Man

A heartfelt community conversation

Samantha Simmons
Journal & Press

This month's Schuylerville "community conversation" was nothing short of heartfelt and full of emotions.

The meeting started off with a moment of silence for Nathan Darrow, the owner and operator of Saratoga Apple who passed away on Sept. 20 at the age of 71 years old. According to community members in attendance, he is a spirit that made Schuylerville what it is today.

MaryAnna O'Donnell of Saratoga Gluten Free Goods joined the meeting to inform community members and business owners of her terminal illness. She wanted to share information she had regarding hats she wore in the community. Her husband, Scott Averill, will be taking over the business. Averill has a background in healthcare with Fidelis.

The new coffeehouse, Kickstart Café in Schuylerville hosted this month's Community Conversation. The business officially opened their doors on Sept. 24th. The shop is trying to keep products as local as possible and have brought in bakery items and coffee beans from two local sellers.

As the month of October continues, the "Fall into Schuylerville" initiative is in full swing with scarecrow displays, sales, and special events happening in the Village. Take a drive around the town and you can find scarecrows lined up outside of homes and village busi-



One of many scarecrows propped up in the village.

Helene Patterson, village clerk and Deacon, shared on behalf of Mayor Dan Carpenter his gratitude for members of the community for sharing their input and ideas for the New York Forward grant and that the Village is looking forward to the decision of whether they will receive the grant. Todd Shimkus of the county's Chamber of Commerce wrote the proposal and Village Clerk, Cory Heyman, submitted the proposal the last week of September.

The SAM grant, which deals with the repair of sidewalks in the Village, was approved, and the Village is to meet with a contractor to set a start date for the construction to begin.

Rural Soul, a music studio in the community, is celebrating 10 years as a physical studio in the Village. Chelsie Henderson, owner and instructor, said the studio has a focus on uplifting elders in local churches and senior centers with music from the West Africa scene.

Like many members in the community, Henderson wears many hats and advocates for the Climate Smart community in the Village. As COVID-19 restrictions are winding down, the group has seen a revitalization. Emily Yolleck, a resident, and volunteer coordinator with Henderson, shared similar thoughts and gratitude for the group. Both Henderson and Yolleck said the group is "finally getting organized with new guidelines from New York State." The group believes that the best way to deal with the global climate crisis is to start locally.

Hudson Crossings Park will be hosting a classic Wagen Fest on Saturday, Oct. 15. This is a rain or shine event. More information can be found at facebook.com/wagenfest. A block party from 4 pm to 8pm will be held after the event. Organizers encourage those in attendance to go out into the Village and explore eateries in the area. Members of the meeting shared their excitement towards the event with outsiders promoting events in the Village.

Eric Laffer of the Laffer Gallery said they have an open call for artists. According to their website, "The Laffer Gallery is holding an open submission for all forms of two-dimensional and three-dimensional art for a December 2022 – January 2023 juried group show." More information can be found at thelaffergallery.com/call-for-art.



Pastor Nancy Russell informing the group about an upcoming trunk-or-treat later this month.

A member of the Lions Club thanked vendors and attendees for a great Tasting on the Hudson event earlier this month. Kate Morse, of the Hudson Crossing Park, also described by Henderson as one who "is" or embodies the vibe of Schuylerville perfectly, said the event went well. Morse shared the second floor of the Visitor Center is complete and looks "stunning."

Another event going on at the park during the month of October is a Jack-O-Lantern Trail Walk on Sunday, Oct. 30 from 3:30 pm to 7 pm. The evening will include crafts, trats, pumpkin carving, and a trail walk. There is a suggested donation of five dollars for the event.

Lori Schultz, secretary at the Schuylerville Public Library, informed attendees of a gala to take place on Jan. 14 with a theme of fire and ice. More information to come on this. They are looking for sponsors of the event with goodie basket donations for giveaways. The library will also be hosting a kids Halloween party on Oct. 22 from 12 noon to 1:30 pm with snacks, games, and more. To keep the Halloween spirit going, a trick-or-treating event will be held on Oct. 31 from 4 to 8 pm at the library.

The Quaker Springs UMC will also be holding a trunk-or-treat on the 31st from 5 to 8 pm with food and decorated car trunks. "I've been told you have hundreds of kids out every year," Pastor Nancy Russell exclaimed.

Amigos Cantina is looking for hosts, prep cooks and line cooks as many members of their staff have returned to school since the summer has ended.

Pam Pradachith-Deimler, co-owner of Bound by Fate Brewing, announced that as the business comes up on their third anniversary, they will be opening at 3 pm on Fridays for a "teacher happy-hour" that is open to all. Pradachith-Deimler also said that the brewery is open for booking private events.

And what's up with all these scarecrows?

Samantha Simmons
Journal & Press

During the month of October, to celebrate the fall season, local businesses, organizations, and some residents have joined in on the fun by having what they call a “scarecrow stroll” encompassing the Village.

The idea is that this will become an annual tradition in Schuylerville and become a bigger and better idea every year through more participation and creative ideas.

The idea started from one of the monthly Community Conversation meetings where business owners and residents meet monthly to discuss upcoming events and ideas in the village. Many were not prepared to host a full fall festival.

“Schuylerville is a growing community with new businesses and improvements to local parks and trails, and residents of the village are excited about the impact this is all having on the local economy,” said Lori Schultz, secretary of the Advocates for the Schuylerville Public Library.

In previous years, businesses had volunteered to host and organize a fall festival, but that fell to the wayside this year with the planning of many other great events in the Village and working with COVID-19 restrictions.

A stroll of scarecrow sight-seeing is an easy and effective way to have a limited contact event for many, local and afar, to enjoy.

Mary Roberts, the spearhead of the idea, saw this event while visiting her cousin in Guilford, CT., last year. In the small town they had a nice display of scarecrows. Roberts thought this could be a great idea for Schuylerville.

Her husband Dave Roberts has been busy building armatures for businesses in the community. As of early October, he has built roughly 40 with only two left in their front yard.

“People call and he just makes another one,” said Mary Roberts.

Pastor Nancy Russel said events like this shows the true “genuine love in the community.”

Kate Morse, the Executive Director of Hudson Crossing Park, said in an email that the scarecrow stroll is “a way to have a little fun and draw attention to the many wonderful events, programs, and activities that are happening in Schuylerville during the month of October.”

The campaign is being referred to as #FallintoSchuylerville on social media for everyone to share what they are seeing and doing in the community.

Roberts went on a scarecrow stroll and said, “it was a hoot.”

In front of the community theater, scarecrows placed are raggedy Anne and Andy.

She feels as though this is an opportunity where visitors and residents can pop in and out of stores and have an incentive, seeing the different scarecrows, to keep them engaged with businesses.


The stroll is expected to grow more in the next week as the Halloween season is upon us.

Roberts loves the community’s reaction to the idea. It is like a chain reaction. When people see their neighbors with one, they say, “Ooh, I want one. That’s what I love,” Roberts said.

Schultz said they “are proud to be a part of the event,” and added, “We’re growing, and you can just feel the amazing energy of the place; we want to share that with everyone.”



WE'RE BACK



R. Stiles Haunted House
Saturday October 29th and Sunday October 30th
7 pm to 9 pm
55 Main Street Argyle
\$5 for children and \$10 for Adults

What do you treasure?

Teresa M. King
Journal & Press

I imagine this is a question that most people don't get asked. It's different from 'what are you grateful for?' and 'what is important to you?' Answering this question most definitely involves the heart. If I were to answer truthfully, I would say that what I treasure most is the deep bond I have with my female friends, who feel like sisters. I know that I can trust them with anything. They have sustained me through many difficult times.

My sisters understand me in ways that defy words. They accept me even when I am not at my best. And they love me even when I feel ugly. This is unconditional love and it is very hard to come by. The root of this unconditionality is acceptance. It makes all the difference in the

world to have this in life.

Years ago, a dear friend sent me an email with a video about a physician who worked a 36 hour shift in the Emergency Room. Within that time, he revived three people. When each of them spoke, they all said the same thing: "Why did you bring me back?" They asked this question because when they died, they felt more unconditional acceptance there than they ever felt in their life. The obvious question needs to be asked.

Why did it take death for these people to experience unconditional acceptance? What is wrong in our culture that people cannot find acceptance or unconditional love? Why has this become so difficult? Where has all of the judgment come from?

When I look back, I remember something that frequently happened in middle school, high

school and college. We were asked to "compare and contrast" topics, situations and people in tests and papers. This was a consistently strong pattern, which over time, probably reprogrammed our brains to actually look for differences. When this behavior becomes automatic, it does not serve individuals or humanity.

We need more unity and cooperation not division and separation. Life can not be defined in black and white terms. Most of life exists in the gray zone. Having an "us or them" mentality is the root of many problems on our planet. Unfortunately, the enormous realms of sports and politics only serve to support and reinforce this theme. By design, they will always produce winners and losers.

Social media is another platform that does not serve humanity well. In fact, it has been found to make people's lives worse. A great deal of research has been done on the negative affects of it. One study which focused on vibrant confident 9 year old girls, revealed that they lost their confidence, once they started using social media.

Another study revealed that social media makes teenagers feel very self-conscious and insecure, leading to increased feelings of depression, anxiety, poor body image and loneliness. (See Child Mind Institute: How using social media affects teenagers.) They report that "...kids are growing up with more anxiety and less self-esteem." These things are rooted in a lack of acceptance and a lack of love.

When we come from love, we will see that all of our differences can actually make all of us stronger.

As we move through life, let's make a bigger effort to observe ourselves when we interact with people. Let's try to be more loving and more accepting of others, so that we don't have to wait until the next world, to experience unconditional love and acceptance.

Teresa King is workshop facilitator. Her next workshop is Hearing the Voice of Your Soul, on Fri., Oct. 28. Details can be found under Events at <https://thelargerpicture.com>



Refueling

On Wednesday, October 5, Salem's field hockey team was victorious in the annual pink game under the lights. The team refuels with Battenkill Valley Creamery's chocolate milk. The "Refuel With Chocolate Milk" is a campaign funded by dairy farmers

through American Dairy Association North East (ADANE). ADANE's sponsorship provides funding for NYSPHSAA championships.

Washington County Dairy Princess, Alyce Harrington is also a member of the field hockey team.



Soil health workshop

Join the Agricultural Stewardship Association for a day-long workshop on October 27, 2022, with Dr. Allen Williams of Understanding Ag. Dr. Williams and his colleagues have been leaders in working with farmers and ranchers across the U.S. and around the world to increase their understanding of soil health practices and how they can make any farming operation more successful.

The event starts at 9 a.m. at Otter Creek Farm in Johnsonville.

This workshop is for any farmer looking for tools and information to improve soil health, reduce input costs, and increase profitability. The program will cover: the Six Principles of Soil Health and the Three Rules of Adaptive Stewardship to optimize the Four Ecosystem Processes (epigenetics, emerging opportunities, and soil testing). Cost for the full day (including lunch) is \$60/person. Registration is required by Tuesday, October 25. Please register online at <https://www.agstewardship.org/events>. Scholarships available.

Buell's name to be added to GFD Memorial

Greenwich Fire Department's recently passed Assistant Chief Brian Buell will be added to the Memorial at the 6th Annual Memorial Ceremony.

Join the department as the Greenwich Fire Department remembers their departed Firefighters at the 6th Annual

Memorial Ceremony on Sunday, October 16, 12 noon, at 60 Hill Street.

The department invites the community and all family members of those who will be honored at the Memorial. Anyone desiring additional information please call Kevin Shephard at

518-265-7258.

Below is a list of those members to be honored on October 16:

Harry Osberg, Phillip Foster, Clifford Loy, Michael "Nick" Karp, Robert Adamson, Charles Cronin, David Perry, Perry Kipp, Darwin Grimes Sr., Edward Cox Jr., Gerald St. Clair, Richard Southerland, Edward Biercuk, William Nolan, Richard Culver, John Olcott, Jack McCann, Frank Mosso, Robert Greeney, Albert Perry Sr, Peter McMurray, Forrest Colby Sr, John Burgess, Robert Duchaine, Walter Couser, Harold Butler, Harry Teft,

George Lindsay Jr., Floyd Green Jr., Robert Adamson, Kenneth Darfler, Kyle Karp, John N. DeJuan, Harold Kipp, Harry Brophy, Herman Dandrow, Walter Fitzpatrick, Willard Kipp, Lyle Wilkinson, Raymond Lang, Marshall Hopkins, Harold Wilson, James Perry Jr., Leonard "JR" Roberts, Harold Jordan, Carl Derby, Steve Duket, Dennis McDonald, Clifford Mattice, Francis Blanchfield, John Ross, Rae Davis Jr.,

Philip "Skip" Spiezo, Gordan "Gordy" Davis and Doug Houser. New name added to the Memorial this year: Assistant Chief Brian Buell.

Free rabies clinic

A free rabies clinic sponsored by the Washington County Public Health will occur on Sat., Nov. 5, at the Washington County DPW Municipal Complex, 399 Broadway, Building #203 in Fort Edward.



All dogs and cats should be vaccinated against rabies at 3 months of age and re-vaccinated one year

later, then every three years thereafter. Ferrets should be vaccinated against rabies at 3 months of age and re-vaccinated yearly.

Pets must remain in the vehicle until vaccine given. All pets need to be on a leash or in a carrier. Vaccines are administered in accordance with National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV). All Clinics are free and open to the public. Pre-Registration Required, no Walk-Ins. Check <https://www.washington-countyny.gov/311/Rabies-Clinic> periodically for when Registrations open.

Seniors bus trip

The Olde Saratoga Seniors are hosting a bus trip to Villa Roma in Calicoon, NY, on Wednesday, November 30, 2022. It will be a lunch and a Holliday Motown Tribute. The cost of this trip will be \$49 for senior members and \$54 for non members. If interested, please contact Peg Jennings at 518-275-5805 or Pat Temple at 518-338-2329. They would need to know by November 1, 2022.



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If signs could vote...

To the Editor:

Political lawn signs. Love them or leave them?

Some think lawn signs are a waste of money, a source of eye pollution, or a petty battle “won” by the candidate with the biggest war chest. They are a target for theft and vandalism, and a distraction for drivers. I can’t argue with those observations.

Do lawn signs do any good? There are strong opinions on both sides of that argument, but I’d like to point out that there are some positive aspects and lessons to be learned from them. Voters have an opportunity to get some information from candidates’ signs.

Are the signs easy to read, making it clear who the candidate is and what office they are running for? This tells you a lot about the professionalism of both the candidate and the team committed to getting him or her elected. Do the signs indicate who has paid for them? If not, what are they hiding?

Where do you see the signs? Are they along the highway and public rights of way, or on the private lawns of voters? This tells you a lot about a candidate’s support. If you only see the candidate’s signs in public areas along the road, that doesn’t show very much of a base for that candidate. One or two people in an afternoon can put out tons of signs. On the other hand, if the majority of the signs you see are on private property, that demonstrates a broad spectrum of individual voter support, and this is an important distinction.

While you drive around Greenwich, please note that the vast majority of lawn signs you see in support of Stan Mattison, Jr, are on private property. Each one of these is a statement by a real voter, the resident who lives there, that Stan has earned their trust and respect, that they value his background and experience, they appreciate his being available full-time for the job of Greenwich Highway Superintendent and that they plan to vote for him.

Please join me, and all of those lawn signs, in voting for Stan Mattison, Jr, on November 8.

Tom Mattone
Greenwich NY

To the Editor:

Every Road Warrior needs a chief. Historically, a chief is usually chosen by proven leadership skills - not name recognition. Maturity, experience, budgeting skills, work ethic and motivation to do the best job for his town should drive your selection of a new highway superintendent.

We believe the best man for this important job is Glenn Davis. A man of integrity, proven capability and community involvement.

Morgan Snyder
Greenwich

To the Editor:

“Hands across the water.” Well, town lines!

I recently attended a launch and fundraiser for Stan Mattison, Jr., candidate for Greenwich Highway Superintendent. Not only was I impressed by the number of local supporters who were there, but also by the supporters who attended from other towns in Washington County.

I was not aware of this, but luckily for us taxpayers, there is a strong brotherhood among all the town highway superintendents in the area. I was impressed to find out that there were four in attendance in support of Stan’s candidacy.

I learned that neighboring highway departments share equipment as well as expertise. This not only saves tax dollars, but also promotes a better prepared highway team, making for safer roads for all of us.

As a current employee of the Greenwich Highway Department, Stan Mattison, Jr., obviously has an already-established relationship with the other highway superintendents in Washington County. To me, it’s apparent they recognize his experience. If they are willing to drive all the way to Greenwich to show their support for Stan Jr’s candidacy for Highway Superintendent, I am convinced he should get my support too. Recognition by one’s professional peers counts for a lot. I will be voting for Stan Mattison, Jr., on November 8, and I strongly encourage the voters of Greenwich to support him too.

Suzanne Cohen
Greenwich

To the Editor:

During the 13 years that I served as the Washington County Public Works Superintendent, I had the opportunity to work with all the town highway superintendents in Washington County who served during those years. Those who were successful in the job, all had a combination of talents that contributed to that success. Some of these talents included leadership of the town crew, working with the residents of the town, understanding and implementing best road construction and maintenance practices, understanding accounting and budgeting, understanding how to maintain and keep antiquated equipment operational, understanding the limits of NYS Highway law and how that governs their actions, ability to work with their town boards, and most of all the understanding that the position requires more than full time dedication to the position. At the county level, we had modest resources which required some creativity to maintain the road network. I have observed that at the town level, the resources are often so meager that creativity bordering on miracle working is required to maintain the town road networks.

With the upcoming election in Greenwich for Highway Superintendent, Stan Mattison, Jr. , an employee of the Greenwich Highway Department understands the requirements of the position. As such, he is unlikely to resign a few months into his term because he didn’t understand the nature of the job, like the last elected superintendent. Stan possesses many of the talents required to succeed, and is a quick enough study to develop the others with experience, as many fellow superintendents have. Importantly Stan also understands that snow storms, wind storms, beaver dam breaks, emergency service calls requiring a highway department response and other “unexpected” events happen at all hours of the day and night, and require a responsible leader to deal with them. Stan’s opponent’s notion that someone can effectively manage a 4 person town highway department with a network of 76 miles of town roads on a part time basis borders on delusional. The voters have a choice between electing Stan Mattison as full time highway superintendent, or electing and paying someone a full time salary for a part time side gig.

Willy Grimmke, PE
Greenwich

continued on next page

More about the election (cont.)

To the Editor:

I wanted to give a shout out to the Village of Greenwich DPW for the great job they did with recent paving of streets in Greenwich. The work was done professionally, looks great, and is just in time for the winter season. The department has my thanks for a job well done!

Chris Levy
Greenwich

To the Editor:

At least 14 Republican signs have been removed or defaced in the last week. When Democratic signs were defaced last year the Greenwich Republican Party immediately condemned the illegal action. What have we heard from the Greenwich Democratic committee is "SILENCE!"

There are at least two conclusions that can be made from the failure of the Democratic committee to denounce these immature and illegal actions. They are: 1. They condone the destruction political signs that is a violation of NYS and Federal law or 2. They encourage others to perform the immature and illegal actions on their behalf.

The sign destruction is not the action of children. The

spray painting of Republican signs has occurred in Cambridge and other towns. These are the actions of narrow-minded people who cannot tolerate opposing policies or political viewpoints. They are opposed to fair and open election campaigns.

The Greenwich Republican Committee does not condone, encourage or support the destruction of any political signage in any form, shape or manner!

We must as a community condemn these actions and respect opposing viewpoints in the name of democracy. Failure to denounce such actions paves the road to the destruction of our democracy.

Don Ward

Greenwich Village/Town Republican Committee

To the Editor:

Such silliness! That's what I hear about what's happening on Facebook in regards to the upcoming Greenwich Highway Superintendent election.

Come on.

Wouldn't it be a better use of our energy to talk about the qualities of the candidates?

For instance, I know that Stan Mattison, Jr. works for the highway department, so he obviously has experience with the equipment, our roads, the crew, and meeting and talking to property owners. I understand that Mr. Mattison intends to be a full-time Highway Superintendent if elected. That makes sense to me as

a taxpayer and also as someone who uses our roads at all hours.

Stan Mattison, Jr. will get my vote Nov. 8. Competence, professionalism, and experience are what Greenwich deserves.

Jacqueline Farbman
Greenwich

To Representative Stefanik:

I recently received an email from you stating that you are "leading the charge" against "Critical Race Theory" (CRT) being taught in NYS schools. In case you are unaware of what CRT is, it is simply the teaching that ALL people are equal and no "race" is better or lesser than any other. "Race" was literally something thought up by a white person wanting to show that the white race is superior: smarter, more civilized and the "chosen" people, in an effort to maintain white power and dominance. Being against "CRT" is in fact, wanting to perpetuate inhumane white supremacy.

I am a white Christian who strives to follow the teachings of Jesus in my daily life. I am angered by the number of "Christians" who profess to do the same and do nothing of the kind. We are ALL made in God's image. The argument in support of NOT teaching CRT is that if we do, white children will be made to feel guilty or inferior. It does nothing of the kind. Isn't it time that we white people own up to the fact that our white ancestors had NO problem committing genocide on Native Americans, enslaving and brutally murder-



ing people of color and ostracizing Jewish Americans?

We need to acknowledge that we are all one and need to LOVE and RESPECT EVERY person. As Jesus preached and modeled, "Love one another as I have loved you."

I am writing this Letter to the Editor because Elise, despite repeated calls to your office asking that you have call me back regarding various concerns and questions I have for you, you have never returned my call. All I have ever received are form emails such as the one your office sent out on Oct 6 relating to CRT.

I do not feel that you care in the least about representing me, your constituent. Your loyalty lies strictly with your deep pocket election campaign donors.

Let's work TOGETHER for a better tomorrow where ALL people are truly equal. Let's acknowledge that we white Americans are in fact racist and need to much better.

Judy Beers
Lake George



Photo provided by author

Lots to talk about

Ken Perry

Special to Journal & Press

Anyone who visits the Washington County Historian's Office, the county Archives or our own Gill Room at the library will probably notice a county map made in 1829. This map shows the various Patents that the towns were formed from and, in many cases, the lots within them. Enumerating the lots is especially helpful when looking at early deed records and finding the location of a particular settler within a town and have some idea of where they were in relation to other households found in the census.

But some do not, and this becomes more of a problem with the larger Patents. What I am thinking about specifically is that little old Campbell Patent that comprises about half the area of the town of Greenwich when it was set off from the Argyle Patent in 1803. On the eastern part of the township, parts of the Argyle Patent, with enumerated lots, are found. To the south, some parts of the Saratoga Patent on the north side of the Batten kill, again enumerated, and comprising all of the town of Easton, are part of the township. The Hudson River was the western boundary, and here, the Kettlehuyn Patent, and the Cuyler Patent just below it, are the other portions of Greenwich.

On May 2, 1796, James and Elizabeth Caldwell, and Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, all three of Albany, deeded almost all of the Campbell Patent, except certain reserved portions, to John Draper, Asa Eagleston, Robert Perrigo, Jr., and Elijah Case of Washington County, for £21,500. By current conversion rates, the value of £1 then was equivalent to \$2,242.93, or just over 48 million dollars in today's currency. Caldwell was the founder of the Warren County

town now known as Lake George. Van Rensselaer was, at one time, the Lt. Governor of New York and one of our first Representatives to Congress. He was also an extensive slave owner, who probably leased some of his slaves to early slave holders in Washington County, a common practice. That same day, John and Lydia Draper, Asa and Joanna Eagleston, Robert and Anna Perrigo, Jr., and Elijah and Silence Case began to grant parcels, both large and small, to other early settlers.

My interest in the location of these lots began because two ancestors (brothers) had small portions of lots, and I wondered where their locations were, but it soon became a question of how were the lots laid out and enumerated, given that the Argyle Patent was so plainly marked. An 1853 county map has the names W McGahen and C H McGahen clearly marked near each other in Greenwich, and I found that William McGahen obtained 3 acres out of lot 54 in 1834, but another deed for lot 44 mentioned his land as a shared boundary.

Jumping ahead to the Stone & Stewart 1866 atlas map of Greenwich, a W McEachron and C H McEachron were found adjacent to each other a mile up on what was later named Rabbit Road. This was a misnomer, as McEachron was a more prominent surname in the Sept, MacDonald of Clanranald, which included the McGahen name. At any rate, William and Cornelius Holmes McGahen were father and son, and you can still see their actual cellar holes on the east side of this road. Except, the place occupied by Cornelius was originally the home of his uncle, James McGahen, who obtained 3 roods (that's $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre, for those of you who don't want to look it up) of lot 17 from Rip Van Dam Sybrandt in 1824. James and



Ken Perry at work

William appear within two houses of each other in the 1820 census.

So where was lot 17? Finding that location becomes significant in understanding the layout of the Campbell Patent and the location of adjacent households as they appear in the census. And, adjoining families may indicate a possible family relationship. By using names found in the census in concert with a search of deed records for the time period, it is also possible to figure out how lots in the

Campbell Patent were laid out, and in some cases, where some of the early settlers came from. For example, Job Reynolds and Jeddiah Hartshorn, who both had large parcels, were from Petersburg, and Titus Hall was from Pittstown, both in Rensselaer County.

Back on the same date as the Caldwells and Van Rensselaer deeded over the Campbell Patent, they conveyed lots 6 and 7, running along the Hudson River, to

continued on next page

(cont.)

William Pierce of Pittstown, the northeast corner beginning at lot 5. Aha! That short range of our township at Fort Miller that begins at the southeast corner of the boundary with the town of Fort Edward was where lot 1 was marked, and the lots ran west from 1 to 5, then went east, beginning with 6 and 7. After they passed a shared boundary with lot 1, all the remaining lots in the second range shared their north boundary with the south boundary of the town of Argyle. The numbering of the lots therefore zig-zagged from east to west and then west to east, with each successive range.

Rip Van Dam Sybrandt, born of Danish descent in Schuylerville in 1772, purchased 81 acres of lot 17 in 1820, beginning at its northwest corner. Four years later he sold equal portions of just over 33 acres to Joseph Dickie and Alansing (Alanson) Scofield, with Scofield's parcel above Dickie's and running along the boundary with the town of Argyle. Scofield's property shared a boundary with Barney Allen's northwest corner. Allen occupied land in both lot 16 and 17, bounded west by the road from Greenwich to Argyle. Joseph

Dickie's parcel shared a boundary with the southwest corner of James McGahen. It's interesting to note that Sybrandt's wife was Martha Eggleston (Eagleston), a daughter of one of the original patentees.

A much later deed in 1849 refers to a parcel beginning at the northeast corner of a lot conveyed by John M. Wever to Barney Allen, and another one in lot 16 that begins on the line of lot 16 and 17 "near the Bridge that crosses the Brook a little North of the now dwelling house of Alanson Scofield," which indicates that the road running north from the intersection of the hamlet of North Greenwich was the division line between lots 16 and 17. Based upon the measurements in these deeds, that would place James McGahen on the hill above North Greenwich at the juncture of McClay and Hartshorn roads. That solves my problem, but further...

In 1826, Titus and Sarah Hall conveyed to Job Reynolds a portion of lot 16, beginning at its northwest corner and reserving ¼ acre on which the Methodist meeting-

house stands. Thus, we begin to see the outlines emerging for the hamlet of North Greenwich, earlier known as Reid's Corners. Another early family that had interests in lot 16, and lot 22 below it, was the Flagler family, originally from Dutchess County. Several of the earliest representatives of this family are buried in the cemetery on the hill just west of North Greenwich.

And so, the lots of the Campbell Patent snaked their way west then east until they abutted the bound-

mentioned as lands are further subdivided. We also cannot expect that all the lots maintained these regular dimensions or how many lots actually existed. One thing that I can tell you is that for my previous address in Bald Mountain, lot 78 was one 1797 deed from John Draper and Robert Perrigo, Jr. to Asa Eagleston, all three original Patentees. This deed mentions a line "running on the uppermost edge of the uppermost lime stones and rock on the west side or side of Ball Mountain..."

And one more thing, a number of the names mentioned here – Sybrandt, Flagler, Hall, Dickie and McGahen – all went west during the early years of the opening of the Eire Canal. According to Gill's notes, Sybrandt purchased a canal boat at Fort Miller and went there in 1827. The same year as he conveyed property to Job Reynolds, according to a genealogy of one branch of the Hall family, Titus and his cousin, Sylvester Flagler, walked as far as Royalton, New York, in Niagara County, to find farm land that was less rocky than here in Greenwich. All of these families congregated near Royalton in the 1820s and 1830s.

'Sybrandt purchased a canal boat at Fort Miller and went there in 1827.'

aries of other patents, with a narrow strip running south along the Argyle Patent lots until they reached the banks of the Battenkill. Their standard size was 25 chains high by 40 chains wide, containing 100 acres. The number of references to lot numbers is a hit or miss prospect, and the later in time deed transaction occurs, the less likely a lot number might be

Easton Library meets

The Easton Library announced a Board of Trustees meeting will be held Monday, October 17 at 7:30 pm, at Easton Library. The public is welcome to attend.

Everyone who utilizes the services of the Easton Library and has an interest in this vital resource for the Easton community is encouraged to visit and chime in.

The library is located at 1074 State Route 40, Greenwich (Easton), NY 12834. The library is handicapped accessible. Please call the li-

brary at 518-692-2253 with any questions.

The Meeting Agenda is as follows: 1. Attendance 2. Public Comments 3. Additions to Agenda 4. Minutes from previous regular meeting 9/12/2022 5. Presidents Report 6. Treasurers Report 7. Directors Report 8. Old Business – Cyber Liability Insurance, Library Building Update 9. New Business – Code of Conduct Policy 10. Set next meeting date 11. Adjourn.

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Ditch market timing, once and for all

Jill Schlesinger

Special to Journal & Press

Every time financial markets sink someone asks: When is this going to end? Should I sell now, before it gets even worse?

Rationally, we know that the current period of plunging markets, high inflation, and general uncertainty around the economy will resolve, and things will get better, eventually. But that does little to soothe the raw nerves that are keeping you up at night.

In reaction to market gyrations, many investors want to do something to avoid losses.

Kayla Sabbagh, an analyst at Wealthstream Advisors, says those natural instincts can often lead us astray. In a new report, she recommends “focusing on what can be controlled (i.e., limiting taxes, rebalancing and selecting low-cost investment vehicles),” and although it is difficult to do: “Try not to make long-term investment decisions based on short-term market conditions.”

Perhaps you are thinking that someone out there knows when to get in and when to get out of a particular asset class. But research has shown that it is a fool’s errand to attempt to time the market, because it requires two lucky decisions: when to sell and when to buy back in.

Sabbagh underscores the point, noting that “the market rewards investors who are able to maintain a long-term perspective and stay the course through turbulent times.”

To put some numbers to that notion of staying the course, she highlights data from 1990-2021 for the S&P 500 index. During that period, the index had an annualized compound return of 10.76%. But if you got freaked out and pulled out, you didn’t enjoy the rallies that propelled the index higher along the way. “Missing only a few days of strong returns can drastically impact overall performance.”

The numbers are clear. If you missed the 15 best single days, your return drops from 10.78% to 7.15% - and if you miss the 25 best single days, your performance is practically cut in half, to 5.55%.

Sabbagh warns against trying “to out-guess the market,” because as she notes, there are hundreds of mutual fund managers who attempt to do just that, only to face failure. According to research from S&P Global, among domestic stock funds, “90% have underperformed on the S&P Composite 1500 over the past 20 years.”

If you can’t time the market, what should you do? Try not to obsess over every day’s price movements and instead, do these three things:

Step 1: Remind yourself why you are investing. Most of us are saving for a long-term goal, like retirement or college, which is likely years or decades in the future. Even if you were retiring within the next couple of years, your account needs to last another 20-30 years. If you are contributing money into a retirement or college savings vehicle, put your head down and stick to your plan.

Step 2: Determine whether you need cash within the next 12 months. If so, that money should never have been at risk at all, so sell whatever you need and keep the proceeds in a safe savings, checking, money market or short-term certificate of deposit.

Step 3: Find free money. Determine how much you are paying in fees and see if you can reduce them by replacing an actively managed fund with a low fee index mutual fund. Or consider an automatic investment platform instead of an investment “professional” who is managing money, rather than providing important financial planning to you and your family. Make sure that anyone with whom you work adheres to the fiduciary standard, meaning they are required to act in your best interest, at all times.

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 out her website at www.jillonmoney.com.



Winter clothing drive

The Great Give Back returns to the Greenwich Free Library and the Easton Library, Saturday, October 15 through Saturday, October 29.

Join community members and patrons of the Greenwich Free Library and the Easton Library for two weeks of “giving back” to the community. Please donate NEW warm winter accessories: socks, mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats.

Donations will support the Open Door Mission and the Comfort Food Community, both serving residents of Washington and Warren counties.

Look for collection bins in the entryways of either library beginning Saturday, 10/15, continuing for two weeks until Saturday, 10/29. All donations need to be NEW and



sized for adults and teens.

“The Great Give Back” is a statewide program whose mission is to provide library patrons the opportunity to participate in meaningful service to their communities. Throughout New York State, libraries will be participating with a variety of service programs in October.

Take a tour of SUNY Adirondack

SUNY Adirondack invites the community to an Open House event from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 29, at its Queensbury main campus.

Learn about degree programs, meet faculty and staff, get help filling out financial aid paperwork, find out more about athletics, tour the college's under-construction turf field project or just enjoy lunch and a scoop of Stewart's Sweet Success ice cream.

"Whether you're alumni, a high school student or parent, or just curious about what goes on at SUNY Adirondack, we welcome you," said John Delate, Ph.D., vice president for Enrollment and Student Affairs at SUNY Adirondack. "We're excited about all the wonderful things we have going on and want to share them with the community."

Between 9 and 9:30 a.m., attendees can check in at Northwest Bay Conference Center in Adirondack Hall, where SUNY Adirondack will offer refreshments, program information, college merchandise, maps of campus and more. Mingle and meet college officials, learn about degree and certificate programs, or discover the college's extensive Continuing Education and Workforce Innovation offerings.

From 9:30 to 10 a.m. and 11 to 11:30 a.m., SUNY Adirondack staff will offer various sessions, including:

- Which major is right for me?: Student Success advisors will discuss how SUNY Adirondack's Career Coach software and professional advising staff can help students discover their interests and aptitudes.

- First-year student support: The college's Compass team of success coaches share information about programs in place to help

every student reach their goals.

- Adult learner and transfer student support: College Access and Student Success will talk about returning to college or enrolling as a first-time nontraditionally aged student, and how the college supports their needs (day care, flexible course offerings, multiple locations, etc.). The team will also help those interested navigate the transfer process, discussing SUNY Adirondack's partnerships with universities that allow seamless transfer into bachelor's degree programs.

- Living on campus: Tour SUNY Adirondack's beautiful, spacious Residence Hall and learn how to apply to live on campus, how to prepare financially and amenities available to residential students.

"The college offers several support systems to help students succeed and Open House is a great way to learn more about those programs," said Kristine D. Duffy, Ed.D., president of SUNY Adirondack. "We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity of a quality education, and we are committed to ensuring our students have all the tools they need."

Between 10 and 11 a.m., various academic divisions will offer breakout sessions, including opportunities to see classroom technologies.

"At SUNY Adirondack, we have professors with the credentials to teach at any number of larger universities, but they love the connections they make with students here," said Jenny Postlethwaite, director of College Access and Student Success. "This event gives potential students and their families the opportunity to meet some of our faculty and to learn about the high-quality education available at SUNY Adirondack."

Prospective students interested in learning more about SUNY Adirondack's Athletics programs can meet coaching staff members and student athletes from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to tour the \$5.7 million turf project from 11:30 a.m. to noon, then enjoy free lunch, and a dish of SUNY Adirondack's Sweet Success, Stewart's



Free ice cream and meet President Kristine Duffy

award-winning Peanut Butter Pandemonium, temporarily renamed to celebrate the college's 2022-23 academic year.

From 9:30 a.m. to noon, campus tours will leave every 45 minutes from Adirondack Hall; College Access staff will meet with guests individually to answer questions or help them apply to the college; Financial Aid will offer one-on-one appointments; and several offices will have their doors open to discuss their offerings, including: Continuing Education; Library and Tutoring; Accessibility Services; Residence Life; TRIO SSS and EOP opportunity programs; Public Safety; Bookstore; Randle Veterans Center; Student Engagement & Diversity Initiatives; and Counseling and The Hub.

To register for the event, visit https://connect.sunyacc.edu/register/october_openhouse.

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**Olde Saratoga
Seniors lunch**

The next meeting of the Olde Saratoga Seniors will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022 at noon at the Town Hall, 12 Spring St., Schuylerville.

It will be a sandwich luncheon. Dessert will be provided. Speaker from the Library will be giving a presentation. New members and guests are welcome. For more information contact Pat Temple at 518-338-2329

The Witch's Brew Café

Michael Levy
Journal & Press

A few decades ago, I wondered what would happen if Mrs. Olson, or “The Folgers Coffee Woman” hooked up with Juan Valdez, the icon for Columbian coffee. I am sure that Mr. Olson would have been a little upset about the affair, but it would have changed the coffee culture in the United States forever. It may have even slowed the rise of an evil empire known as Dunkin’ Donuts and its 13,000 or so locations.

In 1963, Dunkin’ Donuts opened its hundredth location and was easily stoppable in those days of Mrs. Olson and Juan Valdez. In the early 1980s, DD’s counter service and ceramic coffee cups were superseded by pickup areas and environmentally unfriendly Styrofoam cups that recently were replaced by paper ones.

What does any of this have to do with Washington County? Have you ever driven west on Route 29 from the Village of Greenwich towards the traffic circle in the morning? The Dunkin’ Donuts drive-thru line extends out of the driveway and onto the road. This situation raises more than a few questions in my mind. First, the Dunkin’ Donut franchisee who owns this location must certainly be aware of this problem. Someone could easily re-engineer the facility to safely accommodate these customers and get them off the road. Second, the DD addicts waiting in their vehicles to get their brewed concoctions must recognize that they are blocking the roadway of a state highway. Surely, they must be worried about getting rear-ended. Lastly, where is local law enforcement because some NYS traffic law is probably being violated?

People are drawn to Dunkin’ Donuts like moths to a flame. Their products are expensive, even though some DD aficionados argue that the total cost is mitigated for frequent buyers through the company’s rewards program. However, due to a recent devaluation of the Dunkin’ Rewards program (formerly DD Perks), that argument no longer is valid. It now takes twice or thrice as many purchases to receive a free cup of the coffee of your choice at Dunkin’.

How about the safety of drinking coffee in the car and driving? It is a fair bet that most customers waiting in the DD drive-thru line are not purchasing their coffee for consumption at

home or in the office. Coffee might be one of the most dangerous beverage and food items a person can consume while driving. Drinking coffee while driving leads to visual, cognitive, and physical distractions. Drivers take their eyes off the road when they pick up and replace the coffee cup from the cupholder. And who has not looked down at their coffee cup after hitting a huge bump or pothole (like the ones recently on Route 29 towards Schuylerville) to see if anything leaked from the cup? The cognitive distractions include deciding when to take a sip and ascertaining if the brew is too hot to drink. And the physical distractions are many. If you are holding your coffee, there is no way you can have two hands on the steering wheel and as you raise your cup to sip you will block the line of site of the road in front of you.

Dunkin’ Donuts has a devastating impact on locally owned coffee shops. In most towns and villages of Washington County, coffee shops come and go with great predictability. They are like owning a goldfish, they do not last long, and you learn not to get attached.

So why do local coffee shops in Washington County have a hard go of it while Dunkin’ seems to thrive everywhere? Coffee connoisseurs will drive many miles to get the best espresso. A local coffee business cannot succeed unless they use top rated ingredients. The cost of materials may be high but if you go with a cheaper product, the customers will know. While on the subject, coffee shops should not scrimp on getting the best equipment either. Hey, make sure they are set to the optimal and correct temperature levels. Use the best water and get the right purifiers and demineralization equipment. If a coffee shop owner is not willing to have the best product, made with the best ingredients with the best equipment, they should get a job at Dunkin’ instead.

In addition to beverages, coffee shops need food sales to make enough money to pay the bills. Coffee may be the prime motivator for customers, but high-quality accompaniments (such as muffins, cookies, cakes) at the point of sale is the difference between prosperity and business failure.

Washington County coffee shops need to understand what they are really selling and need to be satisfying their customers rather than going through the motions of just selling coffee products. People frequent a coffee shop to escape the stress of their home and office lives. It



is a meeting place for starting and maintaining relationships. It is a place to conduct commerce. If done right, this business model will keep customers returning to our local coffee shops because Dunkin’ Donuts does not meet these needs.

Even though I have safety concerns about driving while consuming a hot beverage, I recognize that the number of folks who like a cup of Joe while commuting to their jobs in Albany, Rensselaer, or Saratoga County is high. I agree that it is hard for a downtown cafe to serve coffee to people in their cars. But a solution comes from the other side of the country.

The Pacific Northwest has an established coffee culture that is second to none. Some thirty years ago, in response to the growing demand for fast and convenient ways for one to get their morning brew, drive-thru coffee stands began to populate the landscape. Coffee stands are small, one-room “buildings” equipped with everything needed to make coffee inside. They have a variety of delicious local baked goods for sale. It is a successful business model. When I was in Washington State last month, these locally owned coffee drive-thrus seemed to be located on every major corner.

Coffee places in the area, you need to up your game to better serve your customers and to stay in business for the long haul. For a budding entrepreneur, why don’t you open your first coffee stand, modeled on the ones on the West Coast, in the parking lot of the YMCA in Greenwich? If that works, you can open the next locations in Cambridge, Salem, Granville, or other Washington County location of your choosing. Just a few Random Thoughts!

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



Salem bus trip

On Tuesday, October 4, eighth grade students from Salem attended the WSWHE



BOCES CTE Works at the Saratoga City Center. It was an interactive career exploration event to acquaint students with the various employment opportunities in the local region. The students enjoyed the hands-on learning experiences and exploration. They especially liked seeing some of our seniors in action who are enrolled in WSWHE BOCES CTE programs helping conduct demonstrations.



Skene Manor gathering

The 82nd annual meeting of the Washington County Historical Society will take place Saturday, October 29, 2022 at the Skene Manor at 8 Potter Terrace in Whitehall, NY. Coffee hour will begin at 10:00 a.m. The business meeting will follow at 10:30 ending with awards. The program, "Philip Skene and the Battle of Bennington" by David Pitlyk will begin at 11:45. David Pitlyk is the Interpretive Programs Assistant at Bennington Battlefield and has seven years of service with NYS Parks. He previously held the position of Interpretations Coordinator at the museum ship USS SLATER. He has a B.A. in history and M.S. in secondary education from the State University of New York at Albany.

Philip Skene was on a course to become one of the most prominent citizens of the province of New York. Returning from Great Britain as the newly appointed "Lieutenant Governor of the Fort of Ticonderoga and Crown Point" in 1775, he already claimed a vast acreage around present-day Whitehall, NY. The events of the American Revolution would forever alter his fortunes. When Lt. Col. Baum was ordered

by General Burgoyne to march to Bennington in 1777, Skene would accompany him as a follower of the British army. Such was his reputation that many patriots assumed that Skene was in command of Crown Forces there. Today's presentation investigates Skene with special emphasis on one of the defining moments of his life, the Battle of Bennington. Join presenter David Pitlyk to learn more about this influential man, his role in the battle and his ultimate downfall.

The Skene Manor is a Victorian Gothic-style mansion in Whitehall. The property where the mansion sits was formerly owned by Philip Skene, founder of Whitehall (formerly Skenesborough). It was purchased in 1867 by New York State Supreme Court Judge Joseph H Potter (1821-1902) Potter built the mansion on the property over 2 years at a cost of \$25,000 and named it Mountain Terrace. The building is constructed of gray sandstone quarried from Skene Mountain by stone cutters from Italy.

The house has an interesting history and became a restaurant in 1946 when it was re-



named Skene Manor. The house was sold a few times. After it changed hands again in the 1980s, it changed hands several more times, but the owners were unsuccessful at keeping it open as a restaurant and the mansion fell into disrepair. In the mid-1990s, Skene Manor Preservation, Inc., a volunteer organization was formed and took on the task of restoring and maintaining Skene Manor.

If you have any questions, please contact Washington County Historical Society on Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 – 4:30 at (518) 747-9108. The program is open to the public at no charge.

Historic book club

Washington County Historical Society's local history book club will meet at noon on Friday, October 21, at the Rogers Island Visitors Center, 11 Rogers Island Drive, Fort Edward. This change from the usual second Friday of the month schedule is to accommodate the tourist season of the site. Historical Society membership is not required for the book club.

The October meeting will be a discussion of any book about Robert Rogers, 1731 - 1795, but the focus will be on his activities while on the

island where we are meeting. It was there in 1757, during the French and Indian War, that Rogers forever changed military tactics when he wrote his "Rules of Ranging." Today's U. S. Army Rangers consider Rogers Island to be their "spiritual birthplace".

The group will be able to visit the exhibits following our discussion. A small donation for the site is requested.

For those who wish to read ahead, the meeting on November 11 will focus on the voyage of

Henry Hudson on which he discovered the river that is named for him. Any book on the life of Henry Hudson (c. 1565 – 1611) can be read in preparation.

Future sessions of the club will include books about the larger Adirondack area as well as some works by local authors. The proposed list includes Benedict Arnold's building of the first Navy in Whitehall; the life of Mathew Brady, photographer, who was born in Warren County; and the impact of Grandma Moses on American Art. For additional information, email Connie Harris Farrington at connieandlee@roadrunner.com.

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October ends with trick-or-treat

Shirley Renauld
Journal & Press

Don't have time to sit in those Adirondack chairs in Cambridge? Not to worry: Connie of Battenkill Books who started the project is holding an on-line auction of them this month and planning the project for next year, too.

When Tiashoke farm bought the Lundberg farm in Easton to raise the heifers there for their growing dairy in Buskirk, Kate also had a herd of alpacas and a shop to sell alpaca products. Across the road was another shop and a field of pumpkins that Brian gave a wagon ride through for pick-your-own pumpkins. Pumpkins were also sold at the building called the Pumpkin Stand across the road. Through the years, Jessica developed the Stand to offer more products: chrysanthemums, frozen meat, milk, even cornstalks. Dairy farms were having to provide auxiliary forms of income on their land: they became an agribusiness.

Non-farm families were driving to enjoy our agricultural area: now it became agritourism, especially at this time of year. At Tiashoke in Easton it became the Farm Store at Tiashoke, in buildings formerly used by animals. People in our agricultural area planned events, such as the recent Cheese Tour, for family enjoyment and to get products at the source. What was your favorite cheese? Did you get a ride on the hay wagon pulled by Grandpa Frank's tractor? Did you pet the calves? Eat food from the Food Truck? What did you come home with? Extended

family members are involved in the activities – even friends; do you get to help?. Where else did you visit? Did you vote for King Dairy to get their two! awards at State Fair?

Then there's your own garden. It's already a good time to plan next year's: What worked well? What will you do differently? But Farmer Will Allen is proud of you for your efforts anyway. As you clean out the garden, do you find surprises under the big leaves – maybe what your chickens or pigs helped you grow? These can be for decorations or food (right, Kristin?). Friends appreciate your extras, leave them out for help-yourself, offer at yard sales... Remember to use row covers over your last plantings and to help vegetables finish maturing. As we plan for a bonfire at the end of the season, we remember what Smokey (no the) Bear said, "Only YOU can prevent forest fires"/any out-of-control fires.

Fall squashes are hard to peel. Better to cut them in half, scoop out the seeds (as always, save and dry them) and bake them, face down. Then scoop out the insides. Or just bake some

'Did you pet the calves? Get food from the Food Truck?'

part way, turn them over and fill with stuffing for a meal. Flavor what's left with your favorite sugar and spice (and everything nice!); add broth and milk to blend for a soup.

Speaking of scooping out, there's our favorite: the pumpkin. It will last longer if you dec-



A scene from last year's Greenwich parade

orate it before cutting into it: Maybe paint on it; is it already white? Maybe just etch a word or a message, a drawing, cutting little more than the skin. But as you move it, don't pick it up by the stem; if you break it off, that's where it will start to rot. If and when you do decide to carve it, be creative: If you cut out the bottom, it's easy to set it right over the light. Or, how was it growing? Cut the hole there – all the better for it standing up. Then for the scooping: Less clean-up if you do it outside. Make sure you save and dry the seeds. Use tools from the shop (like a keyhole saw or those for wood carving) or kitchen (even your ice cream scoop) or clay-modeling tools for scraping it clean – and clean the tools before returning them. If you decide to cut pieces out, save them to share as a puz-

zle. We find straight-lined pieces easier to cut out. If you need circles, try using a melon baller or apple corer, gently twisting and turning. Fit small/wild apples into spaces to be eyes; stand up pumpkin seeds to be teeth. Fasten cut-out pieces onto pumpkin with toothpicks, as to be ears. Barnyard daisies/asters, with their clusters of flowers – and without the honeybees – can become hair. Ready for displaying? Remember that community places like to show them off. Have a show with friends. The light: remember it's much safer to use LED ones instead of a lighted candle. And when their use is over, your barnyard animals will eat them – or add them to your compost,

Then bake with pumpkin – another family baking session: muffins or bread, of course pie and cookies. While your oven's

(cont.)

heated, roast some of the seeds with butter and salt/garlic salt for family munching – remember to turn them over for crispness, not burning. You can make an interesting plate of food with shredded cheese for hair; hard-boiled eggs cut in half and centered with olive halves for eyes; lips of salsa showing teeth of ?, all on a tortilla.

A pumpkin becomes a great holder of Fall flowers – and it holds water for their drinking. Cut holes for clusters of stems or a big one for the whole pot of chrysanthemums. Look for, trade and share or get from Debbie's cutting garden: asters and cosmos, those showy hydrangeas, sedum while it's red, dahlias before you dig up the bulbs and dry them for replanting next season. Good that lily bulbs can stay in the ground – maybe increase even. Save seeds from the annuals for next year. Especially when you hear of frost warnings, you will want to bring pots of fragile flowers into your enclosed porch for the nights. Mums survive the early frosts. Geraniums, begonias, the various colors of coleus have grown so big that it's better to "slip" them to start new pots for house plants now. Along the main stems, break off what looks like a whole plant already. When you put them in water, you soon see roots growing. Then pot them and share.

If you still need more tomatoes, remember that our produce farms offer them at discounted prices for pick-your-own right from the field before frost. Great for preserving for meals to come.

While we're outside, we continue to see the green grasshoppers and the black crickets hopping around. On a warm, sunny day we see various beetles flying or crawling on the south, warm, side of the house. Worse yet could be the larger pests trying to find a warm home. Then there are the spiders – too many legs to be insects, Easiest to count are on the Daddy Longlegs. "2,4,6,8 Who do we appreciate?" is better as a cheer though. They seem to be crawling on various parts of the house. Best to see are their webs on fencelines, with the early-morning sun shining on the dew on them. Maybe best of all is to read about them. In Eric Carle's Very Busy Spider we can learn – and feel – as one makes its web – for its purpose: it catches a fly. Then it's E B White's Charlotte's Web, showing us what friendship can accomplish. Spiders have become such seasonal decorations; let's make some: bodies of paper, a half walnut shell, a stone or play-

dough that will harden. Pinch paper legs to make "joints", use interesting sticks...in various lengths, but always four and four. Can you take patience to make lines of glue on paper, then string yarn on it to be a web. If not, make your own web by winding yarn around a chair. Put a spider on it and ;hopefully catch a fly! Easiest of all might be to handpaint fingers (not thumbs!) on sides of a body.

Do another handprinting, this time to be a bat. This time fill in between the fingers to be the skin between the "fingers" – all the better to catch air for flying. But no feathers, as we find out from St. Lalluna, who is such a good flier that it spends time with a flock of birds because it flies so well. Once back with its swarm though we see that they're all fur-covered mammals, like mice with wings.

Maybe make a whole swarm of them, again for decorating: Cut different sizes from black paper: body with back legs and head with ears; glue seeds for eyes and teeth for finding and chewing insects. Crease the paper to be the "fingers", Of course hang by a string to make them fly – where? When we hear screeching after dark, it's the real ones asking, "Where have all the insects-and spiders gone?" – but we need to be alert that they're not looking for a place to hang upside down by those back legs to sleep or hibernate in spaces we use.

We notice: with all the orange and black this time of year, SCS fits right in – and all year round, too! (right, students?)

Also, remember these October dates:

22 – Fall Stop & Shop at Gen Schuyler Rescue Squad – Another chance to help a rescue squad

At the Wash Co Fairgrounds:

14 – Food Truck Fridays

15 – Tailgate and Tack Swap – Are you ready to trade up – or at the Fair did you build up an interest in horse-riding lessons?

Need a place to store your boat or camper? Farm animals aren't using those barns now, so you can.

30 – Greenwich Halloween Parade – Need some dress-up ideas? Clifford the Big Red Dog has some. Joseph is already dressed up – in his Scout uniform. He's finished his Eagle Scout project that we all can now use: three book exchange boxes in the Middle Falls-Greenwich area. Thanks Joseph for this opportunity for all of us to read now and in the days ahead.

Roman Catholic churches update

Sunday Mass at Holy Cross Catholic Church is at 8:15 AM, St. Patrick's celebrates on Sunday at 11:30 AM, and Immaculate Conception in Hoosick Falls is Saturday at 4 PM and Sunday at 10 AM. Daily Mass is available at Immaculate Conception on Monday, Holy Cross on Tuesday, and St. Patrick's on Wednesday.

Weekday Masses are at 9:00 AM. Visitors are always welcome. You are encouraged, but not required, to wear a face mask in Church. First Conciliation Preparation scheduled meetings are October 16, and 23 at 9:15- 10:30.

Other Family Faith Formation meetings are listed in the bulletin.

The 50th Diocesan Marriage Jubilee Celebration will be held Saturday, October 29 at 2 PM at the Cathedral of the immaculate Conception in Albany for couples celebrating their 25, 40 or 50 anniversary. Please register through St. Patrick's Office or emailing Marriage.zJubilee@rcda.org.

The Adopt-A-Soldier program is sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of America of the local churches. The donations provide support to soldiers worldwide. The basket will be available until November 1 and a list of suggested items is available in the church.

The food pantry is in need of -cereal, boxed rice or pasta dishes, canned meats like tuna and spam, soup, and snack foods for kids. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Please visit the Parish Website: www.battenkillcatholic.org. You can sign up for Flocknote notifications, prepare for Sunday Liturgy, access the great Adult Faith Formation materials and more.

–Submitted by Rose Mary Sheffield

Strategically navigating ‘Cancel Culture’

Daneen Skube

Special to Journal & Press

Q: *My career puts me in the media spotlight. I'm increasingly nervous about saying or doing the wrong thing in our "cancel culture." I feel like I'm walking on eggshells and that one wrong word could destroy my career. How do you advise your clients with public jobs on navigating cancel culture?*

A: You can navigate cancel culture with a combination of two habits: 1) Keen awareness of trigger words and social issue; and 2) A general attitude of humility.

People with public jobs have never found the spotlight of public attention to be easy. As a public personality, you have the privilege of influencing mass culture. As a public personality, you belong to society, will be openly criticized, and can never please everyone.

A public career means everyone gets to express their opinion about your behavior. The more arrogant

we are, the harder it is to listen to all the negative opinions people will have.

The first thing publicists tell many public personalities is, "Don't read reviews." These days, with the internet, not reading what people think about us is hard for anyone, not just public personalities.

Now ... enter the power of "cancel" culture in which an angry mob of strangers can ruin your career. The upside of cancel culture is that public personalities are encouraged to have social consciousness. The downside is an online mob making decisions with inaccurate or biased data.

Studies of mob psychology demonstrate that a crowd operates at the level of the lowest functioning person in the group. Cancel culture can have vast power because of numbers even though the decisions made by the mob may be irrational or wrong.

As a 63-year-old white woman with a media spotlight, I think carefully about what I say and write. I used to say in corporate

training the phrase, "You guys." I now say, "Y'all," which makes me sound Southern, but isn't sexist. I can't just say what I've always said; I need to keep reflecting on my language.

As a country, we're trying to learn how to be inclusive, respectful, and thoughtful about language. I had a family member in the hospital recently and the sign in the hospital said, "Please be aware of the energy and words you're bringing into this space!" I think we could use this sign in most public spaces.

Being aware of our words, however, should not mean we're subject to mob rule. There's a reason we have a country where our courts presume innocence. An angry mob gives no space for facts and guilt to be determined, but instead can act as a swift judge in situations where facts don't matter.

If you have a public job, consider that you're speaking into a powder keg of issues. Learn as much as you can about social issues, triggers for interest groups, and be willing to listen when peo-

ple are upset. The less defensive you are and the more receptive to information, the less likely you'll be to experience the rage of a mob.

If despite your best efforts, the cancel culture comes after you, humility is your best shield. If you said a word that triggered an avalanche of reaction, realize your self-worth is not on the line. Acknowledge that you can see that word was a poor choice, and keep your message intact with new language.

We're stumbling toward a world that's more mature and the growing pains are everywhere. I often advise clients, "You are not who you were, you're figuring out who you are, but you haven't yet met who you're becoming." Remember that as you find your way through these sensitive times.

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



JUMBLE FOR KIDS
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME!®
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

The letters of these crazy words are all mixed up. To play the game, put them back into the right order so that they make real words you can find in your dictionary. Write the letters of each real word under each crazy word, but only one letter to a square.

YEE	□	□	□	□
AEMF	□	□	□	□
RDIP	□	□	□	□
ARYP	□	□	□	□

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

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Now you're ready to solve today's Jumble For Kids. Study the picture for a hint. Play around with the letters in the circles. You'll find you can put them in order so that they make your funny answer.

Print the answer here: " □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ "

Free concert at HVCC

Classical guitarist Berta Rojas, a three-time Latin Grammy Award nominee, will open the Fall 2022 season of cultural events at Hudson Valley Community College with a noontime concert on Thursday, Oct. 20 in the BTC Auditorium on the Troy campus. The hour-long program is open free to the public; no reservations or tickets are required to attend.

Berta Rojas ranks among today's foremost classical guitarists. Her performances and recordings are colorful journeys of music and sound that embrace diverse and new works by a variety of composers. Her Grammy nominations were "Dia y Medio" (best instrumental album, a duet with Paquito

D'Rivera), "Salsa Roja" (best classical album) and "History of Tango" (best tango album).

Visit www.hvcc.edu/culture to view the full Fall 2022 Cultural Events schedule.



Local history on our shelves

Wallace Paprocki
Greenwich Free Library

Note: *From the Stacks* is a column featuring a variety of voices at Greenwich Free Library. For a complete list of library programs and events, please visit greenwichfreelibrary.com or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Before she died, former Greenwich Town Historian Cathleen Sharp Barber donated her materials to the Gill Room, the local history archive located on the lower level of Greenwich Free Library. Among them was a copy of I.V.H. Gill's Binder 21, containing, in addition to other items, autobiographies of three Greenwich people—Ann Sophia Wilcox, Jacob Van Schaick Becker, and Releaf Mariah Smith Mason—who lived in the 1800s. Although the Gill Room's resources are open to the public during regular operating hours, most of the materials cannot leave the premises. Because I worried that these fascinating autobiographies would be forever unread, I grouped and printed them in a binder to be put in the main library stacks and able to be checked out like any other book.

The autobiography of **Ann Sophia Wilcox** (1828-1913), covering years 1833-1853, carefully and lovingly compiled and edited by I.V.H. Gill and later by Jane Whitaker and Charlotte Killam, is an interesting somewhat hard-to-follow record of an early Greenwich family and life in the 1800s. Wilcox diaries her history of schooling, family connections, events, neighbors, and friends, and gives the reader a peek into everyday life in 19th-Century Washington County. She also reminds us of the difficulties of those decades, and the way that history is sometimes not so far away as we might imagine. Of the year 1853, she writes:

"That winter had been very hard in Greenwich as a man had been to New York and came back with the varioloid [a mild form of smallpox], and before they found out what it was, had given it to many others. Of course, those who had not been vaccinated had the real smallpox. My father said there must have been over one hundred cases. There were a number who tried to hide the victims because they did not want the yellow flag out. The village was shunned.

Some would not even come to the post office. They said if it had been summer, the grass would have grown in the streets."

Information on **Jacob Van Schaick Becker** (1797-1888) presents a little

challenge to establishing an order for his life, but I.V.H. Gill's notes provide context and chronology, and Gill also presents his reason for featuring this individual: "In my opinion J.V.S. Becker is worthy of historical treatment because he lived all his life in Easton and was in many ways typical of its people. He pulled himself up from near poverty to a respected competence and he left many descendants who should be interested in his career and personality."

Most of the information on J.V.S. Becker's life comes from "a shoe box full of old papers" and the resulting biography gives a glimpse into the Easton of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. In a section titled "The Farm by the River," outlining Becker's Van Buren ancestors, we are reminded of aspects of our state's history we might prefer to forget, that even in the north, rural wealth was often made possible through slave labor:

"Martin prospered. In 1790 there were seven in his family and two Negro slaves. Two of his sons were located on farms a bit to the north where the crossroad from old cheese factory joins the River Road. On one of these farms is located a Van Buren cemetery with a section apart for slaves."

The Journal of Releaf **Mariah Smith Mason** (1812-1905) has two parts: Part I is about her years at the Female Seminary in Troy, New York (Emma Willard School) 1835-1837. Part II is about her trip with her husband to Creek Indian Country (west of Arkansas) as Missionaries. Her husband was James Orley Mason, a Baptist minister who served as minister of the Baptist Church in Greenwich for 36 years (1844-1873) and has an inscription to him in one of their windows.



A Gill Room shelf

The Masons left Granville in September 1838 as newlyweds with great exuberance to "save" Indian souls, but the traveling and experiences—described in detail through these entries—did not match her enthusiasm. Mason's diary entries are rooted in an unwavering belief in her faith, but her lack of understanding of Indigenous culture can be uncomfortable to read through a modern lens. She gave birth to a son, Alonzo Truman Mason, during this period, and the family's journey was arduous and all were beset by illness. It took thirteen months to arrive at their destination. They returned to New York State in April of 1840. James Orley and Releaf Mariah Smith Mason moved into a house on Cottage Street given to them by the Bottskill Baptist Church. James died in 1881, and his widow lived in the Cottage Street house until her death early in the 20th century. Imagine how the country, and this area, had changed during her long life.

Greenwich is filled with interesting people and families who have lived here for generations. I hope other people will find these stories compelling and worthy of reading.

Wallace Paprocki, a 45 year resident of Greenwich, taught at Adirondack Community College and Salem Central School and then 15 years at Cambridge Central School. She became a Greenwich Library volunteer upon retirement and has worked in the Gill Room since 2004. Her treasured friendship with the former Greenwich Historian Cathy Sharp Barber lasted several decades.



Is touching still legal in this country?

Greg Schwem
Special to Journal & Press

“Do you mind if I touch you?” I asked my wife one evening after dinner.

“Not at all,” she replied with a soft giggle.

“You’re sure?”

“Yes, I’m sure.” But the giggle had disappeared.

“There will be no negative ramifications or consequences if I place my hand anywhere on your body?” I asked, extending my hand toward her waist.

She slapped it away. “WHAT is going on?”

I recounted the story that played out on a recent business trip to New Orleans. After saying goodbye to a college friend who happened to be in town, I decided to have a nightcap at one of the dozens of bars dotting Bourbon Street. There was nothing special about the establishment; it featured two levels, the lower containing dozens of patrons in various

stages of inebriation. I opted for the top floor.

I found a lone couple sitting at the bar. “Perfect,” I thought. “Maybe a chance to engage in some quiet conversation.” Chating up strangers at bars is a pastime I sorely missed during quarantine. For starters, I am a standup comedian by trade and some of my best ideas, which later become comedic bits, germinate during bar conversations. Not all comedians write material this way, but it works for me.

More importantly, people in general fascinate me. I talk for a living, but I’m also an excellent listener. To me, there is nothing worse than seeing a bar full of cus-

ing the woman’s drink. I turned to her companion. “What’s she having?”

The bartender replied instead, naming some oddly titled New Orleans drink that I have since forgotten. I do know it wasn’t a Hurricane.

“Well, it looks amazing,” I said to the man. Placing my hand on top of his shoulder, I added, “I think I’ll have one too. I’ve still got an hour before curfew.”

Without laughing or even smiling, he turned to me.

“Don’t ever touch me again.”

I should note, he added an unprintable word between ‘ever’ and ‘touch.’

‘Nothing worse than seeing a full bar engrossed in their phones.’

tomers engrossed in their phones, oblivious to their surroundings. Everybody has a story to tell if given a chance.

The bartender seemed to be taking an inordinately long time mix-

ing. Then he took his hand, and not so gently shoved the side of my head. Without bothering to ask me if I liked being touched.

While his companion stared sullenly at her now completed drink, the man got off his stool and began to pace. I didn’t know if he had been overserved, for doing so would have required making eye contact. What if he didn’t like being stared at either?

The bartender, sensing a situation, intervened. Turning to me, he said, “Sir, why don’t you head downstairs?”

I took the hint.

“That sounds horrible,” my wife said. “Did he think you were hitting on him?”

“I put my hand on top of his shoulder. I didn’t try to kiss him,” I said.

“Can’t you just keep your hands off people?” she inquired. “What if he had a gun?”

How sad, I thought, that a simple gesture of friendship or inquisitiveness could end with gun violence.

“I won’t be touching anybody’s possessions either,” I said.

“Why not?”

Two days after returning from New Orleans, I was sitting in a traffic jam while heading to Chicago for a meeting. The Honda CRV, creeping in front of me, contained a decal to the left of its license tag stating, “Don’t Touch My Car.”

What frightened me wasn’t the command but the two-stick figure artwork accompanying it. One figure was crouched on its knees, its head being held down by the second figure, whose free hand contained an upraised stick. The message? Touch this particular Honda and get beaten over the head. Maybe it was the owner’s way of saying, “No Tailgating.” Or maybe the owner just returned from New Orleans. Regardless, I changed lanes.

I pondered the fact that I now fear the consequences of exhibiting a friendly gesture or inadvertently bumping a cheap vehicle. Our nation’s anger is manifesting itself in strange ways, in strange locations. Now, two years after quarantine forced everybody inside, I’m still not comfortable venturing outside, for who knows? I too might become angry at the slightest provocation.

I guess I’ll just stay indoors and watch TV. Oh, look, another Jan. 6 committee hearing is about to get underway.

Greg Schwem is a corporate stand-up comedian and author of “The Road To Success Goes Through the Salad Bar.”



An Artist’s Take

Political Cartoon of the Week by Joel Pett



Greenwich needs Halloween

Avery McReynolds
Journal & Press

The too often vilipended celebration – no, it’s still not an official holiday – is seemingly scoffed at and looked down upon year after year, and there’s virtually no reason for it. There are, of course, many misconceptions about Halloween and its origins. These misconceptions, you understand, are wholly negative and discouraging. I’m here to tell you there is nothing inherently evil about observing All Hallow’s Eve. Well, nothing quite as morally ambiguous or questionable as Saturnalia – the winter solstice festival linked to Christmas, which included human sacrifices and absolute chaos.

Having lived in Greenwich my entire life so far, I can remember with great fondness the late 1990s and early 2000s. Haunted houses and hayrides around town to see the lights and decorations. Not only did more people decorate, but the streets also seemed practically crowded with people in fascinating costumes. As time went on, Halloween became a thing of the past. But why?

Someone else out there has got to love Halloween. After all, whenever I go grocery shopping and check out the seasonal aisles, they’re always picked through with certain items sold out. Sure we have an annual parade, but ostensibly nobody looks forward to it. Here’s this chance to exercise your sense of creativity and entertain whatever fantasies you may have, but it’s shrugged off as “evil” or as being a “children’s holiday.”

I’m an Uncle to a beautiful, intelligent, hilarious little 3-year-old boy, and I want him to be able to experience all the good things my siblings and I were lucky enough to. Christmastime is great because its primary focus is on family; it’s

the last big hurrah of the year. Why not embrace Halloween since it’s typically before ice and snow make it difficult to get around? Getting out and stretching our legs is terrific exercise, and for the kids, they’re getting a real sense of community and putting in effort and hard work to collect candy.

So I ask you: why can’t Greenwich have haunted houses which benefit a charity? Why can’t Greenwich have decoration contests? I’ve read about an event at the Washington County fairgrounds called Movies in the Pumpkin Patch. I don’t know if there are lights or decorations, but this is a great start. Screen classic monster movies, corny B-flicks, and kid-friendly features like the new *Munsters* movie. Even horror films that aren’t quite so kid-friendly but don’t necessarily feature gore, obscenity, or anything the general public may find particularly indecent.

What if Greenwich held an autumn tractor parade? This time of year is beautiful and so rich with color and opportunity. Halloween means a lot to my family and me, as you may have surmised. So much so that I even spent precious time sending McDonald’s inquiries about their Halloween pails. I’m not 100% positive I can describe or explain the immensely overwhelming feelings I have about Halloween or why it means so much to me, but it does.

I enjoy seeing what great costumes people wear. The energy, personality, and character that’s given to a house when decorated,



My nephew

That, coupled with the foliage, is much of the pleasure derived from Halloween. My family and I wholeheartedly enjoy going all out with decorating and the kinds of treats we hand out. We have a wide variety of candy, full and fun-size bars, popcorn balls, pretzels, Jax curls, and more. There’s not an age limit. The only stipulations are you’re wearing a costume and being polite.

My street is rather dark, true, but I believe we make it worth stopping by and checking out. We’re all so appreciative of the compliments we get and the looks of excitement or amazement on people’s faces. Best of all, it’s a labor of love that thrives from family teamwork. For those of you who do decorate, it doesn’t go unnoticed.

I think we can all agree a lot of stressful, terrifying things have been happening in the world. From that, many fun and exciting things can help get us by. Amid the Potato Famine in the 1840s, our friends across the Atlantic sought an escape from the catastrophe. The Irish brought their traditions

and introduced Americans to many Halloween rituals. Out of something tragic and upsetting, traditions arose. In a way, that’s something I feel we can learn to do.

It’s easier said than done – trust me, I understand – but the primary takeaways of Halloween can be community, positivity, creativity, exercise, and reward. Anything and everything worth doing requires effort, and the way Greenwich prides itself on community and teamwork, I believe we are more than capable of embracing Halloween.

Come November 1st (before that on some radio stations), Mariah Carey will beg and squeal for love under a pine tree. Retailers will increase their prices in preparation to mark them down only slightly for holiday sales. Before some new pop sensation twerks to *O Come All Ye Faithful*, can we please have Halloween?

I wholeheartedly believe more people would enjoy Halloween and fall in love with the offerings of the autumn season if given a chance.

Happy Halloween!

JOURNAL & PRESS

is published twice monthly and covers Southern Washington County and parts of Eastern Saratoga and Northern Rensselaer counties.

Publisher/Editor: Darren Johnson.

Assistant Editor: Kaylee Johnson.

Photos and Art: Photos are taken and/or provided by the authors of articles or are archive/stock or PR images, unless noted. Most comics and puzzles are provided in agreement with Tribune Content Agency.

Contact/Subscriptions (\$36/year):

Send a note to editor@journalandpress.com or mail 39 Cty. Rt. 70, Greenwich, NY 12834.

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JOURNAL & PRESS (USPS #229-380), Aug. 1, 2022, volume 181 number 9267. Published twice-monthly by Campus News publishing company, 39 County Route 70, Greenwich, NY 12834. Subscription price \$36 a year. Periodical postage paid at Greenwich, NY, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to Journal & Press, 39 County Route 70, Greenwich, NY 12834.

Answers

Boggle: EON ERA DAY YEAR MONTH
SECOND MINUTE CENTURY

Jumble: PANIC CLERK VASTLY THROWN

Final Jumble: LOCAL CHAPTERS

Kid: EYE FAME DRIP PRAY – “FRYDAY”

SCRABBLE G R A M S SOLUTION									
U ₁	N ₁	T ₁	A ₁	M ₃	E ₁	D ₂	RACK 1 =	60	
H ₄	A ₁	T ₁	P ₃	I ₁	N ₁		RACK 2 =	11	
A ₁	P ₃	A ₁	T ₁	H ₄	Y ₄		RACK 3 =	42	
N ₁	I ₁	T ₁	P ₃	I ₁	C ₃	K ₅	RACK 4 =	66	
C ₃	O ₁	N ₁	C ₃	E ₁	A ₁	L ₁	RACK 5 =	61	
PAR SCORE 185-195							TOTAL	240	

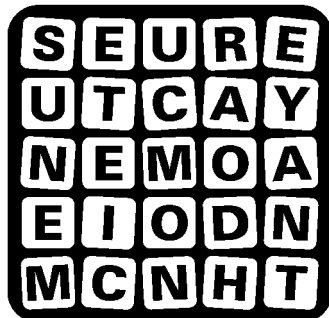
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Fun & Games

(solution below)



By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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

BOGGLE POINT SCALE

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

YOUR BOGGLE RATING

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

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Answers to Last Sunday's Boggle BrainBusters:
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- Ø Teacher Aide
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Salem Sudoku

(solution page 26)

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

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The Funny Page

Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



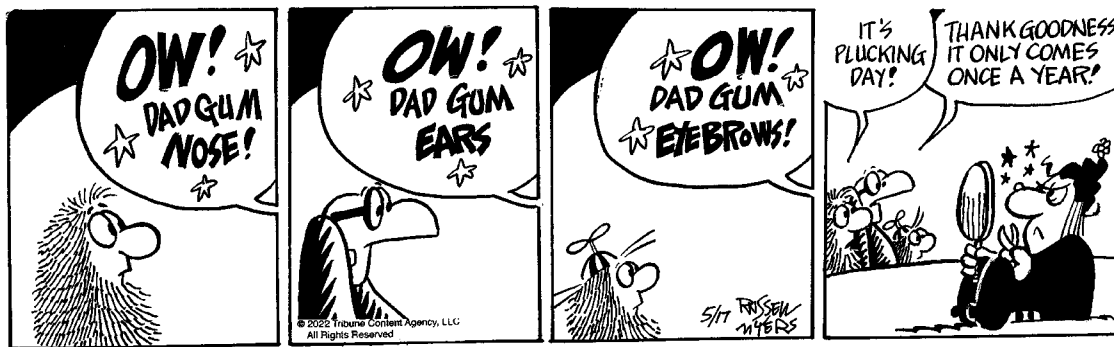
Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



The Middletons by Dana Summers



Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



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

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More Puzzle Answers Are on Page 24

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
A ₁	E ₁	U ₁	D ₂	M ₃	N ₁	T ₁		RACK 1
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
I ₁	A ₁	U ₁	N ₁	T ₁	P ₃	H ₄		RACK 2
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
O ₁	A ₁	Y ₄	A ₁	P ₃	T ₁	H ₄		RACK 3
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
I ₁	I ₁	K ₅	N ₁	P ₃	C ₃	T ₁		RACK 4
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
A ₁	E ₁	O ₁	L ₁	N ₁	C ₃	C ₃		RACK 5

PAR SCORE 185-195
BEST SCORE 240

FIVE RACK TOTAL _____
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

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

CAINP
KRELC
SLAVYT
HWOTNR

Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app



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

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

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

Hosting Surrender Day this month

The 245th anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga, America's Turning Point, will be commemorated on Surrender Day Monday, October 17, 9:30 A.M. in Schuylerville's Fort Hardy Park along the Hudson River with artillery firings, sword surrender ceremony, and music.

Surrender Day commemorates the victory of the American army of General Horatio Gates over British forces commanded by General John Burgoyne at Saratoga, New York, on October 17, 1777. Surrender day is a partnership of the town of Saratoga, the village of Schuylerville, Saratoga County 250th Ameri-

can Revolution Commission, and Saratoga County History Center. The ceremony is at Fort Hardy Park, the historical ground where the British forces surrendered and laid down their arms on October 17, 1777, bringing the Battles of Saratoga to an end.

The 45-minute event will feature British and American re-enactors, cannon salutes, musical entertainment, and "13 Toasts" to the Victory at Saratoga. The celebration will be attended by students from Schuylerville elementary schools, who will present essays about the "turning point" of the American Revolution. State historian Devin Lander will deliver the

keynote speech. In case of inclement weather, this event will be canceled. The general public is encouraged to attend. Please bring your own chair and wear patriotic attire.

The commemoration is made possible by a supportive partnership that includes the 2nd Continental Artillery, Daughters of the American Revolution, Hudson Crossing Park, Old Saratoga Historical Association, Saratoga National Historical Park, Schuylerville Central Schools, and the Sons of the American Revolution.

Local scholarship winners

The Washington County Children's Committee announced the awarding of thirteen \$2000 scholarships to 2022 graduates of Washington County Schools. The Children's Committee is celebrating its 60th year providing benefits to disadvantaged students and children and is one of the last committees of its kind in the State.

The committee consists of volunteers throughout the county who work to provide these scholarships to students attending college, as well as camperships during the summer for younger students, small support stipends for foster children, and emergency purchases as needed and requested from the committee. There has always been an associ-

ation between the committee and the Department of Social Services and its many arms. This year's committee is made up of a few employees of DSS, but many are volunteers who are former DSS workers, educators, or community leaders.

Funding to support its mission is mainly provided by its Christmas fundraising effort, where volunteers send out donation requests to residents in each town. In addition, a much-appreciated source comes from willing employees of the Fort Miller Corporation who have for years donated a substantial number of voluntary contributions. In addition, Stewart's Ice Cream has shared its Christmas Wish proceeds with a donation to

the committee.

Scholarships are awarded each year to graduates of the county's high school based on student population. School counselors and/or school staff nominate students who have overcome some type of disadvantage through high school and plan to attend and complete college. The scholarship is a one-time award but has been awarded for many years. This year's scholarships were awarded to :

Argyle – Alyssa Freeguard; Cambridge – Jaylin Prouty and Sarah Harper; Fort Ann – Trinity Graves; Fort Edward – Caitlin Emery; Granville – Dezireah Sumner; Greenwich – Taylor Cristaldi and Hannah Darrow;

Hartford – Dylan Mandigo; Hudson Falls – Allyson Foster, Riley Mahar, and Mikenzi Willard. This year's winner of the Tony Luciano Scholarship in recognition of Mr. Luciano's many years of volunteer service to the committee; Salem – Arora Rozell. Additionally, this year the Committee awarded two \$500 scholarships in memory of longtime Committee member Wilda Macknight. Deontae Bennett of Greenwich and Emma Harwood of Argyle were the recipients of this memorial award.

The Committee had its annual meeting and celebratory banquet at Granville Family Diner in Granville on October 13. Former scholarship winners will be the featured speakers. Anyone interested in learning more about the committee or becoming a community volunteer should contact Julia Meade (518-642-2495).

Students of the Month

Greenwich Central School announced the awardees of last month's "Standout Student Award" for the junior high school. The students are:

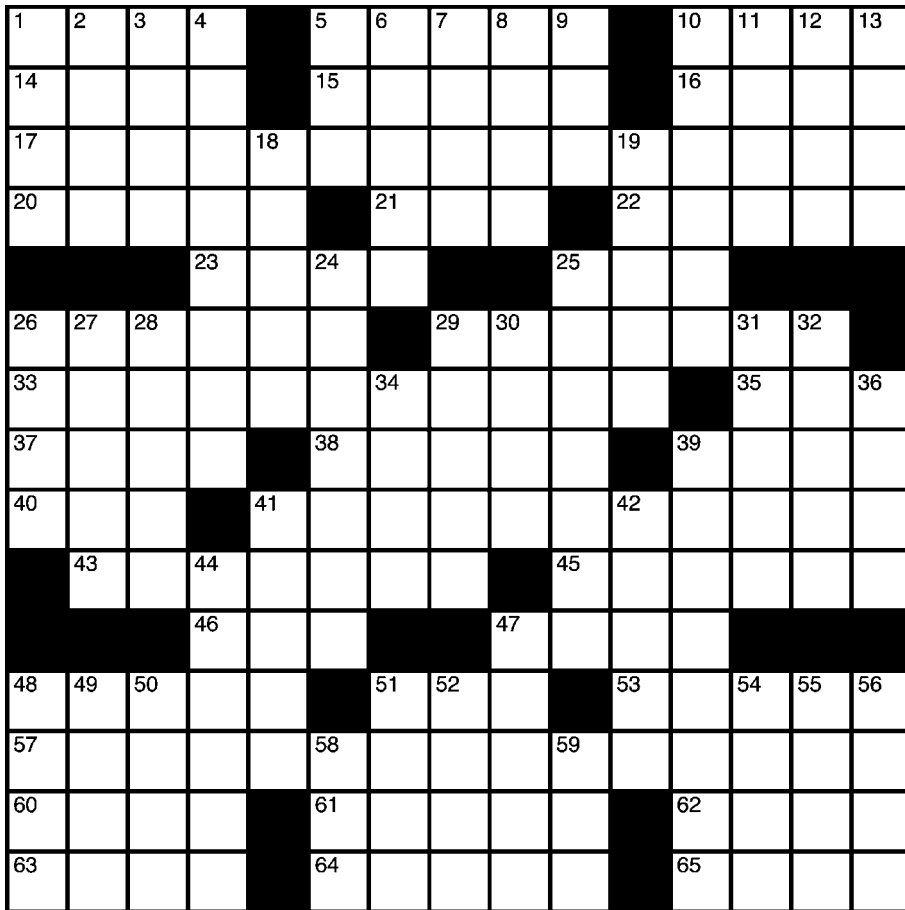
Pictured (L-R): Josue Lombera-Verdugo, Brayden Stutzman, Claudia Johnson, Kenneth Michel. (Missing: Keegan Clayton.) Each was awarded a certificate of accomplishment and a free Stewart's Ice Cream coupon.

Teachers of these students were able to witness first hand the exemplary effort, achievement, integrity, and kindness offered by each of these young people each and every day. They are extraordinary role models for their peers, and provide many beneficial qualities to bolster our strong school community. They should be proud of what they represent and deserve heartfelt congratulations.



Cambridge Crossword

(solution page 26)



Across

- 1 Pacific island called "The Gathering Place"
- 5 Lots of land
- 10 Workshop gadget
- 14 Cold-shoulder
- 15 Material from the French for a Scandinavian country
- 16 MLB shortstop who agreed to play third because Jeter was already the shortstop
- 17 King
- 20 Used, as china
- 21 Belief ending
- 22 Mudville dud
- 23 Theater section
- 25 "Queer Eye" fashion expert __ France
- 26 Clara Bow nickname
- 29 By the seashore
- 33 King
- 35 Society newbie
- 37 Kuwaiti ruler
- 38 Name synonymous with synonyms
- 39 Frosty glaze
- 40 Place to relax
- 41 King
- 43 Disco lights
- 45 Pressing
- 46 "Who now the price of his dear blood doth __?": Shak.
- 47 Roman commoner
- 48 Part of a 13-

piece suit?

- 51 19th-century mystery writer with just one complete novel
- 53 Ristorante order
- 57 King
- 60 Short mystery writer?
- 61 Patch plant
- 62 23rd-century captain
- 63 Unfreeze
- 64 Golfer's set
- 65 Relaxing spots

Down

- 1 Job safety org.
- 2 "It's __!": SRO show headline
- 3 Very significant
- 4 Less saintly
- 5 Obstinate mount
- 6 __ pie
- 7 Touchdown signalers
- 8 Dutch cheese
- 9 Champagne label word
- 10 Unoccupied
- 11 Some S&L plans
- 12 Ticked off
- 13 Water whirled
- 18 3-Down, poetically
- 19 Cybercurrency
- 24 "Hallelujah!"

- 25 Diplomatic
- 26 Chatted with, but not IRL
- 27 Subdues
- 28 Shimmer
- 29 Pet store array
- 30 Snack with Red Velvet and Key Lime Pie varieties
- 31 Acrobat maker
- 32 Absorb
- 34 "Ain't gonna happen"
- 36 Frank's cousin
- 39 Ridges with steeply sloped sides
- 41 Loom
- 42 French pancake
- 44 Capybara, for one
- 47 Praline nut
- 48 Unwanted email
- 49 Fried Dixie bread
- 50 Badly off base
- 51 Sound of a contented cat
- 52 Medley
- 54 Decide not to go to
- 55 Giga- x 1,000
- 56 Sacred cabinets
- 58 "The Sopranos" org.
- 59 Store door nos.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 26

Argyle Acrostic

By Frank J. D'Agostino (solution page 24)

Find these words that are associated with school and careers.

- Actor
- Advice
- Apply
- Artist

- Career
- College
- Computer
- Counselor
- Dean
- Doctor
- Goals
- Guide
- Intern

- Interview
- Jobs
- Labor
- Military
- Networking
- Office
- Openings
- Path
- Resume

- Search
- Skills
- Training
- Workshop

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



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Fast Facts

Brain food for babies

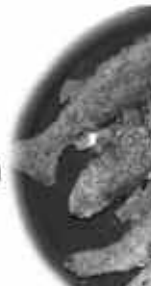
Eating fish that is high in omega-3 fatty acids and low in mercury while pregnant helps support the baby's brain and eye development.

Omega-3 count

Pregnant women can eat up to 12 oz. (340 g) of these fish per week; omega-3's in 3.5 oz. (100 g) of cooked fish

- Sardines (canned) **1.4g**
- Atlantic herring **1.7**
- Atlantic salmon (farmed) **1.9**
- Freshwater trout **2.0**

Source: March of Dimes, Purdue University, TNS Photo Service



9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



'Aladdin' national tour starts here

Samantha Simmons
Journal & Press

An exciting energy is here now at Proctors. "Aladdin" has taken the stage over temporarily to share the excitement of Disney. At a recent press junket, this reporter got to meet the players.

Aladdin, played by Adi Roy, said the show is so electric that he cannot help but take the energy received from the crowd and use it to his advantage in his performance.

During their first night, when Aladdin is in a cave, he yelled for help to the audience. A young boy responded back from the crowd a big "Hello!"

Marcus M. Martin, who plays the genie, said "it's all about the joy," and that the young boy's response was what the production is about, engaging the audience. Roy continued that this event,

"Broke the entire audience, it is moments like those that make you realize that that is what we're doing it for."

Senzel Ahmady, playing princess Jasmine, and Roy are the youngest actors to play Jasmine and Aladdin.

Being younger members of the cast, Ahmady and Roy were excited to step in with the cast, but sometimes felt a bit lost with the directors knowing the show so well. Roy said, "The directors have been great at clarifying each and every point" for them. "Everything is meant to be in the show for a reason," said Roy, who wants to make sure he gets it right.

Ahmady said, "When we started, so much of it was unlike what I thought it was going to be like. So, it ended up being a lot more work than I thought but in the best way possible."

With this cast of the North American tour being young, there is a lot of excitement around the handful of members being on this national debut.

Sorab Wadia, playing princess Jasmine's dad, said the cast is all well trained and to "never underestimate a young actor. It's hubris." He said he picks up energy, joy, and youth from them and the exchange never stops. It is a symbiotic relationship."

Martin and Ahmady said these roles are a dream come true for them. For Ahmady, she

has been singing these songs since she was a young girl and now, and she gets the opportunity to perform them for thousands of people.

"Jasmine was my princess growing up," Ahmady said, "I'm so excited to be her for the little girl that I once was."

Martin added that those who have more experience have "set such a high bar, so I have no choice but to live up to that bar they've already set."

Many of the actors share a similar view on how they prepared themselves for this role.

Martin said over the summer he was on the treadmill every day singing through "Friend like me" to physically condition himself for the 15 minutes of scenes where he is singing, dancing, and talking without a break.

When Roy was informed that he got the role of Aladdin, he realized he had to be on stage shirtless for the show and therefore spent the summer in the gym to be "as great as possible" on stage. Roy said, "It's a beast of a show. You're singing for almost two hours."

"It's a marathon," Martin added.

Ahmady said she wants to make sure she brings some of herself into this part because of the amount of agency she is granted in the play rather than in the animated film. She wants to make sure those in the audience do not feel like they're seeing the same performance all over again.

Wadia said he is ready for this role by "living life." He has been able to play a father in many productions and gets to use real world and other on-stage experiences to shape him into his role.

Wadia has been through several acting and performing schools and believes that these have allowed for him to have different tools to use. "They're tools, not tricks," he said. Being able to use different tools for different settings, casts, and people have helped him adapt to different scenarios.

For aspiring and current actors, Wadia said, "There are ways to fill your time constructively." And stresses the importance of taking care of you, your body, and your voice on your downtime on tour. He participates in yoga, physical therapy, and voice lessons during his downtime.

Chemistry between the cast formed by get-

ting to personally know each other outside of rehearsal. When the cast was notified, some of them made a group chat to hang out and form those bonds months before they were officially set to begin their work.

Wadia said there was "instant good feelings" between the cast.

Roy said there is an importance of forming these relationships. "If you feel uncomfortable" with your cast and crew that can show through and take away from the show.

They performed their first show on Tuesday, Oct. 11 and had an energetic audience according to the cast. We had our first audience last night and the audience was electric," said Martin.

The conversation, while welcomed, was a bit different for some members of the cast. For Martin, a 2020 graduate, was ready to take on this role. This has been a dream of his since he was 16 years old. During COVID-19 lockdown, he knew this production was coming eventually and was hoping he would be "blessed enough to enter the room" to audition for this part.

The pandemic allowed for him to have an opportunity to sharpen his skills and achieve his five-year plan in just two.

When he told his mother and those close to him, he was met with lots of "finally" and "of course!" responses. "Everyone who knows me knows how much this means to me."

Martin recognizes that his mother, family, and friends have invested a lot into him with their time and he finally feels like he "gets to give him village a return on their investment and it feels really good."

Ahmady is currently taking a leave of absence from NYU's vocal performance program to pursue this opportunity. She said it was a tough conversation to have with her parents, but they knew it was a goal of hers even after graduation and could not let this opportunity pass by.

"After being on stage here now, I don't think I'm going to have any regrets."

"Aladdin" will be on stage from Tuesday Oct. 11 through Sunday, Oct. 23. After Schenectady, their next stop will be in Erie, PA, from Oct. 27-30; Worcester, MA, from Nov. 3-6; and Hartford, CT, Nov. 8-13.

Concert Etiquette 101

Cody Fitzgerald
Journal & Press

This year has been incredibly unkind on my bank account, or at least that's been my deflection for my incredibly poor spending habits that I should probably be taking full responsibility for. In reality, the concert circuit has been absolutely incredible this year, albeit insanely expensive. So, as midterms roll in and inevitably get abhorrently political once again, I want to stay lighthearted and give you some tips and tricks I've learned through so many concerts, caked off with my undying hatred of rude people and concerts.

Step 1- Arrival

You made it. You fought Ticketmaster for three hours two months ago just hoping you'd get to experience this moment. You harassed your friends for months trying to find someone who would go, just for this moment. You got in a really sketchy Uber that may or may not have been the Uber you were looking for, for this moment. Now it sucks.

It's important to note for first time people, general admission means people in the standing room, NOT the "general audi-

ence." You will waste time doing this. Also, if you brought pepper spray for that inevitable Uber experience, remember that it is technically a weapon and is going to be thrown out by security.

Now you're in, make sure you enjoy the show, grab your snacks, and use the bathroom BEFORE the show starts.

Step 2- The Show

If you've survived the hellscape that is entering the venue, now you can sit back, relax, and enjoy the show, except you cannot. I get it, I am not a dancer. I'd much rather enjoy the show than be embarrassing myself in front of everyone around me, but please know that this is unavoidable.

It's also important to watch who you are around. Now, I know sometimes you have assigned seats, but if you can avoid the following, it's for the best. Here's a list of people that I think deserve the death penalty-

People who record the ENTIRE concert. I get it, you want a video. However, you should take one and just enjoy the show, and I guarantee you no one actually watches your 10 minute Snapchat story.

People who loudly sing every word to every song. It's very natural to want to sing

along, but if I can hear you over the artist I wish you nothing but the worst.

People who bring their child to the show. I love kids, it's cute, yes. The effect wears off, however, and your screaming child that is probably stressed beyond belief and definitely catching COVID does not need to be on your shoulders and blocking my view.

Now, for yourself, you're going to want to make sure that you get your videos and photos. I'd recommend two to three videos, and one video of your favorite song, tops. You also need to make sure that you're not obstructing anyone's view with your phone camera, because then you too deserve the death penalty.

Step 3- Leaving the Show

Pray.

Cody Fitzgerald is a 2021 Schuylerville High School grad satirizing anything and everything he can get his hands on. Aspiring to become "one of the cool" High School English teachers, he now attends Siena College and hopes to share this outlook/coping mechanism with future generations.



Jacob Houston keeps busy

Greenwich artist Jacob Houston has had a busy fall with two exhibits running currently, and a third to be held in November.

The Folklife Center at the Crandall Library in Glens Falls is currently holding the exhibit "Always Pleasing and Cheerful", featuring local paintings in the spirit of Grandma Moses. Houston has several of his works on display as well as other artists including Will Moses and Cate Mandigo. This exhibit will be shown until December 31, 2022.

Over at LARAC's Lapham Gallery in

Glens Falls, two of Houston's originals, "New York City 1930's", and his recent painting, "Washington County", were juried into the competitive show entitled "Lost in Time and Space". This show will run until November 2nd. His "Washington County" piece includes many wonderful aspects of the county, including its buildings, bridges, and noted people like Susan B. Anthony, Grandma Moses, and Cliff Oliver Mealy.

Finally, Houston will be hosting his own Pop Up Gallery at 2432 State Route 29 in Greenwich on November 5th and 6th from 11am-4pm. It will feature originals, limited edition prints, framed prints, 2023 Houston Art Calendars, note

cards, greeting cards, and Christmas cards. Find more information on Jacob's art at www.jacobhoustonart.com.



Troy's connection to a great NY tragedy

Lance Allen Wang
Journal & Press

In a small, understated grave in Troy, New York, lie the remains of Captain William Henry van Schaick. He was born in the same city in 1837. The only epitaph on the grave reads, "Vindicated."

Captain van Schaick was the captain of the ill-fated *General Slocum*, a passenger steamboat named for the New York-born Civil War general and Congressman Henry W. Slocum. On June 15, 1904, a fire on the *Slocum* while on an excursion on the East River killed an estimated 1,021 passengers and crew, making it New York City's worst disaster until the 9/11 attacks.

The ship had chartered by St. Marks Evangelical Christian Church out of Manhattan's Little Germany district for a daytime excursion, one they had done annually for the previous 17 years. 1,358 passengers, primarily women and children, joined the 30 crew for the trip, which got underway from the Third Street pier promptly at 9:30am.

Thirty minutes into the journey a fire was reported in a forward room below the main deck. The fire was fueled by lamp oil, straw, and oily rags in the area. Ten minutes later, the Captain was notified. He ordered the ship to proceed, "full speed ahead," to North Brother Island, about ten minutes away, where he would beach the ship.

However, those ten minutes were critical, as flames rapidly consumed the wooden ship, fanned by headwinds and the paddle-wheeler's straining boilers speeding the ship onward to North Brother Island. The flammable paint covering the ship only added to the conflagration.

Efforts to fight the fire and save passengers were hampered by poor crew training, substandard equipment, and outright criminal negligence. The crew abandoned firefighting efforts after their fire hoses of "cheap unlined linen," burst from rot. While there were other hand pumps and buckets available, the crew had not conducted a fire drill in the past year and did not use them. There were lifeboats on the *Slocum*, but most were tied down such that the crew could not deploy them. Some were apparently launched, but immediately sank.

Saddest of all were the life vests. Many were

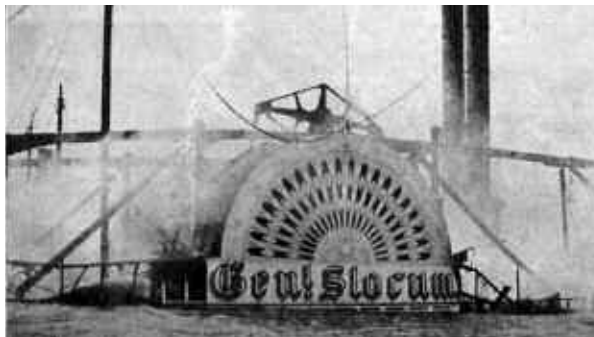
the reports of parents clawing for life vests, putting them on their children and desperately hurling them overboard, only to see the children sink beneath the East River. The unscrupulous manufacturers of the life vests had filled them with cheap shredded cork, and then inserted iron weights to get the vests up to the required weight.

Once the ship beached at North Brother Island, it took another ten minutes for the fire to completely consume the ship. Weighed down by heavy clothes, many women drowned in the river trying to escape the fire. Others burned as the ship's decks collapsed in flames. Van Schaick himself escaped after being severely burned (he would lose sight in one eye) but later, investigators would question the timing of his departure, finding it unduly hasty for the ship's Captain.

Bodies washed up on North Brother Island as well as along numerous piers bordering the East River for days afterwards. As the scope of the disaster emerged, public outcry for accountability found its villains, as Captain Van Schaick, along with the steamship company's owner and several inspectors were indicted for their roles in the tragedy. After a sensational trial, Captain van Schaick was inexplicably the only one found guilty for the inferno on the *Slocum*.

In the military, the Commander of a unit, or the Captain of a ship is responsible for all that is done and fails to get done. It is hard to argue differently for a civilian ship, and van Schaick did truly own what was under his command, including its many failures. And he certainly owns the failure of not beaching the ship sooner than ten minutes away at North Brother Island.

But that doesn't mean that the buck should stop at the Captain's level, so it is scandalous that the ship's owners escaped accountability. Inspectors, whose job was to ensure that the Captain was doing his job and the public was safe could only have failed in their duty through incompetence, negligence, or corrup-



News photo of the ship's remains and Capt. William van Schaick.



tion. Among the Hudson River's professional seamen, Van Schaick being a scapegoat for failures at the levels of management and ownership was a source of some bitterness.

At the age of 71, the Captain went to prison, serving six years of a ten year sentence before being pardoned by President William Howard Taft. He lived in quiet ignominy, and died at the Masonic Home in Utica, New York in December, 1927. Thereafter, he was taken to his final resting place, in Oakwood Cemetery, Troy, New York, being noted in a short obituary published in Time Magazine. Less than sympathetic, Time noted the day of the *Slocum* fire:

"That would have been the best day for Death to have waved a hand at William van Schaick. An investigation proved that despite a record of 40 years' service he had been guilty of criminal neglect in not having useful firehose, staunch lifeboats, life-preservers that would float; for allowing rubbish to collect in the store rooms; for having a crew made up, without apparent exception of yokels, cravens or imbeciles; for not giving this crew fire drills..."

All of this was true, despite his presidential pardon. Even in death, he would wear it, despite the gravestone's plaintive proclamation: "Vindicated"

None of this is to mourn for Captain van Schaick. Rather it is just one more reminder of the, quite literally, buried history in our area.

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





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