

The Greenwich Journal

Of Southern Washington County, Est. 1842



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Main Street \$25K grants

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Clutch, Witches Wash rehab old buildings

Two intrepid business owners in Greenwich transformed two old, vacant buildings on Main Street, giving them new life for decades to come. Their mission was aided by governmental and corporate programs focused on “main street revitalization.” Their success was celebrated recently with the announcement of \$25,000 National Grid grants at a press conference.

Read this story and more inside!

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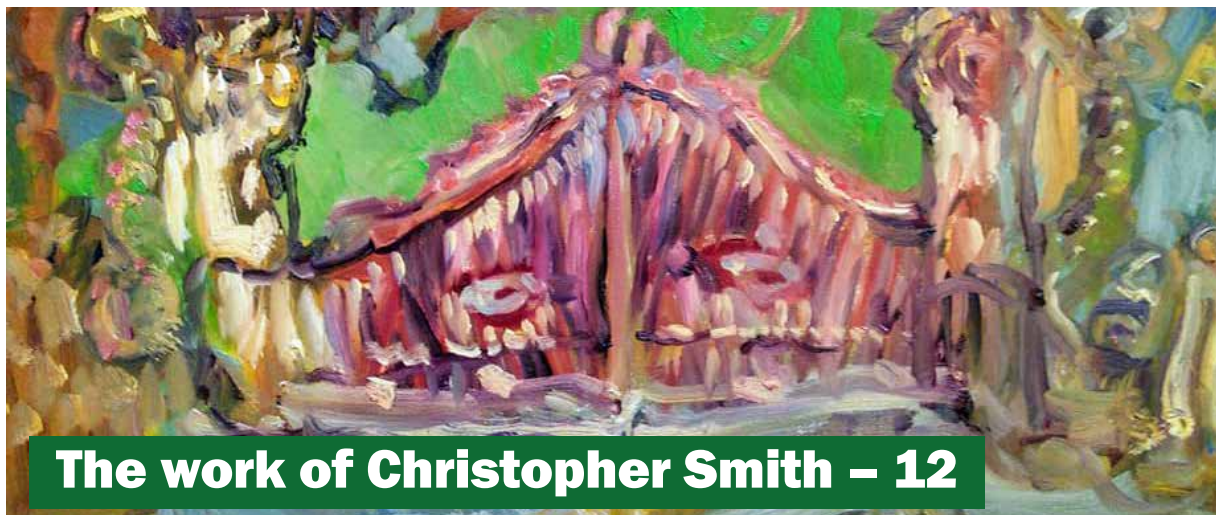


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EDITION NO. 9328 | EST. 1842 | BACK ISSUES ON JOURNALANDPRESS.COM

Clutch, Witches Wash win \$25k grants

Robin Lyle
Journal & Press

There's no shortage of old buildings, many long vacant, lining the main streets of Washington County towns. As economic forces moved manufacturing overseas, consolidated or subdivided farm land, and closed small businesses throughout upstate New York, many lovely buildings dating back a hundred or more years, were left empty and deteriorating. Attempts to breathe life back into these towns have had uneven results. Nonetheless, there's something about these old buildings, the hidden workmanship and history, that is hard to resist.

This was the case for two intrepid business owners in Greenwich who transformed two old, vacant buildings on Main Street, giving them new life for decades to come. Their mission was aided by governmental and corporate programs focused on "main street revitalization." Their recent success was celebrated Wednesday, Jan. 29, at a press conference at Clutch Market and General Store, to highlight National Grid programs that support economic development in small towns. Greenwich Mayor Amanda Hurley began the event stating, "Organizations like National Grid...help small communities like ours take big ideas and actually turn them into reality."

National Grid's Main Street Revitalization program, provides grants to eligible property owners, municipalities and non-profits that are transforming vacant structures into vibrant, state-of-the-art buildings that symbolize growth in New York's business districts. "Many of our customers see potential in older, vacant buildings that can be converted into thriving commercial or retail stores," said National Grid Regional Director Kim Ireland. "National Grid supports these investments in the cities, towns and villages we deliver energy to across New York state. When the communities we serve thrive, we all thrive," states the National Grid Media Advisory for the event.

When Brian Bagdasarian, owner of



State Senator Jake Ashby, National Grid's Kim Ireland, Ruly Graves, Brian Bagdasarian and Greenwich Mayor Amanda Hurley. —Darren Johnson photos

Witches Wash, learned that his laundromat could no longer operate at its former location, he considered shutting down altogether. But upon hearing from his customers that his business was needed and valued, his plans changed. In 2021, Brian purchased a vacant building on Main Street, carried out extensive and complex renovations, and installed a new laundromat. "We took a building that was built in the 1800s and repurposed it for a laundry room. So basically, what we had to do was build a building inside a building just to support the weight of the machines and to try to keep it structurally sound."

Brian heard about the National Grid funding program and applied in 2022. He was awarded \$25,000 through National Grid's Main Street Revitalization program to install heat pumps and efficient lighting. He found the application process straightforward, assistance from National Grid timely and helpful, and approval and funds came quickly.

"National Grid really helps you work through the program and if something is missing from your application they help you complete it. My funding request was

approved in less than three months," Brian said. Witches Wash, now equipped with state-of-the-art, large capacity, Speed Queen machines, is a welcoming, brightly lit, clean, and wifi enabled laundromat. Brian says his business is thriving at the new location with an influx of customers coming from surrounding communities.

While Brian is proud of his new operation, he is also intrigued by the history of the building he saved. He has researched the different businesses located at the site and was delighted when the demolition work uncovered old business ledgers inside one of the walls.

Ruly Graves, owner and operator of the newly opened Clutch Market and General Store where the press event took place, has experience in restoring older buildings. In 2018, along with husband, Tom Graves, she transformed an older building into a new business, named Gather, to provide a welcoming, fully out-fitted event space available for rental to host community events and celebrations.

Ruly explained that their interest in the new business that became Clutch Mar-

Please read more on the next page

(cont.)

ket began when the owner of the building next door to Gather died. After his death, the building was unoccupied for several years. The door was padlocked, and the deteriorating roof led to water damage throughout the entire building, which compromised the electrical system and caused a pernicious case of black mold. Concerned about the deteriorating building, Rulyn and her husband decided to purchase it and undertake the renovation for a new business.

The Graves family are grateful that funding was available to make improvements, since the project wouldn't be financially feasible otherwise. Rulyn explained that investing \$250,000 to renovate a building assessed at \$110,000 wouldn't normally be a good business practice. So a \$25,000 grant from the National Grid Main Street Revitalization program, and another \$75,000 from a NYS program of the same name, was invaluable.

"Everybody wonders how the grants work for us. It made us more even on this investment. Otherwise we would be so upside down it wouldn't have been something that we could contemplate doing. So we're grateful for the funds." Clutch Market used the funds from National Grid to replace the leaking roof, repoint a brick

wall and install heat pumps. The grand opening celebration was held in June 2024. The project also restored an upstairs apartment that generates income, as well.

Mayor Hurley praised these business owners for the impact their investments have had on Greenwich. "They're not just filling storefronts on Main Street, but they're filling community needs. The Witches Wash provides a critical service, providing a clean, accessible place for people to do an everyday task that needs to get done. And Clutch, well, it's become a social hub for shopping local, supporting local businesses, and grabbing fresh food, as well as supporting those small town values that makes Greenwich so special. They really saw the potential of these buildings on Main Street and it was a lot of hard work to bring the vision to reality."

After the press conference, National Grid representatives moved next door



Brian Bagdasarian at Witches Wash

to speak to members of the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce. Several new business owners attended to hear about the grants. National Grid's, Amanda Vitullo, Lead Economic Developer, reports that the corporation has distributed close to \$800,000 in economic development funding to Washington County small businesses over the past five years. More information on National Grid's Main Street Revitalization programs can be found at shovelready.com, or by contacting Amanda Vitullo directly at 518-222-7746.

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Mealy as Northrup

In celebration of Black History Month, Hudson Crossing Park and the Historic Hudson Hoosic Rivers Partnership invites the community to an unforgettable evening honoring the life and legacy of Solomon Northrup. Join the event at the Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitor Center for a special presentation by renowned reenactor Clifford Oliver Mealy (pictured), who will bring Solomon Northrup's powerful story to life.

The event is February 17, 2025, 6pm, at the Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitor Center, 30 Ferry St., Schuylerville.

The event will offer a unique opportunity to experience history in a compelling, interactive way. Dressed in the character of Solomon Northrup, Clifford Oliver Mealy will engage attendees with a first-person

account of Northrup's life as a free Black man, his harrowing enslavement, and his remarkable journey to freedom.

In this immersive performance, Mealy will discuss the history of slavery, its lasting impact, and Northrup's connection to canal work. Guests will also have the chance to ask questions. While the subject matter is deeply important, Mealy promises to weave humor into the evening, with his signature blend of "Dad jokes" and education to make the experience engaging for all ages.

Solomon Northrup, whose story inspired the Academy Award-winning film *12 Years a Slave*, was born a free man in New York in 1808. His memoir chronicles his wrongful abduction and enslavement in 1841, as well as his resilience and eventual libera-



tion. His connection to the canal region is an integral part of his story and the history of this area.

This event is free and open to the public.

Valentine's card-making workshop

The community is invited to join local artist Valorie Nichols-DeVita for an evening of card making in preparation of Valentine's Day. All ages and abilities are welcome from 5:30-7:00 on Thursday, February 6, in the Community Room of

Greenwich Free Library. Supplies and refreshments will be on hand, and crafters are welcome to bring their own materials and ideas. Register online at greenwich-freelibrary.org or call the library at 518-692-7157 to reserve your spot.

She will also present cardmaking sessions for kids ages 6 and up during Library Lego Takeover on Wednesday, February 5, and Wednesday, February 12, starting at 2:30. No registration is required for the Wednesday sessions.

Bottskill Baptist church news

The Bottskill Baptist Church Sunday School begins a new project in February called "The Flat Jesus Project." This is a project where they bring a "Flat Jesus" (picture) with them in their daily lives and take pictures along the way. They will then share these pictures and stories with the congregation at the end of the project. This is to reinforce that Jesus is always with us.

February 9th is the Annual Sunday School Cookie Bake and Valentine Card Making. The cookies and cards will be shared with the congregation and will also be delivered to church members that are unable to attend church.

A Square Dance hosted by the First Bap-

tist Church of Hoosick Falls will be held Feb. 22. The dance begins at 6:30 at the Hoosick Falls Church, 80 Main Street and has an admission fee of \$5.00 or \$10.00 at the door. For reservations contact Amy Elsworth (amyelsworth869@gmail.com)

Also, the Bottskill Bible Study Groups will be meeting at several times during the month of February. On Feb. 8th and 22nd a study group will meet at

9:00 AM to study The Sermon on the Mount led by Steve Morse. On every Tuesday morning at 10:30 another Bible Study group will meet and discuss the video "The Chosen." All are welcome to either Bible Study Group.

The Bottskill Church welcomes everyone to their Sunday Morning Service led by pastor Lydia Widbin. The church is located at 26 Church St. in Greenwich

and the service begins at 9:15 a.m. Sunday School classes are held during the worship service and all children are welcomed.

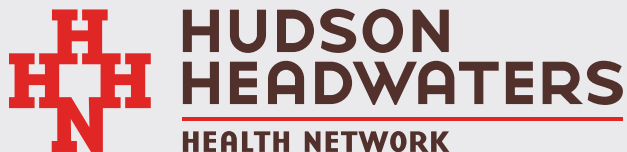


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Several area students earn honors

Some recent news we received from colleges and universities about area students:

Vermont State University Fall 2024 President's List

The following students earned Vermont State University President's List recognition for the Fall 2024 semester. To qualify for this highest academic honor, students must maintain full-time status and a semester grade point average of 4.0.

- Elizabeth Bolio of Argyle
- Emma Harwood of Argyle

The following students earned Vermont State University Dean's List honors for the Fall 2024 semester. To qualify for this academic designation, students must maintain full-time status and achieve a 3.5 or greater semester average.

- Raegan Humiston of Argyle (NY)
- Sean Klingebiel of Schuylerville (NY)
- Braeden Kloss of Schuylerville (NY)
- Lily Prevost of Argyle (NY)
- Blake Riche of Salem (NY)

Doctor of Chiropractic program at Sherman College

Lily Boyd of Schuylerville, New York 12871 was one of 64 students from across the US who received the doctor of chiropractic degree from Sherman College of Chiropractic in Spartanburg, SC, on December 14, 2024. The Fall Quarter 2024 and Winter Quarter 2025 graduates participated in the college's 148th Commencement Program.

The doctor of chiropractic program at Sherman College requires students to complete approximately 4,600 hours (14 quarters) of classroom and laboratory study and also includes an internship in the college's on-campus Chiropractic Center. Assistant Professor of Clinical Sciences Allie Hamstead, D.C., A.C.P., C.A.C.C.P., presented the commencement address.

Russell Sage Colleges Dean's List

Nearly 600 students were named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List at Russell Sage Colleges. To be placed on the Dean's List for the semester, a student must earn a grade point average of 3.50 or higher while carrying a minimum of 12 credits in courses graded A-F, with no grades of Incomplete. The following local students made the list:

- Hannah Anuszewski of Schaghticoke
- Genevieve Bertrand of Schaghticoke
- Emily Cumo of Schaghticoke
- Alex Heller of Argyle
- Ryley Houle of Schaghticoke
- Sydney Loveland of Greenwich
- Isaac Sievers of Greenwich
- Sophia Tomczak of Greenwich

Springfield College Dean's List

Springfield College recognizes Dean's List students for the 2024 fall semester, including:

- Mary Estramonte from Greenwich. Estramonte has a primary major of Communication Sci & Disorders.
- Lily McCauliffe from Greenwich. McCauliffe has a primary major of Physical Education.
- Taylor Petroski from Schuylerville. Petroski has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PT.

UAlbany Dean's Letter of Commendation

Alexandra Steves of Schuylerville, majoring in History, has been awarded the Fall 2024 Dean's Letter of Commendation from the University at Albany. The Dean's Letter of Commendation at UAlbany recognizes the outstanding academic achievements of part-time undergraduate students. To qualify for the Dean's Letter of Commendation, students must earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 or higher in their first semes-

ter of study and a GPA of 3.50 or higher in subsequent semesters.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Dean's List

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced that Sarah McMahan, a member of the class of 2026 majoring in Biomedical Engineering, was named to the university's Dean's List for academic excellence for the fall 2024 semester.

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI students are named to the Dean's List based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects. A total of 2,393 undergraduate students achieved these criteria for WPI's fall 2024 Dean's List.

Quinnipiac University Dean's List

The following area student was named to the dean's list for the Fall 2024 semester at Quinnipiac University: Daniel Delorier of Schuylerville. To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C.

Endicott College Dean's List

Endicott College, the first college in the U.S. to require internships of its students, is announcing its Fall 2024 Dean's List students. In order to qualify for the Dean's List, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no letter grade below "C," have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester. Among those named to the Dean's List at Endicott College for the Fall 2024 semester is Tess Merrill of Greenwich. Merrill is majoring in Nursing and is the child of Kathleen Merrill and Jonathan Merrill.

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Why is 'Our Town' in the Nonfiction section? A library explainer.

Sarah Murphy
Special to Journal & Press

At the end of last year, I wrote about the top circulating books at the Greenwich Free Library in 2024. The other day a regular patron came in and asked Warren, who was working at the desk, about the piece. She was confused as to why Thornton Wilder's iconic play "Our Town" was included in the list of nonfiction titles in our circulation data. About me, the patron reportedly asked, "She doesn't think it's real, does she? She knows that graveyard scene didn't really happen, right?"

Warren and I had a chuckle about the idea that I had confused Wilder's experimental drama about early 20th-century New England, and especially its inclusion of dead people looking up from their graves to the stars, as a "true story." My lofty ideas about theater and storytelling aside—something can surely be "true" without being "real" — I am not generally confused about the difference between fact and fiction. No, our circulation data is based on the classification of works in our collection, and surely everyone knows that plays and poetry are classified as literature and therefore housed in between sports and history, in the nonfiction section, right? After one to two seconds of reflection, I blurted out, of course nobody knows that! Why on earth should they? And, more importantly, why on earth is it even true?

Well, dear readers, this brings us at last to a topic you may not have known is controversial: the Dewey Decimal System. You may think that we left Dewey behind, long ago, with the card catalog. Nope. In most school and public libraries,

books are classified and arranged using the system that Melvil Dewey created in 1876 as a way to organize information and to standardize that organization. It is a fairly straightforward idea: group books by subject and assign each subject a number so that all of the books on the same subject will be near to one another. Then arrange the subjects so that they are near to other, similar, subjects. When I worked as a school librarian and taught second graders how to find books in the stacks, I talked about each book having its own address. And that as long as we understand numerical and alphabetical order, we can locate any book if we know its address.

In many ways this system has served us well over the years, and it doesn't ask much of patrons. You don't need to memorize that 641.5 is where the cookbooks are. If you can type "cookbook" or "cooking" into a keyword search, you'll be given the address, and as long as you understand that 641.5 will be housed somewhere after, for example, 597.9 (reptiles) and before 751.42 (watercolor painting), you can probably find what you're looking for. Or, you can ask a library worker, and we'll be glad to help. Whether you're doing the search or we are, we're all using Dewey, and most of the time we're finding what we need.

And yet. Both Dewey Decimal and Melvil Dewey himself are absolutely drenched



in controversy, bad reputation, and a despicable worldview. Come with me behind the library science curtain for a peak into this lousy man and his crappy system!

A pioneer in American libraries, Dewey founded the world's first school for professional librarianship at Columbia University in 1887. Even better, he let women study there! Unfortunately, he required a headshot with each female applicant, because, according to a 2014 article from American Libraries, he claimed "you cannot polish a pumpkin." While working at the New York State library, he reportedly subjected his female assistants to a

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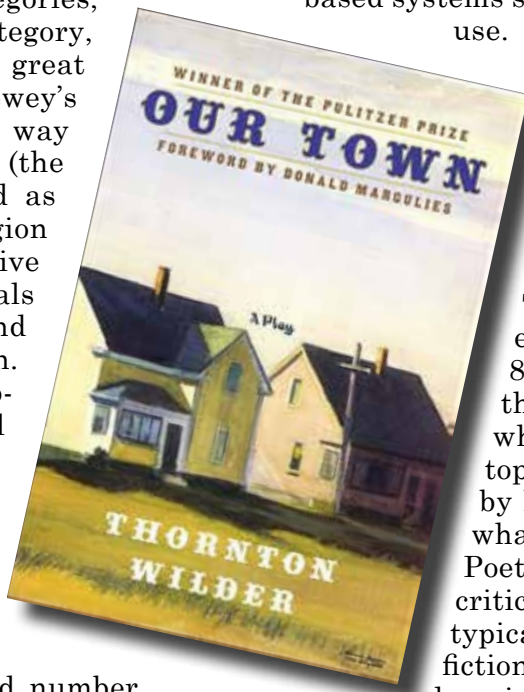
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lot of unwanted hugging and “surprise squeezes” in his Albany home. Given the social mores and restrictions of the time, it’s remarkable that many women spoke out about his behavior, resulting in his becoming unwelcome in the American Library Association (which he cofounded) and in at least one sexual harassment lawsuit. More than just a womanizer, Dewey was also a known racist and anti-semitic. Another institution he founded, the Lake Placid Club on Mirror Lake, was explicitly off limits to Black and Jewish people, at Dewey’s own command.

When a prejudiced person creates a system for organizing information, guess what happens? The system itself perpetuates a narrow worldview. Dewey’s system contains ten major categories, and within each category, ten subcategories. A great example of Melvil Dewey’s limited scope is the way he organized religion (the 200s). Books classified as 201-209 are about religion in general or comparative religion. 210-219 deals with philosophy and the theory of religion. The next seven categories, from 220-289 all deal with Christianity. The books from “all other religions” are cramped into the 290-299 range. The system does allow librarians and catalogers to use unlimited number decimal points after the whole number to create more categories and make sure that in any given library we are representing more than one single religion. But book spines only have room for so many numbers.

Similar problems with Dewey’s system abound in regard to race, gender, and sexuality. Almost since the moment libraries

implemented Dewey’s work, people have noted the limitations and eurocentric view and have worked either within or outside of the system to provide patrons with unbiased access to books and subjects that Dewey himself may have considered inferior, unimportant, or even nonexistent. At Howard University, beginning in the 1930s, librarian Dorothy Porter accessioned a broad and deep academic collection of books and resources documenting the African American and Black experience. Finding that Dewey’s decimals were not up to the task of classifying this information, she developed a system that worked. More recently, librarians have used the phrase “Decolonize Dewey” to fight for changes to subject headings in order to better describe the wide range of materials available to patrons. And others have joined the “Ditch Dewey” movement to recatalog their collections using genre-based systems similar to what bookstores use.



Another challenge of the current system is the way that fiction and literature are classified, and this gets back to the patron’s question about “Our Town.” According to Dewey, fiction is part of the 800s: literature. Unlike the other major categories which arrange books by topic, the 800s arrange first by language, then by form – what type of literature is it? Poetry, plays, essays, literary criticism, or fiction? Libraries typically have a lot, a ton, of fiction. And many readers are less interested in the original language of publication than in the story; they are used to finding Twain after Tolstoy. So, in order to house “Huckleberry Finn” in the same general area as “War and Peace,” most public libraries take all of their novels and arrange them in an entirely different part of the library: the fiction section. They remove the Dewey call numbers and order the



Melvil Dewey

books based on the author’s last name. But because the plays and poetry are usually smaller collections, searched for differently than their fiction counterparts, those books end up in what has become, by virtue of it not housing novels, the non-fiction section. And at the end of the year when we run our circulation statistics our online catalog spits out two lists: “fiction” (in our library, novels and short stories) and “nonfiction” (everything else).

Why would we continue to do it this way? Why use an outdated system created by an outdated man, a system that doesn’t work all that well, a system that makes a patron wonder if the librarian has lost her marbles? The short answer is that change is hard. Change is expensive, time consuming, and not always popular. But change is also invigorating and essential. The longer answer starts with asking more questions. What do we want out of our library? How do we want our knowledge stored? What steps can we take to get there?

Sarah Murphy is Director of the Greenwich Free Library.



Classes are open!

Cambridge, NY's annual "Mud U" is back this mud season with a variety of classes for you to enjoy!

Mud U is a free "university" where community members both take and teach workshops, talks, and courses. This year's class topics include Meditation, Gluten-Free Baking, Self Defense, Genealogy, Tree Identification, Bike Maintenance, Tool Sharpening, Traditional Egg Decorating, and more. Everyone is welcome, and all ages can join! While the classes are free, registration is required so we can keep track of and prepare for attendance.

Class registration is open with courses happening between February 18th and March 9th throughout Cambridge. To register for classes and learn more about Mud U, visit: www.muducambridge.org.



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Reading and music for kids

Debi Craig and Dorothea Craig Casey are retired music teachers (and sisters!) along with Tara Smith (a retired middle school reading teacher who lives in Hebron) who want to bring the joy of reading, music, and movement to children in the Hebron area. A story time will be offered for 3- to 8-year-old children on February 8, 2025 at 10:00 am in the Upper Room at Hebron United Presbyterian Church located in the hamlet of West Hebron. (snow date: Sunday, February 9 at 2 p.m.). A parent **MUST** stay with child. The interactive program will last approximately 60 minutes. The event will take place at the Hebron West facility, 3153 County Route 30 in West Hebron NY. Follow the signs to the "Upper Room." This free event is presented as a community mission of Hebron United Presbyterian Church.

Local Catholic churches

Mass at Holy Cross Catholic Church on Sunday is held at 8:15 AM; at St. Patrick's at 11:30 AM, and at Immaculate Conception in Hoosick Falls on Saturday at 4 PM and Sunday at 10 AM. Weekday Masses are at 9 AM at Holy Cross on Tuesday, at St. Patrick's on Wednesday, and Immaculate Conception on Monday. The Diocesan Appeal continues with Holy Cross at the half way point. The program Wings of Care is still active and would appreciate the donation of a few hours here and there to help out those who have difficulty helping themselves.

Women of the Old Testament, Part 2, continues on February 10, 24 and arch 3. They are held Mondays, 10-11:30 at Immaculate Conception and at 6:30-8 PM at St. Patrick's. A Faith Formation

Coordinator is needed for Immaculate Conception for parish catechetical programs k-12 and sacramental preparation. This is a part-time paid position. Please contact Mary Rosmus for further details.

HACA can help low and middle income filers file their taxes for free electronically. After January 13 appointments can be made online at getfreetaxprep.org or call HACA at 518 686 1962.

The Salem Food Pantry is in need of both food and monetary donations of serve about 80 families. Donations can be left at Church of the bank. Checks can be made out to the Salem Food Pantry. The other local pantries also need support and it is very appreciated.

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#SHOPLOCAL



A Q&A with artist Christopher Smith

Darren Johnson
Journal & Press

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

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

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

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

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

DJ: *What is your approach to making the*



art?

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

The show is “Going Places” because most of the time I'm on a path and make discoveries along the way; there is also walking off the beaten pass in the woods. I go through this journey. ...

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

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

CS: It's West Rupert meets the larger community. A lot of effort was put into selecting these works, and developing the theme of “Going Places.” I want everyone to take the journey with me. I want them to be invigorated and have a great experience and feel that it was worthwhile having seen the works and having been there. I look forward to meeting everyone and seeing and hearing their reaction.



Christopher Smith's self-portrait

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Snowfleas

Bob Henke
Journal & Press

The days are beginning to get longer and the sun is getting higher in the sky. You certainly cannot tell by the weather. The adage is, “As the days grow longer, the cold grows stronger.” This has always baffled me. The sun climbs in the sky and you can feel its increasing strength and yet the coldest days of winter fall upon us.

I presume the sun’s is so minimal as yet that only weirdos that go to look at the sunset every evening would notice. However, wild things notice and begin to gear up for the coming change in seasons. Some of these signs are dramatic. The booming calls of the great horned owl are continuous from dusk to dawn. It is the height of their mating season and sorting out of territory, mate selection, and nest sites is accomplished with much shouting. In a week or two, the females will be laying eggs and things will settle down a bit at night (until the barred, screech, and sawwhet owls begin the same process, closer to Spring.)

Another somewhat dramatic harbinger of the first steps toward Spring would have gone unnoticed had I not been bleeding.

Clyde can only go on firewood duty if I am using the electric chainsaw. I use it to cut up limb wood directly into the back of the Gator. If I drop a piece, he grabs it for me and I, in return, am supposed to heave it somewhere so he can run and bring it back. His curiosity and enthusiasm is such that he occasionally creeps in so close as to get sprayed with sawdust. This is why he cannot go when I use the gas axe. With the saw running, I cannot hear him when he is poking his nose in too close. It sort of reminds me of the good old days with children “helping.” There always had to be a spotter when I was using the chainsaw and I even developed a 5-part routine when I was splitting wood. It went like this: (1) Lift up the maul in front of me, (2) look over my shoulder so as not to brain children darting

in, (3) swing the maul down in back of me, (4) check the front for children wandering in where they can either be hit with the maul or flying splits, (5) swing the maul. Repeat all day. I still have all those hesitations when I split wood—too much engrained muscle memory—and it is a good thing because Clyde as well as Cat are apt to get in the way. This brings us to the bleeding part.

Clyde is not only possessed of the retriever enthusiasm and zest but is also one of the smartest dogs I have ever trained. He figured out that in order for me to drop pieces for him to retrieve, there had to be branches to cut. When I go to trim branches and drag them back to the Gator, Clyde chooses a large branch and drags it right along with me. This is sort of funny so I always “drop” a piece of his stick to have the retrieve as a reward. Yesterday, as I was reaching for a stick, Clyde charged in with his, driving a nice sharp splinter right into the back of my wrist. This bled nicely and needed to be blotted up so it would not soak my glove.

As luck would have it, my handkerchief of the day was white. When the bleeding stopped, I did not want to put the cloth back in my pocket so I laid it at the base of a big pine tree. When I finished work and went to retrieve it, it was totally covered with tiny black creatures. Close inspection revealed that the wisps of snow as well as all the forest duff was similarly swarming with the tiny black creatures.

I was seeing snow fleas. If we had more snow cover, someone would have asked about them by now for, in the higher sun, they quite often come to feed on top of the snow. There are over 6000 species, distributed worldwide, including Antarctica, and

Sighting

While bald eagles greatly prefer fish as a primary diet, winter’s ice leaves them only two alternatives—either go south or be less picky. Males in particular are reluctant to leave a nest site, wanting to guard it from interlopers, so we often see them eating everything from barnyard chickens to car-killed deer. In Schuyler-ville, Skip Weed found this fellow preparing to do lunch with a squirrel.



they come in colors ranging from dark blue (ours) to iridescent green to bright red. 315 of these species are found in North America.

The little dark-colored insects, that make it look as if someone has upended a pepper-shaker on the surface of the snow, actually belong to a class of animals called springtails. Springtails are one of the most ancient orders still surviving on this planet and there is even some scientific debate about whether they are actually insects or some special category all to themselves. Two major differences are the fact that springtails’ abdomens have only four to six segments, fewer than other insects, and they have a weird tube sticking out of the abdomen which may be used to take in water. In any event, they are more closely related to lobsters than to fleas.

Snow fleas and other springtails get their name from their peculiar form of locomotion. They move about slowly on legs as do other insects, but to escape danger or search for food requires something else for they have no wings. Instead, they have something called a furculum. Actually, they have two furcula, very strong, fork-like organs tucked under the snow flea’s abdomen. Hinged at

Please read more on the next page

OUTDOORS TOMORROW

(cont.)

the back, each furculum is folded forward and held with another structure that looks a lot like a jewelry clasp. When the springtail wishes to move rapidly, it withdraws the clasp and each furculum snaps downward, propelling the little fellow as much several inches. For a being only 1/16th of an inch long, this is quite a feat. Unfortunately, it does not appear the springtail has any directional control. Fortunately, it has 32 eyes in two clusters so, while it may not know where it is going, it will know where it is when it gets there.

Those readers who are either older or spent their formative years in Europe know the odd word furcula in a different context. It has traditionally been used to refer to the wishbone of bird. The wishbone is also called a “merrythought” but both refer to the idea of two people making a wish, breaking the wishbone, and the one with the shorter remaining piece gets their wish. It is also

sometimes the longer piece, so do not attack me for contradicting your family traditions. The springtail’s furcular was thought to resemble the birds’ wishbone, generating the name. It is too bad the springtail/snow flea was not called a merrythought. This might have made people look upon them with less alarm.

The universal question is why these snow fleas are about on the top of the snow, in what seems barren territory. As usual, in the animal kingdom, the answer is the same—food and sex, not necessarily in that order. Springtails eat mold, dead plant matter, bacteria, fungi, algae, pollen, roundworms, rotifers, and sap. Roundworms and rotifers are tiny microscopic animals. These are found in abundance on the surface of melting snow banks. Snow fleas have two special proteins in their blood that keep them from freezing, so they are safe down to at least 20 degrees. The small freshets running off snow banks also hold no threat, for a series of tiny hairs allow them to float on the water’s surface and

travel quickly to other breeding areas, thus ensuring genetic diversity.

While they like to shop early on top of the snow, there are snow flea conventions all summer as well. The only other folks who see them quite often are turkey hunters. Sitting motionless for long periods in the woods, you become very attuned to the environment and even begin to notice the very tiny clatter of the snow fleas hopping about on dry leaves. I will not have that level of quiet for a while, with an enthusiastic retriever dragging logs around the woodlot.

Contact Bob Henke with your sightings or questions by mail c/o The Greenwich Journal & Salem Press, by email at outdoors.tomorrow@gmail.com, on Twitter at @BobHenke, or on Facebook.



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'Absurdly generous'

Lance Allen Wang
Journal & Press

After nearly every major war, someone in government wants to find a way to balance the budget on the back of veterans' benefits. However, the difference is we've now had our nation's longest military involvement ever, and we did it with a small all-volunteer force. Multiple tours became the accepted standard for deployable servicemembers during the war. You can expect that Americans will be paying for its relatively small number of veterans' medical care for a long time. 50 years after the end of the draft, 1 percent of our country is in uniform at any time, split between active and reserve. Less than 8 percent of the country are veterans, and that number continues to shrink.

In a November 2024 article, *The Economist*, a generally middle of the road periodical, produced an article maintaining that "American veterans now receive absurdly generous benefits." As the nation has downsized its involvement in the Global War on Terror after over two decades, it seems that the trend to downsize the compensation for those who carried its weight has started.

The Bonus March

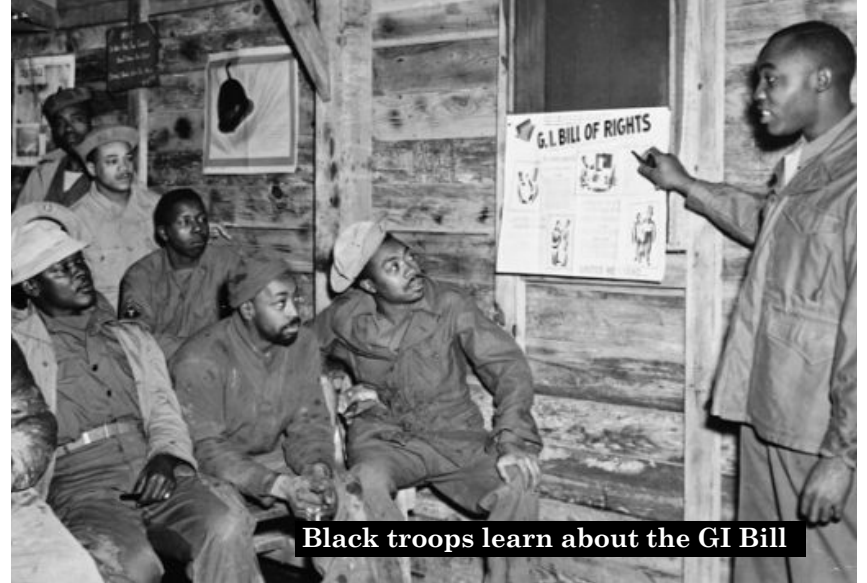
"And we won't come back 'til its over, over there!" the 1917 song went, optimistically anticipating the average tin-hatted "doughboy" marching back home after suffering the gas, bullets, shellfire, trench-foot and other visible and invisible tortures of the Great War. And while there were indeed wonderful things that would await some – marriage, families, jobs - not all were marching home with spring in their step. More than two hundred thousand returned from the war classified as wounded, over 4,000 as amputees. Tens of thousands were treated for "shell shock," what is today called PTSD, and for tens of thousands more, it went undiagnosed and untreated. The "Roaring Twenties" didn't roar for poor

or working class veterans.

After World War I, in a fit of postwar patriotism from Congress, American service members were promised a bonus averaging about \$1,000.00 to make up the difference between the dollar a day they were being paid to face German machine gun bullets in no-man's land and what the average worker was being paid back home. Patriotism waned as the bill simmered on the back burner, and the veterans received the Capitol Hill runaround for several years. When the bonus was finally approved, the fine print read that it was not payable until 1945. Now in the throes of the Great Depression, the veterans decided to march on Washington to demand the payment of their bonus now. Approximately 43,000 veterans marched on Washington in 1932. What started as an annoyance to the government ended up an embarrassing tragedy for President Herbert Hoover's administration and the Army.

The marchers were treated with suspicion by the government. Amid the first "Red Scare," there was a concern about communists among the marchers and violent revolution. In actuality violence would come later, at the hands of federal authorities.

There were actually some communists there. The backlash to the darker side of the Industrial Revolution was the early labor movement, which maintained a variety of populist political stripes among its members, including some anarchists, socialists, and communists. Clashes with police, state militia, and even federal troops were common at labor strikes. Suffice to say that preaching to the poor and "working class" was finding willing ears, and that included



Black troops learn about the GI Bill

veterans.

Called "Hoovervilles" in mock honor of the President, the unemployed and homeless often set up improvised shantytowns during the depression; the Bonus Marchers set up one in the Anacostia area of Washington DC in 1932. As rumors abounded, including an Army intelligence report that the marchers would attack the Capitol as a signal for communist uprisings in our cities, plans were underway for the Army to attack and scatter the veterans.

In late July, the Army advanced on the camp. Applauding veterans who thought that the parading soldiers were marching in their honor were horrified when the soldiers fixed bayonets and turned on them. At the front of the troops was the Army's Chief of Staff, General Douglas MacArthur. One of his aides, Major Dwight Eisenhower, thought that the look of the Army's senior officer leading an attack on his fellow veterans was terrible and cautioned his boss against appearing there, but to no avail. 55 war veterans were injured and another 135 arrested. The child of one of the protesters, already suffering from a lung malady, died of suffocation when tear gassed. The camp burned.

Unrepentant, President Hoover stated, "An examination of a large number of names discloses the fact that a considerable part of those remaining are not vet-

Please read more on the next page

ON THE SQUARE

(cont.)

erans; many are Communists and persons with criminal records.” MacArthur, buying into the hyped intelligence, reported that only about 10% of the men driven away from the camps were actually genuine veterans. This was not true, of course. Other veterans reported that they would taunt the communist groups among them with shouts of “Eyes front! Not left!”

The incoming President took note of all that had taken place, and President Franklin Roosevelt started the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933, the largest public works project in the history of the United States which put millions, including many grateful veterans, back to work. In 1936, the Bonus was finally approved for payment, with a smaller amount payable immediately or a bond payable in 1945.

Lessons Learned for WW2

With a larger military drafted for World War II, Congress began work early seeing to the postwar needs of our growing veteran population. One Department of Labor study projected that after the war, 15 million men and women leaving the armed forces would be unemployed.

Learning from the lessons of the Bonus Army, America’s lawmakers determined that the last thing they wanted was a large, angry and disaffected veteran population, determined and with an ability to organize, presenting complaints at the doorstep of Congress again. Veterans’ organizations helped Congress create the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, popularly known as the “GI Bill of Rights.” The bill provided college and vocational training benefits, unemployment and housing benefits, and would help provide a soft landing for returning veterans. One of the most successful federal programs ever, nearly 10,000,000 veterans took advantage of college or job training programs. The number of degrees awarded by American colleges and universities doubled from 1940 to

1950.

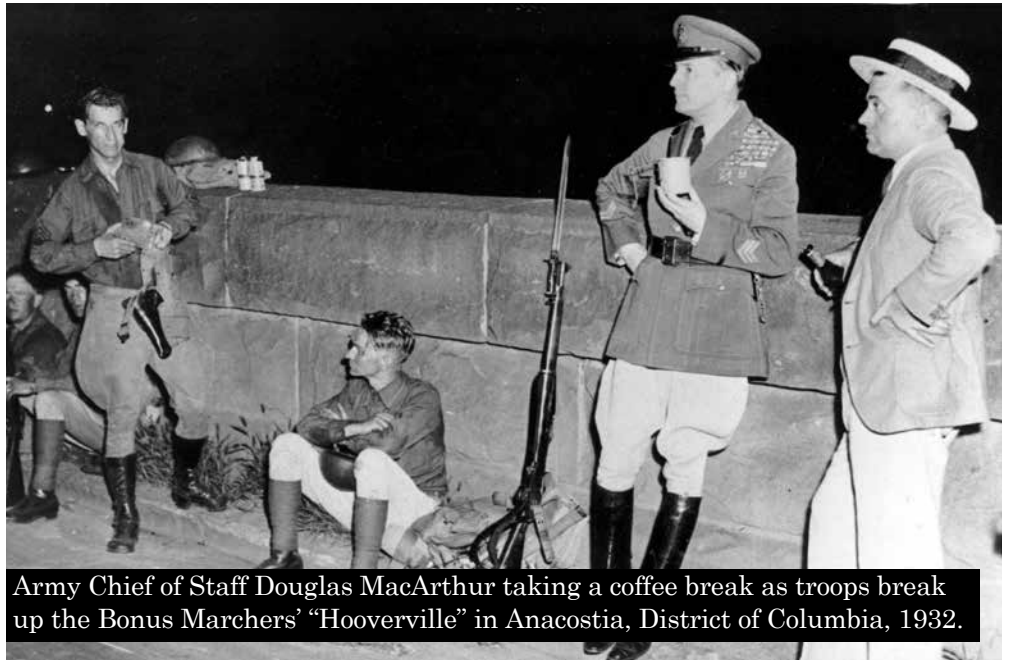
Not only were the creators of the GI Bill planning ahead for a postwar economy, but they also understood that such a program can only get the necessary votes during a period of patriotic unity with the backdrop of a nation at war. Part of the GI Bill’s brilliance was that its creators knew that 1944 was the time to vote for it. Could it have been passed in 1949? Maybe. But by 1948-49 the nation was in a recession. And the budget was being balanced on the back of drastic cuts in the military – our unpreparedness entering the Korean War the following year showed it.

Lessons for Today

The very willingness to start balancing the budget on the backs of our small, all-volunteer force and its veterans is a sign of the decreased number of Congressmen with military experience in office. While all things should be “on the table” for budget discussion, to have proxies begin to label military compensation as “absurd” when seven of our nation’s ten longest military combat deployments took place during the past ten years reflects more ignorance than maliciousness.

Of course veteran health care is expensive. We have a small force with a big mission. You keep a toolkit with ten tools in it, they’re going to wear out a lot quicker than a tool kit with fifty.

Is there abuse in the system? You bet. A system of that size, with that number



Army Chief of Staff Douglas MacArthur taking a coffee break as troops break up the Bonus Marchers’ “Hooverville” in Anacostia, District of Columbia, 1932.

of participants, makes it inevitable. That doesn’t mean burn it down. It does mean using watchdogs, like federal Inspectors General and Congress. Senator Tammy Duckworth did an admirable job chasing down fraud in the system during public hearings several years ago.

We do pay a lot of money to compensate veterans for medical issues. We also pay a lot of money to military retirees to compensate for the longevity of their service. Is that compensation “absurd”? Are we paying our service members too much?

Being able to ask that, let alone from safety and comfort, is perhaps the ultimate “civilian’s privilege.” And may our Congressional bean counters enjoy it. It’s been paid for, after all. The fact is no “peace dividend” ever truly begins to accrue until all war debts, including to those who served, are paid.

Lance Allen Wang is an Iraq Veteran and retired Army Infantry officer who lives in Eagle Bridge, NY, with his wife Hatti.



Amy Godine to visit DAR

Willard's Mountain Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution will host a book talk and signing by Adirondack historian Amy Godine. Godine will discuss her 2023 publication "The Black Woods: Pursuing Racial Justice on the Adirondack Frontier". The event will be held on Saturday, February 15th, 2025, at the Bottskill Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 26 Church Street, Greenwich, NY.

Godine explores the deep Washington County connections to an abolitionist-founded Black farm settlement in the Adirondack Mountains. The book tracks the progress of the Hazzard family, who were farm laborers in Jackson, Cambridge and Greenwich. In the mid 19th-century, they journeyed to the Adirondack wilderness and built lives as subsistence farmers, Union Army volunteers, and advocates for integration and racial justice.

A Q&A with the author and a book signing will follow Godine's talk. Books will be available for purchase. The event is free and open to the public.



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Practical steps to preserve history

As America approaches its 250th commemoration, a renewed and growing interest in the nation's journey and origins is inspiring a fresh curiosity about the stories connecting us to our history. In this spirit, Washington County Archivist Grace Peck encourages you to explore not just the nation's history, but your own. Often, treasured artifacts—such as books, letters, photo albums, fabrics, and glassware—are discovered through the purchase of an older home or the passing of a loved one, each one offering a glimpse into the personal stories. Peck shares an overview of best practices and practical steps to help preserve these treasures for future generations.

Grace Peck

Special to Journal & Press

Preservation is the process of safeguarding valued items to ensure they remain intact, protected from damage, and free from decay. There are numerous techniques available to extend the lifespan of family records, books, and other cherished objects while maintaining their original integrity and preventing further deterioration.

At the county level, the State mandates which records must be preserved in the County Archives. However, in your personal collection, you have the freedom to decide what to keep and protect. Whether it's a cherished letter from a loved one, a wedding gown, a family heirloom, or a photo album, the choice is yours.

When considering what to preserve, it's helpful to reflect on a few key questions: What holds significance for you, your family, or your community? What items do you wish to endure for future generations? Additionally, assessing the condition of each item is crucial. Does the object require preservation intervention to ensure its longevity? These thoughtful considerations can guide you in safeguarding your personal history.

When to Preserve

When evaluating an item for preservation, the first question to consider is its current

condition. Is the book, paper, photograph, or object deteriorating, such as ripping, fading, or staining? If so, steps can be taken to halt the degradation process. If the item is in good condition, proactive measures can still be implemented to ensure it remains that way.

If preservation is necessary, the next consideration is the material composition of the item. Different materials are vulnerable to various forms of decay. Some objects may require only minor adjustments to their storage conditions, while others might necessitate more advanced preservation techniques—or, in extreme cases, the expertise of a specialist.

Storage Environment

An object's storage environment is one of the most critical factors in its preservation. To ensure proper storage, five key elements must be considered: temperature, relative humidity, pest control, pollutants, and light exposure.

Temperature: While lower temperatures generally promote preservation, the ideal temperature can vary depending on the material. Consistency, however, is crucial. Maintaining a stable temperature is more important than achieving the perfect one, as significant fluctuations can cause irreversible damage over time.

Relative Humidity (RH): Objects such as books and paper are highly sensitive to moisture levels, as they absorb and release moisture from the air. High humidity can lead to mold growth and attract pests, while low humidity can cause materials to become brittle and degrade more quickly. A relative humidity range of 30-50% is typically ideal, though the specific material may require adjustments.

Pest Control: Insects and vermin pose a significant threat to the integrity of stored items, as they can destroy paper, fabrics, and adhesives. To minimize the risk of infestations, avoid storing objects near areas where food or drinks are present, and regularly inspect storage spaces for signs of pests.

Pollutants: Though often invisible, pollut-



ants such as soot, ozone, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides can cause dust accumulation, soiling, and molecular damage to materials. Effective air filtration systems or HVAC units can help mitigate these risks by reducing the presence of harmful particles and gases.

Light Exposure: Light exposure, especially ultraviolet (UV) light, can cause fading, discoloration, and material degradation. To preserve the original appearance and condition of objects, store them in dark environments and minimize exposure to light whenever possible.

By addressing these five elements, you can create an optimal storage environment that protects and preserves your family or community's treasured records and artifacts for future generations.

Grace Peck, a Greenwich, NY, native, has long held a deep passion for history and art. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Art History and Fine Arts from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY, and a Master of Arts in Museum Studies from the Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici in Florence, Italy. She serves as the Archivist for Washington County, where she manages historical collections and oversees archival documentation.

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Seeking Seedlings

Hudson Crossing Park invites graduating high school or homeschooled seniors from Saratoga, Washington, and Warren Counties to submit an application for the 2025 Hudson Crossing Park (HCP) Seedling Award.

The HCP Seedling Award is given to a single recipient who has demonstrated excellence and outstanding dedication to their community and/or the environment, serving as a role model to their peers and showing others that individuals can make a difference. Applicants are asked to submit an essay of approximately 1,000 words or a 3-5 minute video describing how their leadership and service have made a positive difference in the environment and/or community, and how they will continue to have an impact through college and beyond.

The HCP Seedling Award includes \$150 cash and three tickets to Hudson Crossing Park's Banquet by the Bridge on Thursday, June 12, 2025 for the winner and parents/guardians. Learn more at their website.

Singer-songwriter at SUNY Adirondack

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

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

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

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

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

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



Financial rebuilding for fire victims

Jill Schlesinger

*Tribune Content Agency
Special to Journal & Press*

Victims of the California wildfires have a long and arduous road ahead of them.

As many return to piles of ash or water damaged structures, the emotional and physical recovery will be daunting. The added anxiety of rebuilding a financial foundation will only add to the burden. The process requires detail-oriented focus, combined with patience, which is a lot to ask at critical periods of time.

Here are specific steps to consider, and resources that may help:

Step 1 — Gather insurance information

Locate your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy (either private or the CA state insurance FAIR plan) and take note of your policy number. If you do not have your policy or can't find the number, call your broker for the information or ask that a claim be reported on your behalf. (If your car was damaged, you'll need your auto policy.)

Step 2 — Document your loss

If your structure is intact, take pictures or video of the damage before you move anything and make a list of damaged or lost items and include their date of purchase, value, and receipts, if possible.

If your house has been completely destroyed, go room-by-room in order to remember what was there previously. It can help to talk with family members and to consult photos to prompt you in the process.

Step 3 — Contact your insurer

Report your claim, contact the adjuster, and submit as quickly as possible. Don't make permanent repairs until the insurance company has inspected the property and you've agreed on the cost.

Remember that all insurance company settlement offers can be negotiated, so don't sign on the dotted line too quickly. If you need to protect the property with specific actions, inform your insurer and keep detailed records of the expenses.

Step 4 — Get government help

If you don't have coverage — or if your insurance does not provide enough money to rebuild or get back on your feet, access federal programs or aid from nonprofits to rebuild.

Apply for FEMA assistance through DisasterAssistance.gov, the FEMA mobile app, or by calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. FEMA also provides Transitional Sheltering Assistance for short-term, emergency sheltering options in participating hotels.

One note: FEMA has explained that it can't provide aid to cover expenses that a recipient has already received help covering, whether through insurance claims or via a donations page, like GoFundMe.

Step 5 — Don't sweat tax season

The IRS announced that natural disaster victims will have until October 15th, to file various federal individual and business tax returns and make tax payments.



Additionally, they will have access to retirement savings to help shoulder the financial burden. Victims can withdraw up to \$22,000 from an IRA or other eligible retirement plan, which would be exempt from the 10 percent early distribution tax, if under the age of 59½. The IRS will allow repayment of these funds within three years of the distribution.

Step 6 — Beware the fraudsters

It's sad to say it, but desperate disaster victims often fall prey to criminals. Be defensive and remember that only scammers will insist you pay for services by wire transfer, gift card, payment app, cryptocurrency or in cash.


Avoid anyone who promises they can help you qualify for relief from the government for a fee. That's a scam. FEMA will never require you to pay a fee to get disaster relief. Never sign your insurance check over to someone else.

Be sure to research contractors and get estimates from more than one before signing a contract for work. Get a written contract for repairs and read it carefully before signing it.

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



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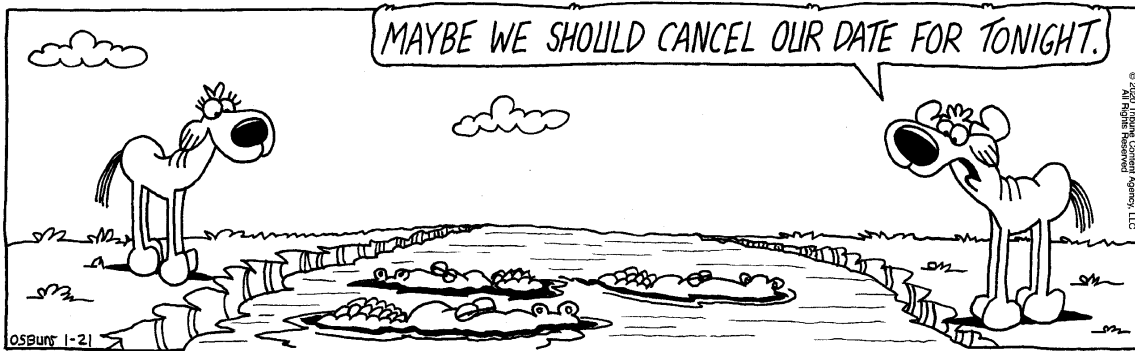
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Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



The Middletons by Dana Summers



9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



Word Play Answers Page 24

JUMBLE

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

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

NGROP
□ □ □ □ □

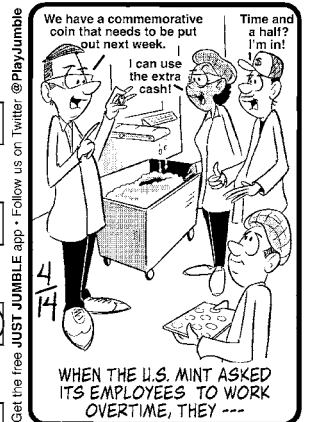
YMMMO
□ □ □ □ □

EDXECE
□ □ □ □ □

MYLHNA
□ □ □ □ □

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□ □ □ □ □



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

□ □ □ □ □

(Answers tomorrow)

Boggle BrainBusters!

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

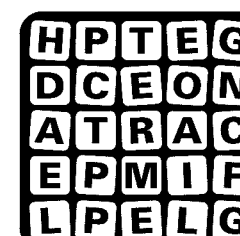
BOGGLE POINT SCALE

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

YOUR BOGGLE RATING

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

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST NINE FRUITS in the grid of letters.

Answers to Last Sunday's Boggle BrainBusters:
BEE ANT WASP FLEA LOUSE BEETLE HORNET CRICKET

FUN & GAMES

More Word Play Answers Page 24

SCRABBLE G₂ R₁ A₁ M₃ S₁

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1st Letter Triple
RACK 1

RACK 2

Double Word Score
RACK 3

RACK 4

PAR SCORE 155-165
BEST SCORE 220

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

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

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

09-30

EDITORS: Here is the solution to today's SCRABBLEGRAM

Word Find By Frank J. D'Agostino

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

Candles	Hats	Plates
Candy	Ice Cream	Present
Card	Icing	Ribbon
Chocolate	Invitation	Surprise
Cookies	Music	Toys
Cupcake	Noise-maker	Treats
Festive	Party	Wish
Games	Party	Wrapping
Gifts	Piñata	Paper
Guests	Pizza	Year

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

Filbert by LA Bonté



Political Cartoon of the Week by Joel Pett



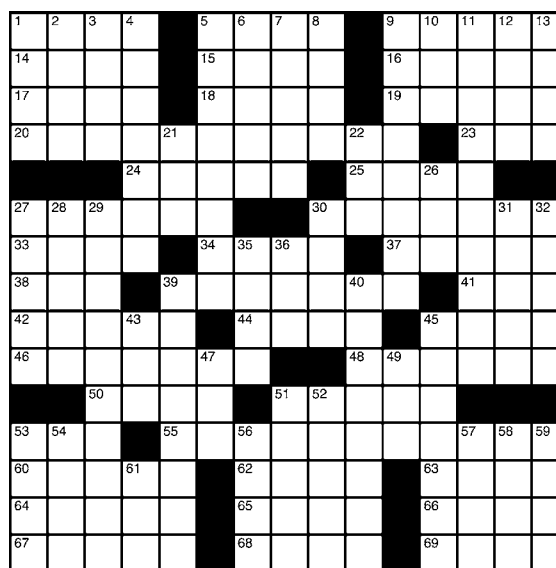
Sudoku

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

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

Crossword

Across
1 Working stiff
5 Brief timetable
9 Racing venue near Windsor Castle
14 "Beetle Bailey" dog
15 Greet from a distance
16 Waste not
17 Inch or foot
18 Actor Bana of "Closed Circuit"
19 Singer Haggard
20 *Shake off one's daydreams
23 Towel holder
24 Strokes on greens
25 Rap fan
27 Little child, in Cannes
30 Decanter relatives
33 Richly adorn
34 "Born Free" lioness
37 Came ____; Mexican dish
38 Old AT&T rival
39 *Cause of chubby cheeks, perhaps
41 Perp's prey, in copspeak
42 French floor
44 Like the lama, but not the llama, in a Nash poem



45 Foot warmer
46 Switches for mood lighting
48 Boardroom illustrations
50 Farmland measure
51 Tawdry
53 Trojan
55 Leave hurriedly ... and, literally, what the first words of the answers to starred clues can do

5 Sugary brewed drink
6 K. to a jeweler
7 Lesser of two ____
8 Metric prefix
9 Kid in a military family
10 Observe
11 *Ingratiate oneself (with)
12 Norwegian capital

60 Joint commonly sprained
62 ____ facto
63 ____ a heart!
64 Stout mug
65 Property claim
66 Biblical garden
67 ____ four: small cake
68 "A ____ of Two Cities"
69 Bird's home

Down
1 High hair style
2 Active European volcano
3 Of the ears
4 Tablet

13 Ready to be kicked off
21 Gallop
22 Ltrs. in an unfilled TV time slot
26 Western treaty org.
27 Urged (on)
28 Gangster Frank in "Road to Perdition"
29 *Bargain hunter's venue
30 Street eatery
31 Order from on high
32 Pink-slips
35 Debt-heavy corp. deals
36 Word in a thesaurus: Abbr.
39 Temporary Oktoberfest structure
40 "The Untouchables" gangster
43 Yukon automaker
45 Drink pourer's words
47 Actor Stephen
49 Wellness gp.
51 Vintage photo hue
52 Painter's stand
53 Homet, e.g.
54 Poker bet that's not optional
56 Highland garb
57 Florida's Miami-____ County
58 Times to call, in ads
59 Apartment payment
61 52, in old Rome

Area rich in artifacts

From The Journal & Press

50 Years Ago

January 23, 1975

There were Indians in this area as early as 9000 years ago, says Fred Stevens of Greenwich, and he has the relics to prove it.

Mr. Stevens has been an amateur archaeologist for 17 years; in that time he has found hundreds of Indian artifacts, including pot fragments, tools, and pipes. Each item that he discovered, says Mr. Stevens, was within a 10 mile radius of Greenwich.

Four sites in the area have proven particularly rich in historical evidence for the ambitious digger: Winney Island in Grangerville, the west side of the Hudson in Fort Miller, behind the Schuyler mansion, where Fish Creek flows into the Hudson, and at Clarks Mills, where the Battenkill joins the Hudson.

It was at the sites where Mr. Stevens uncovered the items that make up his extensive collection of Iroquois and Algonquin artifacts. In the above picture, Mr. Stevens is holding a projectile point that he estimates to be 9000 years old. It is his oldest piece. Carbon dating is used to estimate the age of the things he finds.

The pot to the left of Mr. Stevens is about 1000 years old. He found the pot in 86 pieces and glued them together to show what it once looked like. Also, in the picture, in front of Mr. Stevens, are two stone pestles, once used by

Indians for grinding acorns or grain.

Mr. Stevens got started in archaeology because his son was interested in it, in 1958. One day, Mr. Stevens noticed some dirt that a neighbor had had delivered to use as fill. The dirt had rocks in it that had been cracked by fire, said Mr. Stevens, so he figured there were more clues to the past in the ground from which the dirt had been taken. So he investigated. This led him to the Schuyler mansion site, where he found the pot which is in the picture. He had to dig 42 inches down to find it. Evidence of several different cultures can be found at that one site, says Mr. Stevens.

The best place to find artifacts, he says, is near the rivers. That is where the Indians settled. The area along the Hudson, between where the Battenkill and Fish Creek joined the river, says Mr. Stevens, is known as the Indians crossroads.

Scalpels, drills, knives, picks, and projectile points have been turned up in the area.

Mr. Stevens emphasizes that not all projectile points are arrowheads. As a matter of fact, he says, few of the points he has found were arrowheads. Most of them were used for spears and javelins. Arrows are a relatively new invention, he says, probably about 2000 years old.

Decorated pottery is a common find in this area. In his collection, Mr. Stevens has pots showing the advancement of the Indians' pottery-making ability over the ages.



None of the pots he finds are whole, however, this is partly due to the fact that the pressure of the dirt breaks the dishes, but also because of an old Indian custom of "killing" a pot once it has served its owner. The Indians believed that the pots had evil spirits in them, says Mr. Stevens. This was actually because they never washed the pots, he says, so eventually they began to be a source of illness. But for one reason or another, the Indians broke the pot after using them for a while.

Also, says Mr. Stevens, they would break the tip off an arrow or spear point that had been used to kill an animal.

When the Indians buried a dead man, he says, some of the deceased belongings would be buried with the body. Everything else would be destroyed. Mr. Stevens finds no evidence at the Indians accumulated wealth.

Occasionally he has discovered Indian graves, but he leaves them undisturbed. As far as artifacts, he collects them only because they interest him. Mr. Stevens says he would not sell any of the pieces he has discovered.

FUN & GAMES SOLUTIONS

Boggle: FIG DATE
LIME PEAR PEACH
APPLE MANGO OR-
ANGE APRICOT

Jumble: PRONG
MOMMY EXCEED
HYMNAL - MADE
MORE MONEY

SCRABBLE G R A M S SOLUTION

B ₃	I ₁	M ₃	E ₁	T ₁	A ₁	L ₁	RACK 1 =	67
D ₂	I ₁	A ₁	M ₃	O ₁	N ₁	D ₂	RACK 2 =	61
M ₃	E ₁	L ₁	O ₁	D ₂	I ₁	C ₃	RACK 3 =	74
F ₄	R ₁	O ₁	Z ₁₀	E ₁	N ₁		RACK 4 =	18

PAR SCORE 155-165 TOTAL **220**
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3	8	5	6	2	7	9	4	1
6	9	7	1	4	3	5	2	8
1	4	2	8	9	5	3	6	7
9	6	1	4	3	2	7	8	5
5	2	8	9	7	6	4	1	3
4	7	3	5	8	1	2	9	6
7	3	6	2	1	4	8	5	9
2	1	9	7	5	8	6	3	4
8	5	4	3	6	9	1	7	2

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

When it's time for a Roth conversion

Breanna Lundy
Journal & Press

My first experience with a Roth IRA was when I was a kid! I grew up on a family farm and my siblings, cousins, and I were paid to work on the farm and strongly encouraged to contribute our compensation to a Roth IRA. This is how I learned to invest and I would attribute this as one of the main reasons why I decided to start a business as a Financial Advisor upon graduating from college. The Roth IRA came around when I was 11 years old and my experience with them for almost three decades now has been very positive, especially when used strategically as part of a financial plan.

In life, you often get second chances — and the same is true with investing. To illustrate: You might not have been able to contribute to a Roth IRA during your working years due to your income level, but you may get that opportunity as you near retirement, or even when you are retired — through a Roth conversion.

Why is a Roth IRA desirable for some people? Here are the key benefits:

- Tax-free withdrawals — You put in after-tax dollars to a Roth IRA, so you can withdraw your contributions at any time, free of taxes and penalties. And if you've had your account for at least five years and you're at least 59½, you can also withdraw your earnings free of taxes.

- No RMDs — With a traditional IRA,

you'll have to start taking withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — when you turn 73, or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later. But there's no RMD requirement with a Roth IRA — you can essentially leave the money intact as long as you like.

- Tax-free legacy for your heirs — When your heirs inherit your Roth IRA, they can withdraw the contributions without paying taxes or penalties, and if the account has been open at least five years, they can also withdraw earnings tax free.

But even if you were aware of these advantages, you might not have been able to invest in a Roth IRA for much of your life. For one thing, you might have earned too much money — a Roth IRA, unlike a traditional IRA, has income limits. Also, a Roth IRA has only been around since 1998, so, in the previous years, you were limited to a traditional IRA.

As you approach retirement, though, you might start thinking of just how much you'd like to benefit from a Roth IRA. And you can do so by converting your traditional IRA to a Roth. While this sounds simple, there's a major caveat: taxes. You'll be taxed on the amount in pre-tax dollars you contributed to a traditional IRA and then converted to a Roth IRA. (If you have both pre- and after-tax dollars in your traditional IRA, the taxable amount is based on the percentage of pre-tax dollars.)

If you have large amounts in a traditional IRA, the tax bill on conversion can be signifi-

cant. The key to potentially lowering this tax bill is timing. Generally speaking, the lower your income in a given year, the more favorable it is for you to convert to a Roth IRA. So, for example, if you have already retired, but have not started collecting RMDs, your income may be down.

Timing also comes into play with the financial markets. When the market is going through a decline, and the value of your traditional IRA drops, you could convert the same number of shares of the underlying investments and receive a lower tax bill or convert more shares of these investments for what would have been the same tax bill.

Finally, you could lower your tax bill in any given year by stretching out your Roth IRA conversions over several years, rather than doing it all at once.

You'll want to consult with your tax advisor before embarking on this conversion — but if it's appropriate for your situation, you could find that owning a Roth IRA can benefit you and your family for years to come.

A Greenwich, NY, business owner, Breanna Lundy is a Certified Financial Planner and Exit Planning Advisor with Edward Jones at 2 Church St. Inspired by her unique upbringing on her family's 5th generation farm, she works with successful entrepreneurs and individuals on their journey to live a life they love through financial independence. She believes her impact can reach far beyond her work, with a vision to improve lives and financial security in Greenwich, by supporting causes like the "Paint the Town Purple" event she started to raise awareness and revenue for Alzheimer's on The Longest Day in Greenwich each year. Contact her at breanna.lundy@edwardjones.com or (518) 692-2649.



Pitch-In with non-profits

The Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce introduced an expanded Pitch-In initiative, a dynamic program aimed at connecting residents with local non-profits. Built on the belief that small acts of kindness lead to big changes, this initia-

tive seeks to make Saratoga County a brighter, stronger, and more connected place to live through volunteerism. To explore volunteer opportunities and learn more about Pitch-In, visit saratoga.org/pitch-in.

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www.eckankar-ny.org/seminar2025

OUR FEATURED SPEAKERS

Dr. Alain Le Guillou



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

Laura Blank



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

Liz Mallett



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

Steve Mallett



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



NY_ECK_SEMINAR_2025

Sample Seminar Topics:

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

Raise Your Spiritual I.Q.—Intro to Eckankar

A Journey through Consciousness

Loving as God Loves: A Secret to Spiritual Living

Rare goose (now geese) update

You may have read our cover story in the last issue of The Greenwich Journal on a super rare goose that landed in Greenwich. Well, shortly after we printed, the goose vanished, and we thought for good — but actually, it has turned up at Hudson Crossing Park in Schuylerville — and it has been joined by another rare bird!

The park is leading a tour to possibly see them. Here is the release:

All are invited to a Wild Goose Chase on Sunday, February 2, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Hudson Crossing Park! Participants will meet at the HCP pavilion at 10am and before hiking to Eagle Point in search of the rare geese currently visiting our area. Please be sure to bring your binoculars, dress warmly and with proper footwear. If snowy, yaktrax or walking poles are suggested.

What exactly are we looking for? First up is the Taiga Bean-Goose (pictured, top center), a rare visitor from the far reaches of the Arctic tundra in Siberia and Scandinavia. This incredible bird typically spends its winters in Europe and Asia, so seeing one here in North America is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

But that's not all — joining the Taiga Bean-Goose is another remarkable guest: a Ross's X Cackling Goose hybrid! This unique mix combines features of both the petite Ross's Goose and the equally small Cackling Goose, making it a fascinating and uncommon sight.

This event is free and open to the public.



The Taiga Bean Goose (center). Below: The Ross's X Cackling Goose hybrid is the one with the white head. —Photos courtesy of Andrea Denton

Donations to Hudson Crossing Park are always accepted.

Said park executive director Kate Morse: “Hudson Crossing Park has always been a destination for birding enthusiasts, and with the recent appearance of the Taiga Bean-Goose and Ross's X Cackling Goose hybrid birders have flocked to Schuylerville from all over the state and country, with some visitors flying in from Ohio and beyond for their chance to see these rare geese. This once-in-a-lifetime event is a great reminder of how important



public green spaces are, not only for our own communities, but for those who visit us. It's a thrill to know that people will be talking about checking these birds off their 'bucket list' of birds and that it happened right here at Hudson Crossing Park.”

On human trafficking

There will be a presentation on “Human Trafficking” at the Centenary Methodist Church, 1 Gray Avenue, Greenwich, on February 5, at 6:00 p.m. It will be presented by Susana Lehan, Ph.D, Director of Anti-Human Trafficking, USA Eastern Territory, The Salvation Army/Saratoga Springs Corps. She will tell of the trafficking's impact around the world and in our communities. The event is free and open to the public.

HVCC Financial Aid help

Hudson Valley Community College will host a free event to help high school seniors and their families complete the college financial aid application process. Staff from the college's Financial Aid Office will be on hand to provide instruction and step-by-step assistance.

SUNY Financial Aid Day on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 9 a.m. to noon, is open to all high school seniors and families. Sessions will take place on the main campus in Troy and also at HVCC North in Malta. Registration is required. Go to HVCC.edu to learn more.

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Laughing matters: The spirituality of joy

MaryAnne Brown
Journal & Press

This evening, I went against policy and checked the TV for today's news. Immediately I began to feel that old familiar anxiety, worry and tension mount. The details of the broadcast left me feeling overwhelmed and powerless. My inner voice began to scold me, reminding that if I was to prevent a very bad case of "headline stress disorder," I needed to press "off," and go write this column.

Certainly, the woes of the world are troubling and nonstop, but we can only take so much before our spirits begin to droop. That is why it is essential to balance life's heaviness with moments of lightheartedness. Maybe it's time for all of us to lighten up a little. Do you have a favorite funny story that never fails to make you smile? When was the last time joy filled your heart? Where—and with whom—can you count on time spent together to bring pure enjoyment?

A pastor I once knew was giving a sermon on joy when his phone, which he had forgotten to silence, started blasting "Don't Worry, Be Happy." Without missing a beat, he grinned and said, "Well, there's my sermon—let's all go home!" The congregation erupted in laughter, and for the

rest of the service, there was an unmistakable lightness in the air.

That moment was a perfect reminder that joy isn't just a feeling—it's a choice, a way of seeing life. As Proverbs 17:22 says, "A cheerful heart is good medicine," and sometimes, the best sermon isn't preached—it's laughed.

As I was writing thank-you notes after my husband's funeral, I took a break and watched America's Funniest Videos. At first, I let out a few quiet giggles, but before long, I was laughing loudly, completely swept up in the funny film clips. I felt great afterward and had proven to myself that laughter truly is the best medicine. Research even shows that laughter changes body chemistry, shifting the rhythm of breathing so the heart and body release tension. The physiologi-

cal effects of joy not only reduce stress, but also boost immune function, enhance overall health and studies even link joy to longevity and mental health.

While visiting friends, we began sharing stories of our close encounters with mice and bats. Before long, we were doubled over, laughing at each other's adventures. For example, one night when our parish priest was living in the rectory, he called for help—a bat had appeared and was flying wildly around his living room. My husband and I went over to assist. The men, however, stayed safely behind closed doors in the kitchen while I took on the task of capturing the bat. Once I had it cornered, I couldn't resist a dramatic moment. Channeling the board game Clue, I called out, "Mr. Bat was killed by the retired nurse, in the living room, with a candlestick!" Father yelled back, "You're my new best friend."

This is much better than breaking news—yes?

Of course, there are dark periods in every life. However, rather than despair, joy can coexist with grief and pain. When we practice joy through gratitude, openness, and acceptance of others, it becomes an anchor, allowing trivial frustrations to fade away as we focus on the goodness in life and in those around us. I'm reminded of Nelson Mandela, who, despite his long imprisonment, remained focused on his purpose of racial equality. He never gave up, even in the face of tremendous hardship.

There are many remarkable people in our own communities who have cultivated joy through prayer, practice, and service to others. These individuals brighten our days with a smile, a simple act of kindness, or the support we need most in times of difficulty.

What brings us joy? What makes us laugh or lifts our spirits? How can we share that lighthearted energy with others. We might start a joy journal, volunteer, or simply smile more. For example, I wrote in my joy journal about a young boy standing in a long line with his dad, waiting for an ice cream



cone. The man ahead of them had a beeper (remember those?), and it started beeping. The boy looked up and said, "Look out, Dad. He's backing up."

Indeed, joy is at the heart of our spiritual life. The renowned spiritual leader Henri Nouwen reminds us: "Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day." May we choose joy today—and may that choice be reflected in each smile.

MaryAnne Brown, RN, BSN, MA is a music minister at St. Joseph's Church and has a special interest in spirituality and health. She serves on the Retreat Team at Dominican Retreat and Conference Center in Niskayuna and provides grantwriting services.



Police: A foot chase, arson, burglary

Parolee arrested after foot pursuit in Hebron

According to Sheriff Jeffrey J. Murphy, on Thursday, January 30, 2025 at about 11:53 AM, the Washington County Sheriff's Office responded to Darfler Road in the Town of Hebron to assist New York State Parole Officers with attempting to locate a wanted parolee.



Upon arrival, Deputies learned that the parolee, Tyrone A. Wood, age 28, was wanted on an active parole warrant and was possibly living in a trailer behind a residence on Darfler Road. Wood has fled from police multiple times in the past and as officers approached, he again fled on foot into a wooded area off Darfler Road.

What Wood did not know was that Deputies had already set up a perimeter around the area with multiple officers. As Wood fled across various fields, Deputies and Parole Officers quickly closed in from multiple directions. Deputies were able to catch up to him in an adjacent field and he was taken into custody without further incident.

Wood subsequently complained of difficulty breathing and was evaluated by EMS but was otherwise uninjured. Additional charges are likely.

Salem man charged with felony in welfare fraud case

The Washington County Sheriff's Office arrested Donald L. Watkins (38) Jan. 24 for Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a Class E Felony. After an investigation into



Welfare Fraud reported by the Washington County Department of Social Services.

Watkins failed to report income he was receiving and received an over payment of \$1,977.00 between April 1st, 2023, and October 31st, 2023.

An arrest warrant was issued for Donald L. Watkins out of the Town of Fort Edward Court, and Watkins was later arrested as a result.

Fort Edward man charged with felony for failing to properly register

Scott A. Sutliff was arrested Jan. 23 for Failure to Properly Register as a Sex Offender, a Class E Felony, after an investigation conducted by the Washington County Sheriff's Office. It is alleged that Sutliff failed to report for his 90-day report date and failed to advise of an address change which are stipulations of the Sex Offender Registry. Sutliff is a level 3 offender for a 2006 conviction for Sexual Abuse in the 1st degree.



Sutliff was released on an Appearance Ticket to appear in the Town of Fort Edward Court on a later date.

Arson suspect found hiding in residence and arrested

The Washington County Sheriff's Office had been actively searching for Garrett T. Bard (30) of Whitehall in relation to an arson that occurred at 28 Mountain Street in the Village of Whitehall. An arrest war-



rant was issued for Bard on felony charges relating to the fire that destroyed the house at 28 Mountain Street and caused extensive damage to a neighboring house and property.

On January 28, 2025 at about 3:45 pm, Deputies continued following up on leads which led them to a residence on Williams Street in Whitehall. Bard was subsequently located inside the residence in a rear bedroom hiding under a table. He was taken in custody and transported to the Law Enforcement Center for arraignment at CAP Court. Bard was charged with Arson in the 4th degree, Endangering the welfare of a child, Criminal Mischief and Reckless Endangerment. He was arraigned and ROR'd at CAP Court.

Hudson Falls man charged in Kingsbury burglary case

The Washington County Sheriff's Office arrested Brandon J. Cole Jan. 24 for Burglary in the 2nd Degree, a class C Felony, Burglary in the 3rd Degree, a class D Felony, and Petit Larceny, a class A Misdemeanor after an investigation into a Burglary at a residence in the Town of Kingsbury. It is alleged that Cole entered a residence and an outbuilding on the property and stole items from within.



Evidence found at the scene linked Cole to the crime. Cole was arraigned at the Washington County Centralized Arraignment and was committed to the Washington County Jail in lieu of bail. Bail was set at 5,000 dollars cash, 10,000 bond, and 20,000 secured.

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A polar vortex now doesn't sound so bad

Greg Schwem

*Tribune Content Agency
Special to Journal & Press*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Arizona: Melting sounds like a horrible way to die.

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

California: I think we’ve discussed this.

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

Connecticut: Too hard to spell.

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

Florida: I like golf, but not THAT much.

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



Scene from the Clarks Mills, Feb. 4, 2025

“Peachtree,” that solidified it.

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

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

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

Iowa: Its residents talk about Indianapolis the same way.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Trivia Night.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Hampshire: Its most famous residents are leaves.

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

Please read more on the next page

County's 250th committee fundraiser

Step back in time to the late 18th century with an immersive and interactive experience that brings the American Revolution to life. On Saturday, March 15, 2025, the Washington County 250th Committee will host a Tavern Talk fundraiser event, filled with captivating stories, period-inspired food, and engaging reenactors. The event will be held at the historic former Washington County Courthouse and Jail, located at 122 Main St., Hudson Falls, NY.

The festivities begin at 12:00 p.m. with a guided tour of the courthouse and jail, offering fascinating stories, documentation, and insights into the building's history. At 1:00 p.m. guests will enjoy a hearty, period-themed meal prepared by Fire Rock Catering, starting with appetizers including charcuterie boards featuring a variety of meats, cheeses, breads, and more. Guests will then enjoy a buffet lunch featuring hearty dishes inspired by 18th-century fare, including beef stew,

haddock, a robust potato and vegetable soup, and freshly baked rolls. Dessert includes two varieties of pies. A cash bar will be available.

Throughout the meal, guests will be visited by reenactors dressed in 18th-century attire, who will sit and share captivating stories of daily life during the American Revolution as well as their political views. These lively interactions offer a unique opportunity to learn about the struggles, triumphs, and customs of the period. As the reenactors move through the room, their engaging narratives will transport guests to another time, making the experience both educational and entertaining. To further enhance the immersive atmosphere, live performances of period music will fill the air, providing a soundtrack that complements the historical theme of the event.

Tickets are \$50 per person and must be purchased by Wednesday, March 12, 2025. Proceeds will support future events and

activities organized by the Washington County 250th Committee. These initiatives will celebrate and honor Washington County's pivotal role in the founding of our nation. For tickets visit: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/6536181

Purpose of the Washington County 250th Committee

To celebrate the 250th anniversaries of the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and the Battles of Bennington and Saratoga, and the ultimate victory, in a way that increases the knowledge of its members and the citizens of Washington County about the County's connection with these events.

For more information call the Washington County Historical Society at (518) 747-9108.

(cont.)

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

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

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

North Dakota: Ever seen " Fargo?" It's shockingly accurate.

Ohio: The state's definition of a "three way" involves chili, cheese and spaghetti. What does that tell you?

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

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

Pennsylvania: Full of cheaters, fraud-

sters and incompetents. Also known as "2020 election poll workers."

Rhode Island: Can you even get a direct flight?

South Carolina: For a while its most famous resident was a guy named "Hootie."

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

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

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

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

Vermont: See "New Hampshire."

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

Washington: Microsoft is headquar-

tered there. Microsoft invented Teams. Teams sucks.

West Virginia: John Denver described it as "almost heaven." So what happened?

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

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

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

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



Navigating life with classic TV wisdom

Michael Levy
Journal & Press

As I sat down to write this column, pondering the shock value of the latest news stories, I realized that many childhood lessons learned from countless hours in front of the TV have helped me make sense of the chaos.

I may not be “smarter than the average bear” but I ponder why sometimes life hums along like a rerun of “The Mary Tyler Moore Show” — everything is light, breezy, and optimistic, and then, without warning, it flips into complete chaos, as unpredictable as an episode of “The Twilight Zone.”

In response to today’s current events, the first phrase from TV history to erupt from the depths of my mind is the iconic opening from “ABC’s Wide World of Sports” — “The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.” That sums up the news these days, doesn’t it? And then I heard Charlie Brown’s exasperated cry, “Good grief!”

When the happenings of the world seem overwhelming to you, take a cue from Sgt. Joe Friday on “Dragnet” and seek out, “Just the facts, ma’am.” Facts keep us grounded in a landscape filled with rumors and hyperbole. And it does not hurt to channel a little “Columbo” curiosity at the same time - asking the right questions can unravel even the most tangled mysteries. After all, as “The X-Files” reminds us, “The truth is out there.”

Speaking of truth, I sometimes wish we could all be more like Leslie Knope from “Parks and Recreation,” showering people with genuine compliments like, “You beautiful, tropical fish!” Instead, too often, it is more like “Seinfeld” — petty arguments about nothing.

These days, we could all use a bit of “Happy Days” optimism — where even the toughest situations could be tackled with a self-assured “Ayyyyy!” from Fonzie. And as

Samantha on “Bewitched” showed, sometimes a little twitch of the nose can work wonders.

Of course, navigating relationships with friends and family who view the world differently can be stressful. Sometimes I wish I could use Edith Bunker’s earnest “Oh, Archie!” when my patience is tested. But then I think of the unshakable familial bonds in “The Brady Bunch” or “The Partridge Family.” Even the most complex relationships can find harmony — with the right catchy theme song, of course. I also remember “The Waltons” saying goodnight to one another — a poignant reminder that love and connection endure. “Goodnight, John-Boy” means never going to bed angry with each other.

But let us be real. Life is not all “Happy, happy, joy, joy” like in the world of “Ren & Stimpy.” Sometimes it is messy, awkward, and downright complicated. When things go wrong, I hear Homer Simpson saying “D’oh!” until I remembered Mr. Rogers’ gentle reminder, “Look for the helpers.” That advice, originally meant for children frightened by the world, is just as meaningful for adults.

There’s always wisdom to be found when life doesn’t make sense. As Bob Newhart taught us through his dry wit, sometimes the best response is just a deadpan look and a simple “Uh-huh.”

Of course, not every situation calls for restraint. Sometimes you need to channel “Breaking Bad’s” Walter White when he declared, “I am the one who knocks!” No, I am not advocating a descent into criminal drug enterprises, but there’s a lesson there for taking charge of your life — knocking on the doors of opportunity and refusing to take no for an answer.

Yet sometimes life feels more like “Gilligan’s Island,” where no matter how hard you try, you just cannot get off the island of your troubles. I have always wondered how the Professor could practically build



a supercomputer out of coconuts and bamboo but somehow couldn’t patch a hole in the boat. There were episodes where they ALMOST made it off that island, but soon they were forced to repeat Maxwell Smart’s famous refrain, “Missed it by that much!”

And when life hands you lemons like this, perhaps the better solution is to think like Hawkeye Pierce on “M*A*S*H” — mix up a batch of martinis and joke your way through the chaos. But before things get out-of-hand, remember Barney Fife’s timeless advice from “The Andy Griffith Show” to “Nip it in the bud!”

At the end of the day, I will take some advice from “Star Trek,” the original one starring William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy, to “Live long and prosper.” Life may not come with a TV script, but with a little humor, resilience, maybe a classic catchphrase, and a random thought or two, we can navigate every plot twist life throws our way.

Michael Levy is a retired government manager residing in Greenwich NY and is employed now as a technical consultant. He is also a Commercial Pilot and a Ham Radio operator.



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Thomas A. Risse, 80

Thomas A. Risse, 80, of Salem, passed away on Tuesday, January 21, 2025. Tom was born on April 9, 1944, in Newton, NJ, to the late Austin and Marie (Smith) Risse. He graduated from Newton High School and later from SUNY Delhi.

Tom proudly served in the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged. In his youth, he was actively involved in 4-H and FFA. In his later years, Tom remained passionate about local sportsman organizations and wildlife conservation. Tom worked for Agway in Salem and then CaroVail in Salem until his retirement.

He was blessed twice in love—first by his wife of 36 years, Charlotte Risse, and later by his longtime partner, Laurie York-Risse, both of whom preceded him in death.

Tom is survived by his daughter, Tonia Risse; his sister, Melinda Risse Nutter; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Tom's bold and outgoing personality touched many lives, and he will be greatly missed by his countless friends and acquaintances. Services will be held in the spring, with details to be announced.

Memorial contributions in Tom's memory may be made to the Hunt of a Lifetime

Foundation, P.O. Box 241, Harborcreek, PA 16421, or to the Lorraine York-Risse Scholarship Foundation. For more information on donating to the scholarship foundation, contact Tonia Risse.

To express your sympathy or share a memory of Tom, please visit gariiepy-funeralhomes.com. The McClellan-Gariepy Funeral Home, Inc. in Salem is assisting the family with arrangements.



David Jonathan Cook, 48

It is with deep sorrow and profound love that we announce the passing of Salem's David Jonathan Cook, cherished husband, son, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, and friend. David passed away on January 10, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, intelligence, and an infectious enthusiasm for life.

Born on October 22, 1976, in Christchurch, New Zealand, David was deeply connected to the family and community that shaped him. From an early age, he exhibited a passion for learning, particularly in the realms of academics, history, and the arts. A proud member of the Church of Christ, David's curiosity was boundless—whether it was in the classroom or exploring creative outlets like visual arts, drama, and music.

David's academic journey was marked by excellence. He thrived at Papanui High School and later graduated with honors from Canterbury University in Christchurch, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. Beyond his academic prowess, David was a gifted athlete, excelling in rugby and later dedicating himself to the discipline of martial arts.

David's professional life as a software engineer led him from New Zealand to the United

States, where he worked at Sungard Data Systems. He often spoke with pride about his love for America, the country he chose to call home with his beloved wife, Aimee, and their dog, Riker.

Outside of his work, David had a remarkable talent for working with his hands. Whether it was crafting, repairing, or baking, he brought creativity and care to everything he touched. A devoted baker, David delighted friends and family with desserts from his homeland in New Zealand, sharing a piece of his culture with those around him. His love for the outdoors and nature was another defining characteristic of his life, often finding peace and joy in the natural world.

David will be remembered not only for his quirky, fun-loving personality but also for the gentleness and kindness he showed to all who knew him. His sense of humor, humility, and the strength of his character left an indelible mark on everyone fortunate enough to call him a friend.

David is survived by his parents, Margaret Blampied Cook and Norman Cook, both of Christchurch, New Zealand, as well as his siblings: Gregory (Ange) Cook and Louise Cook (Doug) Tavinor, also of Christchurch. He is

also survived by his nieces and nephews. Above all, David is survived by his loving wife, Aimee Majoros, with whom he shared a love that was deep, abiding, and truly exceptional. Together, they built a partnership filled with mutual respect, joy, and unwavering devotion.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 3:00 PM at McClellan-Gariepy Funeral Home, located at 19 East Broadway, Salem, NY. Following the service, a reception was held at the Fort Salem Theater, 11 East Broadway, Salem. To express your sympathy or share a memory please visit gariiepyfuneralhomes.com.



OBITUARIES

Lynne Herrick Black, 65

The family of Lynne Herrick Black of Greenwich, formerly of Walpole, MA, is saddened by the loss of their beloved Lynne. Lynne passed away peacefully with loved ones by her side on December 11, 2024 at Glens Falls Hospital due to complications of ALS. Born in Troy, New York on March 23, 1959, Lynne's parents were Joan Farnan Campbell and

Burton Herrick, Jr. She graduated from Stillwater Central School in 1978 and earned a New York State cosmetology license. She was employed by Fairchilds of Latham and General Electric of Schenectady.

She was predeceased by her dad and beloved daughter, Chavon Provancher, four grandparents, and her fur companion Kendra. Lynne is survived by her loving children Stacia and Russell Black of Walpole, MA, her mother, Joan Campbell of Salem, NY, her sisters Dawn Herrick (Michael Ventre) of Saratoga Springs, and Shawna Herrick Greene (Kevin) of Greenwich. She is also survived by her brother James (Denise) Herrick of Greenwich, Christopher Herrick of Albany, half brother Jamie Bret (Dawn) Herrick of Stillwater, four stepsisters and brothers from the Stillwater area and five stepbrothers in the Salem area.

Lynne is also survived by numerous aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and special



friends. She enjoyed camping, boating, scuba diving and spending time at the Saratoga Springs Library. Lynne was an excellent cook.

Paul Black and Lynne's family wish to thank Sister Donna and direct care staff at Glens Falls Hospital for their expert care during Lynne's final weeks. Lynne requested there be no viewing hours. A celebration of Lynne's life will take place in early 2025. Donations may be made to any library or animal shelter in Lynne's memory.

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Checkbook Challenge

The Greenwich Central School eighth Grade FACS (Family and Consumer Science) classes have been learning about Financial Management which includes learning about budgeting, banking, credit, and balancing your checkbook.

At the beginning of each 20-week class, the students receive a checkbook and are required to record their transactions in their checkbook register. They earn FACS cash-receiving a weekly direct deposit paycheck by punching a time card at the beginning of each class period and also by signing up for odd jobs. Students who sign up for the additional jobs are required to submit a letter of interest and interview for the position. Students also incur expenses, receive invoices/bills and are required to make payment

by writing a check from their checkbook for things such as borrowing/renting or purchase a writing utensil, losing an assignment worksheet, or forgetting to push in their chairs at the end of class. Late payment fees are charged for students not making timely payments. Every five weeks they then reconcile their accounts with “the bank”--a/k/a Ms. Saunders. The grade they earn is based on how accurately they maintain their checkbook register. As an added incentive students from each class were recognized as either having maintained the most accurate register or accumulating the highest balance.



More Checkbook Challenge winners: Lillian Moffitt, Ellora Talkington and Alexis Waite

The first semester “Checkbook Challenge” winners were Leia Cannon, Lillian Spicer, Lillian Moffitt, Brayden Perkins, Ellora Talkington, and Alexis Waite. A special thank you to TD Bank, Trustco, Navy Federal Credit Union and TCT Federal Credit Union for providing the prizes.

Schuylerville Repair Café

What do you do with a broken toaster? Or with a lamp that won't work? Or with a favorite shirt that is ripped? Toss it? No way! Schuylerville Public Library is organizing a Repair Café on Saturday, March 1st from 10am until 12pm.

At Schuylerville Public Library (52 Ferry Street) on Saturday March 1 everything centers on making repairs. Starting at 10am and ending at 12pm, various volunteer repair experts will be available to help make all possible repairs free of charge. Most tools and materials will also be on hand. People visiting the Repair Café will bring along

their broken items from home. Limit of two items per person. Small appliances, lamps, hair dryers, radios, clothes, toys... anything that is broken and small enough to carry is welcome and can more than likely be repaired. The Repair Café specialists almost always have the know-how.

By promoting repairs, the Library wants to help reduce mountains of waste. According to Library Director Caitlin Johnson, “By repairing instead of tossing, we lessen the strain on our environment.”

Interested in volunteering for this event,



as a repairer? Simply contact Caitlin Johnson at cjohnson@sals.edu. Schuylerville Public Library wishes to organize a Repair Café on a regular basis. News about dates of up-and-coming editions will follow as soon as possible!

Researching the Northrups

Washington County Historical Society's Local History Book Club will meet from 12:30 to 1:30 PM on Wednesday, February 12, at the historical society headquarters, the Wing-Northup House, 167 Broadway, Fort Edward. Historical society membership is not required for the book club. Attendees will discuss *The Autobiography of an American Family* by Edith Hay Wyckoff. Ten gen-

erations of the Northup family are chronicled from 1788 in Rhode Island through their residence in Washington County. It includes the story of the rescue of Solomon Northup from slavery on a plantation near New Orleans through the efforts of Sandy Hill attorney Henry B Northup. Solomon was returned to his wife and children in Glens Falls in 1853.

Edith Wyckoff was a newspaper reporter and editor. The 242-page book, published by the society in 2000, is available at the Washington Co. Historical Society book shop.

Future sessions of the club will include books about the larger Adirondack area as well as works by local authors. Upcoming topics include William Miller and the origin of the Seventh Day Adventists in Hampton; local area Freemasonry during and after the Revolution; and the early life of Chester Arthur, 21st President. For additional information, email connieandlee@roadrunner.com.

Reading Buddies at Greenwich Library

Greenwich Free Library will host Reading Buddies, a new weekly program which will pair young readers with teen volunteers who will support their progress as emerging readers and share in the love of stories. Young participants from grades 1–4 will be matched with a teen reading buddy from grades 9–12 to meet at the library once a week for ten weeks to play reading games and enjoy books and read together. Reading buddies will have their choice of library books to enjoy at the library and to borrow, and all registered young readers will receive free books to keep. Lola the therapy dog will also be present to hear stories and look at

pictures, and children who are not signed up for the program are welcome to drop in to read with Lola.

This will take place Thursdays, February 27–May 8, 3:00 - 4:00 PM, at Greenwich Free Library.

Young readers and teen volunteers are asked to sign up for all ten sessions, beginning on February 28 and concluding on May 8th (no meeting during the week of April school break). Teens will be contacted about volunteer training to occur earlier in February. Young participants can register on the library's online calendar and teen volunteers can apply through the library website.

This program is made possible with funds from a grant from the Glens Falls Foundation, a community foundation supporting local non-profit organizations that address the community's human, social, cultural and educational needs. Funds from the grant will also enable the library to add Wonderbooks to its children's collection. Wonderbooks are print books with an accompanying read-along audio function, so young readers can hear and read stories at the same time. Several Wonderbooks have already been added to the collection and are already very popular; the Wonderbooks collection will be further expanded throughout the coming year.

Heritage Hunters

Heritage Hunters meet Saturday, February 15th, at 1 pm at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring St. in Schuylerville. "The Kathans of Saratoga County" will be presented by John Scherer, Town of Clifton Park Historian. Learn about Captain John Kathan (1702-1787), a Scotch Irish settler and Indian trader, who settled with his family in the Sacandaga Valley in 1820. Many

offspring of the Kathan families still thrive in Saratoga County today.

John Scherer is also Senior Historian Emeritus at the New York State Museum, and author of numerous books related to area history. He is descended from the Kathans. Public is welcome. For info call 518-885-9309.

Fish fries

Centenary UMC has scheduled its annual Fish Fries. They will be held March 7, March 21 and April 4. The cost is \$16 per meal. Meals include fried fish sandwich, baked beans, potato salad and a dessert. These are drive-thru only at their location at the corner of Church and Gray in Greenwich. Pickup is 4:30-6 p.m. To reserve, call or text 603-770-3906.

Cambridge school news

On Thursday, Feb. 6 at 5:30 p.m., the Cambridge Central School District is hosting a Universal Pre-K (UPK) Open House for prospective families and students for the 2025-26 school year. Children residing in the Cambridge Central School District who will be 4 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2025 may be eligible for the program.

The program is fully staffed by Cambridge CSD teachers and support staff. The program day is 8 a.m. - 2:20 p.m. The school district provides bus transportation for children aged four and older. All students at Cambridge are eligible for free breakfast and lunch daily. Join them on Feb. 6 to meet the teachers and visit the

classrooms! They are excited to meet the incoming CCS Class of 2039!

That evening, families will be provided with information about the program and individuals will answer any questions that you may have. Families will also complete the registration process for their student(s).

In the event of inclement weather on Feb. 6, the Open House will take place Feb. 11.

Additionally, the program has two openings for the remainder of this school year. If you or anyone you know has an eligible student, please contact the Elementary Office at 518-677-8527, ext. 1416.

School Play

The Cambridge Elementary Drama Club will present their two productions of *The Principal's New Clothes*, written by Melanie Whitesides and will feature our 3rd and 4th grade students. Our fifth and sixth grade students will present *The Lion King* Kids, based on the Broadway production directed by Julie Taymor. Both productions will be presented on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. in the CCS Auditorium. The cost of admission will be \$5 for adults and \$2 for students. Senior citizens and children 5 and under are free. Refreshments and flowers for our cast will be available for purchase at the door.

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- **Event Listing/Community Calendar:** email us your upcoming events to have them added for free to our Community Calendar and promoted via our Facebook page
- **Referrals:** We refer to Member Businesses first and share Member Facebook posts - a terrific way to increase your on-line visibility
- **Annual placement** of our Member Listing in local papers and guides
- **Special Advertising Opportunities**
- **Annual Mixers** to meet and greet new and old friends away from the day-day hubbub of daily business.

We'd love to count you as a member of the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce and invite you to join us in supporting our community and businesses. Visit www.salemnychamber.com for link to join!