

The Greenwich Journal

Of Southern Washington County, Est. 1842



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The State of the Town

Late February 2025
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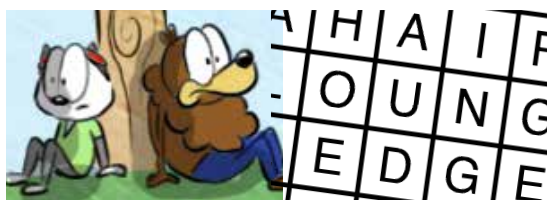
Supervisor lists 2024 accomplishments

Greenwich supervisor James Nolan details "The State of the Town" in this issue, listing 2024 accomplishments, including movement on improving town parks, planning for bike and walking trails, highway department streamlining, downtown revitalization, zoning updates, a summer youth program, grant funding, Clifford Oliver Day and more.

Read about this and more inside!

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Bob Henke's nature
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-Darren Johnson photo

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'Ride Along' with a snow plow operator - 8-9

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The State of the Town of Greenwich

James Nolan
Supervisor, Town of Greenwich
Special to Journal & Press

The Town of Greenwich made great strides in 2024 on advancing the goals of the 2023 Town and Village Comprehensive Plan. Many of our completed milestones as well as our continuing efforts, were accomplished in collaboration with the Village in the spirit of the creation and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

Most of these projects have been funded with State, Federal, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) grants. This judicious use of grant money has relieved Town taxpayers of additional property-tax burden. In fact, Town taxes collected this year will be less than that collected in 2019.

Here is a list of both completed and ongoing efforts to improve economic viability, recreational opportunities, preservation of the rural and agricultural nature of our town, and reducing energy usage and our carbon footprint.

Infrastructure and Zoning Subcommittees

This work is being funded by a \$186,500 State grant.

The Infrastructure Subcommittee has designed and redesigned the proposed water extension map based on feedback from a public meeting, surveys filled out by those residents in the proposed water district, and going door-to-door to talk to residents. Another public meeting will be held in early 2025. Well water testing is also being done in selected houses in the proposed water district.

The Zoning Subcommittee is working on updating both Village and Town Zoning laws. The Town and Village obtained an additional \$15,000 Hudson Valley Greenway grant to expand their zoning updates project to include critical components identified in the 2023 Joint Comprehensive Plan. The project will incorporate the latest best practices in multi-use zoning, housing density allowances, district overlays, and agricultural protections that are essential to guiding de-

velopment in rural communities in the 21st century.

Greenwich Bike and Pedestrian Connectivity Improvements

A Town and Village committee is working on a project funded with \$30,000 from the Adirondack-Glens Falls Transportation Council to improve pedestrian accessibility and bicycle connectivity throughout the community.

The project's purpose is to build on what was identified in the Comprehensive Plan as the need to improve pedestrian and bicycle access and establish priorities to improve connectivity.

A committee is soliciting public input both electronically and at Town and Village halls as well as the Greenwich Free Library.

Dedication of Greenwich's "Never Forget Garden"

On June 22, 2024, a ceremony was held in the Greenwich Commons behind Town Hall near the flagpole. A small monument and rose bush were donated and placed there. The "Never Forget Garden" is the collaboration of the Willard's Mountain Chapter of the DAR and the Town of Greenwich. The monument and rose bush honor all those who served in the military.

Installation and Use of HELIX Inventory Management Software

Town Supervisor Clerk Joanna Messina oversees this project. When the software installation and population of the database is complete, we will be able to manage inventory in all areas of Town operations. Thanks

to Councilman Reed Anderson for his help in the inventory of our trucks and large equipment.

Equipment for Scanning Documents

The County Clerk's Office, using grant money, is supplying the Town with a desktop computer, monitor, software, and a scanner. Important documents can be scanned for digital storage and retrieval. This may lead to the Town reducing the number of hard copies stored in the Town Hall.

Hudson Riverside Park

The Town has received two grants to prepare Hudson Riverside Park for multi-recreational use and a meeting space for community and educational organizations. A \$100,000 DASNY grant, an Erie Canalway National Corridor grant of \$24,000, and ARPA money have been used to fund this work.

So far, monies from the DASNY grant as well as ARPA FUNDS have been used to renovate two bathrooms in the meeting room building making one of them ADA compliant, installing a new roof and removing asbestos from the barn/auditorium building. The remaining funds will be used for the demolition of the barn/auditorium building, erection of a 50 X 20 ft. picnic pavilion with six picnic tables, one of which will be handicap accessible, lighting for the pavilion, and paving the parking lot in front of the meeting room building as well as a sidewalk from



A flier for the project

Please read more on the next page

(cont.)

the front of the building to the side and back entrances .

The Erie Canalway National Corridor grant will be used for reimbursement of expenses related to a river embankment fence, and signage including historical facts about the area where the park is.

Utilizing the no cost labor services of the Washington County Alternative Sentencing and Youth Programs, the outside walls of the meeting room building have been power washed and stained. Work is nearly complete on priming and painting the interior meeting rooms. A big thank you to Councilman Mumby who has been coordinating these projects.

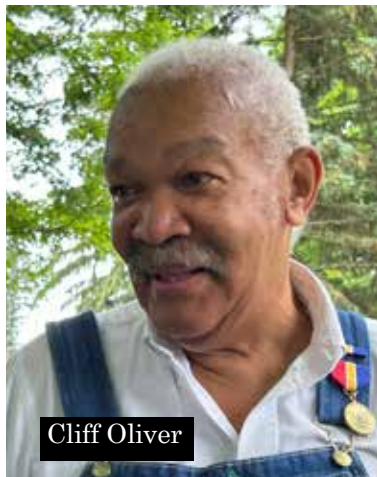
Honors

The Town and Village 2023 Comprehensive Plan was recognized this past year by the American Planning Association Upstate Chapter as a Model Municipality Comprehensive Plan.

The Institute of Assessing Officers has awarded the Lawrence B. Benton, FIAO Memorial Award for Distinguished Service to Greenwich Town Assessor, Colleen Adamec, IAO.

Battenkill Riverside Park

A new swing set was installed with four swings, two of which are for infants. Plans are being discussed for updating the bathrooms and creating additional recreation opportunities for this park.



Cliff Oliver

2024 Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Application

The State allocates a large pool of money each year for NY Forward and DRI (Downtown Revitalization Initiative) grants in the amount of \$4.5 and \$10 million, respectively. If awarded, the monies can be used

for planning and actual construction/modifications of buildings and the surrounding area. After utilizing the services of LaBella Engineering to develop proposed plans, it was decided that the Town apply for the \$10 million DRI grant. Preliminary projects included in the application encompasses the area from the eastern most part of Main Street in the Village and out Route 29 to Big Lots.

Pro-Housing Community Designation

The Town was notified in 2024 that we are now designated as a “Pro-Housing Community.” The Village has also received this designation. This means we are eligible for higher preference for grants associated with expanding senior, affordable rental, and single-family homes as well as business development grants. In addition, some grants are only offered to Pro-Housing communities. The designation resulted from a series of actions by the Town Board in support of these housing options.

Cliff Oliver Day

The Town Board declared February 4 as “Cliff Oliver Day” in honor of this distinguished citizen of Greenwich. Cliff has impacted the lives of many Greenwich and Washington County residents through his historical re-enactment of local residents of color including Solomon Northrup. In addition, he is a well-known and beloved professional photographer.

Greenwich Summer Youth Program

The Town was able to continue offering our Summer Youth Program and had a wonderful 2024 season! The two co-directors along with the Youth Committee were able to offer new field trip locations and special visitors



Hudson Riverside Park

including Capital Tractor, PRIDE Taekwondo, NYS DEC, The Comfort Food Community and the NYS Police K-9 unit. A sincere thank you to everyone who participated! Thank you to Supervisor Clerk Joanna Messina for overseeing this program.

Highway Department

The Town Highway Department was able to pave approximately 4.82 miles of road in 2024. The Town was able to purchase a set of shoulder discs to attach to the road grader to increase speed and efficiency when working on road ditches. This is part of the continued effort to streamline processes and increase efficiency within the Highway Department. The Town Board along with the Highway Department is also continuing their efforts to organize the process of culvert replacements within the Town.

In closing, all these activities completed in 2024 have served to improve the lives of all Greenwich Town residents. They were completed in a fiscally responsive manner and resulted in significant progress toward the goals contained in our Comprehensive Plan.

James Nolan is Supervisor of the Town of Greenwich.

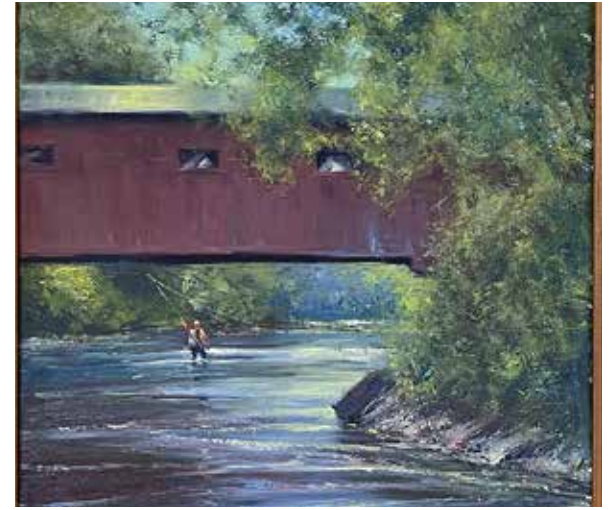


Win this painting!

The Cambridge Food Pantry has seen its numbers grow this year. They need the community's help with their mission to offer food to people in need in the Cambridge area. They are holding a George Van Hook Painting Raffle. The drawing will be held at the Cambridge Food Pantry on April 26, 2025 at 6 pm. The winner will not need to be present. You can see the original painting on display at the Arrow Bank in Cambridge, NY.

"Flyfishing at the Arlington Bridge," is

24x30" oil on linen painting of the iconic covered bridge off Rt. 313 in Arlington, Vermont. The bridge is located on the Battenkill River near the home of the artist, Norman Rockwell. Built in 1852, the bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of the oldest covered bridges in Vermont. The tickets are \$50 each and are available at the Cambridge Florist or by call/text 518-683-6691. All money raised goes straight to helping neighbors in need.



Write a play in five weeks

Greenwich Free Library will host a five-part playwriting workshop on Mondays March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31.

A new month-long program at the Greenwich Free Library will offer participants the chance to watch their words come alive on stage. "Write a Play in a Month" will be

held every Monday in March at the library. This class will offer students the know-how and confidence to write a short play. Classes, led by writer, actor, and library staff member Warren Schultz, will cover the basics of writing a play from dialog, to stage directions, to introducing and harnessing conflict, to character development,

and more. For the last class, on March 31, students will invite the public to attend a reading of their plays. All classes will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 pm evening, starting on March 3.

Experienced writers and those new to the form are all invited. Space is limited and registration is required. Register for the class online at greenwichfreelibrary.org or by phone at 518-692-7157.

What was Cambridge like in 1775?

On Sunday, March 2, 2025, at 2 p.m. the Greenwich-Easton Historical Association will hold its Annual Meeting at the Greenwich Free Library, corner of Main and Academy Streets in Greenwich, NY. There will be a business meeting followed by a program "Menotomy, That Other

Cambridge, 1775". A little known but important battle took place April 19, 1775, in West Cambridge, now known as Arlington, Massachusetts. This will be presented by Ken Perry, a local historian, member of the GEHA executive board, author of articles about local and family history and a fine

artist, who is often seen around Greenwich drawing its lovely local scenes. Ken grew up here, graduated from Greenwich High School, and attended Syracuse University where he earned a BFA. This event is free and open to the public. Donations are gratefully received.

'Frida Kahlo and the bravest Niña'

On Saturday, March 8th, 3pm the Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave. Ballston Spa, together with Ballston Spa Committee on the Arts and the Saratoga County History Center will present a performance by Opera Saratoga composed by Joe Illick with libretto written by Mark Campbell titled " Frida Kahlo and the bravest Niña in el Mundo: an interactive children's opera."

The story is about Mariana, a young girl living in Mexico City in the late 1940s.

Mariana's family encourages her to have her portrait painted by the renowned artist, Frida Kahlo. Mariana is initially frightened, but is emboldened and charmed by Kahlo, the animals in her household including a monkey, a parrot and a dog, and a visit by the exuberant artist Diego Rivera.

As Mariana sits for her portrait, she learns all about Frida's life, and begins to understand the meaning of bravery. The

45-minute opera explores the art of Frida Kahlo as well as themes of courage and family.

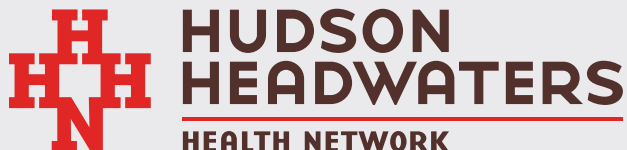
Reservations are strongly recommended as seating is limited. This opera is appropriate for ages 5-11. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. The concert is open to the public and free, though donations are always appreciated, either online or at the event.

Available weekly in Salem and Whitehall!



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[HHN.org](https://www.hhcn.org)

Several area students earn honors

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

UAlbany

The Dean's List at the University at Albany recognizes the outstanding academic achievements of full-time undergraduate students.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 or higher in their first semester of study and a GPA of 3.50 or higher in subsequent semesters.

Congratulations to the following hard-working individuals who are dedicated to their academic excellence. The UAlbany Fall 2024 Dean's List scholars include:

- Julian Mattison of Schaghticoke, majoring in Environmental & Sustainable Engineering
- Isabel Reitano-Stayer of Schuylerville, majoring in Human Biology
- Jackilyn Harris of Argyle, majoring in Business Administration
- Dylan Skiff of Greenwich, majoring in Human Development
- McKeila Cooney of Greenwich, majoring in Human Biology
- Jocelyn Zapien-Espinosa of Schuylerville, majoring in Political Science
- Ryan Skiff of Greenwich, majoring in Psychology (intended)
- Sarah Huff of Corning, majoring in Political Science
- Keegan Collins of Greenwich, majoring in Human Development (intended)
- Abigail Wright of Granville, majoring in Accounting (intended)

- Symon Vanyo of Schuylerville, majoring in Cybersecurity (BS)
- Fraser Siwik-Simpson of Argyle, majoring in Communication
- Marissa Miller of Greenwich, majoring in Accounting
- Shamyra Watters of Salem, majoring in Human Development

Lesley University

The Lesley University Fall 2024 Dean's List included Alexander Curtis of Greenwich with a 3.92 GPA. A Business major, Curtis is a member of the Lesley University baseball team competing in the NCAA North Atlantic Conference.

SUNY Cortland

Anna Aubrey of Argyle, NY, was one of 1,051 SUNY Cortland students who earned President's List honors for the Fall 2024 semester. Aubrey is studying Speech & Hearing Science.

To qualify for the President's List, students must earn a grade of A- or better in each of their classes while carrying a course load of 12 hours or more.

Two other local students made the SUNY Cortland Dean's List, too:

- Maya Gobin of Greenwich, NY - Major: Physical Education K-12.
- Brandon Saunders of Argyle, NY - Major: Physical Education K-12.

Iowa State

Iowa State University announced its fall 2024 Deans List, which included Matthew

Bink, Senior, Agricultural and Life Sciences Education, B.S.

Community College of Vermont

Argyle's Dorothea Potter was named to the Fall 2024 honor roll at the Community College of Vermont (CCV) were named to the fall 2024 Student Honors List. This honor recognizes part-time students with a 4.0 grade point average.

St. Lawrence University

Silvia Escobar-Deleon of Salem has been selected for membership in the Art and Art History honorary society at St. Lawrence University.

Escobar-Deleon is a member of the Class of 2026 and is majoring in art and art history. Escobar-Deleon attended Salem Central School.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Honora June LaRock of Greenwich has been named to the Deans' List at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the fall semester of the 2024-25 academic year.

LaRock, a sophomore majoring in insect science, was named to the Dean's List for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Norwich University

The Dean's List at Norwich University for the Fall 2024 semester included Reese Autiello of Greenwich. Full-time undergraduate students, who earned a semester grade point average of at least 3.40 are awarded Dean's List honors.

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Bob Graham: Snowplow operator

Adam Harrison Levy
Journal & Press

Adam: *What are your responsibilities as a snowplow operator?*

Bob: You have to watch all the traffic coming at you, parked cars off to the side of the road, people walking. And in the cab, the driver's responsibility is for the front and wing plows, and how much sand we want to put down on the roads.

Adam: *It's 4:00 am and not many people are out. Do you feel alone plowing these roads?*

Bob: Travis, the (Salem) Superintendent of Highways, checks in on us and if somebody needs help, or somebody breaks down, we can rescue each other. Sometimes a hydraulic hose is gonna blow, sometimes even a tire. It's like everything else. You get older and you break.

Adam: *Where are we now?*

Bob: We're headed up Rt. 153. This is my route: all the side roads way up to the Vermont border.

Adam: *And how long have you been doing this route?*

Bob: I worked for the town in the late 1980s for four and a half years. And I left and went to Fort Miller Company in Greenwich for thirty-five years. Then I came back on December 4, 2024 because my mother was having health issues and I helped take care of her by being closer to home.

Adam: *Is she okay?*

Bob: No, she passed away in August. Because I worked in the funeral business you know when it's coming. I got some younger sisters and tried to prepare them for the situation but it's hard. It's reality. It's life. When she passed, she had three out of the four kids there so she didn't die alone.

Adam: *What are roads that you plow on your route?*

Bob: I do Blind Buck and Beattie Hollow

Road, and all the short roads off of them - Riley Hill Road, Chambers, Pitts Hill, Wilson, Braymer, Fleming, Parqui Lane, McK-eighan, and Blossom.

Adam: *Where are we now?*

Bob: We're going up Chambers Road and then we'll turn around. Almost all of my roads are dead-end roads. There's not one of them that I can drive right around to hit another one except Riley Hill when I come back down on Rt. 22.

Adam: *Do you prefer plowing at night or during the day?*

Bob: I like plowing at night because when you're cleaning these intersections, I can look and see car headlights, what's coming and what's not. People are always in a hurry to go nowhere.

Adam: *What are the most difficult conditions you've been in?*

Bob: When there is freezing rain we run chains on the trucks but sometimes the chains don't mount on the dirt roads. The chains are there to help you, but they don't save you.

Adam: *Have you ever slid?*

Bob: Oh, god yes, we all have in life.

Adam: *What are these slide flaps?*

Bob: They're the wings.

Adam: *You only have a few inches of clearance. That's skill. I couldn't do that.*

Bob: Yes, you could. Anybody can do it after time. You might clunk that bridge a little bit! If anybody tells you they haven't never hit nothing, they're fooling you. We got the three newer trucks. This one's the 2010, we got a 23 and Dean's got the 24. We got a 25 on order. They come with four-way plows. Back in the older days, they were all straight plows.

Adam: *So plows have become more sophisticated?*

Bob: Everything has. When I worked here in the '80s there was no such thing as



brine and liquid salt. It was just sand and salt mixed together.

Adam: *I don't understand.*

Bob: It's liquid salt. Back of the truck, there's a big plastic tank hanging off the tailgate of the truck. And this button on this side? It blows that liquid salt onto the sand which helps activate it and starts clearing the road quicker.

Adam: *What do you think about when you're driving?*

Bob: I have the radio on just to make a little bit of noise in the background. It kinda keeps you relaxed and focused.

Adam: *So that you're always paying attention?*

Bob: You have to. You got mailboxes on every road we have. And some of the roads have ledges that stick out, so you got to watch them. You don't want to clip a car with your wing. I mean, we do hit a mailbox now and then. You don't want to, but it happens.

Adam: *What are the conditions that we*

Please read more on the next page

RIDE ALONG

(cont.)

are driving in right now?

Bob: We got a good frost in the ground right now. So it's nicer to plow when the ground's hard. We have two different plows for every truck. We're running steel blades and the wings right now. But if it gets to be soft out, we'll drop this plow and hook up a different one. It has a rubber blade, and we put rubber blades on the wings, because they plow like a big squeegee. So if the ground is soft, you won't dig in. Because if the ground is soft, and you're running these steel blades, you've got to go slow because if they dig in you could end up driving over the plow and breaking the plow.

Adam: When you go back to the Salem Barn do you physically have to put on the other blades or does a mechanic do that?

Bob: The six of us, plus Travis, we all work together, and we do whatever's got to be done. We try to fix everything we can to save the taxpayer's money.

Adam: You said you worked in the funeral business?

Bob: I worked for Fort Miller, they provide concrete burial vaults and all the cemetery setups.

Adam: What did you do?

Bob: Driving the truck, bringing the concrete burial vault to the cemetery, putting it in the ground, setting up the artificial grass, putting up the tent, and setting up the chairs. The funeral procession comes in and they bring the body. After the family leaves we lower the body into the ground, put the cover on, check our equipment, and head for the next one.

Adam: Are there any similarities to plowing?

Bob: This is more intense because you got a big piece of steel out in front of you, and you don't know what people are gonna

do. Do you see on the first snowstorm how many cars are off in a ditch? Winter's here but they still gotta go, and they go too fast. God forbid they leave twenty minutes early. Now you're in the ditch, now it's gonna cost you a lot more. You should have left twenty minutes early.

Adam: Do you stop and help them?

Bob: I will stop and ask them if they're all right if they're not injured. But we can't hook on to them because of truck insurance. I sometimes run a little sand on the ground, so they can shovel it underneath the tires. But that's it.

Adam: You put in your regular hours this week. But when it snows you have to work, no matter what. You started at 4:00 am this morning and you're probably going to finish mid-morning. What do you do? Drink a lot of coffee?

Bob: I've only had one cup of coffee my whole life. I didn't care for it. I drink water, and unsweetened iced tea.

Adam: Whoa, you were so close to hitting that tree!

Bob: If I'd whacked that one it'd shake your teeth right out.

Adam: No kidding! How are dirt roads different from blacktop roads?

Bob: Do you see the way the steel blades are bearing down to the dirt? The blacktop will be harder to clear off today because they're so cold now.

Adam: So you have to be alert to the texture as well as the width of the road?

Bob: Dirt roads aren't as wide as the blacktop, you so can plow it with a wing and a plow going one way. But when you come back, you can just run the plow and you're clearing the whole road. I usually try to go no more than 14 or 15 miles an hour.

Adam: Is this the best job you can imagine doing right now?

Bob: Because of my age, sixty, absolutely. It's nice, steady work, not like when I was with Fort Miller when you're pushing 2000 pounds of concrete around, out in the cemetery. That's for young people. I hated

to leave, but I wanted to be closer to my mother.

Adam: Do you get frustrated being out on your own for so long?

Bob: I don't get frustrated. If you do, you're in the wrong business. Everybody's nerves are different. Some people are very nervous. Some people are relaxed. I've been driving tractor-trailers all my life so this is a walk in the park.

Adam: Have you ever been in an accident?

Bob: I backed into that ditch there once.

Adam: Were you hurt?

Bob: No, thank God. Nobody's had an accident and gotten hurt since I've been here. You just gotta take your time. Your head's like on a yo-yo. You're constantly spinning, looking at mirrors, and watching out for other people.

Adam: It's just about dawn, 6:30 am.

Bob: Yeah, this is like a Christmas card. Snow on the trees and snow on the roads. It's nice to look at.

Adam: This is about as good as it gets.

Bob: Yeah, it is.

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



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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NY Guard promotions

Major General Ray Shields, the Adjutant General for the State of New York, announced the promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership. This includes:

Christopher McGuirk of Argyle (12809), N.Y., and assigned to the Company B, NY National Guard Recruiting & Retention Battalion, received a promotion January 22, 2025 to the rank of private.

Army National Guard promotions are based on a soldier's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

These promotions recognize the best qualified Soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard.

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. Ash Wednesday is March 5. Services with Ashes are as follows: 9 AM Mass at St. Patrick's, Noon Liturgy of the Word at Holy Cross, and 6 PM Liturgy of the Word at Immaculate Conception.

The Little Black Book contains Lenten daily reflections and is available at the back of the Church.

The program 'Women of the Old Testament - Part two' will be held February 24 and March 3, at 10 - 11:30 at Im-

maculate Conception and 6:30 - 8 00 at St. Patrick's.

We welcome Fr. Scott VanDerveer to the parishes as the episcopal Vicar for the Adirondack Vicariate and serves as the canonical pastor to foster vibrant parish life and deepen the share commitment to the mission of Christ.

The Diocesan Appeal continues to June. Free daily reflections during Lent are available on the website, www.battenkillcatholic.org.

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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 Sunday: Closed

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Yo Re Mi to perform kids concert

Children ages 2-6 and their families are invited to a special immersive and interactive performance from Yo Re Mi at Greenwich Free Library on Saturday, March 1, at 10:30 AM.

“Forest of Feelings” asks, what happens when a laugh gets lost? The audience will embark on a heartwarming journey to the Forest of Feelings, where imagination, live music, and interactive storytelling come alive! Adventurers (Rachel and Dan Costello, the founders of Yo Re Mi and Cambridge residents) travel across sparkling waters, through lush jungles, into swirling storms, and over rainbows of emotions to rescue the laugh. Along the way, the performers and audience will sing, stretch, and explore a vibrant world

filled with colors, numbers, transportation, animals and more. Through yoga-inspired movements, mindfulness, and a rich social-emotional vocabulary, this immersive adventure celebrates every feeling with kindness and curiosity. Dan and Rachel say, “Together, we’ll build confidence, resilience, and the joyful understanding that all emotions are welcome here.”

This program was originally commissioned and produced in collaboration with New York City Children's Theater. This performance will be recorded for archival purposes.

Space is limited, and registration is required by going to greenwichfreelibrary.org or calling 518-692-7157



From SUNY Adirondack to the Mayo Clinic

When Nathan Pallace speaks at 4 p.m. Feb. 24 at SUNY Adirondack about his decidedly uncommon and interesting career, it will be a full-circle moment for the Class of 2003 alum.

Pallace is a medical photographer for the Mayo Clinic, chronicling procedures that help educate doctors around the world. The international award-winning photographer's images provide insight into rare operations that help prepare doctors for critical surgeries.

But Pallace didn't always understand the value of education.

“In high school I wasn't a very good student,” Pallace said, explaining how after graduating from Saratoga Springs High School, he pursued music as a drummer in a band that experienced some success in New York City in the 1990s.

As his 20s came and went, and his bandmates got day jobs, he realized his dreams of living a rock star life might not last.

“Education seemed like the obvious so-

lution,” Pallace said. “I got my footing at [SUNY Adirondack]. All of a sudden, I just immersed myself and really appreciated education for the first time.”

Pallace graduated from SUNY Adirondack, then spent several years as a photojournalist for The Post-Star in Glens Falls. As the newspaper industry declined, Pallace knew education was again the answer, so he enrolled in Rochester Institute of Technology's photography program, from which he earned a bachelor's degree.

While a student at RIT, Pallace studied life science-based imagery and took a surgical photography course. That led to a position at a hospital in the United Kingdom, then contract work for Rochester General Hospital and, eventually, his job at the Mayo Clinic.

At SUNY Adirondack, Pallace will discuss his career amid “Images from Science 3,” an exhibition of scientific images organized by RIT that will be displayed in the Visual Arts Gallery through April 17.



“I'm one of the only people in the world to see this kind of stuff,” Pallace said.

The event is free and open to the public. SUNY Adirondack's Visual Arts Gallery is in Dearlove Hall on the college's Queensbury campus.

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Subnivean

Bob Henke
Journal & Press

It appears we are having a more traditional winter this year. The older I get, the less I like messing with snow but nice white expanses still kindle an urge to indulge in some of the travel options it offers. I have all sorts of snowshoes for all sorts of snow conditions but I have to admit, much as I love snowshoes, the greater speed of cross-country skis appeals.

This in spite of the fact my initial experience was less than ideal.

I expressed some interest and Dr. Wifey took the initiative and got me a pair one Christmas many years ago. We lived on top of West Mountain at the time and our conditions were a bit too challenging for a maiden voyage, so I went down to Cole's Woods to learn on the groomed trails. Things went well. I picked the route that took me up, not down, the one quite steep hill. I had just started up when I heard a loud scream ahead. I looked up to see a young woman in a very stylish pink ski outfit who had crested the hill and was totally out of control on the way down. Arms windmilling and approaching Mach 1, she posed a huge threat but I was cool. Not losing composure, I did just as I had read, picking up one ski after the other moving sideways in a series of increments. It seemed to take forever, but finally I was well off the trail in the deep snow on the edge. I looked up, expecting her to go rocketing past.

I was so wrong.

What I saw, just for an instant, was her well off the trail and on a direct collision course. It was but a microsecond before the incredible impact. We wound up in a furball of skis, poles, and appendages, upside down in deep fluffy snow. When we could speak, I interrupted her continual litany of "Oh My GOD"s to ask if she was ok. She was but she started her OMGs again when I told her I thought we would need a team of doctors. I got a giggle out of her when I

said I thought we were going to have to be surgically separated. Fortunately, her father and her boyfriend were along and performed the herculean effort of getting us untangled and back on our feet. I did not try the skis again until the next year.

Urges aside, I am thinking that nowadays, I would have to carry a ladder on my back so, if I fell on the skis, I could climb back onto my feet. Much of the rest of the world, both human and animal, wait for the travel opportunities provided by frozen conditions. Seemingly a lifetime ago, Dr. Wifey and I were both in college with a young family. At this time, I was completely willing to perform almost any sort of work, from academic to almost legal in order to keep the household afloat. Looking back, I am less amazed by the range and nature of the jobs than by the fact I was able to find them at all.

One of the more memorable was collecting dermatoglyphic data. While that might sound risqué, it amounted to convincing Natives living near the Arctic Circle to let me take their finger prints. Basically, you rode the train literally to where the tracks stopped, hiked around to various locations trying not to be consumed by native dogs or mosquitoes on the way, collected data and made sure you were back to the train before it left. One time, the train did not leave and everything was to wait until noon the next day when another engine would come to pull our dead one and the four cars back to civilization. Since I was the only round-trip passenger, I had to hustle around to find somewhere to spend the night. I found

Sighting

A lot of the species are starting to get a jump on Spring. The first big flock of robins was February 7 this year, there have been small groups of goldeneyes on the river, and there has even been a couple sightings of mockingbirds already. However, some species we think of as highly migratory, still have some stubborn individuals that refuse to make the trip. One such is the great blue heron.



In this area, there are several traditional spots where a heron or two will over-winter. Back in the game warden days, I used to skate length of the canal, checking trappers. At the point where the break occurs and the water is running both ways, there was always open water and always a VERY surprised heron when I came skating by. This week, I saw one exploiting a smaller resource. A little bit of open water by the outlet of a pond on Route 40 in Greenwich. I watched him for about 15 minutes and he caught four small fish. They came looking for some more highly oxygenated water and found a heron.

refuge with a very nice older couple I had fingerprinted earlier in the day.

We had very little language in common. They spoke one of the Ojibwa dialects, she knew a bit of English, and he and I equaled each other in our ability to crudely butcher French. In spite of this, we talked well into the night and I was given a great revelation. Whereas I would have impatiently awaited even the short buggy summer, they looked forward to winter, the earlier and harder the freezes, the better. This was because they loved to travel. When the muskeg was covered with a thick layer of snow and ice, travel was possible by all sorts of means

Please read more on the next page

OUTDOORS TOMORROW

(cont.)

from snowmobiles to dog sled to snowshoes. It was in the winter that families could get together, friendships could renew, and all sorts of activities from commerce to courtship were possible. Summertime meant bugs, mud and isolation.

We tend to think of the life of wild animals in the same terms. As case in point, someone who wanted to talk about snow's effect on wildlife recently sought me out. She felt sorry for the poor birds and animals that just think they had made it through the winter, and then have all their food buried by a foot of new snow. This would seem an accurate concern but, like the case of my Ojibway benefactors, we tend to give inordinate attention to the obvious. In fact, our recent storm is very much a reprieve for many species.

A good example is the red squirrel. Their primary predators are avian—hawks and

owls. When the snow melted we had, for the first time this winter, red squirrels on our bird feeder eating sunflower seeds. The first day, the resident Cooper's hawk picked one off like it was a buffet lunch. Now there is some snow and the red squirrels have all happily disappeared. As soon as the snow comes, they become totally subnivean. A subnivean is an animal that lives completely under the snow. While other squirrels are sleeping away the winter or miserably trying to dig through frozen forest duff to find a buried nut, the red squirrel is going with the flow, making elaborate tunnel systems, and resting in warm dens insulated by the fluffy snow above. Hidden from enemies and sealed away from vicious wind chill conditions, the red squirrel remains happily subnivean whenever possible.

Most of the species of mice and voles found in our fields and woods react similarly to the snow. A subnivean lifestyle allows these small rodents to travel unimpeded, greatly increasing their territory for food and material gathering. Unlike the larger species

we see above the snow, winter is when their populations reach the highest level, simply because young can learn to forage and strike out for a territory of their own without getting picked off by a predator. Spring, when most other species are increasing, is the worst time for these little guys. With no snow to hide them and no grasses yet to take the snow's place, they are slaughtered wholesale by all their predators.

Unfortunately, I cannot be subnivean so I better go shovel the walk...

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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Fighting each other

Lance Allen Wang
Journal & Press

As an unpopular war ground on, a shrinking and exhausted military was still engaged in combat in Southeast Asia. A military that had seen over 50 thousand deaths, and many more wounded, mostly since 1965, had largely gotten out of the ground combat business by 1972. Much of our combat action now took place from the air, with Navy carrier fighter-bombers, Strategic Air Command B-52's, and Army helicopters providing support to South Vietnamese units.

The United States tends to see its aircraft carriers and accompanying ships as one of its showpieces for diplomacy and one of its strongest and most flexible combat formations. When we send a carrier somewhere, it is a headline. The Battle of Midway in mid-1942 was so significant because it decimated the Japanese carrier force, leaving them reeling and unable to coordinate major offensives for the rest of the war. For something to make an impact on America's ability to deploy its carriers is not just Pentagon business, its Oval Office business.

In what may soon be forgotten history, in 1972 not one but two aircraft carriers of the United States Navy (and several other ships) were torn by racial strife. One carrier was off Southeast Asia, and the other was preparing to deploy from San Diego.

Racial tension in the force was not new by 1972, as the military was a reflection of the society from which it was drawn. In 1968, 60 black soldiers conducted a non-violent protest at Fort Hood, Texas, concerned that they would be sent on riot duty to fight fellow citizens in America's equally strife-torn cities. Overseas that same year, black Marines rioted at a confinement facility in Da Nang and racially tinged riots resulted in destruction of facilities and a death in the Army's jail at Long Binh.

Admiral Elmo Zumwalt (1920-2000) took over as the Chief of Naval Operations in 1970 and addition to trying to modern-

ize the Navy's World War II-era equipment, he also implemented a number of programs to help ease racial tensions. Lest anyone believe that his programs came from any viewpoint other than that of a fighting sailor, during World War II, Zumwalt had been awarded the Bronze Star for Valor at the Battle of the Leyte Gulf, had served in Korea, and served as commander of Naval Forces Vietnam prior to becoming the new Chief.

Riot on the USS Kitty Hawk

The ship was finally going to be returning home. The deployment to Vietnam had been tough, six months of launching combat missions around the clock had taken its toll on sailors and nerves. Counting down the days until one returns home has been a tradition of the fighting man from time immemorial. Disappointment is sometimes part of that ritual, and that is exactly what happened to the sailors of the Kitty Hawk. In early October 1972, word came down that the Kitty Hawk would return to Vietnam and continue launching missions after a port call in the Philippines. Unfortunately, there were some race-related altercations during a recent port call and the powder keg was fully set. It only required a match.

The match came in the mess area. Innocuous incidents took on an added gravity because of the tension. A black sailor tried to take an extra portion after a white sailor did and was refused. A white sailor accidentally stepped on a black sailor's foot. Before long a full-fledged riot was in progress. According to a New York Times report after the ship stopped at Pearl Harbor in mid-November while returning home:



"The Fort Hood Six" and their attorney

"Newsmen were barred from boarding the [Kitty Hawk], and the crew was instructed not to discuss the disturbance in which 46 persons were injured according to the Navy.

"However, sailors on shore liberty gave anonymous accounts of a series of all-night brawls during which about 100 black and white sailors 'used knives, forks, and chains and anything else they could get their hands on' as weapons."

One of the officers who helped defuse the riots was Commander Benjamin Cloud, the ship's Executive Officer and one of the five black officers among the 348 on board. Although initially distrusted by the enlisted rioters, he was eventually able to invoke Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King's strategy of nonviolence and convince the rioters to return to work.

The Hassayampa

The USS Hassayampa was a fleet oiler ship docked at the Navy base in Subic Bay, the Philippines. Four days after the Kitty Hawk riot, 12 black sailors stated they would not sail with the ship when it departed, claiming that money had been stolen from one of them. With the situation remaining volatile, members of the group attacked seven white sailors later in the day. Marines needed to be called in to sub-

Please read more on the next page

(cont.)

due the attackers, and six were brought up on charges.

USS Constellation

The aircraft carrier Constellation was still back at home port in San Diego, planning for its upcoming January 1973 deployment to Vietnam. While conducting training missions off the coast of California, eighty black enlisted sailors held a sit-down “strike.” Tensions had been high, and the sailors had a list of race-based grievances including more severe discipline imposed on black sailors and reduced promotion opportunities. At one point, one of the sailors yelled, “OK, that’s it. They want another Kitty Hawk.” Despite tense moments, the situation de-escalated without a riot breaking out. When the ship returned to San Diego, the Captain stated that all sailors with problems were permitted to leave the ship and go ashore for counseling. Eight white and 122 black soldiers went ashore and sat down in protest on the pier. When ordered to return to the ship, only eight white and two black sailors returned. The ship departed without the sailors who refused to board, and the Constellation’s Captain left them to the base commander at San Diego to prosecute as absent without leave (AWOL).

Zumwalt’s Response

In February 1973, the New York Times



Commander Ben Cloud

reported on the USS Constellation troubles, and recorded Admiral Zumwalt’s response to his admirals after he summoned them to Washington:

“[Zumwalt] told them that they and their subordinates had ignored his programs of race-relations training and frustrated his hopes for a lessening – if not an end to – racial discrimination in the Navy. For example, Zumwalt cited the example of minority affairs assistance officers whom he said, ‘are too often consulted only in high-tension situations and not on a continuing basis.’ Zumwalt also said: ‘It is my view that these current racial incidents are not the result of lowered standards but are clearly due to failure of commands to implement these programs with a whole heart.’”

What It Means Now

The simple removal of offices to deal with race-related programs and issues will not remove race-related issues from the military. A problem cannot simply be assumed away. If only it was that easy.

The society that the military is drawn from has race as one of its major fault lines, though not its only one. Besides race, there are other protected classes such as religion. Any large organization needs to have an apparatus for addressing these issues before they become big ones. Leaders need to understand and know their people – and sometimes that does require some sort of training. If we are going to turn minority issues into a third rail again to



Missions being launched from the USS Kitty Hawk, Gulf of Tonkin, 1972.

be neither spoken of nor acknowledged, it simply will push problems back below the surface, they won’t go away. History shows they will fester and can get much worse.

The aircraft carriers USS Kitty Hawk and USS Constellation have distinguished histories. However, I fear that with the end of all programs and training focused on racial challenges, the stories of their disturbances in 1972 will eventually go down the drain of lost history.

And then 40-50 years from now, another retired old veteran like me will be writing a story about how an entirely preventable racial (or any other subcategory) powder keg was lit somewhere. It was lit because some leader didn’t think it was important to know their people, didn’t understand what was going on right beneath their nose, and let a command degenerate into a combat ineffective formation torn with resentment, mistrust, and internal conflict.

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



Italian folk music

Hubbard Hall will present Alla Boara, an innovative ensemble breathing new life into the timeless traditions of Italian folk music, on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 7:00 PM. This performance offers a rare opportunity to experience the nearly forgotten melodies of Italy's past, reimagined through the vibrant lens of contemporary jazz.

Founded by percussionist and composer Anthony Taddeo, Alla Boara showcases the extraordinary talents of vocalist Amanda Powell, guitarist Dan Bruce, trumpeter Tommy Lehman, bassist Ian Kinnaman, and accordionist/keyboardist Mark Micchelli. Together, they create a sound that is at once deeply rooted in tradition and strikingly modern.

With rich harmonies, intricate rhythms, and dynamic improvisation, Alla Boara revives the pre-industrial folk music of Italy, a cultural heritage that has largely been overshadowed by the nation's operatic and classical traditions. Their



work unearths and reinterprets these historic songs, offering audiences an emotional and immersive journey through history, culture, and sound.

Tickets for the event are available now. Advance tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students 21 and under. Day-of tickets will be \$30 for adults and \$20 for students. To purchase tickets, visit Hubbard Hall's event page.

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Thanks to volunteers!

Sarah Murphy
Special to Journal & Press

As I write this, I'm looking out my office window at some sort of freezing rain, the kind that seems innocent as it falls, but turns to nasty ice as soon as it lands. School is closed today, and I spent the early morning debating whether or not to keep the library open. We canceled daytime programs, but ultimately decided to come in and open our doors to anyone with excellent snow tires and/or spikes on their boots. But volunteers, we insisted, need not join us today. Even if the roads feel safe, who would want to leave the dry comfort at home to come and shelve books for a two-hour unpaid shift? Well, our morning volunteer would, as it turns out. "It's what I do on Thursday mornings!" she insisted, and here she is, shelving, organizing, and providing good company.

If you're a frequent visitor to Greenwich Free Library, a regular book-borrower or program attendee, and if you pay attention to our yearly budget, you might wonder how on earth we're able to do what we do. How we keep such regular hours, how we balance five days a week of regular programs with special evening and weekend events, how we maintain three spaces used consistently by the public, and how we satisfy a book request list that never ends. The simplest answer to this question is that we have a corps of regular and seasonal volunteers whose commitment to supporting the library allows staff to do the behind-the-

scenes work that keeps our library running.

In 2024, 56 people volunteered at the library in a variety of different roles: behind our circulation desk, in our stacks, down in the Gill Room or Friends book sale room, outside in our garden, or picking up our weekly Farm 2 Library food pantry items. When you visit the library, the person greeting you may very well be one of these volunteers. The six-foot-tall dinner-plate sized dahlias you admired last September? Those were planted and cared for by volunteers. Many of our programs are enhanced by volunteers as well. Lola the therapy dog doesn't walk herself to the library every Thursday afternoon, and our Monday chess club benefits from volunteer guidance. A teen volunteer helps out at the Building Blocks Kindergarten Readiness program, and we're currently recruiting more teens to support our new Reading Buddies program. Our yearly plant sale is largely powered by volunteers, not just on the day of, but as home growers leading up to the event. The thrice monthly Boomerang Book Sales are organized and staffed by the Friends of the Greenwich Library, an all-volunteer group.

Without the tremendous support provided by our volunteers, we could not maintain the level of services and programming that we pride ourselves for offering. How do we do it? With their help.

We owe our volunteers a huge thank you, and by we I mean our entire community and anyone who uses the library. So, here it is, in print, on the record, for all to read: Thank you.

Thank you for showing up when the weather is rotten, and thank you for call-



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Stocked pantry

ing when you can't come in. Thank you for doing what you do without expecting or needing any public credit, but thank you for taking it when it's bestowed. Thank you for offering kindness and help to patrons, even when you don't always know the answer. Thank you for observing what people need and how they're using our library, and for passing on your observations so that we can keep striving to do better. Thank you for supporting one another, switching shifts when necessary, and leaving clear guidance about what needs to be done next. Thanks for making me laugh, and listening to me complain. Thanks for being here so that everyone else can be here, too.

Sarah Murphy is director of the Greenwich Free Library.



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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.

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Trump tariffs 2.0

Jill Schlesinger

*Tribune Content Agency
Special to Journal & Press*

Here we go again. Earlier in the week, the Trump administration slapped a new round of 25 percent tariffs on Mexico and Canada, a 10% tariff on energy products from Canada, and an additional 10% tariff on goods from China, all of which were supposed to go into effect on February 4.

Within days, the tariffs on Mexico and Canada were put on ice for 30 days, amid ongoing negotiations. The Chinese tariffs went into effect and soon after, the Chinese government said it would retaliate with their own set of tariffs on U.S. goods that will go into effect on February 10.

U.S. importers of Canadian oil and timber, Mexican agricultural products and auto parts, and Chinese electronics and appliances are bracing for a volatile period ahead and importers of computer chips, pharmaceuticals, steel, aluminum, copper, oil and gas imports are getting ready for a separate round of tariffs, potentially aimed at the European Union, that could come in mid-February.

As details develop, pour some tequila and grab your last bit of guacamole... it's time for a quick tariff Q&A:

What is a tariff?

A tax or duty imposed on a particular class of imports or exports (in this case, imports).

Who pays for a tariff?

The company that imports the goods is on the hook for the extra charge (importantly, the exporting country does not pay for the tariff!) The importer may choose to absorb the extra cost, reducing its profit, or pass it along to consumers.

How does this round of tariffs compare to the 2018 tariffs?

The current tariffs are 3.5 times BIGGER than the first round of Trump tariffs. This year's tariffs will impact \$1.4 trillion worth of goods, compared to \$380 billion worth of goods in 2018.

How can tariffs push up inflation?

If importers pass along the cost of tariffs to their customers, then prices could rise for those goods. The scale, scope and duration of this round of tariffs could push the inflation rate higher than the current 2.9% level. Most economists believe that the annual inflation rate could rise to 3.5%, though most agree that we are not likely to see anywhere near the 9.1% inflation rate recorded in mid-2022.

How can tariffs impact the economy?

In addition to higher inflation, tariffs might cause affected U.S. importers to lay off workers

and could lead to a slowdown in economic growth, though the overall impact (which now, economists estimate will be a 0.2-0.5% reduction in the current 2.5% GDP pace), will be determined by the length of time tariffs remain in place. For Canada and Mexico, the tariff tit for tat could push both of those economies into a recession.

Is there anything positive about tariffs?

Tariffs can be used as a bargaining chip in international negotiations (in this case, the administration noted that using tariffs is “a tool to secure our borders against illegal migration and combat the scourge of fentanyl”); as a means to beef up tax revenue; and as a way to shield domestic producers from foreign competition.

How do tariffs impact the Federal Reserve?


At its recent meeting, the Federal Reserve took no action, as officials described the economy as expanding “at solid pace,” but inflation is running at 2.8%, above the desired 2% target.

As a result, the central bank could afford to be patient. With the announcement of tariffs, future measures and the expected retaliation, Paul Ashworth of Capital Economics believes that “the window for the Fed to resume cutting interest rates at any point over the next 12 to 18 months just slammed shut.”

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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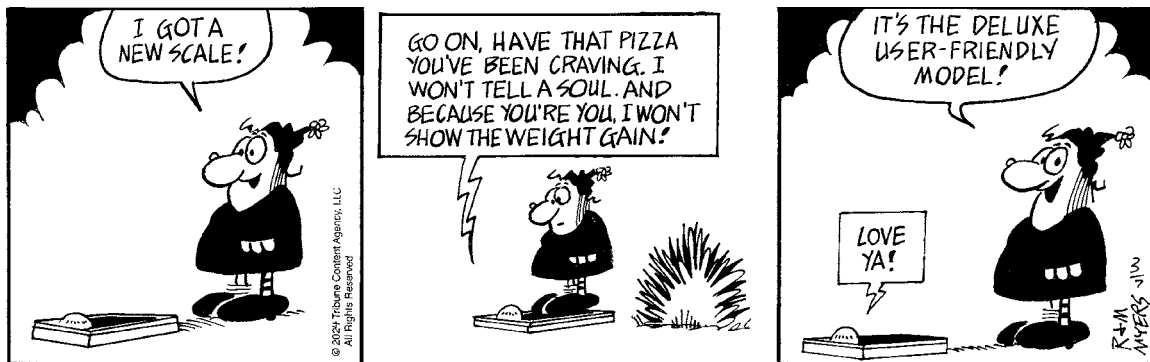
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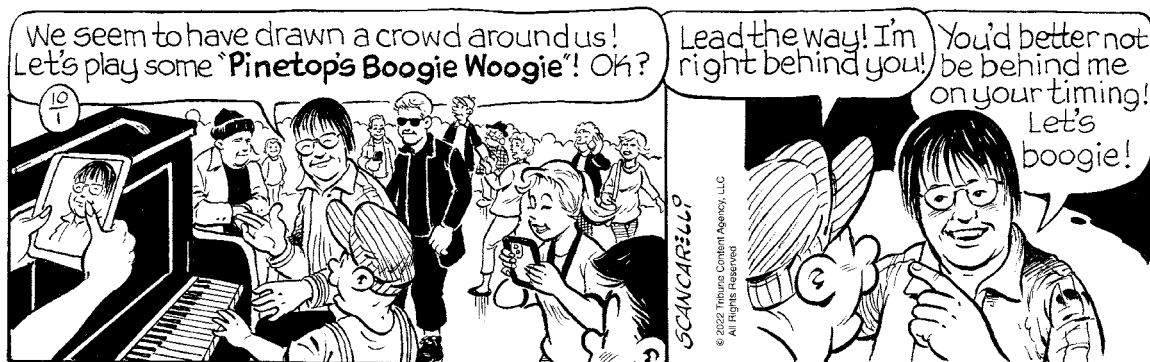
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9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



"Diet and exercise? Isn't there a pill, a patch, or an app for that?"

Word Play Answers Page 24

JUMBLE

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

CRATT
KYOLE
GEDREN
YGOEVA

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

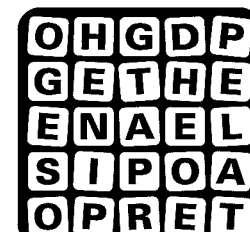


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Boggle BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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

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8 letters = 10 points	21-30 = Rookie
9 letters = 15 points	11-20 = Amateur
10 letters = 15 points	0-10 = Try again

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

FUN & GAMES

More Word Play Answers Page 24

SCRABBLE G₂ R₁ A₁ M₃ S₁

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A₁ O₁ Y₄ G₂ L₁ D₂ N₁ 3rd Letter Triple RACK 1

E₁ I₁ U₁ N₁ F₄ L₁ N₁ RACK 2

O₁ U₁ G₂ L₁ N₁ W₄ B₃ Double Word Score RACK 3

A₁ A₁ O₁ U₁ B₃ R₁ M₃ RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 216

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.

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

Word Find By Frank J. D'Agostino

Find these words associated with being happy (and find Frank's acrostic books on Amazon):	Bliss Delighted Elated Excited Exultant Fulfilled Glad Genial Glorious Great	Grin Happy High Spirits Humored Jolly Jovial Joyful Lovable Merry Nice	Paradise Satisfied Smile Sunny Thrilled Tickled Pink Upbeat Walk On Air
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F U L F I L L E D P Y W E L W
B E A U T I F U L L K R O V N
S U N N Y I W A L K O N A I R
A O I O B X C O M D U S R V H
T F C X L G J K A E T G S Y U
I G E N I A L D L I R U S P M
S E Y W S Q E L R E O R X P O
F J X D S T E I T I D P Y A R
I O Q C A L P M R V X P R H E
E Y O L I S J O V I A L I I D
D F E M H T L O V A B L E N A
G U S G B G E X U L T A N T K
L L I P A R A D I S E O G Q Y
A H T H R I L L E D G R E A T
D E L I G H T E D U P B E A T

Filbert by LA Bonté



Political Cartoon of the Week by Joel Pett



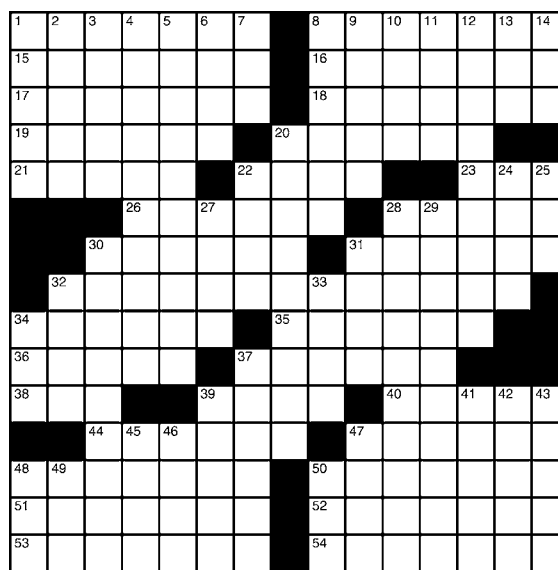
Sudoku

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.

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

Crossword

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



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

11 Member of the Siouan family
12 Images on Clemson Tigers merchandise
13 Cook with a lot of Apples?
14 Shout of support
20 "My goose is cooked"

53 On point
54 Scottish dogs

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

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

THROUGH THE DECADES

Mob tough guys

From the Journal & Press archives...

100 Years Ago

Feb. 25, 1925

Accused of being members of a Black Hand gang and attempting to extort money from George Costa of Fort Edward, Dominick Brancheo, age 22, and Michael Giavannazzo, 29, both of Whitehall, are held without bail to await the action of the Washington County grand jury in April.

The two men were arrested after a shooting fracas, which occurred Sunday afternoon in Walter Nichols' restaurant near the D&H station in Fort Edward. Although several shots were fired, the only damage from the bullets was the smashing of windows in the restaurant.

According to Costa's story, the Whitehall men met him in front of the restaurant and demanded money. He refused and went inside. They followed him and attempted to take a wallet out of his inside pocket. He resisted, guns, and a knife were drawn, and the shooting occurred, after which the alleged holdup pair left the restaurant and fled up the railroad tracks.

Chief of police Hanley was notified, as was deputy sheriff Dunn. The latter telephoned to deputy sheriff Hyatt of Whitehall, giving a description of the men. Hyatt set out a car and met the men between

Whitehall and Comstock. They were in a car which they had hired, it appeared. He stopped them, and while he was questioning them Dunn and another deputy came along, and the men were taken to Whitehall, where a physician dressed a severe cut in Giavannazzo's wrist. They were taken to Fort Edward, where they were identified by Costa as his assailants.

When captured the men were unarmed. Later an automatic pistol was picked up near the railroad where the pair had passed after leaving the restaurant.

And a hearing before justice of the peace Willard Robinson Monday, the accused men claimed that Costa was the aggressor in the row in the eating house. They were held without bail and committed to the county jail at Salem.

It is reported among Italian residents of Fort Edward that other attempts at extortion have been made by a gang said to have its headquarters in Whitehall.

90 Years Ago

Feb. 25, 1935

At the compensation court held last week in Saratoga Springs, three Greenwich men received awards for injuries. One of the largest awards at the court was made to Jack Cary who was injured while employed by the Stevens and

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An ad from 70 years ago

Thompson Paper Co. He was awarded \$720 for 66 2/3 percent loss of use of this right thumb. Of this amount, \$432 was payable at once in a lump sum and the balance was to be paid in bi-weekly installments of \$28.80. Cary also received \$250 for facial disfigurement, making a total of \$970.

J. Wesley Smith, who was also injured while working at Stevens and Thompson mill, was awarded \$480 for 40 percent loss of use of his left thumb.

Vincent O'Malley, also of Greenwich, received \$150 for facial injuries. He was injured while working for John Lyttle of this village.

Please read more on next page

FUN & GAMES SOLUTIONS

Boggle: ANTELOPE
ANTEATER ELEPHANT
HEDGEHOG POR-
POISE

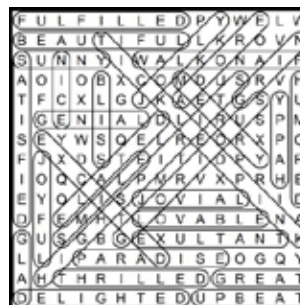
Jumble: TRACT YO-
KEL GENDER VOYAGE

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D ₂	A ₁	Y ₄	L ₁	O ₁	N ₁	G ₂	RACK 1 =	70
F ₄	U ₁	N ₁	N ₁	E ₁	L ₁		RACK 2 =	9
B ₃	L ₁	O ₁	W ₄	G ₂	U ₁	N ₁	RACK 3 =	76
M ₃	A ₁	R ₁	A ₁	B ₃	O ₁	U ₁	RACK 4 =	61

PAR SCORE 150-160 TOTAL **216**
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2	7	1	5	3	9	6	4	8
4	9	5	6	8	7	3	1	2
8	6	3	1	2	4	5	7	9
9	3	7	2	1	6	8	5	4
6	4	2	9	5	8	1	3	7
1	5	8	4	7	3	9	2	6
5	1	9	7	6	2	4	8	3
3	2	6	8	4	5	7	9	1
7	8	4	3	9	1	2	6	5

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

Fire truck struck by train

80 Years Ago

Feb. 28, 1945

One Mechanicville fireman was fatally injured and three others were hurt when a fire truck they were riding in response to an alarm was cut in two by a Delaware and Hudson train in Mechanicville Sunday afternoon. Felix D'Avignon was instantly killed and the injured were Alfred N. Wendell, Walter B. Curtis and Walter Ellsworth, all of Mechanicville. Ellsworth is a former resident of Greenwich. ... Ellsworth told police that the truck came to the crossing with the siren sounding. He said that he saw the glare of the approaching locomotive just as the truck got on the tracks. D'Avignon, who was sitting in the front seat, was instantly killed. He suffered compound fractures of both legs, his right chest was crushed and his right thigh broken. Born in Schuylerville, he had resided in Mechanicville 18 years. He is survived by his wife, one daughter and two sons.

70 Years Ago

Feb. 23, 1955

A 16-year-old Fort Ann girl, Betty Jane Rukat, ended her life early Friday evening by firing a bullet into her heart. Her 27-year-old boyfriend, Charles J. Davis of Whitehall, is being held in Washington County Jail in Salem pending a hearing on Thursday as a Sullivan law violator. State police say David owned the .32 calibre revolver which the girl used and that he did not have a permit for the weapon.

Davis, who was a frequent visitor at Rukat's home, had just left the house at 7:45 Friday evening when he heard the shot and ran back into the house to investigate, he told police. The girl's mother, Mrs. Ethel G. Rukat, also heard the shot, and ran to the bedroom where she found her daughter slumped on the floor, still clutching the revolver. She died a few moments later.

Police questioned Davis and he told them he met Miss Rukat about five months ago and had been going steady with her the past four months. A brakeman on the Delaware and Hudson Railroad, he lives with his wife and two children in Whitehall.

50 Years Ago

Feb. 20, 1975

Washington County can boast that it has the nation's largest American elm tree. It is located in Center White Creek, by the Baptist Church, on Route 68, just east of Route 22.

The American Forestry Association in Washington, DC, has officially confirmed the Washington County elm as the national champion of the species. The White Creek tree received the designation following the loss of the former champion, a huge elm in Kentucky, to Dutch elm disease.

To tell the truth, the White Creek elm didn't look too healthy late this past summer. Perhaps now that it has gained national recognition, something can be done to prolong its life. The tree is in the church yard right next to the highway.

The official statistics on the record-holding elm are: 26 feet, 5 inches in circumference, 92 feet high with a crown spread of 102 feet.

40 Years Ago

March 14, 1985

Sheriff Martin Wescott of Washington County says his department will be providing special bumper stickers for those

attention
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An ad from 40 years ago

drivers whose doctors have issued them medical exemptions from the state's new seatbelt law. ... These stickers will indicate to police why the person is not buckled up. Sheriff Wescott is quick to caution that the medical exemption sticker does not guarantee that the operator will not be pulled over for a seatbelt infraction.

"The seat belt exemption sticker is only meant to be a tool to alert the police officer that the driver has a seat belt exemption," Wescott said. "The sticker has no statutory authority."

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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

Get ready for the next Ashlar breakfast

The community gathered in great numbers at Ashlar Lodge's Washington's Birthday Breakfast on February 2, 2025, where historian Sean Kelleher delivered a fascinating presentation on The Marquis de Lafayette's Quest for Liberty.

With a full and attentive audience, Kelleher explored Lafayette's unique paradox—a French nobleman devoted to republican ideals—and his unwavering commitment to American independence. The talk also highlighted Lafayette's 1824-1825 National Guest Tour, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Revolution, including his historic visit to Schuylerville in June 1825.

"This was a fantastic way to reflect on our shared history," said Harry Booth, Master of Ashlar Lodge. "Sean Kelleher's depth of knowledge and passion for the subject made

for an unforgettable morning."

Following the success of this event, Ashlar Lodge invites the public to its next Good Sunday Morning Breakfast Buffet on March 2, 2025 at the Greenwich Masonic Temple, 2543 NY-40, Greenwich, NY, from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. (Special Recognition Ceremony at 9 a.m.)

This month, Ashlar Lodge will honor Battenkill Community Services for their exceptional work supporting individuals with disabilities.

Suggested donations: \$12 for adults; \$6 for veterans and children under 12. All proceeds support Ashlar Lodge's ongoing community service initia-



tives. For more information, visit Ashlar Lodge on Facebook or contact Brian Nilsen at (518) 366-3108.

Music From Salem for one night only

Music From Salem returns to the Fort Salem Theater mainstage on Sunday, February 23, 2025, at 4:00 PM for an unforgettable evening of chamber music. Following their acclaimed debut at Fort Salem Theater last season, the renowned ensemble will present a program featuring dramatic masterpieces for string quartet and trio by Johannes Brahms and Alfred Schnittke. Tickets are on sale now at FortSalem.com.

"We are thrilled to welcome the talented Music From Salem ensemble back to our stage after their incredible debut last season," said Fort Salem Theater's Executive and Artistic Director Kyle West. "This year's program is truly special, featuring some of the most compelling works in the chamber music repertoire. With such an impressive lineup of musicians, including the remarkable Lila Brown on viola, our audiences are in for a treat."

The performance will feature a stellar roster of musicians. Violist Lila Brown, co-founder and Artistic Director of Music From Salem, has enjoyed a distinguished international career, performing with ensembles such as the Boston Symphony Or-

chestra, Camerata Academica Salzburg, and the Ensemble Modern. A faculty member at institutions including The Boston Conservatory and the Robert Schumann Musikhochschule, Brown is recognized for her deep artistic insight and commitment to chamber music. Violinist Amanda Brin, a founding member of the acclaimed Hyperion String Quartet, has garnered top prizes at multiple chamber music competitions and has been praised for her "lusciousness and great pathos" (Classical Voice of North Carolina). She has performed at leading festivals, collaborated with renowned artists, and most recently served on the faculty at The College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY. Romanian-born cellist Mihai Marica has performed with leading orchestras around the world and is a member of the Apollo Trio. He is an alum of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Bowers Program and has appeared at esteemed



festivals such as Chamber Music Northwest and Aspen Music Festival. Violinist Calvin Wiersma is Associate Professor of Violin and Chamber Music at Ithaca College. He has been a member of multiple award-winning quartets and has performed extensively with ensembles including the Manhattan String Quartet and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

Tickets for this one-night-only event are \$30 and can be purchased 24/7 at www.FortSalem.com, by calling 518-854-9200, or in person at the Fort Salem Theater box office. The box office is open Mondays and Tuesdays from Noon to 5 PM and two hours before each performance.

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A change of heart

MaryAnne Brown
Journal & Press

For years, Olivia dreaded Valentine's Day. To her, it was an exaggerated, commercialized reminder of what she didn't have—romantic love. She was frustrated with the store aisles overflowing with pink and red. Each year on Cupid's Day she made a tradition of ordering takeout and watching a crime documentary to avoid all the sweetness.

However, last year, something shifted. Her elderly neighbor, Mrs. Roberts, had invited her over for tea. "You know," Mrs. Roberts mused, stirring honey into her cup, "I used to feel the same way. But then I realized—why should love only mean romance? Why not celebrate all the love we have?"

That simple idea stayed with Olivia. She started in small ways—writing heartfelt notes to her closest friends, baking cookies for her coworkers, even dropping off flowers at a local nursing home. The more she gave, the lighter her heart felt.

This wise neighbor transformed what was once an irritating part of Olivia's February into a season she could celebrate. She reframed it as an opportunity to embrace love in a new way as a single person. Reframing is a powerful tool that allows us to see a situation from a different perspective, which can be especially helpful when facing a dreaded holiday, assignment, or challenge.

I learned this lesson in my early twenties when my children were scheduled to spend weekends or holidays with their father, I often felt lonely, lost, and empty. When I confided in my health care provider about how much I dreaded these times, he encouraged me to reach out to Lily, an elderly woman, who lived alone. As I began to visit her, I found this simple act of connection—a kind of social prescription—helped me reframe my emptiness into a sense of purpose. Over time, these visits became something I genuinely looked forward to as my relationship with Lily grew in a loving friendship.

Whether we are a couple feeling pressure to find the perfect gift or outing, or a widow or widower, a longtime single person or someone recently separated, let's reframe Valentine's Day as a celebration of love in all forms. We know that love is not just about romance, but it is about honoring the self and embracing the love of the Divine for us. Let's remind ourselves that love is not limited; it is abundant in self-care, friendship, community and faith. Love is not merely for couples; it is a gift that is meant to be shared in many different ways.

Here is some ancient wisdom to ponder about cultivating a healthy love for both ourselves and others. Buddha teaches, "You yourself, as much as anybody in the entire universe, deserve your love and affection." Mother Teresa encourages, "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." St. Augustine reminds us, "God loves each of us as if there were only one of us." And Gandhi emphasizes, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

As we move beyond the commercialized version of Valentine's Day, let's consider ways to nurture our own souls. Reflect on your strengths, your journey, and the love of the Divine. Treat yourself as a cherished friend—cook or order a special meal, take a nature walk, attend a concert, or explore a new interest. Enjoy your own company.

Practice gratitude by listing those who bring love into your life—family, friends,

and community. Reach out with a call or a note of appreciation. Serve others by volunteering, sending words of encouragement, or visiting someone who may be lonely. As Paul told the Corinthians, "Let all you do be done in love."

What will your care plan be when you wake up on February 14? Maybe, like Olivia, you'll find peace in celebrating love beyond romance. She still doesn't have a romantic partner, but that no longer defines her happiness. Instead, she plans to meet a friend for coffee and surprise her niece with a handmade card.

Love, she has learned, is bigger than any one kind. And Valentine's Day? It's just another beautiful chance to share it. May your heart be full!

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.



Don't let a critical boss get you down

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

Q: *My boss never appreciates me, and has plenty of criticisms. He isn't even smart or competent himself. How can I enjoy my career when I work for the guy who thinks he's the smartest guy in the room?*

A: You can enjoy your career if you drop out of the power struggle with your boss on who is right. Realize the actual smartest person in the room is not interested in criticizing others or being arrogant. People who are smart interact with humility because humility allows us to be lifelong learners.

People like your boss tend to hook onto the part of ourselves that worries we're dumb, incompetent, or inadequate. An example I give my clients is this, "If your boss says to you that you have purple hair and it looks dumb, but your hair is brown, would you get upset?" All my clients immediately say they wouldn't argue. I then

ask, "Then why are you arguing about your performance?"

Don't throw out all the feedback your boss gives you because he's a jerk. If there's feedback that can improve your skills, then use that data regardless of disliking its source.

If your boss starts telling you about your purple hair, nod, mention that he makes many good points, and move on. Don't engage in the conflict.

Just because people invite us to a power struggle doesn't mean we have to RSVP. What destroys our effectiveness and serenity is a belief that people must appreciate us, validate us, and see the world the way we do. We can insist our boss and others reflect our glory... and we'll just be miserable.

Once we figure out that everyone is struggling with their own inner demons, we can take a detour away from the haunted houses other people live within. The only damage anyone can do is when their inner demons remind us of our inner demons, especially if we refuse to understand the haunted areas of our inner world.

Many of my advanced clients will quip, "I'd liked it better when everything was everyone else's fault!" After we chuckle, these same clients add, "Then again, I had no power in the bad old days to change how I reacted."

Whatever your boss is criticizing about you, ask yourself if you're afraid that he's right. I'm not saying he is right. I'm asking you if your boss is bringing up a fear you secretly have?

Many adults are covertly scared people will discover whatever they fear about themselves. Even brilliant, competent, and successful people can be anxious that they're only lucky or have

fooled people.

Our fears make us blow one moment out of proportion. No one fears making one mistake; they fear being completely stupid. The one mistake we made, or task we could improve, is not what keeps us up at night. What does keep us up is the larger meaning we attribute to this thing. But if you can look the larger fear in the eye, it will lose its power to haunt you.

Your boss only has the power to wreck your serenity if you fight to be right, and don't face your own fears about yourself. Once you drop out of the power struggle, you'll have the freedom to show up and do the best job you can. You don't have to wait for your boss to shower you with praise to know when you're satisfied with your accomplishments.

The last word(s)

Q: *My New Year's resolution is to be less vindictive with others, but it's a hard habit to change. Is there a perspective you give your clients when they want revenge?*

A: Yes, I point out the wisdom in an Irish proverb, "If you dig a grave for others you may fall into it yourself." What we really want when we feel vindictive is empathy, and revenge never gets us empathy from those we feel have harmed us.

Daneen Skube, Ph.D., executive coach, trainer, therapist and speaker, also appears as the FOX Channel's "Workplace Guru" each Monday morning. She's the author of "Interpersonal Edge: Breakthrough Tools for Talking to Anyone, Anywhere, About Anything." You can contact Dr. Skube at www.interpersonalledge.com.



St. Pat's dinner a bit early

Be the first to celebrate St. Patrick's Day a little early this year at the Cambridge, NY, Food Pantry. There will be a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner at the pantry, 59 South Park St., Route 22 south (across from school bus garage) on Saturday, February 22nd from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Proceeds will go to benefit the food pantry which serves so many individuals and families. The menu will include corned beef cooked to perfection by the "pantry chefs", cabbage, carrots and homemade desserts... and the price is still only \$17 per person. Meals will be served in the pantry dining room or can be taken home to enjoy.

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'Please take my brother to be your husband'

Greg Schwem

*Tribune Content Agency
Special to Journal & Press*

Now that the “Best of 2024” lists have faded from conventional and social media, make way for the “What to expect in 2025!” articles that have begun dotting the media landscape.

These prognostications can range from “How high will the price of eggs really go?” to “Is this the year the Chicago Bears finally make the playoffs?” to “What undiscovered vacation destination will immediately lose that status because some travel writer mentioned it in a blog post?”

Also weddings.

Zola, an online wedding registry and planning service, recently provided its “first look” report detailing what wedding invitees can expect when they enter a church to celebrate a marriage that will last, on average, eight years according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Of course, that’s assuming the betrothed couple has chosen a religious institution. They are far more likely, Zola reveals, to choose outdoor gardens, rustic ranches, farms and barns. Also, once the bride and groom join arms at the end of the aisle, or the manure and straw-littered dirt road, the person waiting to officiate the ceremony might be the same person who shared a childhood bedroom with one of them.

Sorry, wedding officials who answer to “Father,” “Reverend,” “Rabbi” or some other title denoting a religion-based occupation. You may have more weekends free in 2025. Zola claims 61% of couples will be asking friends or family members to preside over ceremonies and eventually, present Mr. and Mrs. Whoever to the assembled guests.

I always thought family wedding interactions were reserved for the first toast, when a sister or a usually inebriated brother grabs the microphone and launches into a long-winded, unfunny story about the bride, groom or both. The at first atten-



tive guests eventually begin checking their phones and deciding they can no longer wait for a bathroom break.

Both of those moves are frowned upon during actual nuptials. So expect wedding ceremonies to last longer in 2025 since the officiant will, most likely, use his or her position to include a story that is best delivered after the bar has been open for at least 90 minutes.

I have one sibling, an older sister. We have a great relationship, but I can’t imagine her saying, “You may now kiss the bride” or emitting any other phrase one associates with a wedding ceremony. Instead, I’d be holding my breath, wondering if she was planning to deviate from the wedding rehearsal script with a crack about my hair, my shoes or my choice of cologne. Hey, siblings insult one another. It’s in our blood.

Then there’s the idea of having a friend join my spouse and I in holy matrimony. Oh, the choices! Select the fraternity brother who accompanied me on spring break to Daytona Beach? Or the co-worker who knows what I REALLY think of my boss, who may be sitting in one of the pews? Surely there wouldn’t be an ad-libbed story, delivered from the altar, about office politics?

Or would there?

I’d rather not take that chance. It’s never

wise to start a marriage unemployed.

My marriage ended in divorce after 29 years. At this time, I have no plans to walk down the aisle again, no matter what that aisle is made from or what seaside gazebo it leads to. But I can provide some cautionary advice for engaged couples who want to shake up a traditional wedding by making their dog the ring bearer or substituting THC-infused beverages for champagne during the first toast.

At the end of the day, your guests are there to eat food and drink liquor they didn’t pay for. So don’t overthink what should be an amazing day for both of you. If anything, let others make the decision.

Which leads to another interesting revelation courtesy of Zola:

Fifty-one percent of couples are perfectly OK with using artificial Intelligence to write their wedding vows.

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.



Greenwich is now 'Tree City USA'

The Arbor Day Foundation named the Village of Greenwich a 2024 Tree City USA in honor of its commitment to plant, grow, and maintain trees to benefit its community.

The Arbor Day Foundation is a global nonprofit with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. Its network of more than a million supporters and partners has helped the organization plant more than 500 million trees in forests and communities across more than 60 countries since 1972. The Tree City USA program has recognized cities and towns that leverage urban forestry to enhance the livability and sustainability of their local area for over 50 years.

“We all have a role to play in shaping our future and tree champions like the Village of Greenwich are leading the way,” said Michelle Saulnier, Vice President of Programs at the Arbor Day Foundation. “Trees are critical infrastructure, building resiliency and fostering good health in our nation’s cities. We’re proud Greenwich is among the Arbor Day Foundation’s growing network of communities dedicated to creating positive impact through trees.”

In cities and neighborhoods, trees are proven to help mitigate the urban heat island effect, reduce stormwater runoff, improve air quality, and boost mental and

physical health. When the right trees are planted in the right places, they can also reduce traffic noise, increase property values, and lower energy costs for homeowners.

“We’re excited to receive our first-ever Tree City USA recognition. Trees are an important part of what makes Greenwich such a special place—they support our environment, provide shade and beauty, and contribute to the health of our community. This recognition highlights the dedication of our residents, volunteers, and local officials who value and invest in our natural landscape,” said Amanda Hurley, Mayor of the Village of Greenwich.

“This distinction shows how committed we are to keeping our Village continually canopied in healthy, beautiful trees,” said Donna Frank Moore, Village Trustee. “Both the Parks and Recreation Task Force and the newly formed Tree Committee are hard at work planning for the planting and regeneration of native species on Village properties. We’re also exploring ways to make access to trees easier and more affordable for anyone who would like to plant one. More than just attractive, trees clean the air, provide habitats for wildlife, and provide shade for us and future generations



Mayor Amanda Hurley planting a tree in 2024

of Village residents.”

To earn Tree City USA recognition, a city must uphold four core standards including maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and participating in an Arbor Day celebration.

The Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree City USA program is operated in partnership with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. To learn more about the program or how to apply, visit arborday.org.

Blood donations needed

The American Red Cross urges donors to give blood or platelets in February to help build up the blood supply after thousands of donations went uncollected last month. People of all blood types – especially those with type O negative blood – are encouraged to make and keep their donation appointments so hospitals can continue to ensure critical care for patients this winter.

Since the beginning of the year, hundreds of blood drives have been canceled and more than 15,000 blood and platelet donations have gone uncollected due to severe winter weather and wildfires. As February continues, so does the potential for additional

weather systems to disrupt blood drives. Flu and other seasonal illnesses are spreading, which could also force more people to cancel scheduled donation appointments, compounding the impact to collecting lifesaving blood products.

Give with your whole heart this month. To book a time to give blood or platelets, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCross-Blood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As a thank-you, all who come to give through Feb. 28, 2025, will get a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. See RedCross-Blood.org/Flurry for details. Upcoming blood

donation opportunities:

- 2/19/2025: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church, 175 Fifth Ave., Saratoga Springs.
- 2/26/2025: 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Cambridge High School, 24 South Park St., Cambridge.
- 2/28/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Greenwich High School, 10 Gray Avenue, Greenwich.
- 2/28/2025: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Saratoga Public Library, 49 Henry St., Saratoga Springs.

A penny for your thoughts

Michael Levy
Journal & Press

When was the last time you eagerly accepted a handful of pennies as change? Most of us either toss them in a change jar by the check out or perhaps even refuse them altogether.

The humble penny, once hoarded by children for afterschool candy purchases and meticulously counted by shopkeepers at the end of the business day, is now more likely to be found under a cushion than in a cash register. Some argue that the one cent piece has outlived its usefulness, yet the debate over its future remains as lively as ever.

Advocates for the elimination of the penny frequently cite a straightforward fact as their primary argument. The cost to produce a penny is higher than its actual value. Each penny minted by the U.S. government carries a production cost of about 3.7 cents.

Retailers would likely welcome its removal because rounding purchases up to the nearest nickel might provide a subtle boost to their bottom line. (Did you really think that anyone would round prices down?) Local merchants on Main Street in Greenwich might not see much profit from this, but large retailers like Walmart could benefit significantly if every one of its thirty-seven million daily customer transactions were rounded up to the nearest nickel. If you do some math, that adds up to a lot of money over the course of a year!

Here are some more questions for your consideration. Would removing the penny affect electronic commerce, or is this only relevant for cash transactions? Should rounding to the nearest nickel occur for digital transactions that can manage exact amounts? How will sales tax be calculated and collected on cash transactions if the penny were no longer in circulation?

Would the elimination of the penny create new government deficits? Phasing out

the penny would significantly increase the demand for nickels which are somewhat expensive to make. The U.S. Treasury currently incurs a greater loss per nickel manufactured compared to each penny that is produced. Did you know that a nickel costs about 13.8 cents to make? It makes the penny look like a bargain!

Eliminating the penny overlooks its cultural significance, as it still holds a meaningful place in society. The image of Abraham Lincoln on the penny serves as a reminder of the nation's history, highlighting both its challenges and achievements. This small coin carries symbolic value, representing perseverance and the progress made over time.

Beyond its historical importance, the penny also plays a role in charitable giving. Many people contribute pennies to donation containers at cash registers nationwide,

'Beyond its historical importance, the penny also plays a role in charitable giving.'

collectively making a significant impact on various causes. Removing the penny could diminish these small yet meaningful acts of generosity that benefit those in need.

For those concerned with improving government efficiency, an option is to retain the penny but reduce its production costs. A penny manufactured using new and innovative techniques might even minimize the waste that originally prompted discussions about its elimination. A billionaire (or two) could easily develop a more efficient and cost-effective manufacturing solution for the U.S. Mint. Minting coins isn't rocket science, is it?

Historically, this approach has prec-



edents, and the penny has changed many times. The first U.S. pennies, minted in 1793, were made of pure copper and were significantly larger than today's version. In 1909, the Lincoln penny was introduced to mark the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth. The 1943 steel penny was manufactured during World War II to preserve copper resources. Pennies minted prior to 1982 were composed of 95% copper, resulting in a metal value that exceeded the face value of one cent. Consequently, modern pennies are primarily made of zinc with a thin copper coating, thereby reducing both their intrinsic value and production costs.

Will coins follow the extinction path of cassette tapes and rotary phones? Will we one day tell our great, grandchildren about a time when these things called pennies jingled in our pockets? Cultural changes will ultimately decide the penny's future, but I think that pennies will always remain a part of our random thoughts.

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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The ghosts in the Redbox machine

Darren Johnson
Journal & Press

Abandoned things often become invisible to everyday passersby over time.

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

My latest curiosity has been these Redbox machines you can still see in places like grocery stores, convenience gas stations and such. Redbox went completely out of business last year, and apparently they have abandoned their huge red kiosks. Being a

purveyor of legacy media, they interest me. But it's not like I can bring in a handcart and just wheel out these machines. They certainly are still valuable enough to lead to felonies if taken. But it is odd that these behemoths that had for so long just cheerfully dispensed DVDs, Blu-rays and even video games, are just ancient ruins, next to Coinstars and the few living newspaper racks that remain.

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

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

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

Part of me would like to open a video store, even today. I know this would be a retro idea, and of course



Most Redboxes are unplugged

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

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

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

Or maybe these kiosks could be donated to local libraries. I notice a lot of local libraries



An abandoned video store in Gloversville

Please read more on next page

(cont.)

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

I decided to test out the Redbox at Market 32. I scrolled through the titles on the touch

screen. Again, there was nothing newer than mid-2024 available. I'd say maybe "The Barbie Movie" was the newest title advertised. Just for kicks, and perhaps metaphorically, I picked a 2018 movie called "Happy Death Day." I went through the motions, selected it, and hit "checkout." It asked for a credit card. I used a card that I know has a low limit, in case it's a scam. And it worked! "Happy Death Day" popped out of the slot! I took it, put it in my grocery bag, and left.



Did I dream all of this? Ghosts?

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

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

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

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

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

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

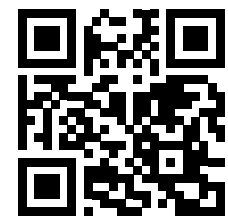
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'Going Places'

Some scenes from the opening of artist Chris Smith's "Going Places" at the Greenwich Free Library on Feb. 13. See the exhibit through March 15 in the library's community room.



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!

New teacher awards

NYSUT Retiree Council (RC) 10 announced the recipients of their New Teacher Award. RC 10 includes NYSUT retirees who worked in districts in Washington, Albany, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties.

RC 10 recognizes that those who are in the education field have many pressures on them, especially in their first years of teach-

ing. This year, they announced the following Washington County awardees:

Whitni Izzo from Hartford School District and Morgan Austin from Salem School District.

Pictured: Barbara McCarthy, RC 10 President, Mary Kruchinski, RC 10 Treasurer and former President of Salem Teachers

Association, Morgan Austin, new teacher, and Amy Maxwell and Dani Folino, both co-presidents of Salem Teachers.



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.

Strong Women's Circle

The next Strong Woman Circle will be held on Fri., February 21 from 6:30-8:30 in the Brieman Bldg. located behind the Cambridge Presbyterian Church, 81 E. Main St. We will continue our focus of Creating Foundations of Strength. Offered on a sliding scale of \$15-25/woman. Facilitated by Teresa King. Registration is required before Feb. 19. To register, email her at teresaking1@

live.com. Early registration is encouraged, since our circle has been expanding. Please bring a journal, pen, a sacred object for our table and cash or check.

Strong Women circles have been created to help women discover more about themselves, grow emotionally and spiritually, acquire more confidence and courage, strengthen their voice.

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 literary magazine wins award

Whatever! from Cambridge Central School has been recognized as a REALM First Class magazine by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). This year, schools in 46 states and five countries nominated 422 student magazines. Magazines from middle school, high school and higher education were welcomed for the 2024 contest. 125 magazines were awarded the contest's highest distinction, REALM First Class.

The REALM program publicly recognizes excellent literary magazines produced by students with the support of their teachers. REALM is designed to encourage all schools to develop literary magazines that celebrate the art and craft of writing.

Schools in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, US territories, Canada and American schools abroad are eligible to nominate magazines.

Members of last year's Whatever! Journal include Fyona Barber, Jaron Barber, Addison Barton, Caleb Blackler, Lilli Dearstyne, Gladys Dougherty, Isaak Koopmann, Cali Merriman, Haile Merriman, Adeline Record and Quentin Schneider. Co-advisors are Ms. Kirsten O'Brien and Mrs. Victoria Brooking.

For more information about the REALM



Program, please visit their website. View the publication.

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