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# Greenwich Journal



# and The Salem Press

of Washington County, N.Y.

Talking about our towns

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The publisher of this paper and its columnist talk extensively about the plight of our local towns, the future of small-town journalism and even the Cambridge Indian mascot debate in a

new podcast format. We publish it here as a Q&A.

Please read more starting on page 3



# Fun in the sun (safely)

Columnist Kate Sausville colorfully goes over the various summer activities happening now – and how to avoid catastrophe.

Please read more on page 2



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# **Country Living**

# Fun in the sun (safely)

Kate Sausville Journal & Press

Memorial Day weekend marks the unofficial start of the summer season. Hiking, swimming, boating, and barbecues are just a few ways we enjoy the milder weather. Warmer temperatures can be a relief to those of us who call upstate NY home, unfortunately the nice weather also brings an increase in accidents and injuries. Making safe choices can keep you cool all summer long.

Swimming is a favorite way to beat the heat and our area offers plenty of choices when it comes to taking a dip. Lakes, rivers, and streams abound and offer a refreshing change from hot, humid air. Many families also have a backyard pool, or access to one. Sadly, according to the CDC, there are 4,000 drowning deaths in the US each year. That averages about 11 deaths per day. There are around 8,000 nonfatal drownings each year. While the person may live, they can suffer brain damage or other long term disabilities. Children are more susceptible to drowning, but anyone can drown.

To keep your family safe, always supervise children closely when swimming. Young children or weak swimmers should be within arm's length of a supervising adult. There should always be an adult actively supervising swimming. Active supervision means not looking at your phone, having a conversation, or reading a book while you are watching the swimmers. Drowning is a notoriously silent event, and many people do not recognize the signs of a swimmer in distress. Horseplay can

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Matthew C. VanDoren, PLS 518-692-2435 matt@cornerpostlandsurvey.com be an issue around water, and cause lifelong injury or death. Swimming lessons as early as possible can help keep kids safe, but ultimately it is up to adults to properly supervise.

Boating is a big part of summer in upstate NY. New York State has averaged 22 deaths per year from 2012-2022 according to their annual Recreational Boating Report. Many of these deaths were caused by not wearing a lifejacket. Cold water immersion, which quickly causes distress, makes it impossible for the victim to stay afloat. Another factor in boating deaths is intoxication. Between 2005 and 2022, intoxication was the primary cause of 79 fatalities. New York State has a required boater safety course that needs to be completed prior to operating a motor boat. Alcohol or drugs should be avoided when piloting the boat, and everyone on the vessel should be wearing a life

vest. For non-motorized boats such as kayaks or canoes, lifejackets are essential. Ideally you should have a partner to boat with, and keep in mind water and weather conditions before going out.

Camping is also popular for some reason. Apparently people enjoy leaving their com-

fortable homes and beds to sleep in a damp tent on the hard ground. Clearly, I am not one of them. But if you decide to camp, be safe. Keep food in bear proof containers, and do not leave garbage out. Camp fires are fun, but children should be actively supervised while near them. Do not allow children to play, or run near the fire. Alcoholic bev-

erages can increase the fun of camping (or make you forget that it's awful) but alcohol can impair your ability to reason and cause you to make bad decisions. Drink responsibly.

Cookouts are tradition in the summer months. Before you fire up the grill, make sure it's in working order. If you use propane, make sure the tank is filled. Have a "kid free" zone around the grill, to minimize the risk of

> burns. If you use charcoal, keep in mind that coals may be hot long after the cooking is done. Clean the grill before initial use. Do not use a brush with metal bristles to clean the grill. There have been many cases of the bristles getting cooked into food and causing injury. Use safe food handling procedures when making your meals. Food meant to be cold should be kept cold, and foods that are meant to be hot should be hot. And as much as you might want leftovers, food that has been out for more than 2 hours should be thrown out. You don't want your cookout to be memorable because of a trip to the Emergency Room.



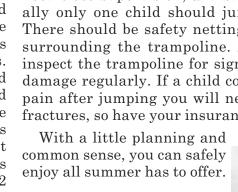
easy to find a hike for any ability. Research the trail before you go, being mindful of your fitness level. Hikers should be wearing appropriate clothing and footwear and there should be enough water for each hiker. Depending on the time of day you may need flashlights or headlamps. Taking your dog with you? Make

# 'Apparently people enjoy leaving their comfortable homes and beds to sleep in a damp tent on the hard ground.'

sure you have enough water for them. Hiking can be strenuous for our furry friends, so you will need to keep that in mind when bringing supplies. Another important part of hiking is trail etiquette, take time to learn the rules before you head out. This will make the experience more enjoyable.

Kids will (hopefully) be outside a lot during the summer months. The number of head injuries spike, so be sure to protect their noggins. Children riding wheeled items (bicycles, scooters, skate boards, etc.) should be wearing helmets. Electric bikes and scooters are not safe for children. They can stop suddenly causing the rider to fly off at high speed. Even with a helmet, this type of fall can be catastrophic. Trampolines are another favorite backyard activity. Like a swimming pool, they need close supervision, and strict rules. Ideally only one child should jump at a time. There should be safety netting and padding surrounding the trampoline. Adults should inspect the trampoline for signs of wear and damage regularly. If a child complains of leg pain after jumping you will need to rule out fractures, so have your insurance card handy.

Kate Sausville is a resident of Greenwich.



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# A conversation about our region

As advertised in our last issue, this newspaper hosted a "practice" live podcast at the Greenwich Free Library on May 23. It ended up being just publisher **Darren Johnson** and columnist **Michael Levy** chatting about our local towns and the future of small-town journalism, but the audio ended up being too poor to publish as a podcast. Here is the podcast transcript, edited for space. We'll try again at the library on June 5 at 10:30 a.m. Contact editor@journalandpress.com if you'd like to join in.

#### Can't Get a Cup of Coffee

**DJ:** We're going to record on Monday mornings, and that's why it's called The Weekly Newspaper Podcast. But then I realized there's nowhere to get coffee around here at nine o'clock on a Monday.

It seems in downtown Greenwich, you cannot get coffee on a Monday morning. And we both wrote editorials on that topic recently. And I had people stop me on the streets and say, "Hey, you know, we saw those pieces."

That was a really powerful issue, having two people write about the same thing about our vacant main streets. And I kind of looked at it from a perspective of maybe the types of businesses that are coming in aren't built to survive here.

Maybe the people that are starting the businesses don't staff them enough or don't understand staffing, and they aren't open, so they don't become habit-forming for customers.

ML: I've talked to a bunch of people who've been here decades, that there used to be a very, how do I say it, vibrant downtown.

There were a lot of shops. There were a lot of stores, there were a lot of businesses. And over time that has all gone away. So right now in downtown, there are a lot of empty storefronts. I mean, maybe we should create a Greenwich empty storefront index, which would be a percentage. Just take the number of storefronts divided by the number that are empty.

What we need to do is figure out how to make that a more vital downtown. How to make it into a thriving business place where people would want to come. People want to come and have coffee, have dinner, have lunch.

**DJ:** I like the idea of a downtown vacancy index, and I want to make this podcast universal, that's why it's called The Weekly Newspaper Podcast. There are hundreds of these type newspapers all across the country. They are dying breed. We're a paid circulation newspaper in a small town, and we're over 180 years old.

They still survive on actual readers paying for it. We are not a free paper. The free papers eat our lunch. They come in and they can take all the advertising without any of the responsibility.

They don't have people calling them, saying, "Hey, I don't like that letter in the newspaper. I don't like that article that you wrote. Or why don't you cover this event or that event?" They don't have to do any of that. They can just run press releases and just take all the ads and throw their papers in a grocery store, or just mail them to everyone.

And they take the advertising, which would make a newspaper like ours vital. So having a vibrant Main Street is important to the survival of the newspaper as well, because those are the types of businesses that probably would advertise in a paper like the Greenwich Journal & Salem Press. If these businesses existed, if there were more of them.

So I would say, yeah, it seems about 50% of

the Main Street, Greenwich, businesses are occupied and then some are kind of marginally occupied, like they operate sometimes, but not all of the time. Or they might be a business that doesn't really bring in business to other people. We have one flagship restaurant, Wallie's. They opened in the middle of Covid, but they seem to be building. They were sold out for Mother's Day and Easter and they're doing pretty well. But we need a little bit more here.

ML: Well, we have another restaurant downtown. We have Elsasser's at 111 Main Street. And that's another business. But what I'm saying in terms of having people come to Green-

wich saying, "Let's go to Greenwich for the evening. Let's have dinner in Greenwich." That doesn't seem to happen here.

Yes, we have a lot of people who came up here during the pandemic, people who have moved from downstate. They like living in Washington County. They like living in Greenwich. They like the lower property values, the easier way of life. And so a lot of these people are working from home now.

They telework or they rarely go into the office. They need to have some kind of gathering place where they can go and have coffee in the morning, meet with others just like them. There is one coffee place downtown, actually two of them, but they aren't open every day.

# 'We've done maybe about, I don't know, eight stories on this park.'

**DJ:** It's a tough thing to try and have a downtown that's vibrant when people cannot go someplace and gather. Yes, that business mindset. And, you know, like a lot of people, we have to do some of our work, most of our work, out of the county.

That's why I decided to do the podcast first thing on a Monday. Set your whole week in motion and with good vibes and everything like that. That's how business works.

#### The Nature of News Reporting

**DJ:** In our last issue, there was a story that brought a little bit of complaints. I have free-lancer who was one of my students when I used to teach at UAlbany. I was an adjunct at UAlbany, and she's one of the top journalism students that just graduated there, and has a job now at WAMC as a news editor.

So, you know, she's definitely up-and-coming, knows journalism, knows the rules of journalism, and has been covering topics for us for a while, including a couple of topics that were touched upon in the story. One was there's a park at the west end of town along the Hudson River called Hudson Riverside Park, and no one really goes to the park because it's relatively new.

I live near there. It was bought about two administrations ago by the town in \$150,000 range, I believe. It's a three acre property, 3.3 acres, and



it formerly was a prep school and a private school grounds. And you can still see soccer goal posts in the distance.

There's a greenhouse, which is in disrepair. There's a school building that is in pretty good condition, although critics say that it has some materials that might be problematic like vermiculite, which is, I guess a form of asbestos that was used back when such buildings were made. But other people say it's safe as long as you don't cut it up or anything. It's just a common material from the olden days.

It's kind of nice. It's overlooking the Hudson there. There's a cliff, so someone could fall over the cliff technically if they're not careful. And so some rails need to be put up there. It requires some basic maintenance because there are

But otherwise it seems like a nice space. And so there was a Democratic led administration under Sara Idleman that purchased the property and

they were working closely with Hudson Crossing Park, which is on the Saratoga town side of the equation. But they were going to help. Maybe help with administration, maybe use the offices there for their purposes.

That didn't come to fruition. A Republican-led town board came in, led by Supervisor Don Ward, and they had a lot of criticisms of the park. And, so not a lot has happened there, even though there's some grant money put aside. Now we have a new, Democratic board, which isn't really all that new anymore because Supervisors only serve two years, and it's actually an election year again.

And they're re-looking at the park, so they held an event there. But at the event – and we've done maybe about, I don't know, eight stories on this park, and we've done maybe two or three stories, or at least opinion pieces, on the comprehensive plan – they used the park as a way to show off their the planning process of the comprehensive plan.

So the controversial aspect was, our reporter went to the event. I couldn't go. My daughter was graduating from college even though the event was near my house. I might have covered it differently, but the reporter, having covered this before, went and spoke to consultants, LaBella Associates, for the town and village of Greenwich.

**Continued on page 14** 

# **Random Thoughts**

# **Being the best**

Michael Levy Journal & Press

If you ever been to Raleigh, North Carolina, you may have had the opportunity to eat charcoal flame-cooked burgers at the Char-Grill restaurant. I have heard that the original location is being torn down or soon will be. The original building along Hillsborough Street stood for several decades and represented a simpler time. You walked up to the window, wrote down your order on a slip of paper, dropped it down a chute, and watched them make the food right in front of you. You took your food "to go" or you consumed it at the tables located outside.

I remember eating at Char-Grill many times in the 1980s and early 1990s when I was in graduate school. Char-Grill had an amazing sign in the window that stated something like, "McDonalds says they have the best burgers in the world, Burger King states they have the best burgers in the United States, Hardees claims they have the best burgers in the Carolinas. All that we say is that we have the best hamburgers on Hillsborough Street." Since those fast-food chains were well represented on Hillsborough Street, the Char-Grill signage simply was proclaiming its excellence above the rest.

Fast forward to the end of May 2023 when I ate at Sweet Lou's in Schuylerville. Chef Lou's signs proclaim that, "I would rather serve great food on a plastic plate, then good food on china." Talking with Lou after looking at the

menu for a bit, I ordered his pastrami sandwich as I have done a few times in the past. I then told Chef Lou that I had a pastrami sandwich at Katz's Delicatessen on East Houston Street in New York City just a few days before, so we talked about that experience for a bit.

Katz's pastrami is crusted with a proprietary blend of blackened spices. The meat is perfectly marbled with fat, displaying a reddish color that makes carnivores like me salivate before taking the first bite. The Katz's system of making your sandwich is part of the experience of going there. The meat is cut by hand with a long sharp knife by a line of white-uniformed "cutters." All the cutters in my experience are men who never seem to tire after spending all day slicing up meat and pickles. A customer waits in line for a cutter to prepare their sandwich. While your Katz's cutter is slicing meat for you, he gives you a sample to taste. It is more than just food preparation; this is a show as well. For decades, I would patiently wait in line for Peter, my preferred cutter, who always remembered me. I think that he may have retired because I have not seen him in years.

Chef Lou makes his own pastrami, and it is quite good. Unfortunately, talking with him about my experience at Katz's likely made Chef Lou a bit nervous and apprehensive. Being a famous writer for a prestigious newspaper known as the Greenwich Journal and Salem Press, Lou may have thought that I was comparing his pastrami to Katz's world-famous recipe for a future column, which was not my original intent in fact.

Then Chef Lou asked me the million-dollar question. He said in a very welcoming manner, "I just want my pastrami to be the best, any suggestions that you have would be greatly ap-

preciated."

With that statement, Chef Lou expressed a passion for excellence that touched me deeply. And that is when I remembered that sign from my distant past, hung in the window at the Char-Grill in Raleigh. Sweet Lou's pastrami will never be world famous like Katz's. But because of his attitude, I know that one day Chef Lou will have the best pastrami in all of New York State and Katz's will play second fiddle to his.

The lesson here for local businesses is this. You may never be the biggest of your competitors nor the most famous, but you could be the crème de la crème of your industry. If you own a restaurant, could you serve food that is without equal anywhere on this planet? If you fashion beverage products like wine, beer, or cider, why not make it so that these products are competitive at the international level? Likewise, all our local agricultural products and manufactured goods could be crafted with the goal of ultimate excellence in mind.

Let us work towards making the absolute best into a core value for every business in the area. Many businesses locally already embrace this value as part of their culture, and they serve as the beacon for others to find their way. It is one thing to say that you are great, it is another to truly be the "best of the best." More than a random thought!

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





# **Greenwich's Top 10**

George Niesz, Greenwich High School Principal, announced the Top 10 graduates of the Class of 2023. In order, starting with Valedictorian:

Teagan Wright - Teagan is the daughter of Deborah and David Wright. She is a member of the National Honor Society (NHS), Future Business Leaders of America (Historian, Past Reporter) (FBLA), NYS FBLA Honor Society, Foreign Language Honor Society, Future Farmers of America (Treasurer) (FFA), Tech Club, Varsity Choir, New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA), Math League, French Club, Varsity Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Varsity Soccer. Teagan has been awarded the Seal of Biliteracy, Heisman Scholar High School Honoree, NYS FBLA Intro to Business Competition 3rd place and Advertising 5th place, FFA National Gold Ranking (Food Science and Technology Competition), Cross Country NYS Team Champion and Two-Time Runner-Up, Team League and Sectional Team Titles for Indoor, Outdoor and Cross Country, NYS Cross Country Class C Top 10 Individual, Greenwich Community Character Award, Capital Area School Development Association Students Who Make a Difference Award and the Hudson Crossing Park-Seedling Award. Teagan is also a piano accompanist, and an Angel Pusher with Ainsley's Angels of America.

Words of Wisdom or Favorite Quote - "Remember that life is not meant to be wasted. We can always be chasing the sun. So fill up your lungs and just run. But, always be chasing the sun." - Sara Bareilles

Future Plans - Teagan will be attending South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, studying Mechanical Engineering.

Norah Niesz - Norah is the daughter of George and Maureen Niesz. She is a member of NHS, Spanish National Honor Society, Varsity Basketball, Varsity Soccer, Varsity Softball, Greenwich Band (Saxophone) and Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Student of the Year Campaign (Team Member of the Winning Campaign). She has been awarded NYS Girls Basketball Regional Champion 2022-2023, Section 2 Class C Girls Basketball Champion 2022-2023, NYS Class C Softball Champion 2022, First Team Wasaren League Girls Soccer 2022, Section 2 Girls Basketball Wasaren League MVP 2022-2023, Section 2 Girls Soccer Class C All-Star 2022, 2nd Team All-State Girls Basketball 2022-2023, 2nd Team Times Union Small School Girls Basketball All-Star 2022-2023, Scholar Athlete, Grishkot Scholarship, and the Augsbury/North Country Scholarship. She is also an altar server at St. Joseph's Church and a Comfort Foods volunteer.

Words of Wisdom or Favorite Quote - "Whatever you are, be a good one."

Future Plans - Norah will be attending St. Lawrence University

where she will be studying Biomedical Sciences and playing on the Women's Basketball team.

Catharine Abate - Catharine is the daughter of Sean and Patrice Abate. She is a member of NHS (Treasure), Math League (League High Scorer), Varsity Track and Field, Varsity Lacrosse, Varsity Soccer (Captain, Wasaren League Defensive MVP, First Team All-Section, Fourth Team All-State), and Varsity Basketball (State

Semifinalist). She has been awarded the College Board Rural and Small Town Recognition and the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medal Award. She is also a Greenwich Youth Soccer Coach and a Comfort Foods Volunteer.

Words of Wisdom or Favorite Quote - "I believe in hope. I believe in believe." -Ted Lasso

**Future Plans -** Catharine will be attending Colgate University, studying Biological Sciences.

Grace McFarren - Grace is the daughter of Scott and Amy McFarren. She is the founder and president of the Greenwich Jr. Sr. High School HOPE Club. She is also a member of NHS and the Spanish National Honor Society. She sat on the Greenwich Youth Center Board in 2020-2021, and sits on the Governor's Youth Council and the Washington County Youth Board this year. She is also running her own photography business. She has been awarded a scholarship to attend SUNY Adirondack tuition free.

Words of Wisdom or Favorite Quote - A healthy balance between school and fun is so important. Don't spend so much time doing work that you forget to enjoy what you love.

**Future Plans -** Grace will be attending SUNY Adirondack, studying Outdoor Education.

Alexander Baker - Alexander is the son of Mathew and Brandii Baker. Alexander is a member of NHS, National Technical Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. He attended the New Visions Engineering program this year. He is also a member of FBLA (1st place in Client Services in the District). He has been awarded the Clarkson University High School Achievement Award and the 4-H Cashmere-For-Kids Showmanship Award.

Words of Wisdom or Favorite Quote - Expect nothing, but appreciate everything.

Future Plans - Alexander will be attending Cornell University, studying Electrical Engineering.

Maeve Kelleher - Maeve is the daughter of Maryann and Tim Kelleher. Maeve is a member of NHS (Vice President), FBLA (Vice President), FBLA National Honor Society, Students to Oppose Pollution, Leukemia and Lymphoma So-



ciety (Student of the Year), Student Council, Willard Mountain Freestyle Mogul Team (Captain, USSA Eastern Freestyle Moguls Top 100 Ranking), Spanish Club, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Capital Region Human Rights Symposium, Youth of St. Joseph's (President), Varsity Soccer (Captain, League All-Star Honorable Mention), and Varsity Lacrosse (Captain, Foothills Council Honorable Mention). She also attended the American Legion's Girls State last spring. Maeve has been awarded the New York State Scholar Athlete Award and the University of Rochester Susan B. Anthony Frederick Douglas Award. Maeve is a volunteer coach for the community youth Lacrosse and Soccer programs. She is also an Irish Step Dancer and an Altar Server at St. Joseph's Church.

Future Plans - Maeve will be attending SUNY Brockport where she will be studying Exercise Science in the 3+2 program and playing on the Women's Lacrosse team.

Declan Kelleher - Declan is the son of Maryann and Tim Kelleher. Declan is a member of NHS, Spanish National Honor Society, Math League, Mock Trial Team, Yearbook Club, Student Council, Senior Band (French Horn, 2019 NYSSMA Level 4 Soloist), All County Band (2019 & 2020), Students Against Destructive Decisions (Secretary), Students to Oppose Pollution (STOP, Treasurer), Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Student of the Year Campaign (Team Member on the Winning Campaign), Willard Mountain Freestyle Ski Team (Captain, Top 10 Ranking), Varsity Soccer (Captain, First Team League All-Star). Varsity Lacrosse (Captain), Varsity Football (New York State All-State Kicker). Declan attended The American Legon's Boys State last spring. He has been awarded New York State Scholar Athlete, the University of Rochester Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award. Declan is an altar server at St. Joseph's Church, volunteers annually serving Thanksgiving meals at the Equinox and coaching and refereeing youth lacrosse and youth soccer.

Future Plans - Declan will be attending the United States Military Academy at West Point where he will be studying Physics.

MacKenzie Dixson - MacKenzie is the daughter of Nicole and John Dixson. MacKenzie is a member of

NHS, National Technical Honor Society, Varsity Field Hockey (Captain, First Team All-Star Wasaren League), Varsity Lacrosse (Captain, First Team All-Star Foothills), Varsity Track and Field (Wasaren League All-Star Section 2 4x200 Relay, Class D 4x200 Relay - 2nd Place, Wasaren League Section 2 1st Place 50m Hurdles), HOPE Club (Secretary), Science Club (President), STOP Club (President). MacKenzie has been awarded the Times Union Best of the Week Section 2 (4 Time Winner), Wells College 21st Century Leadership Award and the Russell Sage Scholar Award.

Words of Wisdom or Favorite Quote - "We cannot become what we want by remaining what we are." - Max Depree

Future Plans - MacKenzie will be attending Nazareth University where she will be studying Physical Therapy in their 3+3 program.

**Keegan Collins -** Keegan is the daughter of Kevin and Jill Collins. Keegan is a member of NHS (President), Spanish National Honor Soci-Student Council (Class ety, President, Treasurer), and Varsity Track and Field (State and Federation Weight Throw 1st Place, Indoor Shot Put and Weight Throw Sectional Champ 21-22, Outdoor Shot Put and Discus Sectional Champ 21-22, Indoor Weight Throw Sectional Champ 22-23). She has been awarded the Russell Sage Scholar Award, Capital District Leadership Award and Scholar Athlete.

Words of Wisdom or Favorite Quote - Do what makes you happy!

Future Plans - Keegan will be attending the University of Albany where she will be studying Public Health and competing on the Women's Track team.

Kaitlyn Lavoo - Kaitlyn is the daughter of Deborah and Michael Lavoo. Kaitlyn is a member of NHS, French National Honor Society, Varsity Field Hockey (Waseren League First Team All-Star). Kaitlyn has been awarded the National Rural and Small Town Award, the Alfred University Scholars Award, and the Girl Scout Silver Award. Kaitlyn was nominated to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum: National Security-Diplomacy, Intelligence and Defense.

**Future Plans** - Kaitlyn will attend the University of New Haven, studying Homeland Security.

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# **Kick off your Sunday shoes in Salem**

Fort Salem Theater is proud to present the exhilarating stage production of "Footloose," running from June 22 to July 2, 2023. This explosive movie musical adaptation will ignite the stage with its dynamic new songs and powerhouse hits, including "Let's Hear It For The Boy," "Holding Out For A Hero," and "Almost Paradise," among others. Tickets are selling very quickly to this awesome 80's entertainment, so crimp your hair and come on down to join the fun.

"There's not a song in 'Footloose' that you can't help but sing and dance along to," said Fort Salem Theater Executive and Artistic Director Kyle West. "Our audiences are going to have such a blast seeing this iconic story come to life before their eyes. And with 32 incredible performers on stage, this might be Salem's largest song and dance spectacular ever. Tickets are flying, and we just can't wait to "cut loose!"

"Footloose" showcases a talented cast bringing the beloved characters to life, including guest artist Connor Bailey as Ren McCormack. Bailey makes his Fort Salem Theater debut, visiting from NYC. He most recently played the title role in "The Spongebob Musical" before packing his dancing shoes for a summer upstate. Joining him is Megan Calos as Ariel Moore, Jared West as Rev. Shaw Moore, Rachel Seebode as Vi Moore, Jenna Wilkinson as Rusty, and Luke McGee as Willard Hewitt. The rest of the cast is comprised of Aaron Bermon (Bickle), Arianna Dreher (Wendy Jo), Catherine Hayes, Emma Otto (Urleen), Fred Dreher (Uncle Wes), Iyal Basen (Garvin), Luke Miner (Jeter), Marissa Valent (Principal Clark), Neeley Dessaint (Lulu), Nicole McDonald (Vi Moore), Quinn Donaldson (Lyle/Cowboy Bob), Siri Allison (Betty Blast), Stephen Buntich (Chuck Cranston), Tina Hayes (Elenor Dunbar), Vidur Katyal (Cop), Xander Holden (Travis), Matt De-Marco (Coach Dunbar) Alanah AJ Grant, Annon Breault, Gabriella Seebode, Canfield. Heath Liam Reynolds, Mason Hayward, Sarah Serrano, Socrates Fronhofer II, Sophia Belden, and Sydney Davis. This talented team, under the direction of Courtnie Harrington, will bring an unforgettable performance to the stage.

The production team behind "Footloose" is a force to be reckoned with. Maya Kraus, the choreographer, will infuse the show with captivating dance numbers, while Berry Ayers, the music director, will ensure the melodies are tight and the band is well-balanced. Kyle West takes on the role of producer, while Amy Collins serves as the stage manager. Charles J. I. Krawczyk, Fort Salem Theater's resident scenic designer, and Sarabell Wrigley, the costume designer, will create a visually stunning world that transports the audience into the heart of the story.

Performances of "Footloose" will take place on



Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 PM, with Sunday matinees at 2:00 PM. Additionally, added performances will be held on Thursday, June 24 at 7:30PM and Saturday, July 1 at 2:00PM. Please note that there will be no performance on Friday, June 23, due to a local graduation event.

Don't miss this high-energy production that will have you dancing in your seats! Join us at Fort Salem Theater from June 22 to July 2, 2023, for an unforgettable experience. Tickets are available for purchase at www.FortSalem.com or by calling 518-854-9200.



# **Peck art**

Leslie Peck's art will be on display June 2 to June 27 opening reception Friday, June 2, 6-8 pm – at Valley Artisans Market's "Small Gallery," 25 East Main Street (Rte 372) Cambridge. The public is invited.

Gallery hours at VAM are Wednesday - Sunday 10 am - 5 pm. For more information, please call Valley Artisans Market at 518-677-2765.



# 'Back,' by popular demand

Back by popular demand, Greenwich Free ter back health Library will present "Unpacking Back Pain" on Wednesday, June 7, from 5:30 - 6:30 PM. After an at-capacity event in April in which attendees learned about lower back pain, the library will again host Felicia Leighton-Ibbotson of ReForm Body Coaching for an encore presentation. This lecture-demonstration discusses why over 16 million people in the USA are affected by recurring or chronic back pain. In "Unpacking Back Pain," Leighton-Ibbotson will guide the audience in beginning to understand their own breathing and posture, and she will share information on:

- Avoiding low-back pain
- The difficulty of staying pain free for those with recurring low-back pain
- Approaching fitness for low-back comfort
  - What to know about muscles for bet-

 Better back mobility for getting out on the trails, the links, and in the garden

Leighton-Ibbotson known for helping people with low-back pain and other movement limitations to get back to moving freely and doing the things they enjoy. She is a seasoned movement educator, a competent body coach, and a gifted communicator who is able to share her knowledge with empathy, patience and a sense of humor.

All are welcome, but space is limited, so please register by calling the library 518-



692-7157 or by visiting www.greenwichfreelibrary.org.

The event is free.

# Cambridge 'SCIP' day

On Friday, May 19, members of the CCS senior class skipped school for a good cause. Students participated in a Senior Community Involvement Project (SCIP) throughout the greater Cambridge community.

Students visited a number of locations in the community, including the Historical Society, the Mansion at South Union, Main Street, the cemeteries on North Park Street and Turnpike Road, and the Rescue Squad. Students weeded gardens, planted flowers, cleaned gravestones, mowed and weed



whacked, built a flower box, raked leaves and more. This was the inaugural event and the school hopes it grows each year.

"This has been a project I've been working to get off the ground for years and we did it," said Caroline Goss, secondary principal. "Our community goes above and beyond to support our students, and I am so proud of our seniors volunteering and giving back to the community. Their hard work

made the day a huge success."



The district would like to thank the Buildings and Grounds Department, the Food Services Department, the Cambridge Valley Chamber of Commerce and Matt Toleman at the Village of Cambridge DPW for their help.

### **Take a chance!**

Each year the Cambridge Historical Society & Museum offers an ongoing raffle from June through December. The winner is drawn at the Museum's closing Christmas party. This year they are very excited to announce that local merchants have been approached to donate items and gift certificates to fill a beautiful, large basket containing \$450 worth of prizes. Among the prizes are food, a handmade African basket, a hummingbird feeder with food, shea butter soap, a fragrant candle, various gift certificates, plus \$113 in cash. Chances are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. They will be available at Battenkill Books and the Cambridge Public Library. They will also be available at the Museum during regular hours which are Friday and Saturday from 1-4 p.m., all special programs at the Museum, and from any Museum officer. The Historical Society hopes this valuable basket will be a good source of revenue for the Museum. Maybe you'll be the lucky winner!

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# Jim McClay is WCF Grand Marshal

The Whipple City Festival Committee of the Greater Greenwich Chamber of Commerce is honored to announce Jim McClay as the 2023 Grand Marshal for the Whipple City Parade on Friday, June 16.

Jim McClay is a retired teacher from Greenwich Central School. Graduating from GCS, Jim attended college at Cobleskill and graduated with a degree in agriculture from the University of Georgia. He continued his education at Plattsburgh and Cornell University. Jim began working at GCS in 1970 until his retirement in 2000. During his tenure, he advised the Future Farmers of America (FFA) at the school. Greenwich FFA has been one of the top ranked chapters for many years in the state under his leadership. They won the blue and gold leadership award and the top chapter

for community services. Jim received the honorary American FFA Degree. Many of his students have returned to the area to carry on traditional agriculture philosophy and business

"Having Mr. McClay as Grand Marshal fits perfectly with our 'Small Town Pride' parade theme this year," said Executive Director Kelly Eustis. "We are excited for him to be honored as a staple of education and agriculture in Greenwich."

The Whipple City Parade will form in the Big Lots parking area at 5:00pm on June 16, stepping off at 6:00pm on Main Street, then onto Hill and Bleeker Streets.

Entry forms are available at whipplecityfestival.com or request by email to the Greenwich Chamber at info@greenwichchamber.org

# **Science winners**

Greenwich will be holding its annual Science Symposium Thursday June 1st in the High School Gym from 6-7pm. The event will feature RPI winners: Grand Prize Awardees: Samuel Dixson (3rd place) and Charlotte Collins (3rd Honorable Mention). As well as senior divi-

sion awardee Honora LaRock, who won the Society for In Vitro Biology, for her research on Sexual Selective Behavior of Parhyale hawaiensis: A Study Comparing Mate Selection of Males Based on Mate Colouration. Come see all the good science and research happening Greenwich Central School-the event is free and open to the public



# **Brophy honor**

SUNY Oneonta athlete Madelyn Brophy (Greenwich/Greenwich Central) was one of the four honored by being selected for the 2022-23 Academic All-District® Tennis Team.

An early childhood education major with a 3.86 cumulative GPA, Brophy competed on the fifth and sixth singles courts for the Red Dragons. She finished the season 3-9 overall in singles matches and 2-1 in conference singles, and 5-2 overall in doubles play with a perfect 5-0 against SUNYAC opponents. Her success in doubles landed her a spot on the All-SUNYAC second team.



# **Chamber's new board**

The Greater Greenwich Chamber of Commerce on May 22 announced the election of Executive Board officers, addition of two new members to the Board of Directors, and adoption of updated bylaws.

At a meeting on May 17, members of the Board of Directors unanimously appointed Rulyn Graves of Gather 103 as Chair of the Board; Evelyn Costello of Lakestyle as Vice Chair; Evelyn Eidem of Evelyn S. Eidem, CPA, P.C. as Treasurer, and Stephanie Woodard of Stephanie Woodard Real Estate as Secretary. These officers make up the Executive Board for the Chamber for the 2023 to 2024 year.

Title changes restructure the board, changing the top position from "President" to "Chair."

As the new chair, Graves replaces Liv Thygesen, who had served as Chamber president the past two years. One of the new bylaws of the board is apparently a result of the former president, who had run for local town and village offices in recent years. It prevents board members from vying for elective office.

The Greenwich Chamber also announced new board members. Jenness Bivona-Laval, owner of Just Because women's boutique, and Chey Blackmer, director of the Greenwich Youth Center, were appointed to the Board of Directors by Greenwich Chamber members at its Annual Meeting on April 27.

Rulyn Graves stated: "As chair, I will advocate for collab-

oration. The chamber exists to support the interests of member businesses. Our board is committed to developing genuine relationships with our members. We need diverse voices, creative thinkers, and doers to drive the economic development of the Greater Greenwich area."

The Board of Directors adopted bylaw changes approved by membership at the An-



nual Meeting. These updates include a change of officer titles, clarification of board attendance, the restriction from board service as an elected official or candidate for public office, requirement for Secretary role to be a board member, and the addition of a dissolution clause. Previously, the board had a President and two Vice Presidents which are now referred to as Chair and only one Vice Chair. The Managing Director, an executive staff position, will now

be titled Executive Director.

"I am excited for the year ahead and proud to be working with an energetic board that is passionate about our mission and businesses in Washington County," said now-Executive Director Kelly Eustis. "We have great leadership that understands small business and the local economy. The Greenwich Chamber is positioned to continue the growth seen during the last two years."

The Chamber has also been working on a free local publication that will join existing local publications in the marketplace.

The next big Chamber event is the Whipple City Festival June 16-17.

# **Olympian**

Cambridge Elementary students had a surprise guest at the community meeting on leadership last week. Emma White is a retired professional cyclist who won the 2019 National Championship, the 2020 World Championship and a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. Emma talked to the students about her career and what it takes to be a leader on such a large stage.



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## **Humor Hotel**

# Let's play 'What's in Your Storage Unit?'

Greg Schwem
Special to Journal & Press

Purely for my own entertainment, and perhaps out of boredom while standing in grocery checkout lines, I find myself peering into fellow shoppers' carts and trying to imagine their life stories.

For example: the guy last week whose cart contained a jumbo pack of diapers and a 12-pack of beer. Was he a stay-at-home dad eager, I mean, REALLY eager, to reward himself when his wife returned from a business trip? Was he the lifelong single uncle who thought, "How difficult can this baby-sitting thing be?" Or something in between?

Earlier this month there was an attractive woman, mid-30s, purchasing a laxative and a large bouquet of flowers. What was her deal? Did she seek something pleasant to look at while the laxative did its due diligence? Did she feel the need to fill her house with fragrance for obvious reasons? Was her digestive system keeping her from her love of gardening? The possibilities were endless.

If grocery cart analysis is your idea of fun, then you really must rent a storage unit. Or simply hang out at a storage facility.

I recently moved from a fourbedroom house into a one-bedroom apartment, a process that required more preplanning and coordination than invading a hostile country. Upon realizing I would not be able to secure my new building's loading dock on the same day my movers emptied my home, I was forced to secure, for a month, one of those sterile, garage-like structures that people rent for one of three reasons:

- 1. Like me, they are in transition between residences
- 2. They are having difficulty downsizing or, worse, have a serious hoarding addiction
- 3. They are looking to dispose of evidence from the crime they just committed

Whatever their intentions, I found myself making multiple trips to my unit, not only to drop off or retrieve items, but just to observe others doing the same thing so I could imagine what prompted them to pay monthly fees for what started as empty space.

On my first visit, after unloading 15 boxes from a rickety cart into my unit, and realizing months of physical therapy was in my near future, I exited the elevator to find a gentleman with two items on his cart: a truck tire and an electronic piano keyboard.

My mind did not even know where to begin.



Was he part of a musical group called "Spare Automotive Parts"? It was plausible. Or was there a disabled tour bus stranded somewhere, and this guy was elected to find a replacement tire while ditching the one that had just run over a sharp object? That seemed farfetched; why take the keyboard on this mission? Also, that task seemed more suited for the bass player.

I longed to ask his intentions, but I chose to remain silent. No-



body in a storage facility wants to chat, because nobody in a storage facility is in a pleasant mood. Moving is an arduous task unless you just won the lottery, have elected to take your winnings in hundred-dollar bills and have a distrust of banks.

On my next trip, this time to OPEN all the boxes until I found some documents I had inadvertently packed, I shared an elevator with a couple whose cart contained two paintings

and an industrial sized bag of dog food. I'm no art aficionado, so I couldn't critique the paintings' subject matter or artistic styles. I chose to focus on the dog food.

Were these two planning to paint a ravenous canine? Or did they just need something to keep their own pet occupied while they plied their craft? Judging from the size of the bag, the latter scenario meant the pair were notoriously slow painters.

Perhaps they weren't artists at all but merely art collectors. I imagined the couple, their dog between them, gazing at their latest purchase in the foyer of their expensive home. They would celebrate with a succulent dinner of red wine, two steaks cooked medium well and grain free kibble, The only thing lacking would be music.

I know of a keyboard player who could fit the bill. Although he may need transportation.

Greg Schwem is a corporate stand-up comedian and author of two books: "Text Me If You're

Breathing: Observations, Frustrations and Life Lessons From a Low-Tech Dad" and the recently released "The Road To Success Goes Through

the Salad Bar: A Pile of BS From a Corporate Comedian," available at Amazon.com.

# **Hudson Crossing dinner**

Hudson Crossing Park announced the return of its annual fundraising dinner, Banquet by the Bridge. Banquet by the Bridge is a celebration of community that helps ensure that Hudson Crossing Park is able to continue to serve as a unique educational and recreational resource for the region.

The event is at 6:30 p.m. on Thurs., June 15. Get tickets at HudsonCrossing-Park.org.

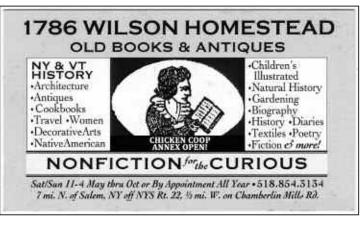
Held beside Hudson Crossing Park's historic Dix Bridge, which formally joins Saratoga and Washington counties and bridges communities on both sides of the Hudson, the evening features a pre-dinner cruise along the Champlain Canal for Honorary Committee Members and sponsor guests and wine and dessert for all on the bridge after dinner.

Celebrating all that our region has to offer, the heart of the evening will be the presentation Hudson Crossing Park's Third Annual Sunand Seedling shine Awards. Honorees are Assemblyperson Carrie Woerner and Teagan Wright, a graduating senior from Greenwich Central School who has just begun demonstrating her leadership capacity.



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# **Forestry Ranger School grad**

The SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), one of the nation's premier colleges focused exclusively on the study of the environment, developing renewable technologies, and building a sustainable future, held commencement at the Clifton-Fine Central School in Star Lake on May 20 to award associate in applied science degrees.

One of the top honorees is a Greenwich native.

Those graduates included 21 students in the forest technology program, 19 in the environmental and natural resources conservation program, and six in the land

surveying technology program.

"As our graduates leave the Ranger School, they carry within them the lessons they've learned and a profound reverence for the majesty of nature. They have cultivated the art of nurturing the earth, understanding the delicate balance between growth and preservation," said ESF President Joanie Mahoney. "We know they will use this knowledge to take on the environmental challenges we face and improve our world."

Program scholars were honored during the ceremony. This year's scholars are:

• Brandon Wilbur of Green-

wich, New York, Land Surveying Technology

- Kaisa Mackey of Ithaca, New York, Forest Technology
- Enzo Saccuccimorano of Ithaca, New York, Environmental and Natural Resources Conservation

Maple Leaf awardees, President's and Dean's List recipients, and inductees into the Forest Technology Honors Society were also honored.

Guest speakers included ESF President Joanie Mahoney and



Ranger School alum Christopher Westbrook. Families and friends enjoyed a short reception in the school's lobby after the ceremony.

# **CFC's Give Hunger the Boot**

Local businesses in Washington County will unite between May 22nd and June 16th to collect donations for Comfort Food Community (CFC) as part of the annual Give Hunger the Boot campaign aiming to raise funds and awareness to support CFC's efforts in feeding the community.

Supported by esteemed sponsors including Betterbee, Glens Falls Hospital, Marty Smith's Garage, Helping Hands Physical Therapy, The Greenwich Journal & Salem Press, Hunt Companies Inc., and Lakeside General Store,

this uplifting campaign invites customers at partner establishments like Aubuchon Hardware, The Ice Cream Man, and Geraghty's to participate by rounding up their purchases or donating spare change into the boot at the counter. The funds raised through this initiative will make a direct impact on CFC's food access initiatives, ensuring that every member of the community can enjoy nourishing meals.

"We are immensely grateful to our local business partners for their support in this campaign," expressed Amie Collins, Executive Director of CFC. "The raised funds will play a crucial role in advancing our food access initiatives, allowing us to provide nutritious meals to individuals within our community."

CFC will also host its annual Give Hunger the Boot Coin Drop event on

Saturday, June 3rd, in downtown Greenwich. This event serves as a means to raise funds and foster community togetherness. The pro-



ceeds from the Coin Drop event will contribute to CFC's ongoing efforts to combat food insecurity throughout the year.



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# **Jill on Money**

# Will the class of 2023 be happy?

#### Jill Schlesinger

Special to Journal & Press

Last year, I wrote about how the college graduates from the class of 2022 were lucky. Although they suffered through COVID, when it was time to start their careers, the economy was firing on all cylinders, the job market was hot, and starting salaries were rising.

A year later, circumstances have shifted. The economy is slowing and there is a lot of talk about a recession.

The Conference Board predicts that one will occur within the next 12 months, as "economic weakness will intensify and spread more widely throughout the U.S. economy."

Additionally, the once-scorching labor market is slowing down. Through April, the three-month average payroll gain now stands at 222,000, its weakest 90-days since January 2021. Additionally, the March Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey showed that layoffs rose to the highest level since December 2020 and job openings fell to their lowest level since April 2021.

The good news for new grads is

that slowing down is not retrenchment.

According to its Job Outlook 2023 Spring Update, the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) found that "employers are planning to hire 3.9 percent more graduates from the Class of 2023 than they did from the Class of 2022"

That said, some industries have shifted their plans dramatically. "Respondents in the information industry planned to hire almost 87% more new graduates at this time last year. Currently, they are projecting a decrease in hiring of almost 17%."

So much for the parents who forced their kids to learn coding, in an effort to make them marketable in the labor force! Of course, many of those coders will still find work, but they may land jobs in other sectors where there is growth, like health care, transportation, and chemical manufacturing. And maybe they will be happier in those industries.

Even if a recession is just around the corner, the news may not be all bad.

According to research from Emily

C. Bianchi of Emory University, there is an upside of entering the workforce in a recession. Wait — what about the research that says that graduating into a recession can hurt earnings for a decade (or more)?

A famous paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research found that "graduating in a recession leads to large initial earnings losses. These losses, which amount to about 9% of annual earnings in the initial stage, eventually recede, but slowly — halving within five years but not disappearing until about ten years after graduation."

But earning power is not the only measure of professional success.

Bianchi found that "people who entered the work force when the economy was faltering are more satisfied with their jobs in later years...People who graduate in tough economic times are subsequently less likely to ruminate about how they might have done better and are more likely to feel grateful for the jobs they have." Higher satisfaction occurred throughout their careers, even when they earned less money.

Happiness in a money column?

Indeed, job satisfaction may be more important than dollars and cents. Just ask people who proactively chose careers as teachers, government employees and social workers.

I'm not suggesting that every one of them is thrilled all of the time, but from the tiny sample that I hear from on my podcast, it is amazing to consider how many are satisfied and proud of the choices they made.

As new grads enter the workforce, they would be wise to consider that choosing a career that makes them happy may also allow them to have longevity, a concept that is ever more important as life expectancies increase.

Jill Schlesinger, CFP, is a CBS

News business analyst. A former options trader and CIO of an investment advisory firm, she welcomes comments and questions at



askjill@jillonmoney.com. Check out her website at www.jillonmoney.com.

# **Interpersonal Edge**

# Managing unmanageable employees

#### Daneen Skube

Special to Journal & Press

**Q:** I supervise an employee who doesn't like anything or anyone. He's bright, but has moved from three other departments for insubordination and complaining. My boss thinks I have great interpersonal skills and expects me to fix him. How do I manage an unmanageable employee?

A: You manage an unmanageable employee by managing your boss's expectations of you. If you say "no" to this or other big tasks, your boss may believe you're not a team player. You can, however, negotiate with your boss in the following ways.

1) Tell your boss that he or she may have better communication skills than you. Remind your boss that three other managers could not figure out how to help this employee. Ask your boss to tell you specifically how he or she would supervise this employee. The advice you get may or may not work. Regardless, it forces your boss to consider the problem personally.

2) Tell your boss you are flattered in the confidence he or she has in you to take this task on, but make him or her realize that you may not be able to achieve a goal that three other talented managers could not accomplish.

3) Ask your boss what he or she believes "plan b" should be if the employee continues to be impervious to career improvement.

The reality is that people were who they were before they met you, and they'll continue to be the same person after meeting you. Psychological research tells us that personality in most adults is like concrete after 30 years of age.

For intense long-term therapy to work, I meet weekly with my clients for years to get in-depth change in habits. You, as a manager, who has no contract with the problematic employee to offer him guidance, are unlikely to change embedded dysfunctional patterns in his behavior.

When a leader of an organization contacts me to do executive coaching with an employee, I never promise to take the employee into my practice or "fix" him or her. I tell the manager I'm happy to meet with this person for an initial assessment. If I can tell the employee does not see him or herself as part of the problem, I decline to work with the person.

The point is that a manager can-

not hope to accomplish what even experts in this field will not promise. If an employee wants to learn and grow, you can do great things. If an employee believes the problem is everyone and everything else, you can only agree and put together an exit plan.

The strategy I teach clients is to let employees "vote themselves off the island." Tell the employee this job requires certain specific behaviors and that you realize these behaviors may not be a good fit. If she or he wants the job, then you know they'll adopt these new behaviors. It's also okay if the employee decides (by not adopting these behaviors) that they need to transition out of this position.

When you take control of what you can influence (the requirements of the job) the problematic employee will either decide to change or their lack of change will become grounds for supporting them in finding a better job. If you take this approach, you're less likely to get enraged employees who complain they never had a chance to choose a way forward.

Managers are not magic and you want to be clear with yourself and your manager that you're out of pixie dust. Your ability to recognize

where you're powerless will give you the power to let the employee fight for his job or leave it. Either way you'll continue to thrive in your job.

#### The last word(s)

**Q:** In your column you talk about interpersonal skills and some spiritual tools or awareness. Is there any one interpersonal tool that you also consider a spiritual tool?

A: Yes, effective paraphrasing is the spiritual ability to stop, breathe, and work towards an in-depth perception of a person's reality that's standing in front of them. Many adults rarely have anyone slow down and really see them and this gift breeds loyalty, motivation, and inspiration!

Daneen Skube, Ph.D., is an executive coach and appears on FOX's

"Workplace Guru" each Monday morning. You can contact Dr. Skube at www.interpersonaledge.com or 1420 NW



Gilman Blvd., #2845, Issaquah, WA 98027. Sorry, no personal replies.



# **Celebrating small-town life**

The Greater Greenwich Chamber of Com- updated information. merce is excited to announce the 31st Annual Whipple City Festival will take place on June 16 & 17, 2023 in the Village of Greenwich. Presented by Greenwich Ford and Pioneer Bank, festivities include a parade, live music, food, activities, and vendors. As more details are released, please visit whipplecityfestival.com for

The Whipple City Festival will kick off on Friday, June 16 at 6:00pm with the Whipple City Parade. This year's theme for the parade is "Small Town Pride," allowing participants from area towns to show the enthusiasm they have for their communities. The parade will begin at the Big Lots Plaza and travel through the heart of

the village. Participating in the parade is free and an entry form, found on the festival website, must be submitted.

After the parade, House Rhythm and Blues will perform at the gazebo in Mowry Food and Park. beverage vendors will be available, including ice cream, beer, and wine. Attendees are welbring come to fold-out chairs as seating in the park is limited.

On Saturday, June 17, starting at 11:00am, the Whipple City Festival continues with a free all-day street fair and block party

on Main Street in the downtown area between Hill Street and John Street. Live music, food vendors, and family activities will be in Wallie's restaurant parking lot and adjacent property. Visitors are encouraged to "shop local" at Greenwich businesses and restaurants. Commercial and informational vendors will be located on the closed Main Street until 6:00pm with the street reopening by 7:00pm.

The festival features a live music line-up for Saturday. Bands will perform on the stage at the backside of Wallie's property. Local favorite Eastbound Jesus will headline at 7:00pm. Performers include Ragged Rascal at 11:30am, Rusticator at 2:00pm, and Twilight Drive at 4:30pm. Seating is limited and fold-out chairs are recommended.

Throughout the day there will be many activities available for both kids and adults. Free horse-drawn wagon rides are provided by Washington County Draft Animal Association. More details, including activities conducted by local groups and non-profits, will be announced soon.

The annual Whipple City 5K & 10K races will not be held in conjunction with the Whipple City Festival this year and plans are being made for a

Whipple City Festival is a community festival and the proceeds from event sponsorships allow the Greenwich Chamber to present this and other community events throughout the year, bringing out residents and visitors to support our local businesses. This revenue also allows the Greenwich Chamber to administer services for chamber members and serve as a source of information to the public on member businesses.

Parade registration, commercial and informational vendor applications, and details on the Whipple City Festival are available at whipplecityfestival.com.







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# Thank you for helping us feed the community!

# **Coin Drop**

Saturday, June 3rd 8:30AM-3:30PM

Staff and volunteers will be collecting donations on Main Street in Greenwich!

Thank you to the Greenwich, Middle Falls & Cossayuna Fire Departments for leading the effort!

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# (cont.)

The village and town are working together on this comprehensive plan. There hasn't been one in about 20 years. Our reporter felt she had a good amount of information. The consultants are speaking on behalf of the town, and they gave pretty good answers.

The Post-Star did a one-shot story that was about twice as long. And critics of our article said, "Hey, why don't you do something more like the Post-Star?" But we kind of cover this story all the time, and they cover it once every, you know, 10 years or something.

So it's a little different, different animal for them. Post-Star is a different business model. We're in the community, they're kind of trying to cover a much larger region.

The criticism became that our reporter was "biased" because she spoke to some critics who showed up at the event, including Don Ward, the former supervisor.

And that's kind of when you know you're doing a newspaper right, though; when the Democrats say you're biased. And then when the Republicans were in power, they would say we're biased.

But really it's if everyone thinks you're biased, maybe people should look within a little, because this would be the definition of not really being biased at all because our reporter doesn't even live in the area, doesn't really have a dog in a fight. If anyone were to be biased about the park story, it might be me who lives a couple doors down from this park. I might be biased one way or the other. I'm not, but a reporter who comes in who has some journalistic credentials certainly isn't biased. Biased is kind of the wrong word, and it's a word that political people, a lot of times, will throw at a newspaper to kind of disparage it.

But then you have to ask yourself, what's the solution? You know, do you *not* want a newspaper? Do you just want these free newspapers with their press releases? And not much else in the town, or do you want a conversation?

So that was kind of the controversy. We got complaints from people who are in power, at the town and village level who said, "Hey, how come we weren't quoted in the article like we were in the Post-Star?"

It's like, well, we've quoted you many times before and were you really going to say something that much different than what the consultant said? And I think it's important to see both sides of the issue, even if there were critics at the event.

That's how the sausage gets made, as they say. Sometimes critics actually make things better by bringing up topics, clear the air and then we can move forward. I think that's the importance of having a local newspaper. Without having a local newspaper to report on these issues and to report on the difference of opinions, these things would just go through, they get in under the radar.

#### **Buildings and Businesses**

ML: The importance of having the Greenwich Journal and Salem Press is it presents different views that are out there. And it also acts, like I said before, as a, a system of checks and balances on what's going on there. And also it serves as the nucleus for the conversation. If someone says something different, it's out there. People in the community can have that discussion about, well, maybe we should look at it a different way. And Journal & Press | Early June 2023 | Page 14

the thing is this comprehensive plan for the town and village of Greenwich is a big thing.

It's been 20 years. There was something of a plan, I think, in the interim, but it's always the same thing in these plans. You know, we have the Battenkill River. We're going to make a beautiful waterfront. We're going to have these beautiful sidewalks and streetlamps to get to it. But it still doesn't really get us to the point where we need to be back to being a thriving community.

I lived many years in Saratoga Springs, which is just 15 miles west of here, and Saratoga Springs in the 1960s, back probably when I was a little kid, even though I didn't live in this area, was not such a nice place. And they came up with something called the Plan of Action. It was a real original name, the Plan of Action.

It was a downtown revitalization campaign, and it came from the Greater Saratoga Chamber of Commerce, and they realized they lost the manufacturing base that was in Saratoga. It was something like 12 or 14,000 jobs that were gone. And also there was something that happened was this new shopping mall that was built in Wilton, which is no longer there.

It was called Saratoga Mall, made by Pyramid, and everyone thought, hey, people would go to the Big Pyramid Mall and then they'd come downtown afterwards. It never happened. So they formed an economic development committee. They raised some seed money.

And the seed money was not only from the government, it came from the private sector. And there was some private sector investment in the downtown, along with the grant money. And they basically also created a special tax assessment district. And they had a plan to make Saratoga

# 'Pretty soon every town in Washington County would be so homogeneous that you can't tell the difference unless you just look at the street signs.'

Springs into a great resort town.

By the time they were done with all the things, the original companies that came in were like Quad Graphics. Later on there was State Farm, there was Ace, there was a Target warehouse, and eventually they brought in Global Foundries. Eventually this whole effort brought in 21,000 jobs to Saratoga County with an estimated revenue, I think it was like 165 billion.

So the question is, is this what we want to have for Greenwich? Did we want to make Greenwich back into the town that it was where there were stores downtown, people would go downtown at night, people had jobs in this area. And we have to start talking about what those steps are to get us there

When we talk about this comprehensive plan for the town and village of Greenwich, everything sounds really great, but you look at certain parts of that plan and all you see are, "We're going to get grants from the state. We're going to get grants from the federal government. We're going to take out this burned out, whole of a set of buildings and make it into something great."

And the plan seems to be first floor of retail, then residential above it. Well, we have plenty of that downtown. Plenty of buildings like right here, the corner where this newspaper used to be. You know, storefronts are pretty much empty there, even though I see someone moving into the old State Farm office.

**DJ:** They're getting grants. Wilmarth will be back. Eddie Plow, which is a big building,

they've been renovating, they're going to have a lot of space. It'll become for rent – I would assume; I've been following them on Facebook.

So we have the space, but we don't have the businesses, right?

ML: Or the right ones. And that's where I think we need to start. And this is where the paper is the heartbeat and the soul of the community. If we need to start rallying the public opinion about what we want to see, create that vision for what Greenwich should look like, the village and the town of Greenwich should look like.

And once we have that vision that's when you start talking about the funding and the infrastructure. It's one thing to say, we're going to build infrastructure to this place so we can do something, but is it going to be a factory? Is it going to be residential? It's totally different infrastructure depending on what you're going to build in those areas.

And. Likewise, you know, we can create tax incentives to bring businesses here, make it more attractive to bring your company to Greenwich and Southern Washington County. And likewise, you know, maybe we need to modify some of the development codes or make things more attractive for creating jobs here.

**DJ:** It's just the right types of businesses too, though, not Dollar Tree or Burger King.

ML: I had an article about this a while back, that pretty much every town in Washington County is going to look the same in about 40 years. It's going to have a Dollar Tree or Dollar General, or Family Dollar store. All of the towns have a river or waterfront that goes through it. Whether you're up in Granville or Cambridge, there's water that runs through it. You can al-

ways have some kind of waterfront development.

You're always going to have the Stewart's and the Cumberland Farms competing on opposite. corners. Pretty soon every town in Washington County would be so homogeneous that you can't tell the difference unless you just look at the street signs. What we have to do is look at what makes Greenwich unique and even extend it beyond that to Salem and Cambridge.

#### Making the Town a Destination

ML: Maybe we need an amphitheater, something to compete with the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

**DJ:** Well, Greenwich is the only local town that doesn't have a theater troupe. Schuylerville has one. Salem has a very vibrant one. Cambridge puts on some plays. We're the one that doesn't really have that arts factor. We don't have a troupe doing anything improv or black box or anything. But those are the kinds of things that make a community and make it attractive, improving the quality of living.

When you have relatives from out of town, where do you go? You go to Wallie's, and maybe try one of the other ones if they're open. And that's about it. There's not much you can do. I used to live in another town and they did have a little black box theater troupe, and we could say, "Let's go see what's going on there."

I try to support local businesses when I can, and we're a local business too, being a newspaper. And I think that that synergy can be created here in Greenwich.

I think we probably need some kind of like gatherings like they do in Schuylerville where they do these community gatherings every month for all the businesses. They form a circular table and they just discuss, and it's not like a wine-and-cheese type thing. It's where you might bump into someone.

continued on next page

# (cont.)

Everyone is an equal place at this meeting and they're kind of cool. We've covered them a good deal in the newspaper. But I support local businesses; like this computer we're recording on now, I got at Tech Monkeys.

#### Can a Newspaper Survive Here?

**DJ:** One thing that's kind of interesting is I used to work at newspapers, since college graduation in the early nineties. And I worked at a newspaper, it was almost exactly like the Greenwich Journal and Salem Press was, but out in Sag Harbor on Long Island in New York. And it was also a hundred-plus year old newspaper.

And it was also owned by an old family that had done it for a long time. It had an older woman who was running it. She was pretty much homebound at that point, and she was pasting up boards in her bedroom. Sometimes she'd use medical tape to paste up the boards. I was part of the early crew that professionalized it, and used computers and such, but I look back at those times, and it was paper of roughly the same circulation as this newspaper is now.

And I look through our archives all of the time because I write a "through the decades" column for the newspaper. And I'm jealous of the past that we had so many businesses in town that would advertise in our paper. They don't exist anymore, but there were a lot, like Lyttle's Market and all of these stores that were around, like Skiffs and all these stores and the family names are still in town, but the businesses are long gone.

And if they were buying ads that would help a lot in the newspaper. But I worked for a newspaper a lot like this one.

we had a classified person who also did reception. Back then, we had a display ad salesperson, and sometimes that person had an assistant who worked part-time.

We had a graphic designer working full-time. Computers, they existed. They weren't as good as this computer in front of me, but they were okay. They were Macintoshes. We had an editor in chief. We had a senior reporter, which was me. And then we would bring in like maybe a junior reporter, an intern or that type of position, to do sports.

We would throw some money to the delivery guy to deliver newspapers and someone to please drive it to the printing plan. That type of thing. It was done with like a whole office of people, and I'm kind of amazed today that I can do this whole thing from this computer, from Tech Monkeys, and still kind of pull it off.

It would be nice to have a whole office full of people, people stopping in. In those days when you printed the paper, people would be waiting at the 7-Eleven convenience store for the paper to arrive. They'd be sitting out there in their car and they'd wait for it I saw, because I would deliver the paper sometimes if the delivery person couldn't do it. And they'd be waiting for the paper just to see what was in it.

Those days are long gone, but if we only had a few more advertisers, we could hire more freelancers to cover more things.

We have about five or six steady columnists who people look forward to their writing every issue.

**ML:** I think the newspaper is a vital part of the community. In terms of having a local newspaper to support local businesses, report what local businesses do or the thoughts behind what business owners have when they start the businesses, I think that really makes a difference.

It's kind of unfortunate that other towns don't have such a treasure or jewel to make that happen, and I think we need to create that symbiosis between the newspaper and the village and the town. To really bring everything to fruition.

It's, one, to keep everyone honest. You know, there there's a watchdog function of having a local newspaper. There's also the promotion aspect of it, be it people advertising or just even writing a story about a local business. And I think that's important because how else would someone know about it?

I think it's an important thing that also, it's a paper of record as we've talked earlier today; you know, the New York State Historical Newspapers have every issue of this paper going back to 1840 something.

**DJ:** They love this newspaper. They just wrote a glowing review of it. They think we're keeping the spirit of this newspaper going. We recognize its history and we're still in that same vein. We haven't turned it into a shopper paper or some-

**ML:** I realize that this is going to be somewhere in a time capsule. Someone's going to be looking at this a hundred years from now and say, oh wow, this is what was going on in Greenwich.

**DJ:** That's who my imaginary audience is, people of the future. Because I look at the archives so much and I see what I see in the archives. I say, "Okay, that was an okay piece they did back when, or that piece might have been a little biased. Why did they put this piece in there?"

But then again, we can't do all of the stuff that the papers did when they had whole offices of people that could run out and chase down car ac-

## 'As long as there are We would have an office on Main Street, and printing presses, I can keep this going for a while.'

#### Print vs. the Internet

**ML:** That's the other problem I do see with this being a, what, a twice a month format right now, you know, we can't report on things that are happening in real time. It's not going to be like something happens today, and it'll be in tomorrow's newspaper. But I think we get sort of a flavor of what's going on in the community and that's why my columns is called Random Thoughts.

I see something and all of a sudden a random thought comes to me and I say, "Wow, why is it this way? How can it be different?" And over the last year and a half that I've been doing this, I've had plenty of random thoughts. Like in the current issue, you know, I'm walking down Church Street, which I'm looking down Church Street right now, and I see a bunch of people coming from Vermont, and you can always tell, because they have steel studded tires on their cars. And they have a bumper sticker, "Vermont Strong." And I said, "What about Washington County, the revitalization of Washington County? Why don't we have a slogan?" It's something that we can rally around, and so I put that out there as a random thought.

And people get upset with me, that's fine. But at least people will have that discussion.

The only thing that's kind of interesting is people don't write letters to the editor complaining. It's when you post these stories on Facebook, Then they write the comments to this Facebook post.

**DJ:** Our Facebook has 10,000 people on it, if you add our Facebook to our Instagram, and we also have a subgroup on Facebook. It's about 10,000 people altogether. It's sizable, more sizable than the print circulation. And it's some-

thing that we just have to accept – that a lot of people don't want to pay for a newspaper or they just bum it off of someone. We get a lot of theft, too. A lot of people just take the paper.

A lot of people don't know what a paid paper is anymore, I think. Or maybe they conveniently tuck it in with some of the free papers on the shelf and then just say, "Oh, no, these are just free papers when they check out of the grocery store," because our numbers never match up as to what we bring versus what we sell at each

There's always like 20, 30% loss. I'm not telling people to go take it. I'm telling people, "Hey, pay up if can." It's an interesting business model. I don't think people really understand it nowadays.

#### **Interviewing the Host**

ML: What do you view the future of the Greenwich Journal and Salem Press? Like where do you see it in two years?

**DJ:** Yeah, it's interesting. There is a trend with people buying community newspapers and still keeping them in print. Ralph Nader recently bought one, for example. Warren Buffett has owned some. Now these are rich guys. I'm not a rich guy, but teach journalism courses at a college. I have a steady enough income and the know-how to keep something like this afloat for a while. In its current fashion with slight improvements over time, for infinity, as long as there are printing presses willing to print it at a reasonable cost, and the mailing rates don't go up too much. They've gone up a little bit over the past few years and printing costs have gone up a good deal.

As long as there are printing presses, I can keep this going for a while. I don't think there's always going to be a print audience, and I've been counterintuitive because I've owned a college newspaper for 14 years and those are college kids, and there's a percent who will pick up a print newspaper. It's not a majority, it never was a majority, but there's a percent who will pick up a student newspaper enough where you can sell some ads in it.

The Journal has a circulation cost. It's \$2 and, or you can subscribe to it for the year. I think it's super reasonable. But I see no reason why this can't keep going. And I think it is a fun thing. And working with New York State Historic Newspapers gives you a bigger perspective.

I'm someone with writing training. That was what my degree was in, writing. And it's something I've done my whole life, and it's something I always fall back on. Whenever I need work, I can always get writing gigs.

As someone who's a writer, you want a venue that is going to survive you after you leave this Earth. And this is something that's going to survive me after I leave this Earth. It does have some purpose to it. People are still going to be looking at these archives 40, 50, 60 years from now. Thanks in part to this library that helps archive the paper. And they work with New York State Historic Newspapers. These papers are going to be out there. Our trials and travails are going to be out there. Your grandkids' grandkids are going to find out what life was like during this time.

Will it ever be back to the point where we have an office and I have a receptionist and a reporter and a graphic designer?

Probably not. Covid taught us that we didn't have to be in an office anyway, but it can keep going. There's no reason why I can't keep going unless there's no one in town who wants to do it anymore. If I stop doing it and no one wants to pick it up.

continued on next page

# (cont.)

Okay. There is a lot to know. You have to know how to lay it out. You have to know how to sell the ads. You have to know how to do the postal stuff. You have to know how to deal with the printer. There's a lot to know and dealing with writers. And an editorial balance.

#### The Press and Politics

**DJ:** There is a certain sensibility you need with a small town newspaper, where I get approached by people who are far left and far right. And I don't really see politics as a spectrum per se like that, where there's right and left.

I would just say these people are very devoted to a particular ideology, and I get approached by them and they want the paper to be more right, more left, and that's not what a newspaper should do. It should try to kind of balance out the viewpoints of the day while still being forward thinking enough to not be embarrassed of itself.

When people are looking at the archives many years later, were we on the wrong side of history? You know, I don't want to be on the wrong side of history, either. Sometimes you have to say, hey, maybe some people are just being reactionary, and this won't be the prevailing thought in 20, 30, 40, 50 years. But it's slow and steady with a newspaper.

**ML:** Well, I think it's interesting that this paper actually started out as a Whig newspaper, if I remember right. The Whig party, which no one's ever heard.

funny issues.

**ML:** But I think the problem with writing for a small-town newspaper is if you write something that's critical of your neighbors, you're going to piss them off and you're going to make enemies for life, and you have to live there forever.

Yeah, so there is that kind of balance between reporting out what the conditions are, what's going on in the world. At the same time, you don't want to piss people off. So, you know, that's why it's interesting, the criticism now, of this current issue. About the park that you were somehow biased or your reporter was.

**DJ:** "Biased" is kind of funny, but the thing is, it's just reporting what's going on. And I'm not knocking the Post-Star. They're a paid circulation. They're a daily paper, different business model, but they're a paid circulation paper. That's where they can just come in and do better on an individual story.

They have a much larger area. They could tell the story from whatever perspective they want and not have to worry about losing 10% of their subscribers or that type of thing.

My philosophy with newspapers is to have an open heart and to be non-judgmental, with positive regard. I look at everything from a gee-whiz point of view and not try to bring my own which I don't even know if I have anymore after the years of doing journalism – philosophy into a story, and try to report it as-is.

As a younger reporter, I'd report all kinds of things. I'd go to men's club meetings, you know, pounding drums out in the woods, and psychics, doing stuff like bending spoons, and all kinds of things, and bribery trials and, and things of that nature. And Republicans, Democrats, third

I've covered it all, and that's where the future of journalism lies too. And that's why I brought up our reporter's credentials, our young reporter's credentials. That's where building journalism credentials matter because then you're trusted more. Our young reporter, she's building up her journalism credentials. She's landing jobs at good places, and that's in a world of deep fakes and all the stuff that's coming. AI. All we could rely on is, "Hey, I know this person. I know they did their homework. I know they studied their craft, and do I rely on that person?"

#### Cambridge Mascot Ideas

**DJ:** I just had one closing thought. Let's talk about a neighboring town. The Post-Star, let's their car magnets and all of that stuff.

Their school budget barely passed the other day. Obviously there's an anti-school resentment there. No one can run for that school board and not be in favor of the Indian and have a chance of winning. But I wonder how much of that is just groupthink or the result of bullying.

And if the students could have a secret vote where they knew no one would know what their vote was and it was monitored, and they didn't have the pressure from the outside. What the result would be if they could vote, "Hey, we want to keep the Indian name," or, "No, we want to go with a non-Indian name?"

I tend to think that vote would be pretty close. I know a lot of the students are probably pressured, but is it just a matter of attrition that the people who might be against the Indian name just have left town over the years? And the people that remain are really in love with that name.

**ML:** I think the Indian name came much more recently than we would be led to believe. I think it came in the 1950s.

**DJ:** Yeah, there was a love affair with like "The Lone Ranger" and all of that stuff going on, all those movies.

ML: And it would be interesting to see what happens with this in terms of, and I think what you're saying there is groupthink. People are afraid to go against what they perceived to be the majority. It'd be interesting to see what would happen if there was a secret vote.

> DJ: Much of the hundred thousand dollars they have spent so far, a lot of it was legal fees, but a lot of it was on a mediation that the district tried to do. They tried to do a mediation, but the mediation was widely distrusted by the people that

wanted to keep the Indian name. So it really went nowhere.

I would think a secret vote with the students would be best, but then what happens if the students do vote for the Indian logo? Indian name, logo, mascot – let's say it's 51 to 49% or something.

**ML:** But I think the bigger problem is the way this all came about, apparently the commissioner of education in the state can make that determination that your name is not appropriate. So what's next? We're getting rid of the Greenwich

**DJ:** That's an argument I've heard, too. Although Witches, if you think about it, is a very progressive name. We have male athletes running around calling themselves the Witches. So, it's pretty progressive if you ask me. I think it's like "a boy named Sue." You're actually tougher if you are a "green witch" and do really well. It's like, "Yeah, we're witches, deal with it."

**ML:** But the history of witches is women being subjugated. I know you look at it from like 10 different perspectives, and then they refer to the girls as the Lady Witches, which is a little bit weird.

**DJ:** Well, in any case, I just wanted to close with a thought outside of Greenwich, and I thought we would mention the Cambridge issue. I guess we'll see what happens. Anyway, this is The Weekly Newspaper Podcast with Mike Levy and Darren Johnson. Any closing thoughts?

ML: No. Thank you. Thank you for having me here today. It was a good discussion we had.

DJ: I think so. And I'd like to do it again sometime. We'll keep adding to this podcast, improving, bringing in new guests, and, hey, subscribe to the paper. Go to JPsubs.com and subscribe. It's only still only \$36 a year if you do it online. I'll talk to you next time.

## 'The Indian name came much more recently than we would be led to DJ: Yeah, the Whig party. Those are believe. I think it came in the 1950s.'

give them some credit. They can do things that we can't as easily; they can file freedom of information letters, as they still have a larger news body behind them. We could do that. We just don't have the time and the resources.

They filed a FOIL, and they found out that Cambridge has spent about a hundred thousand dollars plus for this Indian mascot debate that's been going on, and it's a complicated issue.

The state ruled on it, but the state kind of left a loophole that a school could get the blessing of an established Indian tribe, Native American tribe, and keep their name. So there has been one other school in the state that did get such a blessing. I forget which tribe it was, and they are keeping their name.

Other schools are just doing like school elections and letting the students decide on a new name. I thought that it's such a controversial issue. Whenever I'm in Cambridge, I see people with the Indian banners and, and the flags and



Chapie says, "Don't miss Aviation Day at the Cambridge Valley Flying Club at Chapin Field during Balloon Festival weekend! Saturday, June 3rd (rain date: Sunday, June 4) Can't wait to celebrate with flying, food, fun, and friends!"

# **On the Square**

# When the wheels almost came off the cart

Lance Allen Wang Journal & Press

The officers at the Army's camp in Newburgh, New York, were upset, of this there was no doubt. They had fought their new nation's war, and now Congress was reneging on their responsibility – their DUTY – to see that the nation's warriors received their just desserts. It's a fact that the soldiers were stronger than the soft, doughy Congressmen – they had weapons, they had leaders, and if they decided to take advantage of it, they had power.

This was not just a group of disgruntled soldiers and crackpots — no, not at all. Rather, these were the military leaders of the Revolution. These men were represented by men of reputation, men like Generals Henry Knox and Alexander McDougall. And they, in the year since the Battle of Yorktown decided America's fate in October 1781, had much idle time waiting for peace to be finalized by commissioners. They also had legitimate grievances against an ineffective Congress. As Congress would learn, this was a very bad combination.

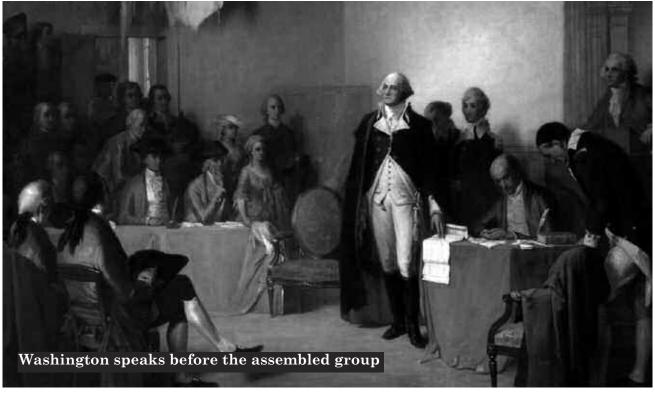
In late 1782, General Knox sent a memorandum to Congress, bearing the signature of himself and several other senior officers, expressing grave concerns. The officers were unhappy that the Army had not been paid in months (a costcutting measure due to a nearly empty treasury) and what's more, a promised pension to the officers was now being taken off the table.

Meanwhile in Congress, maneuvering by a faction which included James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Gouverneur Morris and Robert Morris was looking to put more power into the Federal government by giving it the power to tax the states and impose tariffs so it could ac-

tually pay its bills. And this faction realized that having the Continental Army march on Congress in search of their pay might be just what they needed to make their point. Hamilton said as much to the Commander, General George Washington, when he suggested that Washington should "take the direction" of the Army's anger towards Congress.

Washington, of course, would countenance no such thing. He stated that while he sympathized with both the Army and Congress, he would not use the Army to threaten civil government as he thought it would violate many of the principles for which the Revolution was fought.

On March 10, a letter began circulating in the Army's camp, which was later traced to Major John Armstrong, who was an aide to General Horatio Gates, General Washington's politically maneuvering rival. The letter expressed anger about the condition of the Army and the ineffectiveness of Congress and called upon the Army



to give an ultimatum. The letter took a predictable and inelegant swipe at General Washington when it warned readers to, "... suspect the man who would advise moderation." The letter called a meeting of the Army's officers at 11 am the next day.

Washington, finding out about the letter, instead called a meeting several days afterwards, although he was coy about whether he himself would attend. He arrived several minutes after

## 'We may flirt with anti-democratic tendencies in America, but we really don't wear them well at all.'

the meeting began, as General Gates was standing before the assembled officers. Forced by protocol to yield the floor, Gates turned the assemblage over to Washington. The Commander then gave an address which reinforced the distinctive American value of civilian control over the military.

He called upon his officers to, "... express your utmost horror and detestation of the Man who wishes, under any specious pretenses, to overturn the liberties of our Country, and who wickedly attempts to open the flood gates of civil discord and deluge our rising Empire in Blood." Further, he urged his officers to, "Give one more distinguished proof of unexampled patriotism and patient virtue" and "... rely on the plighted faith of your Country, and place a full confidence in the purity of the intentions of Congress."

Then, he displayed a letter of support to the Army from a Virginia member of Congress. After attempting to read it aloud, he paused and

reached into his uniform coat. He remarked, "Gentlemen, you will permit me to put on my spectacles, for I have not only gone gray, but almost blind in service of my country."

This very human moment from a man of the stature of General Washington crystalized in the minds of the officers the events of the past decade. It recalled the blood shed, the hardships borne, and the empty chairs in the room. It recalled Valley Forge, Trenton, and Yorktown. It

recalled the oaths that the officers took to serve their country. And with this simple gesture, the momentum was knocked out of the Newburgh Conspiracy. After Washington's departure, the officers again pledged their loyalty to Congress, and General Knox led a committee responsible for drafting a resolution ex-

pressing "unshaken confidence" in Congress.

Thomas Jefferson would later recall of Washington, "... the moderation and virtue of a single character had probably prevented this revolution from being closed as most others have been – by a subversion of that liberty it was intended to establish." A thought for our times, perhaps inspired by a tattered flag, rusted old musket or aged drumhead, from a past which occasionally reminds us that while we may flirt with anti-democratic tendencies in America, we really don't wear them well at all.

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



# **See sports photos**

Here are just a few of Dan Pemrick's recent Greenwich sports photos. Recently, he captured senior days. See these photos in color and read playoff capsules on our Facebook page – fb.com/journalpress.







# For Kids (and Their Parents, Grandparents and Teachers)

# **Honoring the flag**

Shirley Renauld Journal & Press

Congrats to you at SCS Modified Sports. You even made the area morning news!

Have you seen that the buoys are back in the river? You remember what they are for. The canal system opened on May 19 so we are seeing Canadian flags on the yachts of our northern neighbors heading home after spending the Winter in the Caribbean. Trace their route along the Champlain Canal: on "our" Hudson (Have you seen the new lighted marker near the bridge Schuylerville?) to the section that had to be dug to connect with Lake Champlain, along the length of the lake and onto the Richelieu River to get them to their homeland. This includes going through locks. Each year one of the locks is checked and repaired. This year it was Lock 6 at Fort Miller. Especially you local residents kept watching as the work area was wrapped, a temporary dam put in to keep the water away from the work area where the northern doors were replaced. All work had to be done by the canal opening because of the dam in the river here. Congratulations, Sean for being appointed to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission. Good timing: This year is the Bicentennial of the Champlain Canal and celebrations start with Trails Day, the 3rd, biking and activities in communities along the Canal.

June is Dairy Mo, but we think of all the healthy ways we eat dairy all year long. It is interesting to watch how dairy cows are milked in rotary milking parlors--thanks to the Allens for letting us watch.

You 4-Hers did great at the Dairy Booth! Thanks, Mallory, for starting to serve us ice cream already

For health reasons, some of us don't drink milk from cows, so we get dairy goat milk directly from farms certified by Ag and Markets to sell it or buy it at retail stores, as we all can. (Thanks, Jim for designing a goat-milking parlor.) What kind of goat cheese/chevre is your favorite? The nutrition of goats' milk extends

to soap made and sold from it locally at Rebelwood. Thanks, Annelise, for the visits to your goats, for your products and letting us help.

For you with dairy as well as other animals that you plan to show at the fair, CCE is holding a free day at the Washington County Fairgrounds on the 10th. Educators will hold Showmanship Clinics with tips for preparing and showing your dairy and beef animals, sheep, goats and poultry--and yourself!. There's even free lunch. There will also be a Tack and

Tailgate Sale with supplies you might need, or bring to sell what you no longer need.

As we all make more use of roads now, "Share the Road" is especially important for everyone's safety. We all enjoy the recreational use of roads for biking, including races, for our commuting and travels, but there are those who must use the roads for their work also. We are not pleased with detours and road closures but we are thankful in the long run for Public Works employees repairing roads, replacing rusted culverts with plastic ones, repaving... We see the orange triangles on the backs of farm equipment to warn us of slow-moving vehicles as farmers use the roads to get to their fields and to transport their products. We just have to allow more time "to get there"

The 14th is officially Flag Day.

You might visit the Philadelphia home of Betsy Ross and you've heard the story of her hand-sewing the first USA flag with 13 stripes. alternating red and white, as well as a circle of 13 white stars on a background of blue in the upper left corner, both to represent the 13 colonies that became our first states. The only thing that has changed through the years has been the stars until, with Alaska and Hawaii joining our union, we now have the current arrangement (of how many stars?). The star for NYS is on the right of the second row.

You have said the Pledge of Allegiance at gatherings, sports' events and others. It was written by Francis



Bellemy for a children's magazine because he wanted children to be proud of their country. What does it really mean?:

"I pledge" - I promise--standing and with your right hand, even if you're left-handed, over your heart

"allegiance" - support, loyalty

"to the flag of the United States of America" - OUR country; not another country made up of united states

"and to the republic for which it stands" - the flag is a symbol of the form of government in which citizens elect their representatives (not a king)

"one nation, under God, indivisible"- a united country, not one to be divided

(The phrase "under God" was added more recently.)

"with liberty" - to be free from authority

"and justice for all." - every citizen is treated fairly and equally

Flag Day is not a legal holiday so you will have school. You could have Flag Day programs:

Wear patriotic colors (which are they and what do they stand for?).

Display historic flags, in order of how they changed as states were added

Invite veterans asking them to tell what our flag means to them. (Uncle Mac makes classroom visits all year long.)

Sing and play patriotic music. Which song is our national anthem\*?

March and parade in formation.

You older students lead younger ones: in a sing-along, in a parade using rhythm instruments or help them make some with recyclable materials--and a folded newspaper hat.

Of course, display, carry and wave lots of

flags of various sizes.

Have you seen an American flag::

- made by stringing small seed beads on safety pins (with patience, you can make one)
- painted on the side of a building, as in Greenwich, using the boards as the stripes
- on a rectangular cake with white icing, using blueberries for stars and lines of strawberry slices to be the red stripes
- small flags on toothpick poles stuck in cupcakes--make some!
  - $\hbox{-} \ as \ part \ of \ a \ monument$
- a pick-up truck with the flag fluttering in the breeze
- elected officials wearing a flag pin on the lapel of their suit coats

Throughout our history, explorers have left American flags:... Mt Everest, North and South Poles, the moon... Why?

Sarah says that you can make a USA flag by painting craft sticks (How many red? How many white?). When dry, glue them together. Cut a bright blue rectangle. the size to fit in the left upper corner. With the tip of a watercolor brush carefully make dots of white paint for the stars. (Would you have patience to make tiny dots of glue and, with tweezers, drop a white sprinkle from your baking supplies on each?). If you'd have bigger craft sticks, you could print the stars with the small head of a nail or tip of a pencil eraser.

As a group project, make a large flag on strong white paper: lines of handprints of each of you for the red stripes and white fingerprints to be the stars. Display it!

\* More occasions are coming up for us to hear and sing it. During the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key watched as an American flag continued to fly during a battle and wrote a poem about it. Later, it was set to music and became our national anthem. It has not been changed. Some people prefer to sing other patriotic songs. How about you?

# Writers unite, read their stuff

The Greenwich Free Library will present a "Writers Reading" hosted by local writer Bonnie Hoag on Thursday, June 1, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Writers are invited to the library to share their work—poetry or prose, whether fully realized or as works-in-progress—with each other and with the public. Writers Reading is a free event at the library, co-presented by Dionondehowa Wildlife Sanctuary and School in Shushan and the Greenwich Free Library.

Hoag, a local writer and teacher, will guide the program. Hoag says, "We're looking for five writers to bring forward a piece they're working on, whether wanting just to be heard or seeking feedback." Writers who would like to participate are asked to contact Bonnie at 518-320-0502 or dionondehowa@yahoo.com to claim their 15 minutes.

# **More Memorial Day photos**











# **DAR Good Citizen awardees**

The Willard's Mountain Chapter of the National Daughters of the American Revolution is proud to announce recipients of the 2023 The NSDAR Good Citizen Award. Each student received a certificate, pin and honorarium presented by the Willard's Mountain Chapter of NSDAR. Willard's Mountain chapter presents these awards to 6 area high schools. High school seniors were chosen by their high schools who best demonstrated the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism. Pictured are Rylee D. from Corinth High School, Kiera M. from Hoosic Valley Jr/Sr High School, and Region IV essay winner Arielle S. from Schuylerville High School. Unable to attend were Kathryn C. from Greenwich High School, Mary Kate M. from Salem Central School and Emilie W. from Argyle

Central School. In addition, Arielle S was selected as District IV Essay Contest winner. She received a monetary prize from New York State Daughters of the American Revolution District IV. Her essay will go on to compete at the state level



# **Rockwell at Proudfit Hall**

From now until the end of June you can come visit the Bancroft Public Library in Salem and view the new, awesome Rockwell Norman Exhibit in the Proudfit Hall Art Gallery. The exhibit focuses on the local people he used as his models in his paintings. There are pictures in the gallery for viewing and in addition they include a QR code so you can see and hear about the models through interviews with their family and friends. In the library you will also

One of the works on display

find a binder for each picture which has a transcript of the interview, other information, and pictures that were taken that Rockwell used to make his paintings.

The exhibit is free and can be viewed whenever the library is open: Mondays: 1:00-6:00; Tuesdays: 1:00-8:00; Wednesdays: 10:00-6:00; Thursdays: 1:00-8:00; Fridays: 1:00 - 5:00 and

Saturdays: 10:00-2:00.

This exhibit was the result of Tom McMorris and Judy Flagg's hard work and dedication. Also, it stems from a recent program at the Salem Courthouse Community Center by Stephen Haggerty who just authored a new book, "Norman Rockwell's Models In and Out of the Studio."

# RC Churches News

Mass at Holy Cross Catholic Church on Sunday is at 8:15 AM, St. Patrick's celebrates on Sunday at 11:30 AM, (a children's liturgy is available at this Mass), Immaculate Conception in Hoosick Falls has Mass on Saturday at 4 PM and Sunday at 10 AM.

Fr. Kirwin presented information on the Unbound program that helps hundreds of thousands of individuals and families in Africa, Asia and Latin America overcome poverty.

Individuals are encouraged to help meet the parish assessment for the Diocesan Appeal before June 30. The donation can be sent to Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany at 40 North Main Ave. Albany, NY 12203. Please note the Parish name in the memo or can be done on line at rcda.org. The Diocesan Appeal is used by the dioceses to fund numerous programs services, and ministries for local parishes.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available before mass at 7:45 AM on Sunday at Holy Cross and at after the 11:30 Mass at St. Patrick's, or by appointment. Please call St.

Patrick's Church parish office at 518-677-2757 to make an

appointment.

St. Patrick's will hold the annual Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 3rd from noon until 4:00. Please sign up in the vestibule of the church to donate items needed or to help set up at 9:00 AM

Consider visiting the parish website: www.battenkillcatholic.org. People can sign up for Flocknote notifications, prepare for Sunday liturgy, access Adult Faith Formation materials, and more. Also, please consider helping the local food pantry. The Salem pantry could use pasta, cereal, paper towels and toilet paper. Cambridge is in need of peanut butter, dry cereal and chicken noodle soup to send home in backpacks for weekend meals.

-Submitted by Rose Mary Sheffield

# **Barking and books**

Lucky Puppy Rescue, Salem's Community Cats, and Arygle Brewing Company, and On a Limb Catering all participated in Books, Barks, Brews, & Meows! at Greenwich Free Library on Saturday May 20. The public gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the Greenwich Free Dog Library, a take-a-toy, leave-a-toy lending library for our best friends. Village of Greenwich Mayor Pam Fuller attended with her dog, Cleo, and they cut the ribbon on the brand new dog library, located outside behind the human library.

All of these were shot by Clifford Oliver



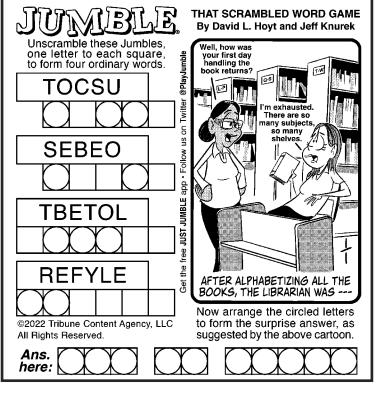




#### **Political Cartoon of the Week** by Joel Pett

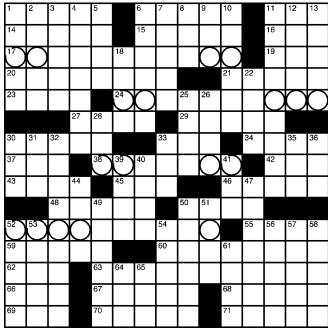
**An Artist's Take** 

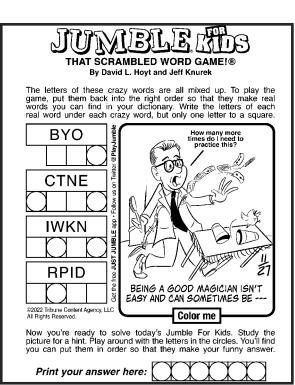




## **Coila Crossword**

(solution page 22)





1 Unisex dos

6 It beats rock, in a game

11 "Quiet, please!"

14 Bat mitzvah reading

15 Photographer's concern 16 Concert souvenir

17 Routinely approve 19 Chicken-king connec-

20 Recently

21 On the trail of

we?" 23 "Now, where \_ 24 Betty White's "The Golden Girls" role

27 Crystal ball gazer

29 Isn't elected 30 Nick of "Warrior" (2011)

33 Hold a session

34 Shade of blue

37 Dude

38 Assures, as an interest rate

42 Coffee server . 43 2017 Best Animated Feature Oscar winner

45 Timid 46 Raw meat concern 48 Came up

#### 50 Augur

52 .eps or .txt, e.g.

55 Turkish coin God: tornado, e.g.

60 Respected

62 T'ai

63 Butchers' stock literally found in this puzzle's cir-

66 Woolen cap

67 Wipe out

68 Buy and sell stock

69 Canonized Mlle. 70 Worldview view

71 Have a sneaking suspi-cion

#### Down

1 Scarecrow stuff 2 Word with party or guest

3 Leafy recess

4 Gossipy gathering 5 "A Boy Named Sue" writer Silverstein

6 Right one for the rite job?

7 Chips in a pot 8 Golf tour letters 9 National Mall tree 10 Makes good on

11 The way things are 12 Mirren of "Trumbo" (2015)

13 Caught wind (of)

18 Like valuable coins 22 market

25 Fans of college sports' Bulldogs

26 "Moi?"

28 Slim fish often smoked 30 "This Is Us" network

31 Ol'mpicos goal 32 Announcement before landing

33 Feature of many seascapes

35 Surfer's link 36 Singer DiFranco

39 buco: veal dish

40 "Mermaids" co-star

"The Simpsons" 44 Longtime Hydrox rival

47 Cause \_\_: megastar 49 Counteract

50 Short-legged hound 51 Director Preminger

52 They're hard to argue with

53 Former Apple messaging app

54 Reagan attorney general Ed

56 "That is ... "

57 Wetlands growths

58 Website revenue

61 Young newts 64 Outrage

65 Sports radio host Patrick

41 Mustachioed guy on

gyle Acrostic

**Holmes** 

Inspect

**Investigate** 

By Frank J. D'Agostino (solution page 22)

Find these words that are associated with detectives.

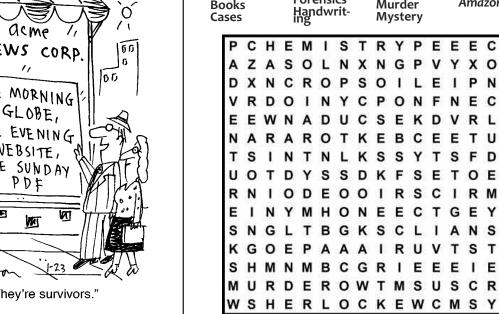
**Adventures** Baker St. Books

Chemistry Clues Conan Conclude Crime **Detective** Dr. Watson

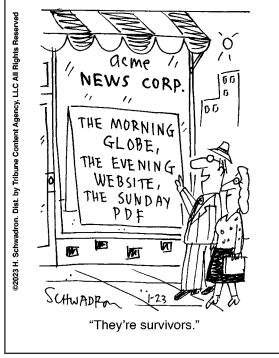
Keen Eye Logic London Magnify Methods Expert Moriarty Forensics Murder

Reasoning Sherlock Solve

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



## 9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



# From the Stacks

# What is a library without books?

Warren Schultz Greenwich Free Library

We know that libraries are under assault in certain states, where books are being banned for political and cultural reasons. In some towns, all it takes is the complaint of one person to have a particular book removed from the library. Of course, there is much concern about political and cultural forces putting pressure on libraries. And rightly so. Yet current news stories reveal that other forces are threatening libraries, including financial shortcomings and the prevalence of online and digital learning. In fact, some might argue that with all the information and knowledge online books are becoming obsolete.

That raises the question: What is a library without books? We may be about to find out. In February an entire state university library system announced it was planning to empty all its library space of books in favor of an "all-digital academic library" system. The buildings themselves would remain open, according to the university's FAQs, and could be used for "community commons, enhanced study spaces, student services, and access to other innovations and tools." In other words, the library would become just another campus social center where students sit in front of screens, of either computers or phones.

This was not a university in a state you might expect. It was Vermont! In 2020, just as the pandemic hit, the system made plans to close three rural colleges in their system. Instead, they decided to combine some of their schools to ease the budget crunch. And then they took aim at their libraries. You can imagine someone sitting in a boardroom asking: "Do we really need all those books?" And so, in February of this year, the system made plans to transform all their libraries into all-digital entities, while laying off 10 librarians.

Fortunately, after much resistance from students, staff, and faculty the order was rescinded and the books will remain, but the university system president will not. He resigned. Books win!

Libraries are facing a financial crunch across the country, not just in Vermont. A similar scenario is playing out at the University of Califor-



nia, Berkeley. There, the school has decided to close its 67-year-old anthropology library and shuffle most of its books off to an off-campus warehouse. Authorities estimate that will save the university \$400,000. That's a lot of money, no doubt, but consider that last fall the University held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new data sciences building called the Gateway. This 367,270 square foot facility will be a hub for artificial intelligence, data analytics and machine

learning. Its cost? Over half a billion dollars. The University promises the facility will feature "extended sightlines and natural light-filled corridors." It says nothing about books.

I've worked at three college libraries and two public libraries.

In fact, I worked at a college library all through the pandemic. During the worst of times, browsing was forbidden, a reservation was required to enter, and of course masks were required. (I per-

sonally escorted a few patrons to the door after their refusal to stay masked.) Patronage dropped to near zero as students turned to online sources accessed from their dorm rooms. It was a quiet and strange time for libraries. Even after Covid faded and restrictions were lifted, it took a long time for that library and most libraries to recover and return to past activities. But despite their new-found ability to do all their research from their dorm rooms, students eventually returned to the library in full force.

Today it's not only college libraries that are suffering through a financial crisis. Libraries are under assault across the nation. In New York City, the mayor's budget included a

\$13 million reduction in

library funds this fiscal year and more than \$20 million next year. It has sparked concern among families, elected officials, and library leaders. Libraries in New York City will have to respond by scaling back hours, eliminating workers and reducing programming. Those who depend on libraries are outraged.

We are fortunate in Greenwich to have a vibrant, well-stocked and well-staffed library that is supported by the community. Our 2023 budget

# 'There is a force that draws patrons to the library and that is the subconscious power of books.'

just passed by a comfortable margin.

Libraries are essential for many reasons. They offer companionship and comfort. They provide reference help. Beyond that, I'm convinced there is a force that draws patrons to the library and that is the subconscious power of books. There is something comforting and inspiring about the feeling of being in a building crammed with books--all in order (well, except perhaps a few erroneously shelved). In a library, a random cover might capture your attention, a few words on the jacket might pique your interest. As one of the Berkeley protestors noted, part of the appeal of a library is the pleasure of finding a book that you didn't even know you were looking for.

That's not to say that libraries should be stodgy places, something like book museums. In fact, libraries have changed over the past 30 years. There's no more of that stereotypical shushing of patrons by the staff. Libraries are not as solemn as they once were. Food is no longer prohibited in many libraries. But one thing remains constant. Books. Lots of them.

Warren Schultz is an author and playwright who has worked in five libraries. He is an upstate native.





518.692.2886

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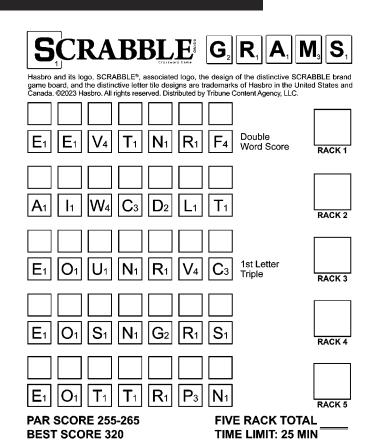
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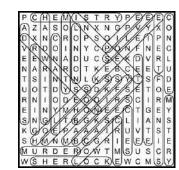
#### Answers

Boggle: EMU HERON EAGLE ROBIN
PARROT FALCON CONDOR
Jumble: SCOUT OBESE BOTTLE FREELY
"OUT OF SORTS"
Kid's: BOY CENT WINK DRIP – "TRICKY"

| Yes   Yes |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8     9     6     8     9     8     1     8     9 <td>7</td> <td>9</td> <td>m</td> <td>6</td> <td>8</td> <td>7</td> <td>S</td> <td>Þ</td> <td>Ω</td>  | 7 | 9 | m | 6 | 8 | 7 | S | Þ | Ω |
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## Fun & Games

(solution below)

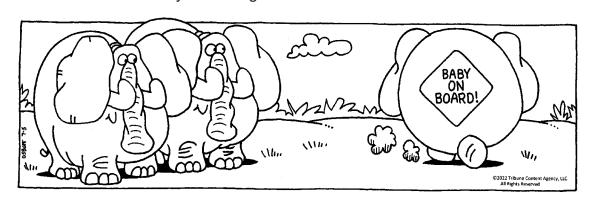


# Salem Sudoku

(solution below)

| 8<br>5 |   |   | 7 |   | 4 |   | 5 | 2 |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 6 |
|        | 3 | 4 |   | 5 |   |   | 1 |   |
|        |   | 7 |   |   |   |   | 9 |   |
|        |   |   | 8 |   | 6 |   |   |   |
|        | 2 |   |   |   |   | 6 |   |   |
|        | 6 |   |   | 2 |   | 5 | 8 |   |
| 3      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |
| 3<br>2 | 4 |   | 1 |   | 9 |   |   | 7 |

#### Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



#### Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



#### The Middletons by Dana Summers



#### Filbert by LA Bonté

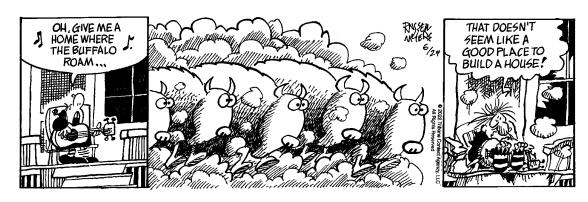






For more comics visit FilbertCartoons.co

#### **Broom Hilda** by Russell Myers



# **Through the Decades**

# Birthday bike brings bad fortune

Here is where we look at past editions of The Journal & Press from early Junes decades ago...

100 Years Ago June 6, 1923

After having been missing since Saturday morning, the body of Seymour Carpenter, fourteen-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Seward Carpenter of Hudson Falls, was found Monday afternoon in the feeder canal in that village. The boy left home Saturday morning riding a new bicycle that had been given to him the day before as a birthday present. As he was a novice at cycling, it is supposed that he lost control of the wheel and went into the canal. The bicycle was found in the water near the boy's body.

**70 Years Ago June 3, 1953** 

Hundreds, in fact more than a thousand people from this section, gathered at Schuylerville Saturday evening after an airplane crashed in the Hudson River, killing the two occupants. The crash occurred about 6:30 p.m., when the plane, piloted by Louis N. Pierri, 42, of Schenectady, accompanied by John Banden, 40, of that same city, struck high tension lines and plunged into the river. ... At Schuylerville, south of the bridge spanning the Hudson River, it struck the high-tension wires, which carry 34,500 volts and plunged 30 feet into the water. When the plane struck the wires the sky was illuminated with a flashing light and all electric service in Schuylerville was cut off, and was not restored until about 10 o'clock. ... The bodies were then extricated and Dr. M.D. Duby and Dr. M.T. Boright of Schuylerville pronounced the men dead. Dr. Joseph Lebowich of Saratoga Springs, after performing the autopsy, said the men died of electrocution. ... The two men had rented the plane in Schenectady early Memorial Day and Pierri had said he was flying to New Jersey. He had used the same plane the week before for a trip.

40 Years Ago

June 2, 1983

The 1983 Whipple City Days parade scheduled for Aug. 7 may be one of the largest ever held in Greenwich. The line of march, reflecting the theme The Good Old Days, will have dozens of antique autos and fire engines from a four-county area, as well as historical floats and a few surprises. ... Participants include Troy's Uncle Sam float, the Charles Freihofer Baking Company, Whitehall's Liberty Float, the New York State Police, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, VFW Post 7291 of Greenwich and antique fire trucks from Glens Falls, North Queensbury and Round Lake.

20 Years Ago June 5, 2003

GREENWICH - Upstairs, single bedroom apartment for rent, \$350 a month, security and references required. ... BEAUTY SALON for rent. Excellent Schuylerville location with bow window exposure to main street. Two modern stations with washer and drver hookups. \$300 includes heat and hot water. ... OFFICE/SHOP for rent. Excellent Schuylerville location. Modern with new carpet and paint. \$290 includes heat and electric. (EDITOR'S NOTE: Fixed to inflation, \$300 from 20 years ago would be equal to about \$495 today.)

10 Years Ago June 13, 2013

Sandy McReynolds, the Gill Room Histo-

rian at the Greenwich Library, has created a "Passport to Greenwich History," which will take children on a Whipple City Festival hunt. Each page of the passport requires a visit to a particular park in the village of Greenwich and through the Rough 'n Ready building in order to answer specific questions. A village map and a free pencil will be supplied with each passport. Upon completion, the children will return to the Gill Room/DAR table in Dorr Park for a stamp of completion and a peel at the official answer sheet. Those with all the correct answers will receive a certificate for a free book from the Downstairs Friends' Bookroom at the library.

3 Years Ago June 1, 2020

Imagine being 15 years old and traveling 7,981 miles to live with relatives and attend school in the small town of Cambridge, New York. Alisha Kumari made this journey last year to begin her junior year at Cambridge Central School. She left behind her parents, friends and her school in the southern Indian city of Vizag, in the state of Andhara Pradesh.

Alisha was born in Romulus, Michigan where her father and mother had briefly settled to develop a marketing business. During this time the family lived close by to Alisha's grandparents. Her Aunt Sangeeta Bell and Uncle Andrew Bell had hosted Alisha's sister, Daksha, born in India, before she left to attend the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. After Alisha's birth Dinesh and Archana, Alisha's parents, along with their two daughters returned to India. Unfortunately, Alisha's mom and dad will not be able to attend her graduation because all flights leaving India have been cancelled.

-Compiled by Darren Johnson

# **Letter to the Editor**

# An open letter to the Greenwich community

Dear Greenwich Families, Staff, and Community Members,

Thank you for your continued support of the Greenwich Central School District. Last week, the 2023-24 school budget passed, as did the bus proposition and the library propositions. Much thought and collaboration goes into developing the budget in a way that ensures taxpayer dollars are directed toward giving students an impactful educational experience, and we appreciate your involvement and input.

As we turn our attention to endof-the-year milestones and celebrations, we are also looking forward to completing portions of the Capital Projects residents approved in 2018 and 2022. This summer, the district will improve outdoor athletic facilities including the turf infield; sixlane track; new "D" zones with steeplechase, two long jump/triple jump pits, and high jump area; chain link fencing; new 500-seat bleachers for ADA compliance; and lighting. One boys' bathroom in the Junior/Senior High School will also be renovated in 2023.

Due to inflation, construction bids that were received by the district

and opened on May 3, 2023 were much higher than anticipated. As a result, the Board of Education, in collaboration with the Director of Facilities and Leadership Team, removed some of the items that were on the alternate list from the scope of the projects. These include:

- Replacement of gymnasium bleachers
- Renovation of the second boys' bathroom in the Junior/Senior High School
- Replacement of fencing around the campus
- New visitor bleachers at the outdoor field

The district is working with architects and financial advisors on a plan to complete the remainder of the projects, which include:

- Expansion of the parking lot near the tennis courts
- Reconstruction of the main entrance of the primary building for security purposes
- Replacement of the elevator of the primary building for ADA compliance purposes

Due to careful financial planning, the district will have approximately \$1.8 million in a Capital Reserve Fund. In order to use this funding to complete the 2018 and 2022 projects, the district will need voter approval. We anticipate asking voters to approve the use of \$800,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund in a special vote (tentative date: November 14, 2023). Should voters approve the use of the Capital Reserve Funds, the district will put the remaining projects out to bid again (tentative awarding of bids: late December 2023), and construction work would be completed by September 2024.

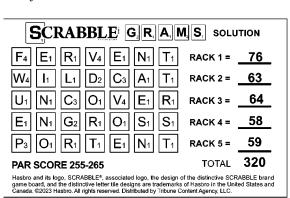
More information about the remaining items on the Capital Projects will be forthcoming. We want the community to be up-to-date in a timely and transparent fashion. If you have any questions, please call or email me at 518-692-9542 ext. 6800 or jsteimle@greenwichcsd.org.

Thank you again for your support of our students and staff.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Jennifer Steimle**Superintendent, Greenwich CSD

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#### GREATER GREENWICH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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# FRIDAY, JUNE 16

MAIN STREET AT MOWRY PARK

**PARADE FOOD & ICE CREAM BEER & WINE** 

LIVE MUSIC **GAZEBO** 

6:00PM ROAD HOUSE **RHYTHM & BLUES** 

# SATURDAY, JUNE 17

**MAIN STREET BETWEEN HILL & JOHN STREETS** 

COMMERCIAL & **NON-PROFIT VENDORS** 

FOOD, BEER & WINE

**HORSE DRAWN** WAGON RIDES

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES** 

LIVE MUSIC WALLIE'S PARKING LOT

11:30AM RAGGED RASCAL

2:00PM RUSTICATOR

4:30PM TWILIGHT DRIVE

7:00PM EASTBOUND JESUS

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