

The Greenwich Journal

Of Southern Washington County, Est. 1842



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The start of school

Early Sept. 2024
Vol. 183; Issue 17

What to expect at Greenwich CSD

As mentioned in our last issue, we have separated out The Greenwich Journal from The Salem Press, so now can give you more exclusive coverage in each region.

We start our first issue of the stand-alone Greenwich Journal talking to Greenwich CSD superintendent Dr. Jennifer Steimle. Plus football pics!



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Making Greenwich
'greener' – 23



Fun & Games – 26



Bob Henke's
Outdoors Tomorrow
column debuts – 6-7



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What to expect to start the school year

Darren Johnson
Campus News

Classes start again at Greenwich CSD on Thursday, Sept. 5.

I caught up with superintendent Jennifer Steimle to see what students and parents can expect this year.

Here is our Q&A:

Journal & Press: *Welcome to a new academic year. This is your third in the role of superintendent at Greenwich? How have you liked the job so far?*

Steimle: As I begin year three, I am just as excited as I was on my very first day! This continues to be my dream job and I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve the students of this community.

Journal & Press: *What are some new things that will be implemented for the 2024-25 school year? What can students expect to be different when they come back this month?*

Steimle: When students arrive on September 5, they will be welcomed to sparkling clean hallways and well groomed fields and lots of hugs and high fives. The parking lot by the tennis courts has been expanded and it is now connected to the sidewalk leading to the turf field. The primary building is still undergoing a transformation of its own with a new entrance to be opened in late September that will be more secure and will have an ADA compliant elevator come later this fall. The elementary building will begin the year with a new English Language Arts curriculum and we have a newish principal, Cheryl Record and new Assistant Principal, Rebecca Hughes to guide us. The JSHS will maintain their heavy academic focus and I am sure will continue to excel.

Journal & Press: *A lot of districts are placing stricter rules on the use of smart phones. Where does Greenwich stand in that regard?*

Steimle: GCSD already has in place more stringent guidelines than many

schools in our area regarding the use of smartphones. The elementary students are not allowed to have phones on them during the school day and JSHS are not allowed to use them during classes. This is not new to us as this has been our practice for over a year.

Journal & Press: *We hear Covid may be making a big comeback this fall. How is the district preparing for that?*

Steimle: We continue to maintain high standards of cleanliness in all of our buildings. We also will continue to encourage families to keep students home when they are not feeling well.

Journal & Press: *We tend to hear a lot about athletic accomplishments from the district, and that's great, but don't hear as much from the arts side. Are there plans to get these kids more exposure for their creative work?*

Steimle: We have eight concerts per year, plus a holiday sing-along, a 2nd grade show, Flag Day Ceremony, the Memorial Day Parade and two drama club productions each year. We have many students in grades 5 and up participate in All-County Band and Vocal festivals each year, and also some high-school students who go to area-all state in the fall. This year we hope to add a 5th and 6th grade play which will be something new and exciting.

Journal & Press: Speaking of sports, a big addition was the artificial turf field last



Dr. Jennifer Steimle with a student

year. How has that been working out?

Steimle: It has gone very well. It has been a pleasure seeing all sports able to use it as well as Physical Education classes and even youth sports.

Journal & Press: *We attended the presentation on bullying last year. It was very good. How did the students like it? Any plans on follow up in regards to bullying on campus? Is it a problem?*

Steimle: I am not sure that students felt all that compelled by the presentation last year, but it did help us to define what we see in our buildings and what we want to teach our students. We will continue to refine our Social Emotional Learning lessons and expectations for all students. What this really means is that we help students to express what they are thinking and feeling in an appropriate way and that we all need to be KIND to one another.

The elementary in particular will be re-

Please read more on the next page



The Greenwich Justice Must Really Know The Judge's Job

It's a large job with responsibility to manage the 4th busiest Town Court in Washington County:

- Schedule the Court Docket
- Preside Over Legal Proceedings
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- Conduct Arraignments
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NOVEMBER 5

(cont.)

evaluating their use of PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) this school year, again with a focus on teaching appropriate behavior.

The Wellness Committee is also exploring the idea of surveying students and staff this year to identify specific areas of focus.

Journal & Press: *There also was some new state assessment of students that was announced last year and area results were kind of middling with the younger grades doing relatively worse. What was that assessment, and will it return this year? Were some of the results lower because younger students missed some concepts during the pandemic years?*

Steimle: I believe you are talking about the 3-8 NYS assessments and we did administer these in the spring and plan to do so again in Spring 2025. The data has not

been publicly released for the 23-24 school year yet so I cannot comment on how we did, but I can tell you that we are now using an assessment tool in house that is helping us to target instruction where needed and in our first year of use, we saw much growth. As a general trend, students across the state have not performed well since the pandemic. GCSD is committed to continuous improvement for all of our students.

Journal & Press: *But overall things are looking up in the district and it appears there's a lot of positivity. Greenwich is usually ranked as one of the best districts in the whole Capital Region. How do you keep that momentum going?*

Steimle: We keep the momentum going by maintaining a focus on students and learning and growing our programming when possible. We must continue believing the good in the world and in each other to foster a positive culture and climate and we need to continue to address what is unacceptable.

Journal & Press: *What are you looking forward to this year?*

Steimle: I am always excited for our opening day with staff. I love to joke around with them all and promote a fun place to work. Of course I will not sleep the night before students come back. There is nothing better than those hugs and smiles coming off the buses!

Journal & Press: *Anything else you'd like to add?*

Steimle: We have added Pre-K to our art and music program this year. During the fall/winter there will be a cover contest for the Memory Book. Students in 5th and 6th grade can enter a front or back cover for our elementary yearbook!

Learn more about the upcoming school year at Greenwich CSD by visiting greenwichcsd.org.

Greenwich football gears up for season

The GCSD Booster Club recently received non-profit status and have been approved by the district to start doing concessions again at big games adjacent to the new turf field.

This will be ready to go by Sat., Sept. 7 at 1 p.m., for a non-league home game against Ausable Valley. The boosters will get the ball rolling during scrimmage games until then.

“The plan is to start slow this fall, and they have established a process for teams/clubs to request money or support,” Dr. Jennifer Steimle, district superintendent, said of the Booster Club. “We look forward to having this additional support for students and families of GCSD.”

Founding Booster Club board members are: Lacey Bentley, Ashley Dow, Ashley Clayton, Jackie Camacho and Rachel



Clothier.

This will replace the last known Booster Club from the 1990s that morphed into a Greenwich Hall of Fame and is now dormant.

This new Greenwich Booster Club, a.k.a. the Cauldron Club, is expected to support all Greenwich Central School District junior and senior high sports teams from modified through varsity.

This newspaper and wonderful sports photographer Dan Pemrick will of course continue to follow these teams. Here are some photos of his from a recent practice.



Congrats, Cole!

We've been following the NFL trajectory of Greenwich's own Cole Burgess, a wide receiver and kickoff returner. See previous newsletters for details on his rise from rural New York State Class D football to mere D3 SUNY Cortland (not exactly an NFL feeder school) to wowing scouts at a Pro Day combine and making the Cincinnati Bengals Pre-Season squad as an undrafted free agent, despite that the team already is stacked with more established wide receivers. It's a great story!

While not making the team's 53-man roster to start the season Sept. 8, Burgess was named to the team's practice squad Aug. 28. Practice squad player can get called up at any time during the season. As well, they get paid quite nicely just to be ready to go in reserve. I'm sure we'll see him in prime time soon!



Suffragettes return to Battenville

The hamlet of Battenville was unusually busy on Monday, where the childhood home of Susan B. Anthony was the setting for a Women's Equality Day (Aug. 26) celebration conducted by the League of Women Voters of Saratoga County.

Politicians were present, policemen monitored the traffic and members of the public converged on the site to hear speakers, sing a few songs and at least get to examine the home exterior, still closed to visitors despite considerable rehabilitation yet still considered unsafe by the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Speakers, including reenactor Linda McKenney who dressed as Susan B. Anthony, spoke of the efforts made by Ms. Anthony and other and earlier suffragettes which led to earning women the right to vote in 1920. Here, in 2024 at Anthony's home, the League of Women Voters was urging approval of Proposition No. 1 which will appear on New York ballots on Nov. 4 which,

if passed, will guarantee equal rights into the New York State Constitution.

Visitors were sectioned into two distinctive groups, who rotated between a program under a tent that featured songs, snacks and speeches, while others, in a neighboring building called Stoops Tavern, heard other speakers, especially an address given by reenactor McKenney who relived the experiences of Ms. Anthony, particularly her younger years in Battenville.

During closing ceremonies held near an historical marker recognizing the home, the League of Women Voters of Saratoga presented its annual "Fierce Feminist" award to Linda Salzer of nearby Cambridge.



occasion, Tisha Dalton stands by a tent banner and leads in singing, "Arise! Brave Woman!," sung by all at the closing.

Bottom: Reenactor Linda McKenney, appearing as Susan B. Anthony, walks near the Stoops Tavern where she gave a Monday afternoon presentation.

-Submitted by Bruce Squiers

Pictured:

Top: Dressed as a suffragette for the oc-



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Attack of the bromegrass

Bob Henke
Journal & Press

It is firmly into fall week and I am sitting in our bee-keeping booth experiencing the attendant fatigue, frustration, and fascination. The latter is usually provided by the behavior and mode of dress adopted by some members of the crowd but this time it was a very conservatively dressed, younger woman. She felt that, because I was both a beekeeper and a “game warden” (her words) I would have insider information about some sort of wild mushroom that was “worth more than gold.” She was not sure of the name of this fabulous fungi but she knew exactly how to find them. You have only to spread “sheaves of broom grass straw” throughout the woods and these mushrooms will sprout in each pile. She did not, however, know what broom grass straw was nor how to procure any. When I began to tell her about broom grass versus bromegrass, she decided I was just trying to protect the “secret” and headed off to ask some of the cow people.

Actually I know quite a lot about brome-grass although apparently not enough to be able to kill the stuff. In the past, it was frequently planted as “horse hay.” Nowadays the owners of everything from backyard ponies to raging barrel dragons are seeking out legume mixes typically reserved for dairy cows. When I was younger, before the crust of the earth was fully cooled, everyone “knew” that horses preferred grass hay and brome-grass was a favorite. Now it is primarily considered a cool-season pasture grass in the best case and a weed in others.

Some researchers consider brome-grass to be one of the most dangerous weed species that exists. It is for sure a survivor.

Smooth brome-grass (*Bromus inermis*) is a leafy, sod-forming grass that was introduced from Hungary in 1884. The biggest interest in the plant came during the depression era droughts for it does better than most other grasses under dry conditions. Brome-grass handles hot dry conditions so well for two reasons, which also are the reasons why

it is such a noxious weed. The first is the amazing vitality of its seeds. Multiple seeds are produced by each stalk. They fall to the ground and lie dormant until they are covered with enough dirt and detritus to hold sufficient water to nourish a young plant until it establishes roots. Brome-grass leaves and stems decompose more rapidly than most plants, aiding in covering the new seeds. The seeds are remarkably persistent, remaining viable for as many as 30 years waiting for just the right conditions.

The second reason brome-grass is such a weed issue is its root system. It makes a tremendously thick sod mat of roots close to the surface and each plant also sends roots deep into the soil. Along large runner roots, called rhizomes, new grass plants can sprout. These new plants are kept hydrated by the tap root of the parent plant until such time the newbie can produce a taproot of its own and, in turn, send out rhizomes.

In this way, stands of brome-grass increase very rapidly. This bodes ill not only for cultivated plants but for native grasses as well. Not only are competing plants crowded out but they are starved for water as well. Research has shown that a single brome-grass plant can collect water efficiently enough to have a detrimental effect on corn plant up to 24 inches away.

The plant’s great ability to modify water usage makes it a danger to other plants and wildlife in the area. When conditions become poor, brome-grass will let the stalks dry out, essentially sacrificing the annual growth to

Sightings

Every year, and his was no exception, I get a host of questions about the berries on staghorn sumac. Because he bright red sumac berries are fuzzy and not particularly appealing to humans does not mean our wild neighbors ignore it as well. Everything from mice to bears nibble on sumac berries. This afternoon, a diner you might not expect, was savaging the sumac in my backyard—a female hairy woodpecker. She was very intent in her quest and did not stop in spite of me driving a couple pieces of equipment quite close over the course of nearly an hour. —bh



keep the perennial portion of the plant living. This creates perfect conditions for wild-fires, which may decimate native species from grasses to arthropods, leaving nothing behind but thick stands of brome-grass.

It is quite interesting to watch the grasses in an unmowed lawn or farm field left to go fallow for a year or so. Throughout the area there will inevitably be the occasional sprig of brome-grass, just waiting for the right moment to spring into action with a host of rhizomes and super seeds, in its quest to, apparently, take over the entire world.

If that happens, at least we will apparently have a great supply of delicious mushrooms popping up randomly wherever some brome-grass stalks have keeled over...

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



Q&A for Bob Henke

Some of the material in the news lately truly delights me. The residual anthropologist in me finds interest in belief systems and, in that context, so much in our collective knowledge base tends to take on aspects of a religious system. We not only believe things strongly, we demand others believe it too and excoriate anyone who questions the most minor point. The interesting behavior happens when the “oops” becomes evident. No one ever apologizes when it switches and the same people will become just as vicious and pompous proclaiming the opposite information.

I have two contemporary favorites in this context. The first is fish. Those that do not understand the significance of evolution have touted the huge health benefit of eating fish instead of red meat. After all the carrying on and food police stuff, a 15-year study of 490,000 adults done at Brown University has shown a positive link between high fish consumption and skin cancer. I am waiting for the Save-The-Oceans folks to get onto that one.

The second one is the host of supplements purporting to either enhance memory or stave off cognitive decline. Early studies found small amounts of the supplement's active ingredient in the brains of dementia patients. The problem was assumed to be not enough of this material and the supplement business took off. Turns out it is just the opposite. The small amount was a lot when there was not supposed to be any. Once again, the ocean folks should be delighted that we will not be harvesting jellyfish and octopi to make brain pills.

This is one of the benefits of living long enough—you get to watch these things ebb and flow just like fashion and music. In another 20 years, some youngster will “discover” the amazing benefit of Vitamin C or D or E or probiotics or fiber or salt lights and make a bunch of money until someone else discovers it is just as bogus as it was in the 90s. What I have learned is a disinclination to take advice on longevity from someone in

their 20s. I am over the absolute certainty that goes with youth but am really hoping someone will “discover” the life-extending properties of McRib.

In that vein, some of you have asked questions that have been languishing for a while. I apologize for my sabbatical but at least you know I did not forget.

—Bob Henke

I was just told that the real reason sea otters are declining is because they eat nothing but shellfish and this gives them high levels of zinc, which makes them sterile. Is there any truth to this and if it is true, should humans avoid eating shellfish for the same reason?

It used to be in vogue to talk about sea otters being hunted to extinction; not really accurate but a great fund-raiser. The real problem, which, no one knows how to solve is, a single cell intestinal parasite called toxoplasma gondii. Sea otters became infected in a strange manner—the particular deadly strain of toxoplasma gondii came from mountain lions. As far as a sterility-inducing diet, folk medicine practitioners typically tout shellfish, especially oysters, as great libido-enhancers due to their zinc content. Besides that, I have to doubt the ill effects of a shellfish diet because on both sides of the Hudson River from the area right adjacent to the Tappan Zee Bridge (do not bother to correct me, my mind is made up) all the way down the river to Manhattan there are huge piles of mollusk shells. These were the living areas of the so-called “Shell Midden Culture.” Shellfish made up such an overwhelming portion of their diet that they lived on top of immense piles of discarded shells—the living area becoming higher with each passing year. These people lived (and reproduced) quite successfully (albeit in what must have been a malodorous environment) from about 7000 years ago right up to the point that the Iroquois were similarly successful with their conquest and subsequent genetic cleansing. Back to the otters, it is not accurate to say

they eat nothing but shellfish. They eat a range of materials. Their preferred meal is sea urchin.

Have you ever heard of a summer sucker? I was told they recently declared endangered but I always see (and catch) loads of suckers in the trout streams.

Not endangered but imperiled and that as a result of having been declared a separate species. The summer sucker used to be viewed as a variety of the very common white sucker. However, recently (2009) it has been deemed to be a separate species, albeit a very rare one. It is found only in a few lakes and tributary streams to the Hudson River in the Adirondack Mountains. Just like the many varieties of brook trout found in isolated ponds throughout the Adirondacks, the summer sucker arose through allopatric speciation. This means simply that a group gets sufficiently separated from its parent species that specific mutations and adaptations take place essentially creating a new species.

A relative says bullheads and sunfish have poisonous spines. I say bunk. Care to settle it?

I must resort to the King Solomon thing—you are both right and both wrong. Brown bullheads have a venom that runs down their pectoral fins and can be injected if they can manage to stab you with the barbs. The “sting” is annoying for a few minutes but is harmless to humans. You can actually neutralize the sting with the slime from the fish's belly. Sunfish have dorsal spines, which can stick you if you grab them wrong but other than the ordinary nasty stuff in fish slime, there is no venom.

These are but a few of the questions—starting with oldest first. I will probably be caught up within a couple years. Now I shall go back to waiting for the apology from the folks who used to scream at me that eating butter was abhorrent (we always made our own) and eating margarine was the “healthy” alternative. You know who you are...

Making miracles happen

Robin Lyle
Journal & Press

Tracy Snell, of Greenwich, a volunteer with Our Best Friends Rescue, contacted us with a tale of close calls and miracles that center around an adorable labrador retriever puppy. A puppy that was about to be euthanized by his owners.

The puppy, Trapper, was suffering from a life-threatening medical condition known as PRAA. His esophagus was severely constricted, and he could not eat normally. PRAA refers to “persistent right aortic arch” in which the animal is born with the aorta wrapped tightly around the esophagus. This restriction makes it difficult to swallow food and often leads to vomiting and malnutrition. PRAA can cause further complications, such as pneumonia, if regurgitated food enters the dog’s airway.

A dog with PRAA can sometimes get the calories and nutrients it needs when fed small amounts very slowly from an upright position (like in a high chair). Unfortunately, this wasn’t a sufficient remedy in this case. When, despite their best efforts, Trapper became severely malnourished, the original owners decided that euthanasia would be kinder to the animal.

We contacted Snell to learn more about how Our Best Friends Rescue became aware of the situation and their efforts to help the puppy. This interview, conducted via email, is lightly edited for understanding.

Journal & Press: *Tracy, tell us about your organization and how you first learned about Trapper?*

Snell: I am a volunteer for Our Best Friends Rescue, which is headquartered on Long Island. We have several members in this region, especially in the Saratoga, Washington, Rensselaer, and Schenectady county area. Locally, OBFR regularly holds adoption events at places like the Tiashoke Farm Store and at Tractor Supply in the Greenwich area.

A friend of mine called us when her daughter, who works at a veterinary office [in Latham], brought home a chocolate lab-

rador retriever puppy with a condition called “mega-esophagus.” The owners wanted to euthanize the puppy after the diagnosis, but my friend wanted to try to give him a chance. I asked her if he had PRAA. She forwarded me all his medical records, which confirmed this diagnosis.

Journal & Press: *What led Our Best Friends Rescue (OBFR) to get involved?*

Snell: Our rescue had a PRAA puppy seven years ago named Bridget. My amazing director, Pattie Lazarus, achieved a miracle with that pup. She was able to find a surgeon willing and a sponsor generous enough to support this surgery. She herself did the fostering. Bridget is still alive and well, and can be seen on Instagram @BridgetBonesDiary.

Journal & Press: *Tell us about this puppy’s foster parent.*

Snell: The prognosis for untreated PRAA in most cases is not good. The restriction on the esophagus by the blood vessels makes it difficult for food to even get to the stomach. So they must be fed very small amounts several times a day in an upright condition like a human baby, then kept there for at least 15 to 30 minutes after eating to minimize the chance of them vomiting the food back up. The dogs often regurgitate repeatedly, which can and does result in aspiration pneumonia, in which the food gets lodged in the lungs and can cause a fatal infection or worse.

I called my friend and frequent OBFR foster mom for the occasional labs that come through our rescue, and explained the situation. She is also a health care professional and knew exactly what care this pup would need. She said she’d foster him and drove straight over and picked him up. Her husband named him Trapper. Getting Trapper his new foster Mom was miracle #1.

Journal & Press: *What procedures have*



been needed and how were they paid for?

Snell: Surgery to relieve the stricture caused by PRAA is possible, but it is very expensive, complicated and risky. It is open heart surgery, which means we need to find a veterinarian who can do the surgery... is willing to do the surgery...and can do it immediately. Veterinarians as a profession are already so overworked.

I explained to the foster Mom that the cost of the surgery, \$4,000 to \$8,000, combined with the urgency of having the operation soon, and the specialty of the necessary surgery would require additional miracles, just to give this pup a chance. We were very fortunate to get an anonymous donor for this initial big surgery. This was miracle #2.

When Trapper arrived at his foster home, he was dehydrated and malnourished. This was through no fault of his first family -- this is what PRAA does. So his new foster family drove him straight to the For Pets

Please read more on the next page

Nipper Knolls to host cornhole tourney

Nipper Knolls Equine Center, Inc. will host its second annual cornhole tournament on Saturday, September 14, starting at 1 p.m., at Gladrags Saloon located at 29 Holmes Road, Porters Corners, NY. All proceeds will benefit Nipper Knolls Equine Center, Inc. and the Alfred Z. Solomon Veterans Program.

Registration for this charity tournament is \$40 per team (2 players) with prizes for teams finishing first through third place. Refreshments are included and a cash bar will be available. There will also be basket raffles; community members are invited to partake in, along with the tournament players.

Teams can register online by visiting

www.nipperknolls.com under “Fundraising and Events” or by calling 518-338-8016. Walk-ins the day of the event will be welcome.

The Nipper Knolls Equine Center, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 providing people of different abilities the opportunity to experience the benefits and joys of horsemanship. It is also home to the Alfred Z. Solomon Veterans Program; a free 8-week program for veterans in a peer-to-peer setting. Veterans learn basic horsemanship, horse training, and wagon driving. There are no administrative costs or salaries paid. This is a 100% volunteer organization. To learn more about the program visit www.nipperknolls.com or www.facebook.com/nipperknolls.



(cont.)

Sake Veterinary Hospital, that Saturday, for a day of IV hydration, anti-nausea meds and many small feedings. This was to get him stabilized and ready for surgery. Many thanks to Dr. Kyra Haring and her staff at For Pets Sake for that care.

Then, I learned that OBFR's amazing director got us a surgery appointment for the following Tuesday. This was miracle #3.

Journal & Press: *Even with surgery lined up and paid for, Trapper was still not out of the woods. While his health was initially stabilized through the treatment he'd been given at For Pets Sake, each new day brought a further decline. As Snell tells it:*

Snell: Even though he did okay that Saturday evening after the treatment, he had a tough Sunday with a lot of vomiting. His foster Mom began to fear that Tuesday might not come for him, that he might not survive until then. My director got involved again, and managed to get the appointment moved from Tuesday to Monday morning. Trapper was driven to Oceanside out on Long Island for the surgery – 187 miles from here. Another miracle... #4!

Journal & Press: *What is the outlook for Trapper now?*

Snell: Thankfully, the prognosis for “PRAA post-surgery dogs” is much better. So far, Trapper is thriving. He's playing with the other dogs in the house and gaining weight...finally!

He needs four more surgical procedures called “balloon endoscopies” to stretch the area in his esophagus that was constricted so tightly before by the blood vessels. This will make it even easier for him to eat and keep his food down, and hopefully reduce vomiting episodes should they occur.

We head out again this week for the eight hour round trip for his first endoscopy. The follow-up balloon endoscopies will be \$900 each, and he needs four. So we will be doing a lot of fundraising to hopefully cover those expenses. At this time, we are still seeking sponsorship for Trapper, and are planning some fundraising events in the future.

Update

Snell sent an update about her trip to Long Island with Trapper for the first of four balloon endoscopies he'll need. The procedure will “stretch the esophagus where the veins

had originally been essentially strangling it and to prevent scar tissue from reforming.” Tracy and the foster Mom left at 3:30 a.m. to drive the 4.5 hours to Oceanside. A delay at the vet's resulted in a later return trip home than they expected. “Ultimately, we could not pick him back up until 7:00 p.m., and we had to stop to feed him on the way back. We finally arrived home well after midnight. So essentially it was a 21 hour day.” On this trip, they also picked up two more special needs dogs planning to “get acclimated, vaccinated, and provide some TLC while we look for their forever homes.”

We hear that “dog is man's best friend”, but the saying could be reversed for Snell, Trapper and Our Best Friends Rescue.

More than just her time, Snell invests her heart in tending to homeless dogs and does not shy away from difficult cases. In the week since our last email, Snell took Trapper on another trip to Long Island for his second endoscopy.

Snell recommended this article for Journal readers wanting to learn more about PRAA: canine-megaesophagus.com/what-is-persistent-right-aortic-arch-praa.

ACC wants stories

SUNY Adirondack is looking for legacy families, or those with more than one person who graduated from the college.

SUNY Adirondack's next edition of Community Roots, its quarterly alumni magazine, will feature stories of relatives who earned degrees from the college.

"Family members of alumni enrolling at SUNY Adirondack — or what many private institutions refer to as 'legacy families' — is a testament to the quality education and enriching learning experience our students have," said Rachael Hunsinger Patten, chief advancement officer and executive director of

SUNY Adirondack Foundation.

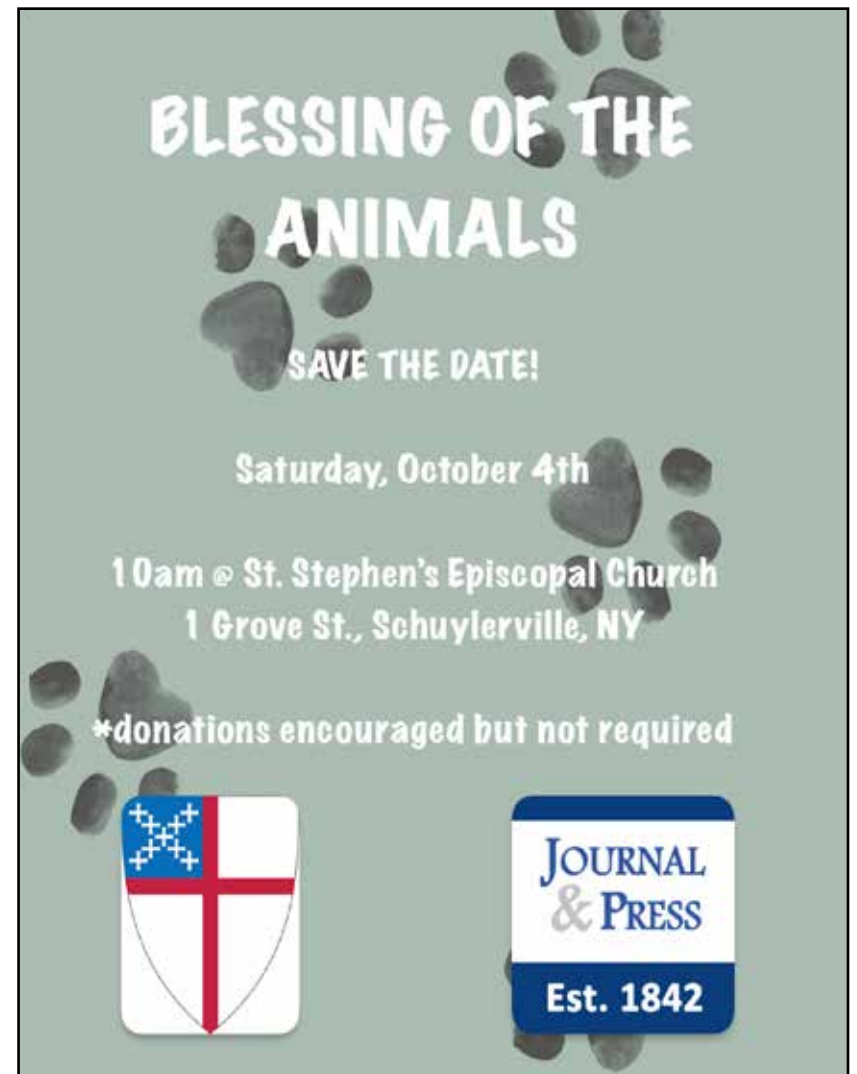
Relatives can be siblings, cousins, parents and children, grandparents, aunts and uncles, significant others or spouses — any combination.

Selected participants will speak individually with a member of SUNY Adirondack's marketing team for approximately a half-hour, via phone or Zoom meeting, or in person. Then, all participating members of a family will meet for a quick photo shoot.

Those who would like to share their story are invited to visit <https://shorturl.at/y85KD>.

Congrats, Jamison!

Jamison Irwin, Salem, N.Y., graduated from Bismarck State College, in Bismarck, N.D., with an Associate in Applied Science in Electric Power Technology during the college's 84th commencement ceremony on May 10, 2024, at the Bismarck Event Center. The 2024 BSC Commencement speaker was BSC Athletics Hall of Famer Deb Hoistad.





BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, October 4th

10am @ St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
1 Grove St., Schuylerville, NY

***donations encouraged but not required**



JOURNAL & PRESS

Est. 1842

Music from Salem announces fall concert

Join Music from Salem on Sunday October 20th at 4 pm at Hubbard Hall (25 E. Main Street, Cambridge, NY) for their Fall concert.

German romantic, Boston romantic, French romantic/ impressionist, and an evocative American clarinet quartet written in Bennington, Vermont, all presented by Music from Salem in one colorfully luscious program.

Artistic Director, Lila Brown, and Consulting Directors, Judith Gordon and Rhonda Rider are joined by clarinetist Eric Thomas. Violinist, Daniel Phillips, performs for the first time at Music from Salem.

As a 36-year member of the Orion String Quartet, Phillips performed a farewell concert this spring to a sold out Alice Tully Hall audience. He is on the faculty of The Juilliard School.

- Max Bruch Eight Pieces Opus 83 for clarinet, viola and piano

- Amy Beach Romance for Violin and Piano, Op. 23
- Allen Shawn In Memory Of, for clarinet, violin, cello, and piano
- Gabriel Fauré Piano Quartet No. 1 in C Minor, Opus 15
- Daniel Phillips, violin; Lila Brown, viola; Rhonda Rider, cello; Eric Thomas, clarinet; Judith Gordon, piano

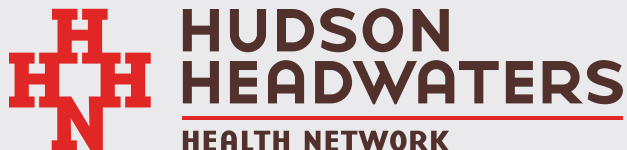
Music from Salem brings together musicians of international reputation to prepare and perform chamber music in the peace and beauty of rural Washington County, New York, and environs. Chamber music is classical music written for a small group of performers, and includes a range of styles, from the 18th century to today. Concerts are intimate, with most held at Cambridge's Hubbard Hall, whose fine acoustics enhance the listener's experience. Open rehearsals are held at Brown Farm in Salem, where MfS originated in 1986. For more information on all our offerings, visit www.musicfromsalem.org.

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Tasting on the Hudson returns

The Schuylerville Lions Club is happy to announce the return of its highly anticipated annual event, the Tasting on the Hudson, set to take place at Hudson Crossing Park on September 14th, 2024, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m..

There will be an array of local restaurants and food vendors, each offering samples that showcase the best of what the region has to offer. These bites will be perfectly

complemented by a variety of tastings from the area's top boutique distributors, including local wineries, breweries, cideries, and distilleries.

As the event continues to grow each year, between 350 and 450 patrons are expected to join this year. The expansion of offerings to include even more local craft beers, artisan spirits, and ciders will add to the already impressive selection of local wines.



tives.

The Lions invite the community to come out and enjoy an afternoon of tasting, socializing, and supporting a great cause. Tickets are available now and can be bought at Olde Saratoga Wine and Spirits on Broad Street in Schuylerville, or on Eventbrite. Only those over the age of 21 will be allowed admittance. Visit www.HudsonCrossingPark.org for more information.

Women's perspective

Hubbard Hall will present Heidi Schreck's acclaimed play, *What the Constitution Means to Me*, directed by Kirk Jackson and Erin Nicole Harrington. This production will run from September 6th to 15th, 2024. *What the Constitution Means to Me* offers a thought-provoking exploration of how the U.S. Constitution has shaped the experiences of women across generations. The play combines elements of memory and debate to address important issues such as domestic violence and reproductive rights, providing a timely reflection on these critical topics. Tickets \$30/\$15. Details at hubbardhall.org.

Cost: \$40 (plus fees) in advance, \$50 at door. The funds raised at Tasting on the Hudson are used to support vital causes within the community. Proceeds help fund school and camp scholarships, assist local fire departments and EMS groups, and provide support to local families in need, among other initia-

Hebron self-guided farm tour

From 1-5 p.m. on Saturday, September 14, 2024, the Hebron Preservation Society will host "Small Farms in Hebron" (a rain or shine self-guided driving tour). Five working farms will be open for the tour. These farms are located from the edge of the Town of Argyle in West Hebron through Belcher to North Hebron and Slateville, then returning to West Hebron (Suggested starting points are Bark Hill Farm, 2079 Co. Rte. 47, West Hebron (Salem) near Barkley's Lake or Slate Valley Farm at 304 Co. Rte. 28 in North Hebron (Granville). Enjoy a leisurely drive through the beautiful, rolling hills of Hebron.

Tickets (\$25/adults; kids free) may be purchased online ahead of time at givebutter.com/w6DggV or on the day of the event they be purchased at any of the tour loca-

tions using cash or check.

The addresses for all 5 farms will be posted on Facebook and on hebronpreservation.org on Friday, September 13th. If you do not have access to the internet, please call 518-854-3102 to obtain the addresses.

A sampling of what you will see at the five farms: 1) a small farm with a flock of Cotswold, Shetland and Romney sheep watched over by guardian dog, Bowie. The flock produces lovely fleece each shearing season. 2) A pesticide-free farm producing eggs, home made jams and jellies complete with a red slate quarry and offers secluded equipped campsites to rent nestled within their 350-acre property. 3) A 90 acre farm producing vegetables year-round as well as raising high-quality meats (rais-

ing sheep, chickens, pigs as well as grass-fed beef off-site). 4) This farm raises pork, beef and chicken. All animals are pasture raised and grain fed with local feed only. They also produce homemade items on the farm. 5) The last farm is Certified Naturally Grown. They offer a diverse variety of vegetables and cut flowers as well as pasture raised chicken and duck eggs. They purchased their 1811 farmhouse in 2016, but in 2020, Covid gave them a good excuse to finally start their farm.

Most of the farms will have a variety of items available for purchase on the day of the event. All accept cash, check or Venmo. Several also accept credit cards and Paypal.

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Local history book club to meet

Washington County Historical Society's Local History Book Club will meet from 12 noon until 1 PM on Friday, Sept. 13, at Skenesborough Museum, Skenesborough Drive, Whitehall. Historical society membership is not required for the book club.

Any biography of Benedict Arnold can be read but discussion will focus on Arnold's part in the building of the First Navy at what is now Whitehall. Five dollar admis-

sion fee includes a tour of the museum which can be done before or after the book discussion.

The October 11 meeting will be at noon at the historical society building, 167 Broadway, Fort Edward and will discuss Thaddeus Kosciusko's role in the Revolution, particularly at Ticonderoga and Saratoga.

The book club meets on the second Fri-

day of the month at twelve o'clock. Future sessions of the club will include books about the larger Adirondack area as well as works by local authors. Upcoming topics include the temperance movement in our area, Benjamin Franklin's failed mission to Canada, and William Miller and the Millerites in Hampton. For additional information, email Connie Harris Farrington at connieandlee@roadrunner.com.

Bancroft to hold seminars for seniors

In September, Bancroft Library will host Choice Connections' program on Long-Term Senior Care and Cost. This program will be held Thursday evening, September 19 at 6:30 pm in Proudfit Hall. The talk is catered to seniors and to the adult children of seniors who are interested in learning more about senior housing options, care options, the costs associated with each, and

possible funding. Please register for this event by calling or emailing the library: 518-854-7463 or slm-director@sals.edu.

Also, in October Bancroft will host a three-part class on Fraud Prevention, Identity Theft, and Online Shopping Safety Courses.

The Bancroft Public Library is locat-

ed at 181 South Main Street, Salem, New York. Feel free to stop by anytime the library is open to access a variety of resources. The library has a great line-up of clubs and groups that meet weekly and monthly. Learn more: www.bancroftlibrary.org or call 518-854-7463

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Age is an art

MaryAnne Brown

Journal & Press

As we tiptoe through the last days of summer, I've been watching the trees for early signs of autumn. In the Adirondacks, this usually begins in mid-August, and the trees are right on schedule. Whether they are in full leaf, bare, or evergreen, trees benefit our ecosystem year-round. They stabilize soil, manage groundwater, purify the air, offer shade, coolness, shelter and food for animals, and, of course, bring beauty to our world.

The changing leaves remind me of spotting the first silver threads in my hair in my 40s. Having turned 75 this month, I am reflecting on life's lessons, adventures, and challenges, while wondering what the else life will bring. Over the years, I've adhered to Dr. Roger Landry's philosophy from his book "Live Long, Die Short." He offers practical advice on aging, emphasizing physical activity, mental stimulation, stress management, unplugging from technology, and balanced nutrition as the keys to staying fit in body, mind, and spirit.

Commercials constantly bombard us with promises that by purchasing their products we will look, feel and stay young. One could grow frown wrinkles just watching these messages that try to tell us repeatedly that we are not beautiful, sharp, svelte, brawny or good enough. My health routine focuses on simplicity and natural methods. Maintaining overall wellness of body, mind, and soul requires focus, time, commitment, and respect for oneself. In a world full of anxiety, it's easy to slip from a sound health routine. I'm slowly returning to strength training, nutrition, and yoga, practices I neglected during the pandemic.

A coaster on our bathroom counter reads, "Youth is a gift. Age is an art." This daily reminder encourages us to cherish our young family members, honor those who have aged before us, and consider how we will be remembered as we grow in age and wisdom. I recall fond memories of older people who continued to serve and benefit others as wise, **Page 16 |** Early Sept. 2024

wonderful elders.

Years ago, during a medical checkup with my mother, she discovered she had lost two inches in height but gained a few pounds. With a chuckle, she remarked, "Well, I know where those two inches went!" This simple comment left the nurse and me laughing, and loving the wise, beautiful lady who taught us to maintain a good sense of humor while living life.

Before an evening church service, an elegant lady named Rose missed a step and tumbled onto the carpet. She quickly got up and reassured everyone, "I'm alright! I'm okay!" It is said that if you fall and people laugh, you're young, but if you fall and people panic, you are old. Rose, it seems, was in between because the initial panic turned into giggles.

This month, Maria Morera, the world's

'We can serve as safe places for others to bare their souls.'

oldest person, passed away at age 117. She credited her long life to tranquility, healthy connections with family and friends, positivity, no regrets, and avoiding toxic people. She lived through the Spanish Civil War, the Spanish Flu, both World Wars and COVID-19; she welcomed social media as a positive way to influence others to live a long and giving life.

Aging may be something we resist, but I wonder if we might take some valuable lessons from our majestic trees and noble elders who grow, change, and nurture their neighborhood. We can benefit our corner of the world with a gentle nature that holds things together for those who are falling apart. We can comfort those who cry by helping them



manage their tears. We can steady the shaky foundation of someone facing a fear that overtakes their faith. We can provide shade and comfort to someone enduring an unbearable loss. We can clear the air when misunderstandings creep into conversations. We can serve as safe places for others to bare their souls, nourish others with love and compassion, and, of course, bring beauty to those we meet in our earthly home.

On January 1, 2023, Maria, our most senior world citizen, tweeted, "At my age, a new year is a gift, a humble celebration, a new adventure, a beautiful journey, a moment of happiness. Let's enjoy life together." She may have been influenced by Robert Browning (1812-1889) who celebrates life in his tender poem, "Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be."

May we celebrate our birthdays all year long with poise, hopefulness and gratitude. O happy day!

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



News from local churches

Hebron United Presbyterian Church

On Sunday September 15 at 3 p.m., the Hebron United Presbyterian Church, 3153 County Route 30, West Hebron, NY, will host Daniel Shulman and his wife, Kaori Washiyama, violin and piano duo, long associated with the communities of Washington County, are delighted to be returning to the Hebron United Presbyterian Church to present a concert of classical masterworks. Featured on the program are sonatas of composer luminaries Mozart and Ravel, plus the remarkable virtuoso essay entitled Fantasy, by Schubert. Included also will be short pieces by Scarlatti and Kreisler. The church is handicapped accessible and is just a short drive from Salem, NY. Light refreshments will be served. No admission fee, but a free will donation is appreciated.

On Sunday, September 22 at 12 noon, the church will present "Hebron and Salem: Our Biblical Heritage -- a Talk by Rev. Dr. Julie Faith Parker."

Hebron and Salem are mentioned in the Bible. Where are they located? What is their significance?

Old Testament scholar Rev. Dr. Julie Faith Parker will share a talk accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation that explores the area's connection to these biblical places.

Dr. Parker is a Visiting Scholar at Union Theological Seminary and a Biblical Scholar in Residence at Marble Collegiate Church in New York City. She is also the author of the recently published book: "Eve Isn't Evil: Feminist Readings of the Bible to Upend Our Assumptions."

Dr. Parker resides with her husband, Rev. Dr. Bill Crawford, in New York City and Hebron, NY. More information about Dr. Parker can be found at www.juliefaithparker.com. This program is free and open to the public.



Roman Catholic Churches

Mass at Holy Cross Catholic Church on Sunday is at 8:15 AM. The Holy Cross Pastoral Council will meet on September 10 at 7 p, in the Day Chapel. Mass at St. Patrick's is held at 11:30 AM. and at Immaculate Conception in Hoosick Falls on Saturday at 4 PM and Sunday at 10 AM. Weekday Masses are at 9 AM at Holy Cross on Tuesday, at St. Patrick's on Wednesday, and Immaculate Conception on Monday. Children's bulletins with Gospel activities are available near the doors of the church.

Catechetical Sunday is September 15. Catechists and parents will be blessed at Mass. Faith formation and sacrament Prep brochures and registration forms are available at the doors and on

the website.

A brochure with new pricing for Holy Cross and St. Patrick's Cemetery regulations are available.

On Sunday, September 8, the three parishes will hold a combined annual picnic at St. Patrick's following the 11:30 Mass.

On October 3, Immaculate Conception Church in Hoosick Falls is holding a Basket Bingo. The tickets, (\$10 if pre bought, or \$15 at door) will be available at the parish office, or Thorpe's Pharmacy.

Health Care professional and Respect Life Month Mass will be held Saturday, September 28 at 4 PM at the Parish Mater Christi. The 52 Annual Diocesan Marriage jubilee with Bishop Scharferberger will be held Sunday, September 29 at 3 PM at Christ Our Light Church, Loudonville, NY.

For more information, please visit the Parish website, www.battenkillcatholic.org where people prepare for Sunday liturgy, find the weekly bulletin, access the Lifelong Faith Formation materials, and much more.

Please continue to support your local food pantry!

Bottskill and Lakeville Baptist Churches

All are welcome to the Bottskill Baptist Church Sunday Services starting at 9:15 and the Lakeville Baptist Church starting at 11:00. You are invited to join us as we celebrate our Christian faith led by Pastor Lydia Widbin. Sunday School Classes will begin at Bottskill in September 15th at "Rally Day" with exciting new curriculum and activities. The Lakeville Church is located at 625 Co Rte 49, Cossayuna, NY and Bottskill's location is at 26 Church Street, Greenwich, NY.

The Events Committee has announced that the Bottskill's Annual Mum and Pumpkin Sale will be held the 6th and 7th of September. Mums, Pumpkins, gourds and Baked Goods can be purchased each day with pre-orders picked-up on the 6th. (The Pumpkins and Gourds selling were planted from seed by our own Sunday School Kids) Prices for the mums are; 9" pots \$10, 6 1/2" pots \$8.00, Baskets \$36. (Great Prices!) Contact Eileen Dinisio at 518-937-1838, or edinisio1@gmail.com.

Our church's Men's Coffee Group will be meeting at 9 o'clock at the church on September 7th. Please come and join our always interesting and fun discussions.

The Bible Study Groups planned for the month of September are: The Study Group lead by Steve Morse will be focusing on "The Sermon on the Mount" and will be held on the 14th and 28th starting at 9:00; Pastor Lydia's Study Group is planned for Sept. 17th and 24th at 10:30 with the topic "The Prodigal Son". Both groups will be meeting at the Bottskill Church.

Have a local church announcement? Send it to editor@journalandpress.com.

Weird?

Lance Allen Wang
Journal & Press

“Give anything weird a wide berth – especially people.” – Hunter S. Thompson

It was a relatively short speech, as inaugurations go. By no means was it like President William Henry Harrison’s, which he wrote himself and went on for 8,460 words, and considering the cold, wet Inauguration Day, quite definitely contributed to the pneumonia which killed him just 31 days into his term. No, this January 2017 speech went on for 1,433 words or about 16 minutes. According to the Wall Street Journal, President Donald Trump’s inaugural address was written by aides Steve Bannon and Stephen Miller. Referred to as the “American Carnage” speech, it struck an “ominous” tone, quite different than the optimistic “come together and we will build a brighter tomorrow” speeches of literally all predecessors. President George W. Bush was reported to have said, “Well, that was some weird s**t,” after the speech concluded.

What was that supposed to mean? “Weird.” I still wonder what was going through his mind. His term almost comes off as a schoolyard-level dismissal, normally reserved perhaps for the kid who eats worms, from a President who was not considered a gifted speaker in his time.

Granted, we had come off a campaign season where things had been very different. Unprecedented, actually. Bush himself had been dragged into it, as was his aged father.

CONSPIRACY FOR SALE

Our elections have almost always displayed a degree of polarization, muckraking, and personal attacks. But the immediacy of a 24/7 news cycle in a nation that was hyper-connected through social media meant that information, fact or fiction, spread almost immediately. Malicious actors, domes-

tic and foreign, recognize (and continue to recognize) this vulnerability and exploit it even today. The weaponization of misinformation this time began before the 2016 campaign, with the Republican candidate’s attacks on President Obama. The New Yorker, in January 2021, traced Trump’s political start to 2011, when “... he became an evangelist for birtherism, the false assertion that Obama had been born in Kenya and was therefore an illegitimate President.”

Getting people to believe things without evidence opened numerous avenues of opportunity. Birtherism became a political career move to cash in on Trump’s minor celebrity, and this conspiracy theory would become the first of many. But was it weird?

The weirdness is in the simultaneous puncturing of our norms and expectations. President Richard Nixon was a constant punchline during my childhood – was it because of the Watergate break-in? Perhaps indirectly, but more directly it was the bold-faced lie, “Well, I am not a crook.” It seemed such an odd line for a President of the United States to utter on national television. Up until that point, the President was, if not celebrated, generally considered a greatly accomplished and patriotic person wearing the same mantle of Washington and Lincoln. But to talk about whether he was a liar, never mind in relation to a criminal break-in? It was, well, weird.

Unsupported claims continued into Trump’s Presidency with a seemingly in-



nocuous issue, the size of the crowd at his inauguration. He had Press Secretary Sean Spicer combatively lie about the crowd size being “the biggest ever” in response to the comparisons showing that it was not as big as his predecessor’s. This set the tone for how his White House Press Office would interact with the press.

Sometimes it was unnecessary lies in inappropriate venues – his “My administration has accomplished more than almost any administration in the history of our country...” was met with derisive laughter at the United Nations in September 2018, to which he admitted, “Didn’t expect that reaction, but that’s okay.”

It was the election-related ones, long debunked by members of his own cabinet, that led to a presidency-defining event, the assault on the United States Capitol and its defenders January 6, 2021.

“VOTER FRAUD IS NOT A CONSPIRACY THEORY, IT IS A FACT!!!” – President Donald J. Trump, Dec. 24, 2020.

But of course, it was a conspiracy theo-

Please read more on next page

Battlefield brings \$9M to region

A new National Park Service report shows that 102,000 visitors to Saratoga National Historical Park in 2023 spent \$6.8 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 85 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$9 million.

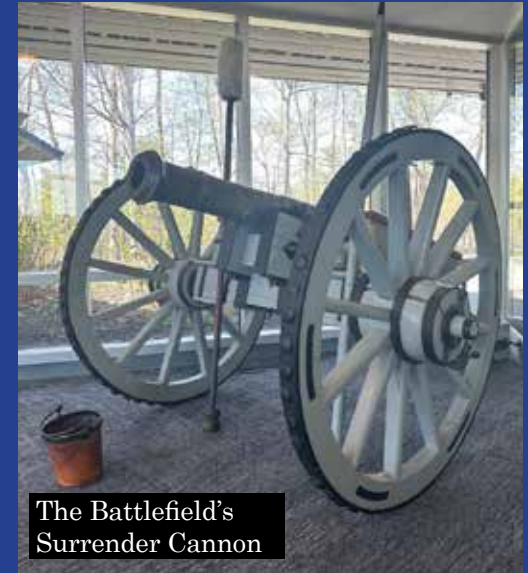
“I’m so proud that our parks and the stories we tell make a lasting impact on more than 300 million visitors a year,” said National Park Service Director Chuck Sams. “And I’m just as proud to see those visitors making positive impacts of their own, by supporting local economies and jobs in every state in the country.”

“People come to Saratoga National Historical Park to discover and remember the stories and people from the creation of the United States at the site of one of the Revolutionary War’s most important battles and to enjoy a beautiful landscape for recreation and reflection. They end up supporting the US and local economies along the way,” said Superintendent Leslie Mor-

lock. “We’re proud of Saratoga National Historical Park’s contributions to our surrounding communities, Saratoga County, and the Capital Region.”

The National Park Service report, 2023 National Park Visitor Spending Effects, finds that 325.5 million visitors spent \$26.4 billion in communities near national parks. This spending supported 415,400 jobs, provided \$19.4 billion in labor income and \$55.6 in economic output to the U.S. economy. The lodging sector had the highest direct contributions with \$9.9 billion in economic output and 89,200 jobs. The restaurants received the next greatest direct contributions with \$5.2 billion in economic output and 68,600 jobs.

An interactive tool is available to explore visitor spending, jobs, labor income, and total economic contribution by sector for national, state and local economies. Users can also view year-by-year trend data. The interactive tool and report are available on the NPS website.



To learn more about national parks in New York and how the National Park Service works New York communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to www.nps.gov/newyork.

(cont.)

ry, just like the one that got him started in 2011. Despite his Attorney General telling him that his claims of fraud in the 2020 election were “Bulls**t,” or his current 2024 campaign staff actually using phrases like “Biden’s winning margin” in their internal campaign memos, he still will not publicly admit he lost. Just recently he told Minnesotans that he “knows” he won their state except for corrupt election officials.

BUT IS IT WEIRD?

So when the claim of “weird” has been thrown about in this campaign season, a man who built his presidency resting upon a broken staff of truth meets my definition. It certainly punctures a norm and throws our expectations of the person and office out of wack.

Is J.D. Vance weird? I do not know. Alien-

ating the childless by implying that their vote should count less is not smart. Politicians say less than smart things all the time. Vance has spoken in favor of a national abortion ban. That may be tone-deaf to the sixty-plus percent of Americans who are against such an action, but not weird.

Long after the moment where Bush said the quiet part out loud following the “American Carnage” inaugural, there were many times where I would watch the news and think for a moment, “Could I imagine Presidents Carter or Reagan doing that? That is weird.”

Like shoving aside the President of Montenegro rushing to a photo op. Like brusquely postponing a meeting with the Prime Minister of Denmark because she would not discuss selling Greenland. Or suggesting nuking a hurricane. Or for that matter, changing its predicted course with a Sharpie. Or forwarding a conspiracy theory on social media stating Vice President Joe Biden ordered the killing of SEAL Team Six

to cover up the “fake death” of Bin Laden.

As for the last example, NBC anchor Savannah Guthrie later called President Trump to task for the bizarre conspiracy theory. When he defended himself, saying, “...and that was a retweet. I’ll put it out there. People can decide for themselves. I don’t take a position,” she responded, “I don’t get that. You’re the President. You’re not like, someone’s crazy uncle...”

Could George W. Bush have foreseen all the weirdness coming in his mind’s eye as he was watching the inaugural in 2016? We can only guess.

Who would have thought – Dubya the Seer? Now, that would be weird.

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



A.I. (kind of) said I'm funnier than A.I.

Greg Schwem

*Tribune Content Agency
Special to The Journal & Press*

I have tried, since I first heard the term, to stay away from artificial intelligence.

The problem is, artificial intelligence won't stay away from me.

If AI is not recommending an alternate restaurant to the one I was planning to dine at, it's offering to rewrite my social media posts. If it's not driving my car for me, it wants to plan my next vacation. If it's not suggesting a better title for my upcoming book, it's using chatbots to locate my missing luggage. The latter failed incidentally.

Now AI thinks it's funnier than I am.

Since 1989 I have been a full-time stand-up comedian. Making strangers laugh is difficult for sure but not nearly as tough as developing the material. I spend hours a day at my laptop creating, writing, deleting, and rewriting ideas that become jokes. My goal is to meld together a series of jokes into "bits," so my act is not a series of random, disjointed one-liners, but a collection of stories about particular topics that I discuss via a seamless array of segues, giving audience members the perception that I'm just having a funny, 60-minute conversation with them.

And you thought comedians just slept until 3 p.m., worked an hour and spent the eve-

ning's remainder trying to get phone numbers of every waitress in the club.

So imagine my dismay when, as I was typing a comment accompanying an Instagram photo, AI offered to take over. It could take that comment and "rephrase," "shorten," "make supportive" or "make funnier."

Didn't I just explain there's more to comedy than just "making it funny"?

Curious, I relented. The picture in question featured some high school friends who had attended a recent performance. The photo was on my phone, and one friend requested I forward it to her. I did as instructed, but first increased the exposure since the photo was shot in a dark comedy club. Before hitting "send," I added the message "I lightened it up a bit" and then clicked "make funnier."

AI's response? "I tweaked it to make it less likely to induce a coma from boredom."

Are you convulsing with laughter? Did you just spit liquid out your nose? Do you need to stop and collect yourself before reading further?

Didn't think so.

If my laptop were a comedian, I would have heckled it.

Incidentally, AI's "make supportive" suggestion was, "I made some adjustments to enhance its engagement and prevent it from becoming too dull."

I'm sure my friend's mental health would drastically improve after digesting that line.

I could have spent hours reading AI's miserable attempts at humor. But, as previously mentioned, creating comedy requires time. So I cut to the chase. Using ChatGPT, the AI-driven consumer application that uses large language models (LLMs) to answer questions, I posed the following query:

"Is Greg Schwem funnier than artificial intelligence?"

Granted, the response was far quicker than the time it takes me to craft a joke.

"Greg Schwem is a professional stand-up comedian known for his corporate comedy, blending humor with insights about technology and the workplace. He's widely regarded for his relatable and clean humor, which resonates well with live audiences, particularly in corporate settings.

"As for whether he's funnier than artificial intelligence, humor can be subjective. AI-generated humor can be clever and surprising due to its vast knowledge base and pattern recognition. However, it often lacks the personal touch, timing and delivery that human comedians like Greg Schwem bring to their performances. Comedy from a live performer can adapt to the audience's reactions, making it feel more engaging and spontaneous.

"Ultimately it depends on what you find funny. Schwem's humor may resonate more with those who appreciate human experience and delivery, while AI might appeal to those intrigued by the unexpected or novel use of language."

Not exactly a glowing recommendation, but one that leaves me hopeful that my fellow comedians and I will always be preferred to computers when it comes to laughter. I never want to see the day when customers file into a club featuring a computer onstage, spitting out "jokes" and making the audience think performing comedy is easy. Sadly, that's already been done with music.


It's called karaoke.

Greg Schwem is a corporate stand-up comedian and author of "The Road To Success Goes Through the Salad Bar: A Pile of BS From a Corporate Comedian," available on Amazon.

Visit Greg on at www.gregschwem.com.



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Route 29 traffic snarls

Darren Johnson
Journal & Press

The week before going to press, I was wondering why so many box, dump and other work trucks were suddenly driving down my otherwise quiet little road in Clarks Mills, Greenwich Town. The nearby county fair had ended, so it wasn't speeding fair traffic taking backroads.

I took the dog on a walk to investigate.

Some state DOT worker placed this sign a bit too close to the intersection of Route 113 and tiny little County Route 70 (best known as the road that leads to the Dix Bridge and Hudson Crossing Park), so trucks are mistakenly taking this otherwise quiet road to get to Route 29.

We do have an outlet on County Route 70, so it's not a total deception, but I don't think this was intended.

The sign likely means: stay on Route 113 but veer to the left at the bend. It should be a curvy arrow, not a turn left arrow.

You'll wind through Thomson (no "p" in Thomson, though I always want to add one), and then eventually end up at this narrow bridge over the Hudson to Northumberland that scares so many people they won't go on it if a car is heading toward them. I've seen side mirrors taken off on this bridge.

From there, it's a personal choice as to how you would like to go west. Left down to

Schuylerville or right through Bacon Hill, Kings Rd., etc.

Why the Detour?

So then I wondered why all of these trucks were being detoured, and remembered a press release from the DOT that they were doing culvert work on Route 29 on Ferry Street near the post office in Schuylerville.

Originally, they were going to start the work during the week of the Washington County Fair, but county officials lobbied the state to move the date. It will take at least three weeks to complete the work, so get used to it.

Here's the pond off of Ferry St. the state drained last week. Frankly, I was surprised there wasn't much under the water. No rusted car wheels, baby carriages, bikes, bowling balls.

I asked Schuylerville Mayor Dan Carpenter for a statement. He replied:

"The pond next to the post office was drained as part of an emergency repair being conducted by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). They identified an issue with the culverts in that area, which required immediate attention. While this is a temporary measure,

we have been in ongoing discussions with NYSDOT for a more permanent solution.

"Our goal is to replace the existing culverts with a box culvert or span bridge that will enhance the area and support recreational activities like kayaking and ice skating. This project has been in the works for a few years now, and we're hopeful it will significantly benefit the community once completed."



Above: a detour in Clarks Mills;
Below: Drained Schuylerville pond



FUN & GAMES SOLUTIONS

Boggle: DAY ERA
EON WEEK YEAR
MONTH DECADE
CENTURY

Jumble: IMAGE
THICK EQUATE
TEACUP – QUIT IT

SCRABBLE G.R.A.M.S. SOLUTION

A ₁	Q ₁₀	U ₁	E ₁	O ₁	U ₁	S ₁	RACK 1 = 82
I ₁	C ₃	E ₁	F ₄	I ₁	S ₁	H ₄	RACK 2 = 71
C ₃	O ₁	T ₁	T ₁	A ₁	G ₂	E ₁	RACK 3 = 60
G ₂	U ₁	L ₁	L ₁	E ₁	R ₁	Y ₄	RACK 4 = 61
B ₃	O ₁	G ₂	L ₁	A ₁	N ₁	D ₂	RACK 5 = 61

PAR SCORE 265-275 TOTAL **335**

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

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

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

THROUGH THE DECADES

Get a driver's license!

Here's our regular look at articles the appeared in the various editions of our Journal & Press family of newspapers from decades past...

100 Years Ago

Sept. 10, 1924

The impression is growing around the Washington county clerk's office that there are considerable number of Washington county people who are in the habit of driving automobiles who will wake up on Wednesday morning, October 1, and find out then or soon thereafter that they are not legally entitled to drive their cars. Furthermore, if the law is complied with, as it is asserted it will be, they will not be able to drive without violating the law until they have taken an examination as to the proficiency and handling said car.

The automobilelists of this county are slow about getting in their applications for operators licenses, which under the new law they must have if they drive after October 1. At the present time getting such a license is a very simple matter. All that is necessary for one who has driven enough to be considered reasonably confident is to obtain an application blank, fill it out according to directions and swear to it before a notary public or other qualified officer and send it along with a fee of one dollar to the county clerk's office, and many public garages have them for the accommodation of their customers.

With less than three weeks left in which the drivers of this county must be licensed, it is reported that scarcely more than a quarter of them have obtained licenses. It is estimated there are around 14,000 residents of the county who drive more or less, and issuing licenses to this number is some chore. The county clerk and his assistance urge those who intend to get licenses to be prompt about it, and points out that he has no authority to alter or stretch the law for the benefit of those who crowd the 11th

hour business too far.

80 Years Ago

Sept. 13, 1944

Misbehavior on the part of dogs owned, harbored or at least permitted to run at large in this village, furnished a topic for considerable discussion at the regular meeting of the village trustees Monday evening, but beyond that agreeing that something ought to be done about it nothing was settled. It wasn't just barking dogs that disturbed would-be sleepers this time; it was complaints of biting dogs that sometimes attack peaceful passersby. Several complaints of such attacks have been received lately and they have been taken up with the town board as well as the village trustees.

Chief of police Kerins reported that he had received such complaints, but he did not know just what authority he had to do anything about it as long as he did not catch the animal in the act. So far there have been no complaints of anyone being seriously injured, but clothing has been torn in some people have been rather badly frightened.

40 Years Ago

Sept. 27, 1984

Richard Brown, owner of the Two Rivers Hotel at 95 Main St., has accomplished what the Greenwich Village board couldn't. He has gotten a public telephone installed in the business section of Main Street.

The village board had asked for a public telephone to be installed somewhere on Main Street over a year ago. The phone company had said no because they said the minimum daily revenue requirement wouldn't be met — taking in at least \$10 a day. Mr. Brown, who has had a business payphone in his establishment, recently decided that it would get more use and would

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Hot Air

Hot Water

Steam and Pipeless Furnaces

STEWART
TRADE MARK

COLD AIR HOT AIR COLD AIR

LET US GIVE YOU PRICES BEFORE YOU PURCHASE

Greenwich Hardware
Co.

An ad from 100 years ago

be more accessible to the public, if it was mounted on the front of his building. He points out that the payphone is a private line and does not have any extensions in his building. He said some people have questioned if their phone conversations could be overheard inside.

He said the phone company just considered the change in location of the phone as a simple move since it had required no construction for its new placement. The phone was installed on the front of his building Wednesday, September 19, and has seen steady use ever since.

How to drive a school bus

Adam Harrison Levy
Journal & Press

It's 7:13 am and Charlie Kent is sitting in the driver's seat of school bus 113 with the engine idling. We're in the parking lot of Salem High School and he's waiting for six kids and Coach West to board the bus to take them to Cambridge High School for pre-season football practice.

He's wearing a red t-shirt and a black Nike baseball hat; he looks ten years younger than his seventy years. It's drizzling outside and his purple umbrella is tucked neatly under the center console. A broom rests in the alcove behind the driver's seat. "Keeping my bus clean is a little quirk of mine", he says, laughing. "I own five cars and they gotta be clean as well. That's just who I am."

During the school year, he sweeps his bus out every Thursday and mops it on Friday, more during the winter when the kids track snow, rocks, and mud into the bus. Keeping the bus clean, he believes, makes the kids treat it with more respect.

Charlie grew up in Jackson where his father was a foreman on a farm. He was an only child and started driving the tractor and hay wagon at the age of twelve. When he was thirteen his father bought a black and white 1956 Buick Century and Charlie fell in love with it. But his father sold it the next year for three hundred dollars. "Boy I would love to have that car today," he says wistfully.

The kids get on the bus, some of them sleepy-looking. He greets all of them. Coach West clambers aboard. "Bring your rain suit?" Charlie asks. He nods no. The coach had been watching the weather all morning. It wasn't supposed to rain but it is.

Charlie eases the bus out of the parking lot and we turn right on East Broadway. He has five mirrors on the bus and checks them regularly, every eight seconds to be precise. It's mandated. He has to be vigilant to see who is behind him, and how much stopping distance they have. Sometimes cars ride his

bumper and he has to tap the brakes four or five times to warn them to stay back. During the school year, he drives over one hundred miles a day and has to stay mentally sharp for every one of them.

He smoothly accelerates when we leave town and crosses into the 55-mile-a-hour zone. The radio is burbling and the young football players are mostly silent. When we get to the railway tracks he stops the bus and opens the door. He looks left and then right. No one gets on; it's ghostly. He closes the door and drives over the tracks. He explains that he is more likely to hear a train than to see it, especially one coming around a bend - "the last thing I want", he says, "is to be hit by a train." Safety is always his number one priority.

A few more miles down the road, he breaks. Four turkeys wobble past. He often sees raccoons, possums, and an occasional bald eagle flying overhead. And deer of course. "It's a nature watch around here." He once hit a deer and it scrambled up and scampered away. He checked over the bus, including under the hood, but no harm was done. He was lucky.

Charlie has seven grandchildren and coached football for thirty-four years so he takes kids, and their chaos, in stride. His theory about discipline is straightforward. He treats them like his own children. Some can take it if he has to raise his voice, others could break down in tears. He doesn't want that to happen so he judges each kid's disposition individually. He prefers to take them aside and talk with them one-on-one. He was a correction officer at Great Meadows for twenty-five years and he built his career around being fair, consistent, and respectful. It worked. "I guess you could say that I was well trained for this job," he says while checking his mirrors, "but now I have a different clientele!"



Charlie Kent

We've arrived. He brings the bus to a smooth stop in the parking lot of Cambridge High School and pushes the button that electronically opens the door. Coach West and the football players pile out and each one thanks him. He then drives back to Salem, stopping at the railroad tracks even with an empty bus. When he pulls into the Salem depot the first thing he does is get up and walk the bus checking every seat for sleeping kids. "You leave one kid on, you're done!"

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



FROM THE STACKS

Keeping the spirit of summer alive

Prizes were won, tacos and ice cream were consumed, and readers of all ages celebrated a great summer at the library last Wednesday. In what has officially become a tradition, community members of all ages came out to the library for the third annual Endless Summer Party.

Community partners Em's Art Shack and the Greenwich Youth Center added to the fun with a hands-on pottery activity and school supplies giveaways respectively. Drummer Larry Levine led participants in a drum and percussion circle, and local restaurant Casa Reyes joined in with their food truck. Thanks to the generosity of the Saratoga Springs Ben & Jerry's, kids got a free scoop. Although summer hasn't ended, the library's summer reading program has, so the party was also an opportunity to celebrate the joy we shared as a community reading a cumulative total of 266,362 pages. This beat our 2023 total by a little over 2,000 pages. The library is a whole lot more than the books inside it, but when over 230 people come together to read those books, it warrants a party.



WASHINGTON COUNTY

A bigger, bolder local food tour

Calling all foodies, adventurers, and lovers of all things delicious and locally sourced. Get ready to embark on the journey of a lifetime at the revamped Washington County Bounty Tour. Formerly known as The Washington County Cheese Tour, this year's 17th annual event promises to be bigger, bolder, and more exciting than ever before.

From its humble beginnings featuring five cheese makers, the tour has blossomed into a beloved tradition, drawing thousands of enthusiasts to explore the scenic beauty, culinary and agricultural delights of the region. With the dynamic evolution of Washington County agriculture, the 2-day event offers event goers more to taste and more farms to explore.

Scheduled for September 7th and 8th from 10am to 4pm each day, the Washington County Bounty Tour promises an immersive experience, blending farm visits with product sampling, musical performances, artisanal markets, and delectable food trucks. In alignment with its commitment to community welfare, the Tour continues its partnership with Comfort Food Community (CFC), a Greenwich nonprofit dedicated to addressing food insecurity. Guests are encouraged to visit CFC's table at each farm, supporting their vital initiatives bridging the gap between food abundance and need within Washington County.

Featuring nine esteemed farms, each stop on the self-guided tour offers a unique glimpse into the region's agricultural heritage and culinary prowess. From dairy delights at Argyle Cheese Farmer to orchard treasures at Hicks Orchard and Slyboro Cider House, and from craft beverages at Scotlander Brewing Company to exquisite wines at Victory View Vineyard, the tour celebrates the richness and vibrancy of Washington County's agricultural tapestry.

NINE STOPS

Featuring nine esteemed farms, each stop

on the self guided tour offers a unique glimpse into the region's agricultural heritage and culinary prowess. From dairy delights at Argyle Cheese Farmer to orchard treasures at Hicks Orchard and Slyboro Cider House, and from craft beverages at Scotlander Brewing Company to exquisite wines at Victory View Vineyard, the tour celebrates the richness and vibrancy of Washington County's agricultural tapestry.

The participating farms for 2024 are as follows:

- Argyle Cheese Farmer in Hudson Falls - <https://cheesefarmer.com>
- Gardenworks Farm in Hebron - <http://gardenworksfarm.com>
- Hicks Orchard and Slyboro Cider House in Granville - <https://www.hicksorchard.com>
- Rathbun's Maple Sugar House in Whitehall (New in 2024) <https://www.rathbunsmapple.com>
- Scotlander Brewing Company in Argyle - <https://www.scotlanderbc.com>
- South Dominion Vineyard in Cambridge (New in 2024) <https://www.southdominionvineyard.com>
- The Farm Store at Tiashoke in Easton - <https://www.tiashokefarm.com>
- Victory View Vineyard in Easton - <https://www.victoryviewvineyard.com>
- Yorkmont Farm in Hampton (New in 2024) <https://www.yorkmontfarm.com>



SEPT. 7 & 8
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOUNTY TOUR

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOUNTY TOUR!
September 7 & 8
10am-4pm

Free samples, live music, wine, beer, food trucks & more on this FUN farm tour through Washington County!

KIDS ACTIVITIES!

FREE! FREE! FREE!

Self Guided Tour!

9 STOPS

- Argyle Cheese Farmer
- Gardenworks
- Hicks Orchard & Slyboro Ciderhouse
- Rathbun's Maple
- Scotlander Brewing Company
- South Dominion Vineyard
- The Farm Store at Tiashoke
- Victory View Vineyard
- Yorkmont Farm

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

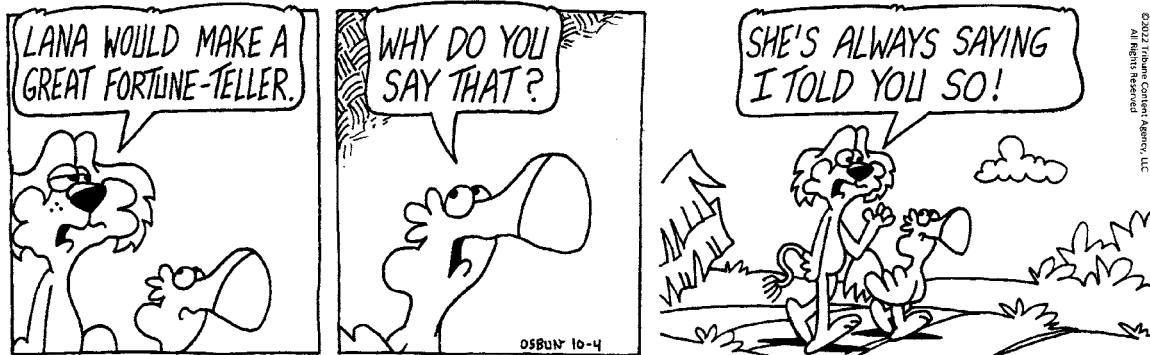
For More Info
www.CountyBountyTour.com

About Washington County Bounty Tour:

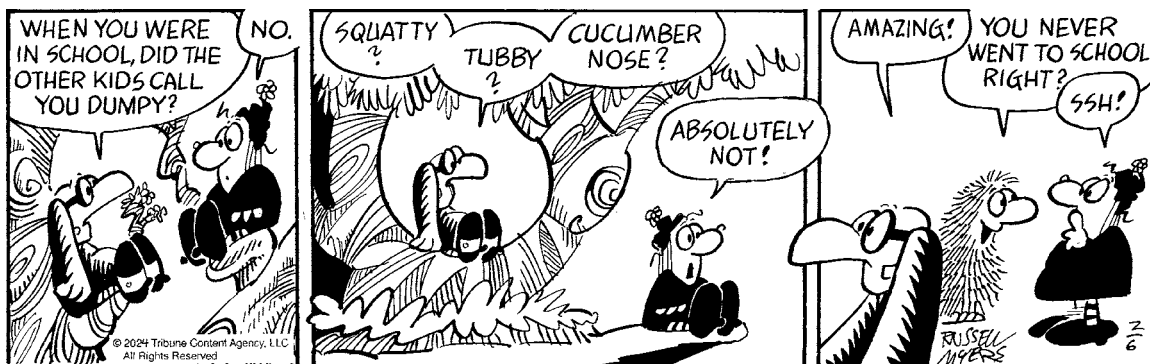
The Washington County Bounty Tour, formerly known as The Washington County Cheese Tour, is an annual celebration of the region's agricultural heritage through a self-guided farm tour. Founded in 2007, the Tour showcases local farms and producers, inviting visitors to explore the scenic beauty and culinary delights of Washington County. Through partnerships with community organizations like Comfort Food Community, the Tour aims to promote sustainable agriculture and support local initiatives addressing food insecurity.

FUN & GAMES

Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



The Middletons by Dana Summers



9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



"Tell me when there's a market turnaround, and I'll come out."

Word Play Answers Page 21

JUMBLE

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

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

GAMIE
□ □ □ □ □

KITCH
□ □ □ □ □

TAEUQ
□ □ □ □ □

CAPTUE
□ □ □ □ □



WHEN HE STARTED COMPLAINING ABOUT HIS JOB AGAIN, HIS WIFE TOLD HIM TO ---

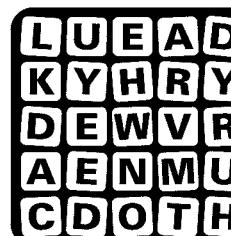
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Boggle BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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

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

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

Answers to Last Sunday's Boggle BrainBusters:
CHAD TODD GRAYIA BENIN KEVIA ANSOLA ZAMBIA

FUN & GAMES

More Word Play Answers Page 21

SCRABBLE G₂ R₁ A₁ M₃ S₁

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A₁ E₁ O₁ U₁ U₁ S₁ Q₁₀ Double Word Score RACK 1

E₁ I₁ I₁ H₄ C₃ S₁ F₄ 2nd Letter Triple RACK 2

A₁ E₁ O₁ T₁ G₂ C₃ T₁ RACK 3

E₁ U₁ Y₄ L₁ R₁ G₂ L₁ RACK 4

A₁ O₁ D₂ L₁ B₃ N₁ G₂ RACK 5

PAR SCORE 265-275

FIVE RACK TOTAL

BEST SCORE 335

TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

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

Word Find By Frank J. D'Agostino

Find these words associated with a college dorm (and find Frank's word find books on Amazon):

Beds	Movies	Shirts
Blankets	Mugs	Shoes
Books	Notebook	Smartphone
Caps	Pads	Snacks
Charger	Pants	Storage bin
Clothes	Pennant	Towels
Desk	Pens	
Dresser	Pillows	
Headphones	Pram	
Lamp	Printer	

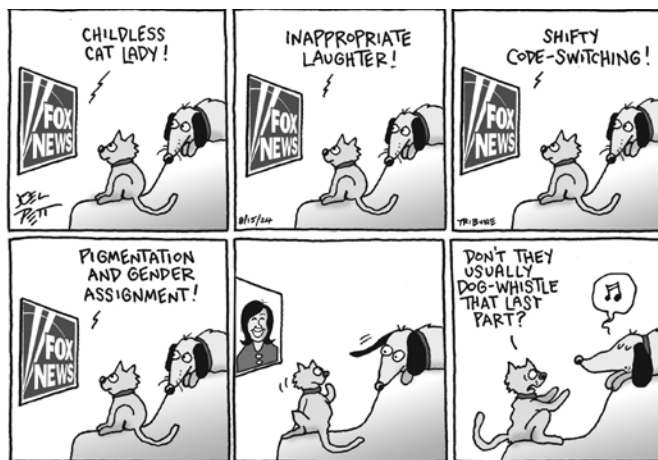
H D P R I N T E R B E D S
 E R E B O O K S E E S W K
 A E N S P A D S T A H O P
 D S N Y K P W S O N O X A
 P S A S C O E N W B E B N
 H E N O L H S M E A S L T
 O R T L T G A T L G T A S
 N R I O U R O R S Z S N C
 E P L M P N P P G K H K F
 S C L M O V I E S E I E C
 S M A R T P H O N E R T A
 H L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

Filbert by LA Bonté



@FilbertCartoons

Political Cartoon of the Month by Joel Pett



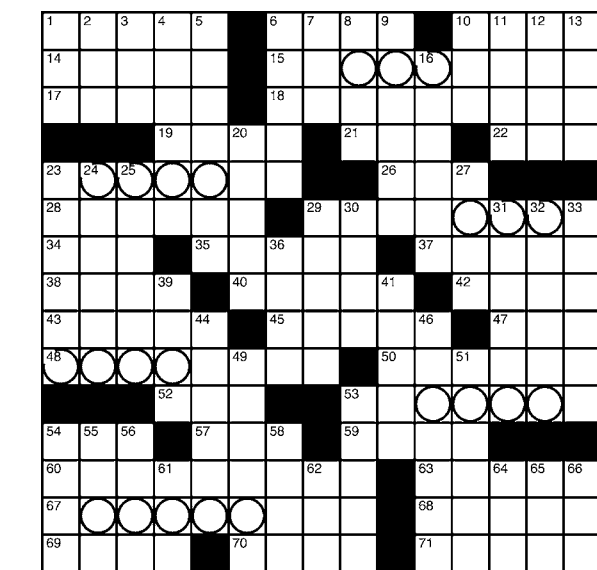
Crossword

Across

1 Cheap kegful
 6 Seal hunter
 10 Title for Horatio Magellan Crunch
 14 "With any luck"
 15 *Like sweater weather
 17 ___ cut
 18 Question that may elicit "Todo bien, gracias"
 19 "Must you be like everyone else?"
 21 ___ card
 22 Four quarters
 23 *Spanish verb similar to the French "être"
 26 "Latino USA" ailer
 28 Choice word
 29 *Soft drink size
 34 Sandwich not found in a kosher deli
 35 Sap
 37 One of India's official languages
 38 Footnote abbr.
 40 Rock collection?

42 Slender
 43 Crew member
 45 Rink plays
 47 PC pioneer
 48 *River through Kazakhstan
 50 Roughhouse
 52 "Real talk," from a texter
 53 *Top
 54 "It's all about me" attitude
 57 Deli slice
 59 Article
 60 Sacred Buddhist symbol with heart-shaped leaves
 63 Gulf ship
 67 *Cherry variety
 68 Petting zoo critter
 69 Light-footed
 70 Dole (out)
 71 Work on software, and work to make sense of the answers to the starred clues?

the 2017 British Open
 5 Raised canines, say
 6 Transpire
 7 Density symbol, in physics
 8 Nanny ___: security devices
 9 Formally choose
 10 Gender prefix
 11 Type of flute
 12 Think ahead
 13 SEC concern
 16 Vegan protein choice
 20 Veggie chip brand
 23 Actress Jean of French New Wave cinema
 24 ___ Bradley
 25 Home of the Senators
 27 Clutch hitter's stat
 29 Smear with ink?
 30 Arctic native
 31 Join up
 32 Consumer-friendly?
 33 Horn-___ glasses
 36 Director of the final episode of



"M*A*S*H"
 39 Baltic native
 41 ___ badge
 44 Guide for grading
 46 "The usual"
 49 Blues partner
 51 Literary device
 53 Feudal lord

54 Dwindles
 55 Trail mix
 56 Compost bin emanation
 58 Lake whose name comes from Iroquoian for "long tail"
 61 Part of a stable

diet
 62 Thyroid specialist, for short
 64 Where lots of cultures come together
 65 Aussie bird
 66 Dust cloth

Sudoku

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

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

MANY THANKS from the GREENWICH INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP!

The Greenwich Interfaith Fellowship (Greenwich NY) is a non-for-profit organization comprised of various religious organizations which sponsors interfaith services and community focused projects. This organization supports the Van-Go and McQuade Van transportation service for medical appointments and grocery shopping and helps individuals and families who are in need throughout the greater Greenwich region as well as the local Meals for Kids and Backpack programs. On Friday August 2nd, the Greenwich Interfaith Fellowship held its 19th Annual Golf Tournament at the Battenkill Country Club and thirty teams participated on a steamy summer day! Thanks to generous support of the community, the tournament raised roughly \$15,000 that will support all the programs the Greenwich Interfaith Fellowship conducts throughout the year. Many in the community supported this event through sponsorships, generous donations, playing, volunteering, and baking. With the very generous support of 23 area golf courses, almost every team received a prize. The GIF is grateful to the entire community for such support outstanding!

Gold Level

David Patrick Family
Mary Patrick Robertson
Timothy M. Bulger, Esq
Capital Tractor, Inc.
Flynn Brothers Funeral Homes
The Fort Miller Group
Geraghty's Discount Wine & Liquor
Dr. Peter Gray
The Greenwich Knights of Columbus

Silver Level

American Legion Liberty Post 515
Bottskill Baptist Church
Bouchey Millet & Schaffer
Christ the King
The Episcopal Diocese of Albany
The Greenwich Journal
Greenwich Lions Club
GCS Retired Employees
Marty Smith's Garage
Wallie's of Greenwich
Witchcraft Body & Paint, Inc.

Special Support

Gail Dewey – Van Coordinator
Marty Smith's Garage
Chris Fitz – Signs
Lunch – Craig Roods
Stewart's
Thruway Beverage
Hannaford
Big Lots
Nessle Brothers
Morehouse Families – Putting Contest

... and more thanks to ...

Linda Barnes
Deb Ross Baumann
Bruce Bengle
Melanie Bock
Becky Bodkin
Booth's Blend Compost
Bottskill Baptist Church
Sherwin Bowen
Mary Anne Brown
Carol Brownell
Cindy Bulger
Hugh Cameron
Warren Clifton
Ozzie Cole
Tom Costello
Tom & Sarah Dauenhauer
Dani DeGregory
Victor & Edna Del Negro
Roger DeKorp
Jason Easton
Easton United Methodist Church
Randell & Daneille Eddy
Dan Fischer
Chris Fritz
Anne Garrity
Mary Gravlin
Greenwich Elks Lodge 2223
Veronica Harvey
Hayes Family
John & Claudine Hedbring
Vicky Hitchcock
Peggy Hunter
St. Joseph's Church
Darren Johnson
Tom Keayes

... and more thanks to ...

Keystone Prosthetics & Orthotics
The King Family
Dawn Kirk
Philip LaBombard
Ron & Sylvia Letteron
Doris & Ken Luke
Dorothy Lynatt
Lyttle Family
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Ed & Grace Skiff
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... and more thanks to ...

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Diane Welch
John Wescott
Louise Worthington

Golf Course Contributions

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The Sagamore
Saratoga National
Saratoga Spa State GC
Sunnyside Par 3
Top of the World Golf Resort
Windy Hills GC

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Likes everything but the font size

To the Editor:

Since moving to the area earlier this year, I've come to very much enjoy each new issue of the Journal & Press. Not only do I find the variety of articles interesting and informative, but I'm happy to become aware of the services available to me by way of your many advertisers. I've had the good fortune of calling on a few of them and have yet to be disappointed.

In addition to thanking you and your staff for the work you do, I also want to mention how much I enjoy the puzzles included in each issue. I do have one favor to request, however, and that is to increase the size/font of your crossword puzzles. While I have many bones to pick with the entire process of aging, diminished eyesight is chief among them. Doing crosswords is one of my favorite pastimes, but I have to admit, it's tough to do when I have to squint and plunk down directly under a bright light. I know, I know...it's a minor thing, but hopefully, you'll consider this suggestion as a method of improving an already stellar paper. □

Thanks for all you do, and for your consideration of my request.

Best wishes,

Scott Mears

Schuylerville (or, Stillwater...depending on who you ask...).

Editor's Reply: *Yes, Scott, we can do that! BTW, when I chose the fonts for the body copy in the paper, I did pick a slightly larger one than other papers use, as my reading eyesight was getting worse, too.*

Have something to say? Send letters under 400 words or op-eds up to 800 words to editor@journalandpress.com.

Cannabis conference

SUNY Adirondack will host a free cannabis conference Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. The event, which is open to the public, will include farm tours; a keynote speaker; nine sessions on topics including Terpenes/Soil Health, Social Justice, Dispensaries and Testing Industry; and a panel discussion of experts in the field.

Learn more at sunyacc.edu.

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OBITUARIES

Robert L. Lyons, 92

On a beautiful summer day, we bid farewell to our beloved Robert L. Lyons, commonly known to many as Bob. He was born on September 5, 1931, in Easton, NY.

Robert's life was a testament to the values of dedication, creativity, and talent. He was a man of many passions, with woodworking being the closest to his heart. Every piece he created, whether an Adirondack chair, table, or custom frame, was evidence of his craftsmanship and unique self-taught talents. As a retired farm systems salesperson at Agway, his dedication and hard work were unparalleled, leaving an indelible mark on the agricultural community.

Bob's journey began as a hardworking farm boy in Archdale, but his path was not confined to the farm. He excelled in athletics at Greenwich Central School, and in 2012 he was inducted into the GCS Athletic Hall of Fame. A proud veteran of the Korean War, he served his country with honor in the United States Navy. Known for his fine woodworking, Bob built several homes around the Greenwich/Easton area, each a testament to his creativity. A lover of golf, trapping, and camping, Bob found solace in the great outdoors.



The true loves of his life were his wife, Ann Hanson Lyons, and his family. Bob met Ann, the prom

queen, after his service in the Navy, and they shared 68 years of wonderful memories.

He was a loving father to Gregory Lyons, Sharon Wood (Scott), Janine Smith, and Andrea Lyons. Grandfather to Marc (Cassie), Thomas (Emilee), Tad (Alexandra) and Brianna; great-grandfather to Kylee, Carlisle, Colton, Avery, Logan, and Izabel.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Grace (nee Brownell) and Forrest Lyons, his brother, Richard Lyons, daughter-in-law, Terri Scanlon, and grandson Benjamin Smith.

Beyond his family, Bob touched many lives with his spirit, wise and often humorous words of advice, and dedication to helping others. He could often be found in his woodworking shop, where he looked forward to visits from neighbors and friends.

Family and friends may pay their respects on Friday, August 23, 2024, from 5 to 7 pm at Flynn Bros, Inc. Funeral Home, 80 Main St, Greenwich, NY 12834.

Can you sing?

Annually 40 voice choir rehearses for a concert to raise money for Operation Santa Claus. This year practices start Monday, September 9, at 8 pm at the Presbyterian Church on Main St, Argyle for the Nov. 3 concert. If you love to sing, including high school students, join Joyce Durkee, director, and Lydia Black, accompanist, for fun-filled rehearsals as you also help at-risk children. Info: naacs.30@gmail.com

LEGAL NOTICE

SCHOOL TAX COLLECTOR'S NOTICE GREENWICH CENTRAL SCHOOL

Towns of: Argyle, Cambridge, Easton, Fort Edward, Greenwich, Hebron, Jackson, & Salem

Owners of real property located in that portion of the Greenwich Central School District, County of Washington, New York, take notice that taxes will be received from September 3, 2024 through November 4, 2024.

Taxes may be paid in person via our dropbox or by mail to Greenwich Central School District, District Office, 10 Gray Ave., Greenwich, NY 12834, between

the hours of 8 am and 4 pm, Monday through Friday. Please present your tax bill with payment. From September 3 through October 4, 2024, NO PENALTY will be charged.

A two percent (2%) penalty will be added from October 5, 2024, through November 4, 2024. All unpaid taxes will be turned over to the Washington County Treasurer by November 11, 2024.

Tomarra McCall
Tax Collector

DAR to honor Claudia Norton Blackler

Willard's Mountain Chapter of The Daughters of the American Revolution will present a Community Service Award to Claudia Norton Blackler at its September meeting. The presentation will take place on Saturday, September 7th, 2024, in the Community Room of the Greenwich Free Library, at 10:45 AM. The community is invited to attend.

Blackler has spent a lifetime in service to her community. She was a librarian for many years, ending her career at the Greenwich Free library, in Greenwich, New York. In retirement, she did not abandon her beloved library. She has been a tireless volunteer in the Gill Room, a repository of local history at the Greenwich Free Library. Blackler can be found manning the space, assisting anyone who needs help, preserving historic documents and objects from the Greater Greenwich community.

She has also jumped in to teach a writing course at the library when the instructor was not able to honor their commitment.

Blackler is an advocate of telling your family's story in a permanent way, to preserve it for posterity. She speaks at various local meetings about writing down your family's history and preserving it for future generations. She often brings her own family's documentation, a collection of approximately 30 journals, lovingly assembled by her over a number of years.

She has furthered African American history study in our community by being vice-president and one of the founding members of the Northstar Historical Association. She assisted with its many activities, including History Fairs and walks through the local cemetery and community.

Together with Clifford Oliver Mealy, the Albany Boys and Girls club brought a group of inner city youth to the community of Greenwich for the exchange of ideas and culture. It may have been the first time that some of them had been outside the city of Albany limits.

Blackler teamed with Debi Craig to write a puppet play about the Underground Railroad that



was performed for an Underground Railroad conference held in Greenwich, as well as for students at local schools, including Greenwich Elementary School.

She has also shown service to her family and friends. A number of family members have developed serious health issues over the years. She paused her own activities to take care of each of them. She also has driven incapacitated friends to doctors appointments and other places.

Now, according to a release submitted by DAR, she herself is facing a serious health issue. Claudia is always the first to say "How can I help?" "She exemplifies the meaning of community service and is highly deserving of the DAR's Community Service award," the release states.

Local Loyalists

The Warren County Historical Society, welcomes author Marie Williams to discuss her new book "Loyalists in the Adirondacks: The Fight for Britain in the Revolutionary War" on Wednesday, September 18, 2024

at 7:00 PM in the CLM Community Room at Crandall Public Library located at 251 Glen St. Glens Falls.

Free. No reservations required. Call 518-793-6508 x292 for additional information.

Fuel fund seeks donations

Cooler weather will be upon us soon. Many households will find it hard to find a way to afford the expense of heating their homes. That's why September and October are "Replenish the Cambridge Fuel Fund" months for the 2024-2025 heating season. Last year, thanks to the generosity of numerous donors, 71 requests for assistance

were completed for Cambridge Central School district households only for a total of \$35,500. It is hard to tell what the price will be for fuel, whether fuel oil, electricity used for heating, coal, propane wood/wood pellets, or kerosene. For further information, call (518) 677-3327. Donations may be mailed to Cambridge Fuel Fund, P.O. Box

473, Cambridge, NY 12816. Contributions are tax deductible.

If you know of other fuel funds in the area that also need publicity, send this newspaper a message at editor@journalandpress.com.

Wallie's Rooftop Bar



Sunday,
9/15 @ 4:00pm

The Rooftop offers games & cards for summertime fun
(poker chips, othello, mancala, dominos, chess, checkers, scrabble, jenga)

Wallie's • 54 Main St. Greenwich • 518-531-4573

LAST CHANCE

Become a
sponsor
see contact below



Golf Scramble to benefit Cambridge FFA

September 14th
Battenkill Country Club

Registration includes:

Lunch provided by BCC

18 holes with cart

\$20 Wallie's gift certificate

Entry Fee: \$90 single or \$340 foursome



Players, sponsorships, or more info contact Elisa: gpgllc12834@gmail.com or 518-222-7064

'Drowsy Chaperone' up next in Salem

Fort Salem Theater announced the cast for its upcoming production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, running from September 27 through October 6, 2024. Winner of five Tony Awards, including Best Book and Best Original Score, this delightful show is a loving tribute to the Jazz Age musical, filled with show-stopping song and dance numbers. With music and lyrics by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison, and a book by Bob Martin and Don McKellar, *The Drowsy Chaperone* promises an evening of hilariously madcap entertainment.

The plot follows an endearing theater fan, known as the "Man in Chair," who plays his favorite record—a fictional 1928 musical called *The Drowsy Chaperone*—and suddenly, his dingy apartment transforms into a glamorous Broadway set. The story within the show comes to life, featuring a cast of eccentric characters: two lovers on the brink of marriage, a bumbling best man, a desperate theater producer, a dim witted hostess, gangsters disguised as pastry chefs, a self-proclaimed "ladies man", and, of course, an intoxicated chaperone. As chaos ensues, the audience is treated to a hilarious, toe-tapping escape into the world of 1920s musical theater.

The cast features Matt Demarco as the charming and witty "Man in Chair," with

guest artists Rebecca Paige returning to FST to take on the role of the titular "Drowsy Chaperone." Courtnie Harrington stars as the glamorous "Janet Van De Graaf," alongside Michael Nichols Pate as the dashing "Robert Martin." The cast also includes Miriam Lerner as the quirky "Mrs. Tottendale," Johnathan Nichols Pate as "Underling," Anthony Jones as "George," Edgar Richie as "Feldzieg," and Tara Fox as the bubbly "Kitty." The mischievous gangsters are portrayed by Liam Reynolds and Kyle West, with Shawn Morgan as the suave "Aldolpho," and Alanah Grant as the daring "Trix." The ensemble features Mea Cleary, who also serves as dance captain and understudy for Janet, Neeley, and Adrienne Guss, who understudies for Kitty.

Directed and music directed by John Norine Jr., with choreography by Rebecca Paige, *The Drowsy Chaperone* is brought to life by a talented creative team, including scenic design by Charles J.I. Krawczyk, lighting design by John Norine Jr., and costume and prop design by Rebecca Paige.



Rebecca Paige

The production is stage managed by Milo Briele and produced by Kyle West.

Tickets for *The Drowsy Chaperone* are on sale now, ranging from \$20 to \$36, and can be purchased at FortSalem.com or by calling 518-965-9200. The box office is open for in-person purchases on Mondays and Tuesdays from 1PM to 5PM.

IRS Hall of Fame

The Tri-County United Way VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program has been honored with the National IRS "Hall of Fame" Award, a testament to its exceptional contributions and unwavering support for individuals and families with low to moderate incomes. Chosen from 14 national nominees, Tri-County United Way's VITA program distinguished itself through its remarkable service, community impact, and dedication to financial stability.

For over 20 years, the Tri-County United Way VITA program has operated 13 sites across Warren, Washington, and Northern Saratoga counties. During the 2024 tax season, 27 tax preparers and 15 appointment takers volunteered over 3,100 hours, preparing more than 2,000 tax returns. Their efforts generated \$3.1 million in Federal and State income tax refunds for the local economy and saved taxpayers over \$700,000 in preparation fees.

The VITA program's excellence was recognized by its in-house training, offering 24 hours of classroom or self-study instruction, available at flexible times. This year's innovative outreach included local media interviews, print media outreach, and ads in several prestigious media outlets including the 50th Adirondack Balloon Festival program, which boosted volunteer recruitment and community engagement.

The IRS-sponsored VITA program offers free tax preparation to eligible residents nationwide. Locally, the Tri-County United Way, Cornell Cooperative Extension — Washington County, and the Moreau Community Center have partnered to create a network of VITA volunteers. Volunteers, who come from diverse backgrounds, typically commit four to eight hours per week from mid-January to April 15. Comprehensive training and user-friendly software empower them to provide effective tax assistance.

To learn more about the VITA program, visit TriCountyUnitedWay.org.



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Over the past 21 years, more than 200 volunteers have played a vital role in earning this Hall of Fame accolade. While some have moved on and others have passed away, we remain deeply proud of the dedication and positive impact our VITA volunteers have had on our local economy. These dedicated individuals continue to assist low-income families and seniors with their tax returns across Washington, Warren, and Northern Saratoga Counties.

Special thanks go to our most recent volunteers from the last two filing seasons:

Cathy Barton	Nanette Doheny	Frances Hanna	Dianne Lewis	Frank Musso	Will Sawma	Heidi Villarini
Charlene Bolster	Nancy Douglas	Margaret Hurlburt	Michael Linke	Donna Nichols	Mark Semon	Donna Waite
Roseanne Brevot	Julie Gann	Kay Hutt	Lyn MacAlpine	Kevin O'Brien	Stanley Shattuck	Rosemary White
Pat Bryant	Gerry Geddis	Sonya Jurnak	Marge Maxwell	Dee Park	Nancy Skirkanich	Mary Ellen Williams
Loretta Citarella	Victor Greco	Daisy Kavanagh	Sue McNeil	Bree Pisacane	Rachelle Tessier	
Phil Cote	Thelma Hack	ShannonKavanaugh	Douglas Meyerhoff	Joan Prouty	Ann Thibideau	
Larry Crandall	Lydia Hall	Jean Killian	Richelene Morey	Mary Provost	Judith Tholl	
Joseph Dewey	Bill Hamelin	Lee Lenhart	Jeanie Mullen	Arlene Reduto	John Truchon	



VITA, an IRS-sponsored program, offers training to local volunteers, equipping them to complete income tax returns for our community. Volunteers begin their training in December and must pass certification tests before they can assist with tax returns. Without their commitment, many individuals who rely on this vital service would likely have to turn to paid tax preparers. To volunteer, contact Laura Jensen, Director of Community Engagement at Ljensen@tricountyunitedway.org or learn more at www.tricountyunitedway.org.

Frederick Douglass returns

The Saratoga National Historical Park is hosting a day of activities in Schuylerville:

Frederick Douglass Returns to Schuylerville

Saturday, September 28

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Schuylers House

Commemorate and examine 250 years of the United States and meet the great abolitionist and freedom fighter Frederick Douglass as he returns to Schuylerville!

Despite promising in the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness,” the new nation that emerged after the Battles of Saratoga and the American Revolution did not begin to approach those lofty ideals. Frederick Douglass, himself having experienced enslavement, emerged as one of the most forceful advocates for addressing both in the 19th century.

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Town of Saratoga Town Hall (12 Spring St., Schuylerville, NY)

Douglass argued for the creation of the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War. After the war, he continued advocating for an expanded idea of democracy. One place he did that was in Schuylerville, NY on June 8, 1849.

Nathan Richardson is an author, poet, and historian who has performed as Frederick Douglass for more than a decade.

Use humor to break tension

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

Q: *We often have stressful meetings. As a manager, I'd like to break the tension without invalidating the concerns. What do you teach your clients on how to calm down intense emotions during a meeting with humor while not being disrespectful?*

A: There are several guidelines I teach on using humor to break tension. As a manager, you want to walk a middle road of using humor without making fun of anyone or the genuine problems your team is facing.

Here are my top tips:

- 1) Forget about sarcasm. Sarcasm comes across as contemptuous.
- 2) Don't make fun of anyone else, but you can poke fun at yourself.
- 3) Don't use humor to say what you're angry about.
- 4) Read the room because timing is everything.
- 5) Keep humor respectful of diversity or you'll make an enemy rather than a joke.

Your personality is fair game to joke about. Think of humor as either *Frasier* (the show) who pokes fun at himself, or *Seinfeld* (the show) who makes fun of everyone else. Stick to *Frasier's* humor. When we joke about our own experience we show vulnerability and connect with others. We build trust and rapport while lightening the mood.

Humor can also be useful during presentations. A surprising source of humor for your

presentations are the humorous stories and columns in *Readers Digest*. You can take any of the stories, personalize them, and make them part of your presentation.

Some physicians say that laughter is the best medicine. I'll tell you as a consultant, laughter is the best way to get a group of people to learn something. If you tell a funny story, pick something with an educational take away.

For example, when I teach listening skills, I say in a conspiratorial tone that I have a secret to share. I then add, "When people talk, they have no idea what they just said so when you repeat it back, it's the first time they heard it." Everyone laughs because we can all relate to this experience. And, my audience learns the importance of paraphrasing.

If your management has asked you to do the impossible, you might joke about your new "walk on water" project. Then ask about water skiing ideas. By using humor, you lower performance anxiety because you acknowledge walking on water is not possible, but water skiing might get you close.

People at work are often anxious about various topics. Studies show people cannot laugh and feel scared simultaneously. By seeking opportunities to use humor, you help your team gain perspective and be calmer. Your team will improve their productivity and decision making when they're less scared.

People at work, under pressure, also feel isolated. They think that if they cannot pull rabbits out of hats, they will lose their reputation or job. Humor allows employees

to see that most problems are not what I call "cardiac" moments. Few people will die or get fired because a team does not achieve perfection.

There are sociologists and comedians who have pointed out how tragedy and comedy have similar roots. By using humor effectively, you make yourself relatable, increase trust, and can shrink stressful situations down to less scary tasks to handle.

An anonymous but funny person said, "Laugh and the world laughs with you, cackle maniacally and people back away from you slowly." My point is to use humor to find that middle ground, where people feel safer, not disrespected, and more connected.

The last word(s)

Q: *Customers often criticize me at work. Is there a way to avoid criticism?*

A: As Aristotle, the ancient Greek philosopher, said: "There's only one way to avoid criticism: Do nothing, say nothing, be nothing." If you want a rich career, take risks, learn from feedback, and lean into criticism.

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

You can contact Dr. Skube at www.interpersonaledge.com or 1420 NW Gilman Blvd., #2845, Issaquah, WA 98027. Sorry, no personal replies.



Townwide yard sale

Schuylerville's townwide sale Saturday, Sept. 14. You can check in at the corner of Pearl St and Burgoyne St. at Old Saratoga Reformed Church. They are having

their Huge Annual Yard Sale. Food sales and music featuring DJ Chris Tucker. Run time is 8:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Social Security

Jill Schlesinger

*Tribune Content Agency
Special to Journal & Press*

Just in time for my annual column about everyone's favorite benefit, Social Security, the government announced an overhaul to its online portal, SSA.gov.

The change impacts millions who are receiving or intend to receive Social Security retirement benefits and also younger workers who are interested in using helpful tools to calculate future Social Security benefits.

If you created an online my Social Security account before Sept 18, 2021, or maybe never opened one up, there are specific steps to follow. When you go to www.ssa.gov/myaccount, you will have two options:

(1) Login.gov, which is a government account that gives you access to all government agencies, including the IRS and the V-A

or...

(2) ID.me, which is commercially owned and meets the government's security standards. If you have an existing Login.gov or ID.me account, you do not need to create a new one or take any action.

The login process is a bit cumbersome, but once you have established the account, there are a lot of useful resources. The most obvious one is that you can use the portal to claim benefits. This is an important de-

cision and one that should be made with thought and a little number crunching. To claim, you need to have worked and paid into the system for at least 10 years, though not consecutively.

The age at which you can draw benefits varies based on when you were born. Full retirement age (FRA) rises incrementally if you were born from 1938 to 1960 — after that, the age is 67. While you can claim as early as age 62, doing so will permanently reduce your benefit, by as much as 25 percent, which also could affect a non-working spouse who is claiming on the same record.

Additionally, if you claim early, there could be a negative impact on most income (including wages, bonuses, commissions, and vacation pay — or net earnings if you're self-employed, but not pensions, annuities, investment income, interest, veterans, or other government or military retirement benefits). The government deducts \$1 from Social Security benefits for each \$2 earned over \$22,320 in 2024.

Conversely, if you can afford to wait beyond your FRA there is a big benefit -- you are entitled to "delayed retirement benefits," which amounts to up to 8% a year more for each full year that you delay, until age 70. Because Social Security benefits are adjusted for inflation every year, claiming later can be even more valuable over time.

Although most people wait until they are a few months away from claiming to even

think about Social Security, using the new portal at any age is helpful. If you are close to retirement, working with the "Plan for Retirement" tool can demonstrate the power of wait-

ing and if there are spouses who have both worked, there could be a strategy where one claims at FRA and the other waits.

If you are younger, the portal can help you understand the long-term Social Security impact of choosing a different career path, one where you earn much more or less than what you are currently earning.

Finally, I am often asked if younger workers should count on Social Security, because it is "broke." The answer is YES, you should count on it. While the surpluses to the system are shrinking, The 2024 Trustees Report said that the government will be able to pay scheduled benefits until 2033.

At that time, the fund's reserves will become depleted and the money coming into the system (through taxes) will be sufficient to pay 79% of scheduled benefits.

As I have noted many times in this column, I believe that Congress will eventually (kicking and screaming) address the problem, through some combination of: raising the level on which taxes are levied (aka "the SS Wage Base," which is currently \$168,600); increasing the current FICA tax rate, which is set by statute at 6.2% for employees and employers, each or 12.4% for self-employed Americans; or raising the retirement age at which you can claim Social Security retirement benefits.

In other words, a little tinkering here and there should help solve the problem.

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



A Seed's Journey

The Slate Valley Museum welcomes people of all ages to drop in for coffee, conversation, and an interactive creative experience with its 2024 Artist-in-Residence Serena Kovalosky on Saturday, September 14.

Throughout the day, Kovalosky will facilitate a "Seed Journey" conversation and art-making activity as she shares stories of the wild origin of beets. Stop by 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tickets \$5/\$3. Details: SlateValleyMuseum.org

Pop-ups; HCP history hike; cemetery

The Saratoga County History Center is presenting two events this month:

On This Spot: Mom & Pop Businesses in Saratoga Springs

September 5, 2024, 7-8:30pm

Brookside Museum

Carol Godette, accomplished author and storyteller of people and places in Saratoga Springs, will take us on a journey based on her new book *On This Spot: Saratoga Springs*. Carol will describe how she was able to create images of a life now past, through first person interviews with the owners and their families. Carol was honored by The New York Press Association in 2021, and was a recipient of the Saratoga County History Center Public History

Award in 2022. Books will be available for purchase and signing. This event is free but donations are gratefully accepted

Hudson Crossing Park Walking Tour
Wednesday, September 11th,
1-2:30pm

One mile north of Schuylerville at Champlain Lock 5

Join Hudson Crossing Park Executive Director Kate Morse and resident local historian Mike Biekiewicz for this easy, one mile walk. Kate and Mike will share the history of the First Nations who called the area home. View the site of British General Burgoyne's "Bridge of Boats" on the way to England's historic loss during the Battles of Saratoga, and learn about how the Champlain Canal shaped the community and was instrumental in the Un-

derground Railroad. Tour leaders will also discuss the unique challenges of working as environmental stewards along industrialized waterways.

Corinth Rural Cemetery
September 25 1pm.

Corinth Town Historian Rachel Clothier will explore the stories behind the gravestones at this cemetery located on Route 9N as you enter the village. From soldiers and sailors to merchants and miscreants, attendees will discover a sampling of the people who have lived in Corinth over two centuries. Rachel will also discuss the consolidation of other earlier cemeteries into this large cemetery.

Registration is available at brooksidemuseum.org. Suggested donations for the tours are \$10.

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Schoolhouse projects

Shirley Renauld
Journal & Press

“Under the spreading chestnut tree, the village smithy stands...” wrote Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Bob tells us that the floors of rural schoolhouses were made of chestnut lumber because it is such a strong wood. He should know because he grew up in a house, part of which had been a rural schoolhouse, then moved from where it had served children who walked to it and rooms had been added. We learn that the schoolhouse on the Fairgrounds had been moved there from Perkins Hollow in Salem. On weekends we can visit the Shushan one that was moved near the Bridge to be part of the Museum.

Then a disease affected the growth layer just under the bark of chestnut trees, causing them to become extinct. But like you get vaccines to prevent you from getting disease, one was found for that blight, so we are helping chestnut trees grow again. Look for fields with lines of growing trees with their trunks wrapped in white protection so the deer won't eat the bark. Someday we will have chestnut lumber again--for flooring in your next classrooms or the gym? (Have you noticed the flooring of rooms of your school?)

And the smithy standing under the tree? He was a blacksmith taking a break from his hot job of making horseshoes. He probably had black soot from the fire's smoke and was wearing a leather apron to protect him from the heat of the fire. Did you see the blacksmith at work at the fair? Are you learning blacksmithing at BOCES? Why do only some horses wear shoes? Horses' hooves grow individually, as do our toenails, so they need shoes to fit the shape.

For its Bicentennial, Easton did a project about its 13 rural schools which resulted in a display in the Meeting Room of the Easton Library: a photo of each school, its history and a town map locating the schools. The archives include photos of children who attended each school. As we travel coun-

try roads, we still see buildings that were schools, some with additions and used for storage; some restored, as the one Vera attended. In a pasture we could even see rocks of the foundation and the concrete steps of the entrance of a school building that was moved. Perhaps its lilac bush still grows there and blossoms each Spring.

We thank Dale Prouty for the schoolhouse project he did which resulted in a notebook of rural schools of each town of Washington Co. Look through the book for your town to see pictures, learn about it and then visit the site near you.

We enjoy the painting by Schuylerville folk artist, Richard Salls, of a red country schoolhouse with children playing outside during recess, not on playground equipment like you do, but playing running and circle games, marbles on the ground, flying a kite... When we visit Mt Nebo Gallery in Eagle Bridge, folklife painter Will Moses' wife Sharon shows us his painting of children at work inside a rural schoolhouse.

We can be part of Easton Day on the second Sunday of Sept at the South Meeting House for the annual meeting of the Adirondack Chapters of Quakers/Society of Friends. After the silent worship service, we share a picnic lunch, so bring food to share, your plate, utensils and seating. In the afternoon, join the music and other activities. Take a walk around the House. Learn history in the surrounding Easton Rural Cemetery.

As we listen to local storyteller Jeanine Laverty here, we feel part of what happened at this site: the Feathers of Peace/the White Feather Story: During the Revolutionary War, a group of Indians loyal to Burgoyne came to the original log Meeting House planning to raid the Quakers while they were at silent worship. Although they saw feathers pass under the windows, the Quakers continued their quiet worship. Seeing this, the Indians put down their bows and arrows and joined the Quakers. At the end of the service, the Quakers shook

hands with the Indians and invited them to eat together. The Indians removed white feathers from their headbands and fastened them above the doors of the Meeting House as a sign that people in this house should never be raided. We look at these feathers and feel the peace as we go outside to eat together.

After this meeting day, we can join the local Quakers for Monthly Meetings during the cold season in their brick North Meeting House heated by the wood fires.

Perhaps on the 8th, Grandparents' Day, you would go on a self-guided tour of farms during the Wash County Bounty weekend to S Dominion and Victory View Vineyards, Argyle Cheese Farmer (taste cheese curd), Hicks Orchard, Tiashoke Farm Store, Scotlander Brewing, Rathbun Maple, Gardenworks, or Yorkmont Farm. You sampled their products at the Fair, now visit the farms they came from.

In the evening, watch the closing of the Paralympics with the athletes wearing medals made with metal from the Eiffel Tower and Braille written on them.

Now we're into another season: Our county fair season has ended with the Schaghticoke Fair, entries have been returned to us from State Fair. June's high school graduates and those completing a church mission have started college and those continuing have returned. New high school seniors are making plans for after graduation. We thank last year's dairy princesses, Allie and Anna; we already met this year's at the Fair and look forward to seeing them visit our classrooms and at community events. It's a new year of fall sports, we're into our next year of schooling and activities with our friends. In "The Kissing Hand", Mother Raccoon put a kiss in the palm of Chester's hand so he could use it wherever he needed. Did you give a real or printed heart to someone?

Revitalizing downtown Greenwich

The Town and Village of Greenwich will be hosting an information session for interested property owners and developers at Gather (103 Main Street, Greenwich) from 6 – 7:30 PM on Thursday, September 12th in support of their joint pursuit of up to \$10 million in Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) funding.

The information session is intended for property owners and developers with building projects located within the anticipated DRI project area – Route 29/Main Street from Lincoln Ave. to Mill Hollow. The information session will provide an overview of the DRI program, the benefits to Town, Village, and private applicants, and the documentation required to have a project included in the application.

This is the eighth round of the NYS DRI program and the third round of the NYS New York Forward program. The programs were established to “transform downtown neighborhoods into vibrant centers that offer a high quality of life and are magnets for redevelopment, business, job creation and economic and housing diversity.”

The Town, Village, and individuals and businesses up and down Main Street have been laying the groundwork to position Greenwich for a successful DRI bid. The 2022 Greenwich Revitalization plan identified key projects that have been advanced through Town and Village efforts, private investments and efforts, and public investments through successive rounds of NYS NY Main Street and Restore NY. These opportunities were further reinforced through the vision and planning completed in the 2023 Town and Village of Greenwich Comprehensive Plan. In support of the recommendations in that Plan, Greenwich became one of the earliest Pro-Housing communities in the Capital

Region (a requirement to receive DRI funding), zoning updates that will help facilitate DRI projects are underway, and water district expansion is being explored.

With that foundation in place, the Town and Village now need individuals and businesses with proj-



ects to step forward and add their projects to the DRI application to demonstrate the transformative potential that DRI funding can have on the Main Street corridor. The information session on the 12th is the first meeting to learn more. The Town and Village will be hosting a second Public Workshop for all community members in the first week of October (date, time, and location TBD) to present the draft slate of projects, the downtown revitalization vision, and to get feedback on the projects and priorities identified for the application which is due on October 18th.

To learn more about the DRI program and the Town and Village application, visit www.greenwichforward.com.

Washington County
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Rabies Clinic: Fort Ann
Saturday, September 14, 2024

Fort Ann Highway Garage
11249 NY-149, Fort Ann, NY

By Appointment ONLY

You MUST Register Online for the clinic:

<https://www.washingtoncountyny.gov/305/Rabies>

Registration link will open on September 4th
and will close on September 11th.

(or sooner if appointments are filled before then.)

Story Hour in Easton

Story Hour at the Easton Library begins again on Wednesday, September 11th from 10-11 AM. Children from birth to age 5 and their moms, dads, or caregivers are welcome!

Mrs. Nadia is excited to see

friends from last year and meet new friends this year! Be ready to sing songs, listen to a story, work on a craft and have fun! Remember to bring a snack to eat, too.



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