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## Impactful school proposals

**Late January 2025  
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Two very different presentations were given during the opening portion of the Salem Central School District Board of Education meeting on January 15, 2025, held in the High School Library. A full Board was present to listen to Jodie Orzechowski, Assistant Director of Communications & Public Relations for Capital Region BOCES, as she explained and presented an upbeat slide proposal of how to improve the District's communication practices with a Communication Service Overview; however, the next presentation on roof repairs and finances was more somber.

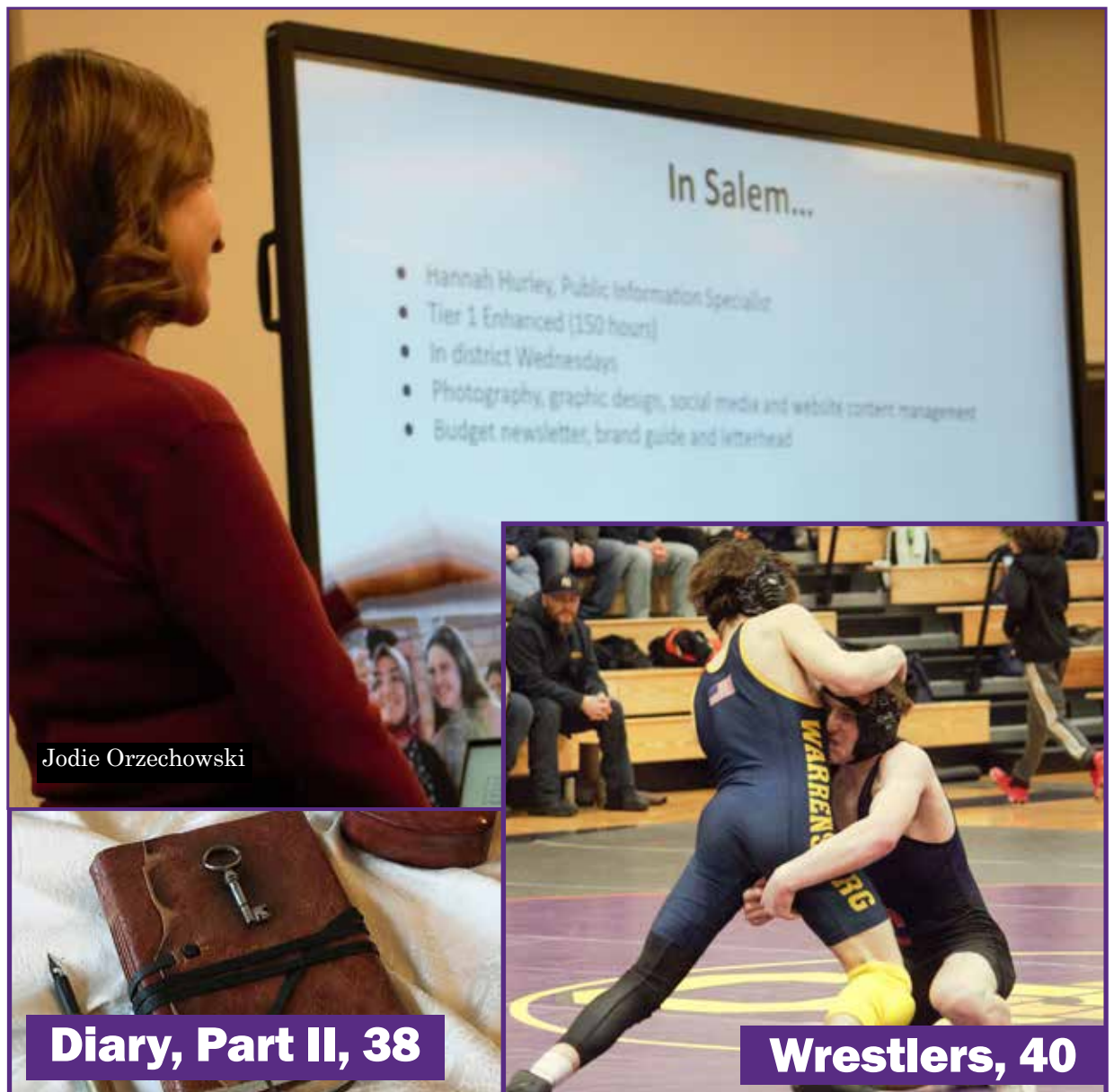
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Jodie Orzechowski

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# Impactful Salem CS proposals heard

**Jan Baxter**  
*Salem Press*

Two very different presentations were given during the opening portion of the Salem Central School District Board of Education meeting on the evening of Wednesday, January 15, 2025, held in the High School Library. A full Board was present to listen to Jodie Orzechowski, Assistant Director of Communications & Public Relations for Capital Region BOCES, as she explained and presented a slide proposal of how to improve the District's communication practices with a Communication Service Overview, highlighting other known Districts using her teams' expertise to enhance their school.

In late summer and fall of 2024, the topic of Salem Central School District's communications practices came under intense scrutiny during public comments to the Board over lack of transparency and the

perceived inability of the Administration to get information to parents and guardians in a timely manner.

Before the end of 2024 and more recently, following the return of the students after the holiday break, the Salem Central School District's website and social media channels have been updated and reflect a better effort to be forthcoming in a timely fashion with news, notices, and upcoming events that involve school Administration, Teachers, Aides, Sports, Students, Parents, Guardians and interested area individuals in the District. A new Communications portal, ParentSquare, rolled out on January 6 and is now the primary source of district, school, grade level and classroom communications at the Salem Central School District.

Ms. Orzechowski explained in her presentation that SCS District's hiring of the once-a-week Public Information Specialist, Hannah Hurley, has shown marked improvement in communications and social media at the school while the Communications Services plan has been in a trial stage.

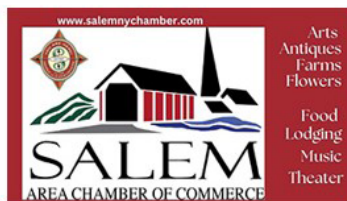
Board members seemed to agree with this evaluation, Superintendent Adams noting that, if possible, in the upcoming budget, she would like to increase Ms. Hurley's weekly time in the future and believes work on a District Communications Plan will begin in the summer months to head into the next school year with solid plans in place.

Board Director, Tom Clary, questioned Ms.



Orzechowski at the end of her presentation regarding how the program she is putting forth would have measurable results quantified for the Board to review. Ms. Orzechowski answered that measurable results' reporting differed in each segment of the overall Communications plan but assured the Board that specific progress goals would be set and measurable result reports would then be available for them to review as they began and, if, they continued their work together. Ms. Orzechowski assured the Board, in regard to the known Capital Roof Project in the near future, that her staff included Photographers who – in other Districts facing similar challenges with Capital projects – have done whatever was necessary to document and photograph the severity of the needs for the Capital projects being considered by voters. Ms. Orzechowski was thanked by the Board and Superintendent for her information and presentation before leaving the evening meeting.

In contrast to the “feel good” nature of Ms. Orzechowski's communications discussions and the progress being seen in the District's efforts to “get the word” out, the next speaker, when called to present to the Board, went to the presentation laptop, displayed one financial chart on the monitor to project to the Board members and then moved to the speaker's podium and addressed the Board members with a “just the facts” demeanor



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# (cont.)

regarding Salem Central School District’s \$8.1 million Proposed Capital Project for replacement of the school roof.

The Capital project Roof Project Financial Impact numbers were presented to the Board by Andrew Watkins, Municipal Advisor with Financial Advisors and Marketing, Inc. The chart accompanying this article illustrates the expected total amount needed to replace the school roof in a Capital project while also providing numbers on grants available to the school district and potential options to reduce the overall burden on the district and individual taxpayers.

One source of revenue available that was discussed by the Board was the potential use of a discretionary monetary balance that was set-aside due to the pandemic funding given to the school from New York State and what then became a positive cash balance as the previous award grant levels had been “locked in” at a higher rate than the school ended up paying (given the lower rates incentivized for projects during the pandemic and immediately afterward). The result of the borrowed \$ rate versus the higher awarded \$ rate to the school resulted in a certain amount of money now in a discretionary fund that – if agreed by a favorable vote to the public – could help offset a portion of the costs of the Capital roof project.

Superintendent Julie Adams also noted than an additional \$100,000 may need to



Salem Central School District WASHINGTON COUNTY, NEW YORK \$8,150,000 PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECT \$1,500,000 CAPITAL RESERVE ESTIMATED DEBT SERVICE												
<b>Assumptions:</b>												
- Voter approval to be determined.												
- SED approval January 2027 Construction starts summer 2027 and is completed fall 2028. SA-139 is filed September 1, 2027. Final cost reports and certificates of substantial completion are submitted to SED no later than December 1, 2028.												
- District uses \$1,500,000 of Capital Reserve.												
- Financing:												
1. Bond Anticipation Notes issued July 2027 to July 2028;										80.70%		
2. Bond Anticipation Notes issued July 2028 to June 2029;										97.00%		
3. Serial Bonds of issued June 2029 to mature June 15, 2030-2043. DASNY bonds may be issued.												
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	
Fiscal Year Ending June 30th	Balance Outstanding	Capital Reserve	Estimated BAN Principal	Estimated BAN Interest	June 15th Principal Payment	Interest Estimated	Total Debt Service	Less: Est. State Aid Amortization Payments*	Estimated Local Share For This Project	Plus: Local Share of Prior Capital Projects	GRAND TOTAL Tax Levy of This Project + Prior Capital Projects	
2028		1,500,000										
2029	\$ 6,650,000		130,000	509,833			639,833	581,161	58,672		58,672	
2030	6,520,000				225,000	415,650	640,650	581,161	59,489		59,489	
2031	6,295,000				375,000	267,538	642,538	581,161	61,376		61,376	
2032	5,920,000				390,000	251,600	641,600	581,161	60,439		60,439	
2033	5,530,000				405,000	235,025	640,025	581,161	58,864		58,864	
2034	5,125,000				420,000	217,813	637,813	581,161	56,651		56,651	
2035	4,705,000				440,000	199,963	639,963	581,161	58,801		58,801	
2036	4,265,000				460,000	181,263	641,263	581,161	60,101		60,101	
2037	3,805,000				480,000	161,713	641,713	581,161	60,551		60,551	
2038	3,325,000				500,000	141,313	641,313	581,161	60,151		60,151	
2039	2,825,000				520,000	120,063	640,063	581,161	58,901		58,901	
2040	2,305,000				540,000	97,963	637,963	581,161	56,801		56,801	
2041	1,765,000				565,000	75,013	640,013	581,161	58,851		58,851	
2042	1,200,000				590,000	51,000	641,000	581,161	59,839		59,839	
2043	610,000				610,000	25,925	635,925	581,161	54,764		54,764	
<b>TOTALS</b>		1,500,000	130,000	509,833	6,520,000	2,441,838	9,601,671	8,717,416	884,255		884,255	
										Based on 2024-25 Tax Information		
										Average Annual Tax Impact		\$58,950
										Average Annual Impact Per \$1,000 Full Value		\$0.129
										Average Annual Impact \$100,000 Full Value Home with NO STAR		\$12.87
										Average Annual Impact \$100,000 Full Value Home with Basic STAR		\$9.01
										Average Annual Impact \$100,000 Full Value Home with Enhanced STAR		\$3.77
										% Impact on Tax Levy		1.16%

Notes:

- State Aid based on building aid ratio and estimated bond percentage as noted above.
- Bond Percentage is preliminary/estimated and may change based on actual scope of work performed. District needs to verify addition aidability with NYSED.
- Bond Percentage may be impacted by the Multi-Year Maximum Cost Allowance. Scope should be developed with consideration of the Maximum Cost Allowances and possible overages which will impact the bond percentage/aidability of the projects.
- Aid based on state assumed interest rate of 3.75%.
- Bond Anticipation Notes estimated rate of 4% and bond rate of 4.25%.
- Assumes any excess aid will be placed into debt service fund and used to offset any subsequent year local impact.

\*- The timing of the receipt of building aid is based on the submission of the Certificate of Substantial Completion and the Final Building Project Report which are estimated at this time.

be added to the final numbers calculated on the chart presented by Mr. Watkins for environmental impact concerns (i.e., roof materials removal from the structure, etc.) work necessary. During Mr. Watkins presentation’s discussion, he stated the school District has debt limits in place and said “but you are not close”, to which Mr. Clary queried, “Where are we”? Mr. Watkins answered, “I’m not sure...” which elicited brief glances, but no further comments, between Board members.

As presented in the chart by Mr. Watkins, details, based on 2024-2025 Tax information, the Roof Capital Project Average Annual Impact Per \$1,000 Full Value would result in \$0.129 to taxpayers, the Average Annual Impact \$100,000 Full Value Home with NO STAR would equal \$12.87, the Average Annual Impact \$100,000 Full Value Home with Basic STAR totals: \$9.01, and, finally, the Average

Annual Impact \$100,000 Full Value Home with Enhanced STAR comes out to \$3.77, showing the final percentage Impact on Tax Levy of 1.16 percent.

The Board of Education expects to continue discussions revolving around the Capital Roof project and will be working on drafting correspondence and information which will be presented at the February 2025 Board meeting, if not before.

Other Board actions included the passage of renewal for the Salem and Cambridge merger of all levels of the football program for the 2025 season. A building request was approved for the Salem Youth Sports teams to use of the outdoor baseball and softball field, for the Little League Baseball/Softball program on evenings and weekends from April - August and mornings/days during summer break.

The full Board of Education meeting held on January 15, 2025, can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@salemwashingtonacademy7838/videos>.

# New offerings, events at Bancroft Library

The Salem Bancroft Public Library's Karen Hickland, Deputy Director, has announced many new selections now available from the Library, truly something for everyone on these cold winter days and nights!

## Adult Fiction

*The Waiting*, Michael Connelly

*The Sunflower House*, Adriana Allegri

*Lazarus Man*, Richard Price

*The House of Cross*, James Patterson

*Identity Unknown*, Patricia Cornwell

*Robert B. Parker's Hot Property*, Mike Lupica

*To Die For*, David Baldacci

*Defense Protocol*, Brian Andrews & Jeffrey Wilson

*Lies He Told Me*, James Patterson & David Ellis

## Large Type Fiction

*Raised by Wolves*, James Patterson

*To Die For*, David Baldacci

*Christmas in Bethel*, Richard Paul Evans

*The Mirror*, Nora Roberts

*Trial By Fire*, Danielle Steel

## Adult Audio Books

*Everyone Here is Lying* (Playaway), Shari Lapena

*Counting Miracles* (Playaway), Nicholas Sparks

*By Any Other Name* (Playaway), Jodi Picoult

*The Last One at the Wedding* (Playaway), Jason Rekulak

*Holly* (Playaway), Stephen King

*Here One Moment* (Playaway), Liane Moriarty

*The Grey Wolf* (Playaway), Louise Penny

*We Solve Murders* (Playaway), Richard Osman

*The Women* (Playaway), Kristin Hannah

*Tell Me Everything* (Playaway), Elizabeth Strout

*Tom Lake* (Playaway), Ann Patchett

*Brave Hearted* (Playaway), Katie Hickman

*How to Love a Forest* (Playaway), Jake Tapper

*The Off-Limits Rule* (Playaway), Sarah Adams

*Camino Ghosts* (Playaway), John Grisham

*Book and Dagger* (Playaway), Elyse Graham

## Children's Fiction

*The Millicent Quibb School of Etiquette for Young Ladies of Mad Science*, Kate McKinnon

*Rainbow Bear*, Bill Martin, Jr. & Michael Sampson

*Dogman: Big Jim Begins*, Dav Pilkey

*Alice in a Winter Wonderland*, Jan Brett

*Lone Wolf Gets a Pet*, Kiah Thomas

## Children's Audio Books

*The Ghost Rules* (Playaway), Adam Rosenbaum

*Dungeon Academy: Clubhouse Chaos* (Playaway), Diane Walker

*Answers to Dog* (Playaway), Pete Hautman

*Stinetinglers 2* (Playaway), R.L. Stine

*Invisible* (Playaway), Christina Diaz Gonzalez

*Impossible Creatures* (Playaway), Katherine Rundell

*The Lost Library* (Playaway), Rebecca Stead & Wendy Mass

*Stuff Kids Should Know* (Playaway), Josh Clark & Chuck Bryant

*Faker* (Playaway), Gordon Korman

*Ms. Greene is Mean* (Playaway), Dan Gut-

man

## Movies

*House of the Dragon*, Second Season

*Succession*, Complete Series

*You Gotta Believe*

*Beetlejuice Beetlejuice*

*The Wild Robot*

*Conclave*

*Joker: Folie a Deux*

*Severance*, Season One

## Upcoming Events:

Saturday, January 18 from 3:00 - 4:30 pm Silent Wings will bring live owls, hawks, a raven and other raptors to the library. Silent Wings is the outreach program of the Wildlife Institute of Eastern NY. Adults, children, families and individuals are all welcome to come to this educational and fun program and learn about some of the birds who live in our backyards. Registration is strongly suggested. Walk-ins may not be able to be accommodated if the program is full.

Wednesday, January 22 at noon there will be a Senior Potluck Lunch. This gathering encourages seniors to bring a dish to share, a story to tell, and join together in good company!

Lastly, Wednesday, January 29 **Kelsey Southerland** (a Food for Life Nutritionist) will be speaking at Bancroft Library about foods that can keep us healthy during the flu and cold season. This class is part one of a Winter Nutrition Series; parts two and three will be in February (Comfort Food Community will teach about fun and healthy kids snacks) and March (Shannon Woodcock, Functional Nutrition Therapist).

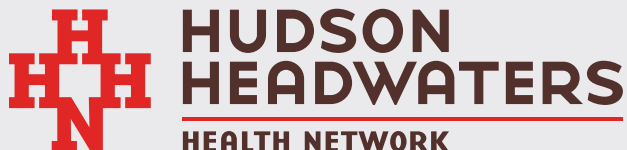
*For more information on any of these programs, please visit the library website [www.bancroftlibrary.org](http://www.bancroftlibrary.org) or call 518-854-7463.*

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# Washington's birthday breakfast

Journey back to the early American era at Ashlar Lodge #584's special Washington's Birthday Breakfast on Sunday, February 2, 2025, from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Greenwich Masonic Temple, 2543 NY-40. This unique event combines historical commemoration, colonial cuisine, and a special presentation about Lafayette's historic 1825 tour of New York.

Historian Sean Kelleher, Vice Chairman of the Saratoga 250 Commission and Saratoga Town Historian, will present at 9:30 a.m. on Lafayette's pivotal role in the American Revolution and his special relationship with George Washington. Drawing from five decades of experience as an American Revolution reenactor, Kelleher brings the past to life with compelling insights into this crucial period of American history.

The breakfast's colonial-inspired menu offers a taste of early America. For a suggested donation of \$12 for adults and \$6 for veterans and children under 12, guests can enjoy:

- Colonial-style waffles with deep pockets, served with "Lafayette's Favorite Apple Cider Syrup"
- Made-to-order farm-fresh eggs from Thomas Poultry Farm
- Ruts Ridge sausage patties
- Extra crispy bacon, dubbed "Washington's Choice"
- Rosemary home fries inspired by early American gardens
- Revolutionary Hot Chocolate Bar with spiced marshmallows and cinnamon sticks

In 1824-25, the Marquis de Lafayette embarked on his farewell tour of America, a triumphant journey that celebrated the nation he helped create. During his tour of New York, communities gathered to honor

the last surviving general of the American Revolution. Lafayette's visit represented more than just a celebration - it was a testament to the enduring bonds between France and America, and a reminder of the principles that forged the nation. His tour through New York state drew thousands of admirers and helped crystallize Americans' understanding of their revolutionary heritage.

"Our Washington's Birthday Breakfast not only honors our first president but celebrates the remarkable friendship between Washington and Lafayette that helped shape our nation," said Harry Booth, Master of Ashlar Lodge. "We're especially honored to welcome Sean Kelleher, whose expertise brings this fascinating period of history to life for our community."

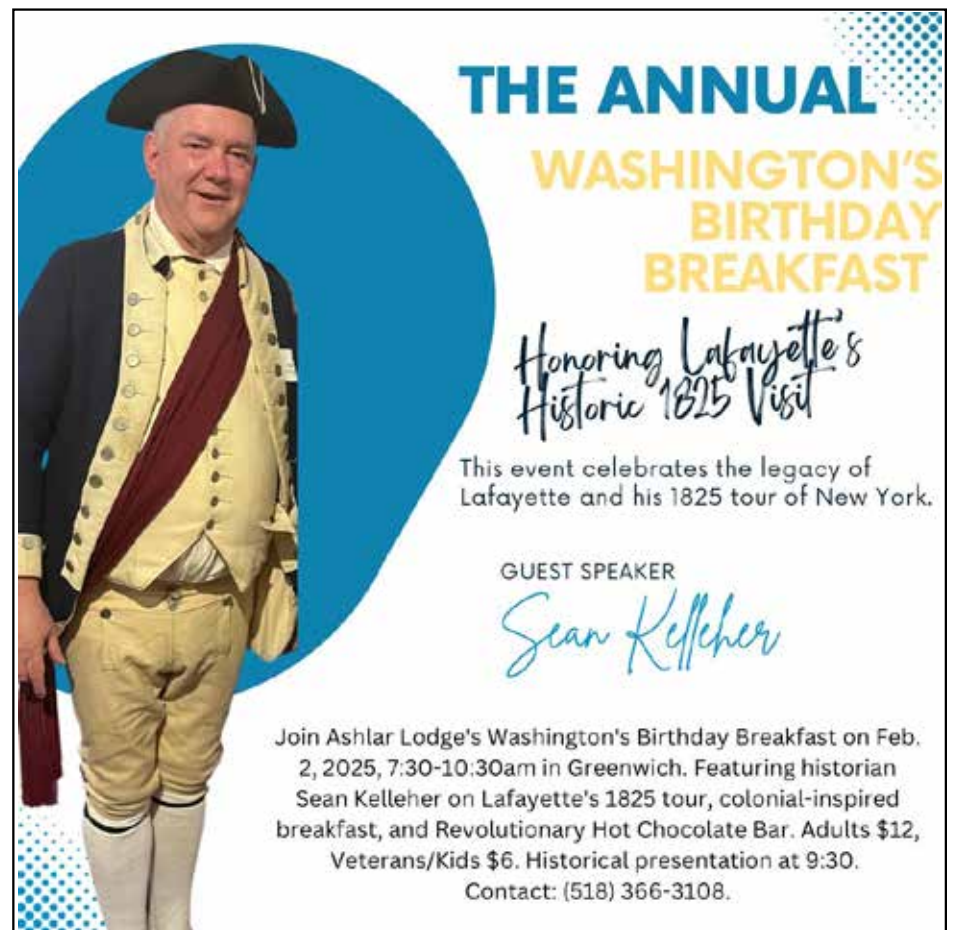
The event includes family-friendly activities, featuring an American Revolution-themed coloring station where children can participate in a contest to win a free family breakfast in 2025. The venue is handicap accessible with ample parking, and take-out options are available for those on the go.

All proceeds from the breakfast support Ashlar Lodge's ongoing

charitable projects in the Greenwich community. For updates and additional information, follow Ashlar Lodge on Facebook or contact Brian Nilsen at (518) 366-3108.

Ashlar Lodge #584 continues its tradition of combining community service, historical appreciation, and family entertainment through events that celebrate our shared American heritage.

Ashlar Lodge #584: Located in Greenwich, NY, Ashlar Lodge #584 has been serving the community for nearly 200 years through charitable works and community events. The lodge maintains a commitment to preserving historical awareness while supporting local causes.



**THE ANNUAL**  
**WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST**

*Honoring Lafayette's Historic 1825 Visit*

This event celebrates the legacy of Lafayette and his 1825 tour of New York.

GUEST SPEAKER  
*Sean Kelleher*

Join Ashlar Lodge's Washington's Birthday Breakfast on Feb. 2, 2025, 7:30-10:30am in Greenwich. Featuring historian Sean Kelleher on Lafayette's 1825 tour, colonial-inspired breakfast, and Revolutionary Hot Chocolate Bar. Adults \$12, Veterans/Kids \$6. Historical presentation at 9:30. Contact: (518) 366-3108.

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# Mackenzie Spencer: Talkin' About My Generation

**Adam Harrison Levy**  
*Journal & Press*

**Adam:** *Where are we driving?*

**Mackenzie Spencer:** We're driving on Rt 22 just outside Salem and this is my favorite view. My Dad loved this view with the mountains of Vermont and the silo and the sky.

**Adam:** *Why did it mean so much to him?*

**Mackenzie:** Probably because Salem was the place that he settled down the longest with me and my brother and then my Mom. I see the sunset when I come home from work and it reminds me that I'm going home, it's very symbolic.

**Adam:** *What does home mean to you?*

**Mackenzie:** Home has never been a place for me. It has always been the people that I love. I learned that from a young age because I moved around a lot but I always had the same people around me. Home is more of a feeling. That's a cliché thing to say, but it's true.

**Adam:** *Salem has been your home since you've been...*

**Mackenzie:** Five. I love Salem, but also I've traveled a lot recently, doing photography, enjoying live music, and going out to see concerts and see the world. And part of me is getting pulled from my tiny town to see more.

**Adam:** *Does that put you at odds with your friends? Are you breaking the rules by wanting to get out?*

**Mackenzie:** I learned the rules so that I know how to break them! My friend Sophia, moved away with her partner, Curtis, to Alaska in May, and that was kind of the jump start for me, learning that I also have autonomy in my life. She knew that I would miss her if she left, but she ultimately de-

ecided to go. I learned that I was allowed to make decisions like that for myself. I still talk to her almost every day. We stay connected like nothing changed, it's just that she's not physically here. Our friendship is magical, she's the one person who completely sees and understands me and accepts everything about me, and that's just so important.

**Adam:** *What road are we on now?*

**Mackenzie:** This is Black Creek Road.

**Adam:** *Is this road special to you?*

**Mackenzie:** This is the road that I would drive during the summertime when it was nice out and I wanted to just put miles on my car and listen to music. It was soothing. If ever I'm stressed give me an hour in my car listening to music and I'm good especially when there's wind in my face. I roll my window down all the way and sing songs and drive, just drive.

**Adam:** *What is calming about being in a car and listening to music?*

**Mackenzie:** I like listening to music because it distracts me, it gives me one thing to focus on, versus all of the thoughts in my brain, which are like a staticky sort of noise. I can clock out and just sing a song. I'm a person who, if something happens, wants to completely remove myself from the situation, process it, and then go back to it and handle it,

**Adam:** *So you need your space?*

**Mackenzie:** I like being alone. I like listening to the same song seven times in a row. This is something that my Dad did when I was young. He just enjoyed listening to music in his truck. He would sit in the parking lot of our apartment building, and he would listen to music and I would go out there sometimes and sing with him.

**Adam:** *Is driving a source of inspiration*



*for you?*

**Mackenzie:** A lot of people have their thoughts in the shower. I have my thoughts while I'm driving. I'll have this little notebook, and I'll have a pen next to me. It takes everything in my power not to start driving with my knees while I write my ideas down.

**Adam:** *What was it like to be a kid in Salem?*

**Mackenzie:** I struggled to make friends, and then I lost my Dad, and then there were the catty high school girls. I was figuring myself out so I just kind of floated.

I wasn't honest with myself about the things that I enjoyed because not everyone else enjoyed them. I've never been born to do things in a traditional way. I typically do things the hard way. I've been told that the way my brain works is different.

**Adam:** *So you've learned to do things your way, even if it's the hard way?*

**Mackenzie:** I'm a hyper-independent

**Please read more on the next page**



# RIDE ALONG

## (cont.)

person. I would rather do everything myself than ask somebody for help. My Mom is the same way. So I learned from her that I can do anything I need to do myself. I moved my entire apartment by myself - I have muscles! I want to have just what I want. The only way you can do that is to earn money. It's simple. I'm gonna get it now instead of waiting for somebody to hand me money, wait for a birthday like other kids would, or just ask their parents relentlessly.

**Adam:** *When did you find your independence and start working?*

**Mackenzie:** My first job was at Stewarts in 2020 and I was able to support myself through college. I learned to multi-task, scooping ice cream while ringing someone out while at the same time, my neighbor is asking how my day is going and the pizza oven is beeping. I felt my most connected to the town when I worked there because everyone came in, it was a hub.

**Adam:** *Did Salem prepare you for life?*

**Mackenzie:** It depends on how you feel about life and what you want out of life. I'm not gonna lie. I have resentment against this town but also appreciation for it.

**Adam:** *Why resentment?*

**Mackenzie:** It's the lack of opportunity. If you want to try something that is not already here, it's wrong. Nobody seems to be open to suggestions. It feels like if you're trying new things or exploring, this town is very much the "Oh, so you left and went to college, and now you know all this stuff about the world?" It feels like there's a box around



Salem.

**Adam:** *Why appreciation?*

**Mackenzie:** We're definitely on an upswing - the theater is growing and Salem Art Works, they're doing a lot. And we have Jackos and On A Limb, which is phenomenal - Michelle really knows how to make a cinnamon roll!

**Adam:** *So what's the problem?*

**Mackenzie:** I want people to be more open to change because that's all we have and if it doesn't work, then it doesn't work. But where we're at right now is not working for everybody either. If you want this town to continue to flourish, everybody has to be amicable.

**Adam:** *What are some of the pressures on your generation?*

**Mackenzie:** The first thing that my generation dealt with was 9/11. That immediately changed the world. And then we had the housing market issue. And then the wars that we were facing. There was always something life-changing and historical happening to us and then there was the 2020 election and Covid. And nobody wanted to explain anything to us, and we got this generic education. And then we're just thrown into the world and expected to figure it out.

**Adam:** *So you're frustrated?*

**Mackenzie:** I just think that there's desensitization. I've seen the footage of Gaza and they were showing us dead bodies of 9/11 in High School. You want us to care about things, but you're not doing anything to change what's happening. Does that make sense?

**Adam:** *It sounds like what you're saying is that your generation is overwhelmed by all these historical events but you weren't given the tools to process them?*

**Mackenzie:** Right. And

then we're blamed for not having a toolbox. But it's like, nobody brought us to Home Depot to show us the toolbox to get through life! So now we're just figuring it out. I think the state of the world is against people of my age right now. And some of us took advantage of the easiness of technology and we learned not to have a work ethic.

**Adam:** *So you think technology is a way for your generation to compensate for these overwhelming historical events?*

**Mackenzie:** It's a way for people to escape their real life. So like, when it comes to dating, you have online dating apps - people are seeking love through their phones! That's just abnormal. That's just odd. We should be devoid of media. I think we should bring physical media back. We're doing this interview for a newspaper. I think newspapers need to come back.

**Adam:** *That's good to hear!*

**Mackenzie:** Ownership has gone down in this generation - we just don't own anything. Everything is a streaming service or a subscription service. Everything is fleeting and not permanent.

**Adam:** *Are you going to stay in Salem?*

**Mackenzie:** Forever? Probably not, I want to get out again for a little while, reassure myself that I'm an adult, can do the things that I think I can do, and then come back.

**Adam:** *You seem a little unusual.*

**Mackenzie:** I've been told. Do I chalk this up to my life experiences, or is this something that I was born with? My Mom would say I was naturally born with it. She used to call me a little Tasmanian devil because I had so much energy she couldn't even keep me down for a hug.

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



# Chicken parm dinner

The Cambridge Food Pantry will resume their monthly dinners with the start of this New Year beginning on Saturday, January 25 from 4:30 to 6:30pm. Dinners will be served at 59 South Park St., Route 22 South in Cambridge, which is located directly across from the school bus garage. Everyone is welcome.

The January 25 menu will be chicken parmesan, penne pasta, fresh salad and delicious homemade desserts, all for only \$17 per person.

All Cambridge Food Pantry meal food is made fresh. Diners may eat-in or take their food home to enjoy. The proceeds will be put to good use in helping many people through the Cambridge Food Pantry's community outreach. Call 518-677-7152 for more information.



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# 250th tidbits sought

Amy Hoffer of the Washington County 250th Committee, is developing a calendar to promote the people, places, and things of Washington County through fun and interesting facts and historical dates (not limited to the Revolutionary War). The calendar will also promote 250th events and heritage tourism.

Proceeds from the sale of the calendars will benefit the Washington County 250th Committee and help fund upcoming 250th events.

They are reaching out to Washington County residents, former residents, and residents of other nearby counties and Vermont who may have old photos or possibly important dates from long ago that could be included on the calendar.



The photos can be with or without people.

If you have any questions or if you have any photos or information to share, please contact Amy Hoffer at [ahoffer@washingtoncountyny.gov](mailto:ahoffer@washingtoncountyny.gov) or call her at 518/746-2287 before February 28, 2025.

## Local Catholic churches

Mass at Holy Cross Catholic Church on Sunday is held at 8:15 AM; at St. Patrick's at 11:30 AM, and at Immaculate Conception in Hoosick Falls on Saturday at 4 PM and Sunday at 10 AM. Weekday Masses are at 9 AM at Holy Cross on Tuesday, at St. Patrick's on Wednesday, and Immaculate Conception on Monday.

Women of the Old Testament: Part Two, will explore stories of women such as Judith and Esther, whose gifts broke stereotypes and continues to reveal God to us. Four Lessons begin February 3: Mondays 10 - 11:30AM at Immaculate Conception; and at 6:30 PM at St. Patrick's. All sessions are available on zoom. Please see the website for more information. It is also available on zoom. Mary Rosmus is guest director.

Additional information including special resources, donating electronically, and the bulletin can be found on the website [battenkillcatholic.org](http://battenkillcatholic.org).

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#SHOPLOCAL



# Bill Throop on climate change

As part of Battenkill Conservancy's Annual Meeting and Speaker Series, William (Bill) Throop, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Environmental Studies, Green Mountain College, will discuss his new book, "Flourishing in the Age of Climate Change" and relate its lessons to everyday conservation practices for the Battenkill watershed. The talk will take place in the Hedbring Room of the Greenwich Free Library on Sunday, Feb 2nd at 2:00 PM and is open to the public.

As an author, philosopher, and life-long environmentalist, Bill Throop believes that by strengthening

skillful habits we can flourish despite the challenges of climate change. For society to approach sustainability, these skills are seen as crucial. Best practices in watershed

conservation that focus on collaborative, humility, and frugality skills can enhance our own resilience while helping to restore critical ecosystems. Bill's philosophy offers a hopeful and engaging blueprint where collaboration and education ensures a healthy environment for all. The talk is an opportunity to hear from a passionate educator offering practical advice.

Bill Throop served as Green Mountain College's provost for 12 years and was active nationally in promoting sustainability education, serving on the board of directors of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for six years, and as chair for two years. Bill has published widely in professional journals and edited the first book on philosophical issues in ecological restoration. He



now spends much of his time working on the family farm in Hebron, NY, where his sheep, chickens and vegetable gardens keep him firmly rooted in the land. He is an avid hiker and cross-country skier, and has been canoeing on the Battenkill for decades.

## The history of the Adirondack vacation

The Saratoga County History Center (SCHC) at Brookside Museum announces a virtual presentation by Connor Williams on "Greetings from the Great Camps: The History of the Adirondack Vacation." This will be the 26th presentation in the Center's popular speaker series "Experts Next Door" and will take place at 7pm on Thursday, January 23rd through Zoom.

In 1850, the Adirondack region was a blank spot on the map, largely unorganized and uncharted. But, by 1900, the

Adirondacks hosted elaborate summer estates for the wealthiest families in America: Vanderbilts, Rockefellers, Carnegies, Whitneys and Morgans. Thomas Edison and Albert Einstein summered and sailed on the same mountain lake. Adirondacks were a destination. How did this happen, and why?

Join Dr. Connor Williams, scholar, teacher and the historian at Great Camp Sagamore (where he directs their history programming) as he answers these ques-

tions, and discusses how environmentalism, opulence, industry, inequality, architecture and nature all intersected to produce the Adirondack Park (and the Adirondack vacations) we still connect to today.

The event is open to the public. It is free for SCHC members, and \$5 for non-members. Pre-registration is required through the website [www.brooksidemuseum.org](http://www.brooksidemuseum.org).

## Junior firefighters wanted in Greenwich

The Greenwich Fire Department is hosting a recruitment event for the Junior Firefighter program. The event will be held on Monday, January 20, from 6:00 pm to 8:00pm.

The minimum age to participate in the program is 14 years of age. The Junior FF Program is designed to give participants an opportunity to learn about Fire, Rescue and EMS calls that GFD responds to. Junior

FF will have hands-on training and participate in classroom training and team bonding events. Benefits for Junior Firefighters are scholarship money, helping in the community and learning to work in an organization as being part of a team. Pizza and refreshments will be provided.

Contact Faith Alheim at 518-222-9553 for additional information.



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# *Buteo and accipiter artifacts*

**Bob Henke**  
*Journal & Press*

I am writing this on the day when, in 1773, the first public museum was opened in Charleston, South Carolina. However, they did not let the “public” through the doors until 1824 after all the folks felt to be most likely to be intellectually stimulated by the collections had been accommodated. This led to great debate and nasty editorials in the newspapers when the Peale Museum opened its doors in 1786 in Philadelphia—to anyone regardless of gender, class, or profession. Of course, there was a dress code—something we should emulate nowadays, in my opinion.

Collecting artifacts seems to have been a characteristic of all human societies. However, when you are a mobile hunter/gatherer unit, it is more difficult to collect items to remind us of people, places, or things. It is thought that the concept of jewelry developed from stringing a talisman on a piece of cord to wear around the neck, wrist, or ankle in order to carry it effectively on the continual treks of the time. Archaeologists despair because often these items are totally perishable—things like claws, strips of hide, odd-colored pelts, and the like, or else they are things that would be unrecognizable as artifacts—a colored rock from a particular location for example.

One usually perishable item, which has been preserved from as far back as Neanderthal times, is feathers. Some were included in both our early museums. Feathers, it turns out, were often included in graves, hence were to a degree protected from weathering and bacteria. Some of these were things like goose and eider down, used to essentially make a soft “feather bed” under the dear departed. Even the tough as nails Vikings, put their warriors to rest in longboat coffins, on deep beds of eider down. And yes, these were often buried, not set fire and floated out

to sea like the movies depict. This latter would more often result in bodies washing back to the shore then disappearing forever into the depths.

The intimacy with nature and value placed on certain behaviors has made some of these grave inclusions very valuable in determining the status and social position of the departed. Quite often raptor (hawks and owls) feathers were included. In some societies, the raptors specializing in taking birds on the wing were associated with the warrior class, both male and female. The usually larger, ambush hunters that swoop down on rodents and the like were generally considered more aloof and regal, often chosen to adorn social leaders both before and after death.

This sort of attention to detail and behavior would greatly simplify what is often a mystifying process of identifying the various hawks and owls. I get more identification questions on hawks than any other type of wildlife. I got a typical one in an email last week. It was a rather blurry picture of a hawk saying, “What is this?”

In this area, the first level of identification is size. If it is really big, we have two types of eagles, both look huge, especially when flying and both have a sort of nondescript juvenile phase. Bald eagles with their distinctive stark white head and tail are easy. Golden eagles are a uniform golden brown and sometimes appear even larger than bald eagles in flight. In both species, sexual maturity comes around their fifth year along with their adult coloration. Younger birds of both species are a mottled brown and tan color, the feathers look a bit scruffy, and the bird itself may be somewhat larger than its parents in the first year (because of the excellent nutrition they provide.) The way to tell the difference in the juveniles has to do with their namesake. Our national bird is “bald” because it has no feathers on its lower legs. This facilitates snatching fish out of the water. The golden eagle is

feathered all the way to its feet.

There are a few size categories after that so it is helpful to first make a different distinction—the same one the ancient Neanderthals as well as the Vikings as well as indigenous people throughout this hemisphere did. It is a lifestyle difference and is best determined by looking at the bird’s tail. Grave goods as well as costume decorations most often focused on tail feathers for the same reason.

Look at the tail, especially in flight. If the feathers are relatively short and spread in a fan shape, the bird is a *buteo*. They are typified by relatively straight broad wings, used for the soaring usually associated with the class or just as typically, rapid acceleration down from a hunting perch to nab a hapless rodent scuttling in the grass. If you see a large *buteo*, and can tell nothing else about it, guess it is a redtail hawk. You will be right in nearly 90% of the cases anywhere in North America and much of South America. In the Washington County area, during the winter months, you may occasionally be looking at a rough-legged hawk. They are similar in size to the redtail but lack the vivid mahogany tail color of the redtail. Mistaking it for a juvenile redtail would be possible as they do not develop the tail color until they are over a year old but there is another good marker. Like the golden eagle, rough-legged hawks are feathered all the way down their shanks to the feet. Redtails are not.

An interesting fact about rough-legged hawks is that, during their breeding season in the arctic, their preferred food is lemmings; they may capture as many as a dozen a day to feed their broods. They are so successful because they can see the fresh lemming urine, which is visible only in the ultraviolet spectrum. Like many other mice and rats, lemmings continuously dribble urine as they travel their trails, not only to mark territory but to

**Please read more on the next page**

# OUTDOORS TOMORROW

## (cont.)

help them find their way back to their burrow after foraging. The hawk has only to follow the fresh trail to find the obliviously dribbling little rodent.

The next size buteo is much smaller and does not have a distinctive red tail. More of a woodland bird, it is descriptively called the broad-winged hawk. They are very common but far less frequently seen as the field hunters.

The other type of tail pattern you may find on your hawk is very long, straight, and rectangular-looking. The function of this sort of tail is to be an exceptionally powerful rudder. This sort of hawk is called an accipiter. These are the fighter pilots of the hawk world making a living based on their maneuverability.

There are some larger accipiters. We may see goshawks and marsh hawks, but the ones we are most apt to encounter

are the hawks that plague our bird feeders. These medium-sized hawks, roughly pigeon-sized, whose pattern is to pick out a victim and pursue it through whatever twists and evasive maneuvers it may make, ultimately snatching it out of the air in mid-flight. This was the category where the pictured hawk fell.

There are two possible candidates for a mid-sized accipiter with a banded tail, hanging around a birdfeeder in Hampton: the sharp-shinned hawk and the Cooper's hawk. In flight, these birds look identical and, although the sharpie is generally smaller, a female sharp-shinned may be every bit as large as a male Cooper's. Many ornithologists do not even recognize them as separate species. However, if the bird is sitting still, as the Hampton blue jay slayer was, there is a subtle difference. Cooper's have a larger blocky-looking head versus the sharpie's more rounded dome. Even better, however, is that fighter jet tail. Cooper's tails are quite rounded on the end whereas the sharp-shin's

tail looks squared off as if chopped with scissors. Either one will make a nuisance of itself at a bird feeder and will stay until the population of songbirds is virtually nil before moving to another area. The best solution is, if you see a bird hawk or the tell-tale piles of feathers, just let the feeders remain empty for a week or so. The lack of a concentrated number of birds will send the hawk looking for greener pastures.

When summer comes, we can talk about a couple other species of little accipiters, one of which was featured in the Peale Museum...

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



## FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Washington County Department of Social Services is looking for families who are willing to provide a home for a child. Whether you can only devote a weekend a month to a child or care for a child until they can be reunified family, we still need your help.

We help families navigate the training and homestudy process. It does not cost you anything to learn more. Please reach out to us with questions at (518)746-2284 or scan our QR code to follow us on Facebook.



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# The Mandate

Lance Allen Wang  
*Journal & Press*

The incoming Trump administration's spokespersons have been happily crowing about a "mandate" they've received from the American people to pursue their agenda. Far be it from me to rain on anyone's parade, but there is a problem – there is no definition of what a political mandate entails in this country, except in the broadest possible sense.

The American Presidency Project at UC Santa Barbara defines two very ambiguous terms that we hear thrown about in the aftermath of an election:

"A common view is that a president's 'popular mandate,' as measured by the size of his margins of victory in the popular and electoral vote, predicts the likelihood of him launching enduring changes in policy and politics... 'Landslide' elections are typically marked by very large popular vote majorities as well as complete, or near-complete, victory in all states."

By the standard of the Presidency Project, the new administration does not have a mandate nor did they achieve a landslide, although they have an undeniable victory. As victories go, this was a less than average one.

According to the Council on Foreign Relations, Trump's 1.5 percent margin of victory over Harris was "the fifth smallest of the thirty-two presidential races held since 1900." So as with any of his hyperbole, we should take Trump's claims of "a political victory that our country has never seen before, nothing like this..." with all due grains of salt.

We saw during last month's budget negotiations that the new President will have his hands full keeping a still clearly factionalized GOP on point.

But we can all pretty safely say that the claims of a mandate were written long before the election took place. Steve Bannon, sometimes known as "Trump's Brain,"

(and who briefly wore the moniker "Sloppy Steve" when he was on the very public outs with his boss in 2018), was the same man who urged Trump to simply claim victory in 2020 regardless of the vote count – and the then-President did. Now out of prison after serving a sentence for contempt of Congress, Bannon is continuing to provide advice to the incoming President.

However, Bannon also has been continuing to whip up the base as well. With his recycled John Birch Society talking points that are a staple of the far-right, he continues to promote a no-compromise approach to politics, which ironically is the opposite of conservatism's founding philosophical premise that compromises are necessary as disagreements among competing factions are inevitable.

At the recent event called "AmericaFest" sponsored by the Christian nationalist-leaning political organization Turning Point USA, Bannon was telling attendees that the far right needs to go beyond partisanship - "We need hyper-partisanship now!" he railed. In case listeners weren't getting the point, he made clear that "The political class is infected with a malignant cancer. That cancer is bipartisanship, right?"

At the event, Mr. Bannon attempted to whip up the crowd against Mike Johnson becoming House Speaker. He was very upset that Johnson compromised and negotiated to get the budget passed before a government shutdown.

"It's not just the Democrats that are our foes," complained Donald Trump Jr. to the crowd, "It's a vast majority of the Republicans." He was upset because 38 Republicans voted against a government spending bill that his father was backing.



Steve Bannon being taken into custody

In the end, Mr. Bannon went 0-for-2 – the budget bill passed, and Mike Johnson starts the year as a re-elected Speaker of the House. But don't think for a minute that this leaves Bannon down and out. He still has the President's ear, he is still a popular internet-based influencer for the far-right, and like Mr. Trump, he came back from the political dead – in Bannon's case with an orange jumpsuit to show for his troubles.

What does it all mean? It means that the Republicans are going to be challenged to do anything with their House and Senate majorities unless the one-way street of loyalty to Trump is widened for two-way traffic. The majorities in both cases are slim – again, the landslide was a misdiagnosis. Trump may not get blind obedience from more than the usual suspects. Instead, he will need to wield political carrots and sticks and find a way to help Republicans who are not from dark red districts. The first time around, he was not given to finesse or compromise, despite his claims of being a great dealmaker. The biggest deal he needs to make this time around may be with his own party. Because as a lame duck who will eventually be our oldest President, he no longer has the longest stick – the one that says, "You better support me, because I'm going to be here a while."

**Please read more on the next page**



# Sean Rowe kicks off Writers Project

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUNY Adirondack's Writers Project series continues with the following events, each held at 12:40 p.m. in the Visual Arts Gallery:

- Monday, Feb. 24: Memoirist, audio book narrator and actor Marni Penning;
- Monday, March 17: Poet David Graham;
- Monday, April 7: Fantasy novelist Philip Chase;
- Monday, April 28: Author and journalist Megan Mayhew-Bergman;
- Wednesday, April 30: SUNY Adirondack Creative Writing majors will



read from their works.

All Writers Project events are free and open to the public. They are also aired live via Zoom and can be watched at [us06web.zoom.us/my/mccoyoffice](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9123456789).

## ON THE SQUARE

### (cont.)

While all of this is going on, Steve Bannon remains the strategic lodestar for the incoming administration. Possibly his most visible influence is in his strategy of "flooding the zone."

In 2018, he told writer Michael Lewis, "The Democrats don't matter. The real opposition is the media. And the way to deal with them is to flood the zone with s\*\*t." Bannon believes in providing the media with a target-rich environment of both true and untrue stories. If there's something you want them to focus on, just make it extra outrageous and they're programmed to chase it. If the enemy is a "watchdog

media" then give them more than they can possibly watch. In the meantime – what are they NOT watching?

Nominating someone as patently unqualified as Matt Gaetz for Attorney General was "flooding the zone." That took all of the journalistic oxygen away from other nominations who may have been equally unqualified. Imperial designs on Greenland and Panama right out of the 19th century? That's "flooding the zone." It may be news in its outrageousness, but it's not likely to happen. What else is perhaps a little less outrageous that we're not seeing? Something a little more likely to happen?

Of course, all of this is meaningless in the sense that it is still an "incoming administration." No plan, as the old military ad-

age goes, survives first contact with the enemy, or in this case, reality. The success of the incoming administration may have a lot less to do with the President-elect's desires, and much more to do with the effectiveness of Bannon's strategies and how well the President-elect can negotiate the mid-term elections and strengthen his ability to push through legislation as an aging lame duck.

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



# Amy Godine to visit DAR

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

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

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



**The Journal & Press is on Substack!**

## NEW MEMBERS NEEDED!

### GREENWICH FIRE DEPT.

#### Junior Firefighter Program

Our Junior Firefighter program gives youth opportunity to learn about Fire, Rescue, and EMS calls that the fire department responds to. It also prepares the youth to become a firefighter in the future. Jr. Firefighters participate in classroom and hands-on training, community events, and team bonding activities.

#### Details

- Come fill out an application
- See the trucks
- Meet the members
- Firefighter Games
- Minors bring a Guardian
- Minimum age of 14

#### Benefits

- Helping the community
- Meeting new friends
- Learning responsibility
- Scholarship money
- Commitment

**Open Invite January 20th 6-8pm**

Pizza and refreshments will be provided

# Fort Salem Theater's 'Macbethany' team

Fort Salem Theater announced the cast and creative team for the world premiere production of "Macbethany," written and directed by David Dubov-Flinn. This gripping new drama will debut March 7-9, 2025, in the theater's intimate Cabaret Room, offering audiences an up-close and personal experience with this powerful work.

"Macbethany" stars real-life couple Tanya Gorlow and Kerry Kazmierowicztrim, two accomplished performers making their Fort Salem Theater debuts, and bringing their dynamic talents to this highly anticipated production.

Tanya Gorlow was recently named Executive Director at the Sand Lake Center for the Arts, and has earned acclaim for her transformative performances in roles such

as Hamlet, Beatrice in "Much Ado About Nothing," and dual portrayals of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. She was recently nominated for Best Performer in a Play by the BroadwayWorld Central New York Awards.

Kerry Kazmierowicztrim is a celebrated actor and writer who joins the production following a successful run in "13 Suits: A Mother's Monologues" at Chicago's Raven Theatre. As a writer, they boast an impressive resume with over 700 productions staged worldwide and numerous awards for their creative work, including their ongoing hit musical "Chasing the Sky," which has been running in Poland for two years.

"Macbethany" delves into the complexities of love, trust, and betrayal, exploring the volatile dynamics of a couple navigating secrets and emotional warfare in their secluded summer home. As confessions unfold and power dynamics shift, audiences will be captivated by this electrifying exploration of intimacy and deception.

"We are absolutely thrilled to present the world premiere of David Dubov-Flinn's dynamic and thought-provoking new work in our Cabaret Room," said Kyle West, Fort Salem Theater's Executive and Artistic Director. "The intimacy of the space enhances the tension and immediacy of the story, making it an unforgettable theatrical experience that I know our audiences will love."

Writer and director David Dubov-

Flinn brings over 40 years of experience to the production, having worked extensively as an actor, playwright, and director in the U.S. and abroad. His recent performances include standout roles at Fort Salem Theater as the Stage Manager in "Our Town" and Bottom in "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Dubov-Flinn currently serves as Co-Artistic Director at Bennington Theater and continues to contribute his talents to the vibrant theatrical communities of Vermont and New York.

*Tickets for "Macbethany" are available now. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.FortSalem.com](http://www.FortSalem.com) or call 518-854-*

*9200. Tickets are also on sale now for FST's 2025 season, which also includes "Music From Salem" (February 23), "Sweeney Todd" (April 25-May 4), "Kinky Boots" (June 20-July 6), "Tick, Tick... Boom!" (August 8-16), "Disney's Newsies Jr." (July 31-August 1), "The Rocky Horror Show" (October 24-November 1), "Romeo & Juliet" (November 20-23), and "Snow Business" (December 12-14).*



**Kerry  
Kazmierowicztrim**



**Tanya Gorlow**



**David Dubov-Flinn**



# Supporting local artists

Green Art Supply recently announced the opening of its retail store as a premier destination for artists and craft enthusiasts. Dedicated to sustainability and creativity, Green Art Supply offers an innovative way to explore and access art materials while supporting local artisans and the environment. After operating successfully online for one year, we are excited to announce the opening of our brick-and-mortar store, providing a physical space for the creative community and conveniently located at 97 Main St in Greenwich.

The New Store Offers:

- **New & Gently Used Art Materials:** Whether you're a professional artist or a hobbyist, our collection of high-quality, gently used, and new art supplies provides an affordable and sustainable way to stock your studio.

- **Local, Handcrafted Items:** Celebrate the creativity of local makers with a selection of unique, handcrafted items that bring art into everyday life.

- **Art & Craft Classes:** Unlock your creativity with engaging workshops led by experienced artists. From beginners to seasoned creators, there's something for everyone.

The Mission: Green Art Supply was founded with a vision to create a sustainable art community that values creativity, reduces waste, and supports local artisans. By promoting the reuse of materials and offering eco-friendly options, we aim to:

- Reduce waste by giving art materials a second life.
- Support the local art community.
- Offer affordable, high-quality supplies.



- Be part of a movement that combines creativity with sustainability.

“At Green Art Supply, we believe art has the power to change the world. By creating responsibly and fostering community, we can make a lasting impact,” said Chris Levy, founder of Green Art Supply.

For more information, visit [GreenArt-Supply.com](http://GreenArt-Supply.com) or sign up for our newsletter to stay updated on classes, events, and new arrivals.

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**Breanna L Lundy**  
CFP<sup>®</sup>, CEPA<sup>®</sup>  
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# Five words for the 2025 economy

**Jill Schlesinger**

*Tribune Content Agency  
Special to Journal & Press*

The year 2025 will be about change, as a new administration enacts policies that will ignite debate and conversations that could be confusing. To prepare, here's a cheat sheet of five terms that you are likely to hear.

### 1. Tariffs

A tariff is a tax or duty imposed on a particular class of imports or exports. The exporting country does not pay for the tariff; rather the company that imports the good is on the hook for the extra charge.

The importer may choose to absorb the extra cost, reducing its profit, or pass it along to consumers. The concern among economists is that a fresh round of tariffs could reignite the inflation rate, though most agree that we are not likely to see that frightening 9.1 percent post-COVID inflation rate as a result of new tariffs.

Those who favor tariffs see them as a bargaining chip in international negotiations; as a means to beef up tax revenue; and as a way to shield domestic producers from foreign competition.

They also note that there could be special carve-outs for some countries and products that might tamp down the overall impact

of tariffs. President-elect Donald Trump pledged that he would slap a 25% tariff on products coming into the U.S. from Mexico and Canada and an additional 10% tariff on Chinese products, though those percentages could change.

### 2. Immigration

Trump has promised to clamp down on immigration, potentially deporting some portion (perhaps up to 1 million) of the approximately 11 million undocumented population. There will also be an effort to clamp down on border crossings.

The total economic impact of these policies is difficult to gauge, because according to Capital Economics, "undocumented immigration is disinflationary, while deportations would likely be hugely disruptive for those sectors most reliant on undocumented workers, including agriculture, food processing and construction."

### 3. Taxes

The 2017 Tax Act and Jobs Act (TCJA), which took effect in January 2018, made corporate tax cuts permanent, but tax changes for individuals are set to sunset at the end of 2025.

The Trump Administration will seek to extend most of the provisions of the individual code, including: lower tax rates, a higher standard deduction amount, increased family tax credits, a cap on state and local tax deductions, repeal of the Alternative Minimum Tax, and an expansion of the estate tax exemption.

During the campaign, Trump suggested that there would be additional tax cuts, but there may not be an appetite for further reductions due to the impact on the nation's finances – more on that in the next section.



### 4 & 5. Deficit/debt ceiling

When Congress debates the extension of the TCJA, there will be an analysis of the impact on the nation's balance sheet — primarily whether the cuts increase the budget deficit.

A federal deficit is the amount of money the government spends (outlays) minus the amount of money it collects from taxes (revenue) each year.

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), in fiscal year 2024, the federal budget deficit totaled \$1.8 trillion — an increase of 8% from the shortfall recorded in the previous year. The cumulative amount of money the government has borrowed over time is the national debt, which currently stands at over \$36 trillion.


The debt ceiling is the legal limit on the total amount of federal debt the government can accrue. If the debt limit is reached, the government must raise it, suspend it, or risk defaulting on its legal obligation to pay its bills.

Increasing the debt ceiling IS NOT authorizing new spending — it is simply allowing lawmakers the ability to pay for the obligations it has already made.

*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](mailto:askjill@jillonmoney.com).*



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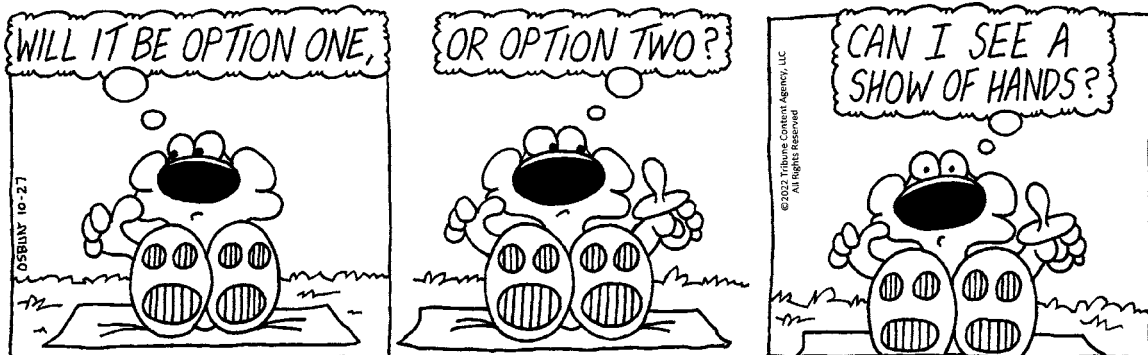
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# FUN & GAMES

## 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



## Word Play Answers Page 24

### JUMBLE

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

LE Y I D

R U Y H R

N A I U A G

E P Y N H H

### THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS WHEN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE GETTING JOBS GOES ---

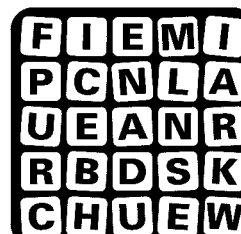
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

“ ” “ ”

(Answer tomorrow)

## 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**  
 3 letters = 1 point  
 4 letters = 2 points  
 5 letters = 3 points  
 6 letters = 4 points  
 7 letters = 5 points  
 8 letters = 10 points  
 8+ letters = 15 points

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

**Boggle BrainBusters Bonus**  
 We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?  
 Find AT LEAST EIGHT TWO-SYLLABLE COUNTRIES in the grid of letters.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Answers to Last Sunday's Boggle BrainBusters:  
 APE HARE MOLE HORSE WHALE MOUSE ANTELOPE

# FUN & GAMES

## More Word Play Answers Page 24

**SCRABBLE** G<sub>2</sub> R<sub>1</sub> A<sub>1</sub> M<sub>3</sub> S<sub>1</sub>

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A<sub>1</sub> A<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>4</sub> W<sub>4</sub> F<sub>4</sub> H<sub>4</sub> L<sub>1</sub> Double Word Score

RACK 1

E<sub>1</sub> E<sub>1</sub> O<sub>1</sub> G<sub>2</sub> N<sub>1</sub> Z<sub>10</sub> L<sub>1</sub>

RACK 2

A<sub>1</sub> A<sub>1</sub> I<sub>1</sub> C<sub>3</sub> L<sub>1</sub> L<sub>1</sub> G<sub>2</sub>

RACK 3

I<sub>1</sub> O<sub>1</sub> U<sub>1</sub> M<sub>3</sub> H<sub>4</sub> D<sub>2</sub> R<sub>1</sub> 1st Letter Triple

RACK 4

A<sub>1</sub> U<sub>1</sub> L<sub>1</sub> T<sub>1</sub> R<sub>1</sub> C<sub>3</sub> F<sub>4</sub>

RACK 5

PAR SCORE 270-280  
BEST SCORE 348

FIVE RACK TOTAL  
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

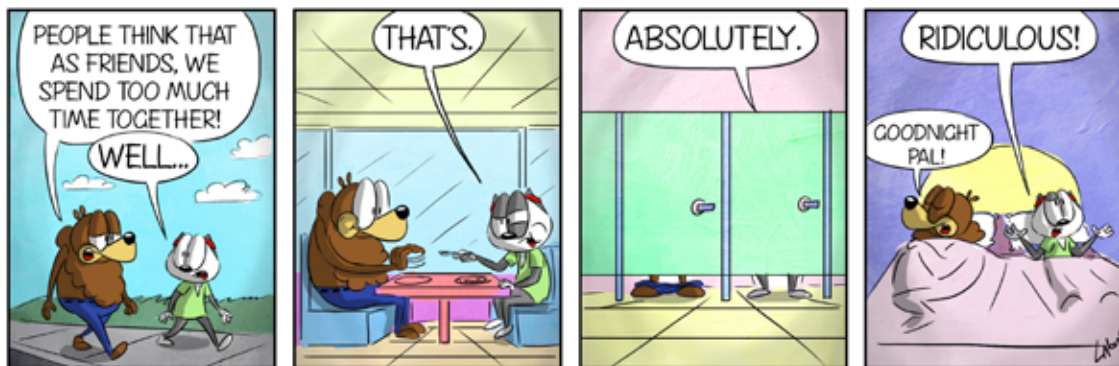
## Word Find By Frank J. D'Agostino

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

Candles	Dove	Honey
Candy	Dozen	Hugs
Card	Roses	Jewelry
Cherish	Emotion	Love
Chocolate	February	Movies
Cupid	Flowers	Music
Dance	Fond	Poem
Date	Fourteenth	Ribbon
Dear	Gifts	Sweetheart
Dinner	Girlfriend	Treats

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

## Filbert by LA Bonté

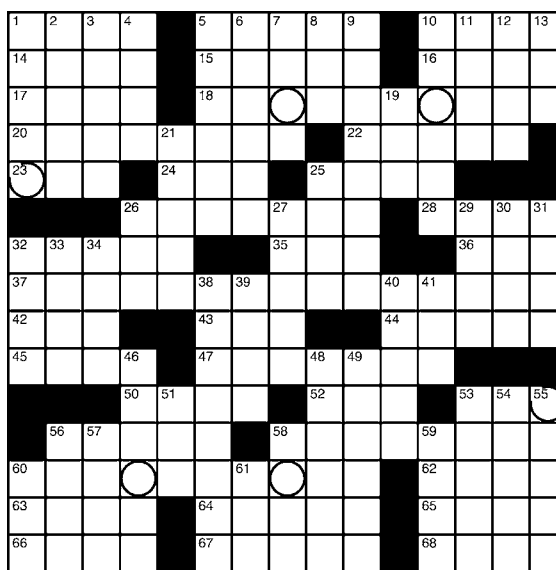


## Political Cartoon of the Week by Joel Pett



## Crossword

Across  
1 Stylish eatery word  
5 Irish icon, informally  
10 Many moons  
14 "Buenos días"  
15 Google  
16 Bit of thunder  
17 Roguish  
18 Uncomplicated  
20 Shower unit?  
22 Litmus red-densers  
23 T-shirt size: Abbr.  
24 Kyo : Ben Solo's chosen name  
25 Before thou know'st  
26 Unexpected blessing  
28 Places to get in shape  
32 Corp. shuffle  
35 Half of deus  
36 Small battery  
37 Places with guards, and what can be found six times in this puzzle  
42 Old tape type  
43 "Shine a Little Love" band, familiarly



44 Joplin's "Me and Bobby

45 "Hunny" bear  
47 Flub, as an easy grounder  
50 Kitchen initialism popularized by Rachael Ray  
52 West Coast NFL team, on scoreboards  
53 "How Great Thou \_\_\_"  
56 Plane area  
58 Big blow

7 Sous-chef's work  
8 NCR device  
9 Highest mountain range outside of Asia  
10 Not permanent  
11 Pleased  
12 Hearing things  
13 View

## 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.

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

60 "Literature in a hurry," per Matthew Arnold  
62 Layered mineral  
63 Gala  
64 Doctrine  
65 Egg on  
66 Don't have to assume  
67 Allen furniture  
68 Level-headed  
19 Sgt. or cpl. Khal \_\_\_ of "Game of Thrones"  
21 Dating profile word?  
25 Miracle-  
27 Continental capital  
29 "Fire Island" actor Bowen  
30 World of Warcraft class  
31 Enc. for a 32-Down  
32 Invitation letters  
33 Zoom meeting annoyance  
34 Extremely  
38 Beyoncé album and film of 2016  
39 Award named for a Muse  
40 Insincere flattery  
41 Less than friendly  
46 Dead Sea Scrolls language  
48 Red Cross supply  
49 Nonprofessional  
51 "The Voice of the Dodgers" hero  
54 Intel mission  
55 Swap  
56 Last name of both "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs" filmmakers  
57 Wheels  
58 Air conditioner setting  
59 Concert gear  
60 NYC hub  
61 Auction unit





# Enlightened anger management tips

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

**Q:** *I've taken anger management classes, and read anger books, and still impulsively say all the wrong things when I get mad. Do you have any tools you teach clients to deal with their anger better?*

**A:** Yes, first you need to separate out your emotions from your behavior. There are many ways to befriend your inner emotions. Then, there's one super tool to make sure your external reaction supports, rather than undermines, your goals.

As Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914), an American writer, humorously observed: "Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret." Many clients have proudly told me how they told someone off who really deserved a good verbal spanking. I pause, then ask them how this worked out. They pause, and then give me a long list of negative consequences.

So, the question never is does someone

deserve to be yelled at? The important question is do you deserve all the fall out, including losing your peace of mind, to do all that raging?

My theory is that when we put our own quality of life first, there's never a good reason to verbally spank others. There's a saying among my corporate consulting colleagues: "Always fear the person who is the calmest in the room." The accurate point is that he or she who is deadly calm is usually going to be the most effective and strategic.

Also, when we have verbal tantrums with others, our blood pressure skyrockets, our hearts race, and lots of cortisol (stress hormones) flood our bodies. Nothing about these internal reactions is good for us physically or emotionally.

Ironically, people who feel less shame about their anger and accept their anger, are way less likely to blow up. Anger, in itself, is just raw energy. Anger, like intense wind, can destroy its surroundings, or it can power wind mills. The wind in itself is not destructive.

When we use our anger to learn problem solving, interpersonal skills, and persistence, anger is our ally. When we blow up at anyone whom we believe is blocking our goals, we just create a disaster zone at work.

In addition, the calmest person in the room has full access to their neocortex (the part of the brain that creates solutions). Ranting people only have access to the midbrain (emotions) and the reptilian brain (survival). When we rant at others, we've only succeeded at becoming hysterical crocodiles and this doesn't lead to workplace success.

If you're mad, I get it, I'm a fan of the emotion. There's much good in my life that was created by first getting mad. However, I've spent 25 years in therapy learning to feel my anger internally and using the energy to create solutions. Yes, it can require impulse control to not

blame and rant when I'm frustrated.

I used to consider that when I transition into the next life, I'll complain about how few times I got to experience the satisfaction of yelling. However, I figure any higher power might chuckle and ask, "Yes, but who was the one that got to all those benefits eh Skube? I have to admit this is a fair point.

We can't have our external tantrums, and our effectiveness. We have to choose to worship at the temple of our offended ego, or worship at the temple of our peace of mind and results.

As you stride out into this next year of 2025, I want you to seriously consider making this the year you chose your own high-quality day over giving anyone you're mad at the power to cause you to lose your inner peace.

Your irritation at that person is temporary, and your ability to keep your serenity is permanent!

### The last word(s)

**Q:** *Is there one screening perspective I can use to evaluate potential employees? I keep getting people who are poor performers.*

**A:** Yes, hire for passion and people skills because you can teach the rest! Employees who love what they do will outperform individuals who can do the work, but have no enthusiasm for the job.

*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](http://www.interpersonaledge.com).*



## Promoted to Lt. Col.

Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general for the state of New York, announces the recent promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Mark Deyoe from Greenwich, N.Y., and assigned to the Headquarters and Support Company, 42nd Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, received a promotion December 11, 2024 to the rank of lieutenant colonel. For more information about the New York Army National Guard, visit [dmna.ny.gov](http://dmna.ny.gov) or [www.1800goguard.com](http://www.1800goguard.com).

# 'Twitchers' descend on region

**Bob Henke**  
*Journal & Press*

In England, birdwatchers are known as "twitchers." Watching a group of serious birders for a while will explain this moniker. Looking through their powerful scopes or huge camera lenses, then popping up to scrutinize the area with binoculars, panning rapidly from side to side; if one did not know their objective, they might very well be felt to twitch.

I am consistently amazed by the coordination and seriousness of birders. Once, many years ago, I saw a different bird, took its picture, and published it in a column. By the next day, people were arriving by charter plane at the Glens Falls airport and choking roadways with cars from 20 states, some people having driven for 20 or more hours to

catch a glimpse of a hawk owl.

A similar situation is taking place in the Fort Miller area of the Hudson River. On Sunday (January 12, 2025,) there were 37 cars parked along the North River Road, bearing license plates from eight different states, and disgorging over 60 people with thousands of dollars worth of optical equipment. All were intent upon seeing a rare goose, hoping to add it to their life list.

The bird in question was a bean goose. A northern bird that prefers the sub-arctic areas of Europe and Asia, it is named for its affinity for harvested bean fields as foraging sites in its native area.

There are two species of bean geese. Both resemble the graylag goose, common throughout Europe. Domestic geese such as the Toulouse variety were developed from the graylag and the bean geese are very similar in appearance. The tundra bean goose and the taiga bean goose are distinguished predominately by beak color. The tundra bean has a dark, heavy-looking beak while the taiga has some orange on the bill.

In 2021, a bean goose was sighted in a small flock of snow geese on Saratoga Lake. It was probably displaced during migration by the unusually strong and south dipping nature of the jet stream that November. My suspicion is this is the same bird, just happily settled in with a flock of snow geese. I talked to a group of birders, advising them where I had seen the bird last. One particularly animated fellow from New



Hampshire assured me that he had seen the Saratoga Lake goose and this one was definitely going to be a taiga. I was not sure what to make of that but he was moving his equipment to a better vantage point so I was not able to ask.

I was also surprised to find that, when interviewed, people had reported getting word about the opportunity to tag a new bird for their life list to a certain degree from internet groups but far more often simply via word of mouth. Everyone calls their circle of friends, plans are made to travel, and the congestion on a narrow country road is assured.

I saw the goose on Saturday when I had no camera that would reach across the wide river. On Sunday, when I brought the camera, there was no bean goose to be seen. As I pulled up, there a small flock of snow geese was flying off down river, so I presume it made good its escape. Nevertheless, there was a great sense of camaraderie among the birders lining the riverbank. Those who had seen it, shared pictures, and those who had not made plans to "bag" it later in the afternoon. Several were going to the Washington County Grasslands to look for short-eared owls. One group from Massachusetts were hugely excited when I suggest a time and place to watch a rough-legged hawk soar overhead on its way to roost. None had a rough-leg on their life list and a hawk was every bit as good as a goose. Overall, everyone had a good time and Washington County appreciates the tourism dollars.

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Presenter: Cal O'Connell  
Forester/Garden Designer

# Greenwich's wild goose chase

**Darren Johnson**  
*Journal & Press*

As of press time, I've received various reports of a unique goose in town. It may be an ultra-rare Taiga Bean Goose, but could be an also-rare Tundra Bean Goose.

The consensus so far is it's a Taiga (which have a longer bill, usually with more yellow on it). These come from Northern Europe, and one hasn't been identified in this state, or even anywhere in the Northeastern USA, before.

Birders have descended upon Rock Street Park in Greenwich, where the rare goose is hanging out with common Canada Geese along the Battenkill. (Bean Geese are known to mingle with other types of geese.)

Village clerk Jane Dowling alerted me by phone and said that numerous cars with out-of-state plates were seen parked in the area, with people trying to get this first-ever glimpse at the bird.

I've been asking around. To the right is the best photo I've gotten, from Jeff Nadler ([www.jnphoto.net](http://www.jnphoto.net)), a professional photographer from Burnt Hills.

I asked him if he was a birder and if he'd ever gotten such a shot before. Jeff replied: "This is a first recorded sighting for New York State and have never birded northern Europe, where it lives. The most notable distinguishing marks are the orange feet and bill and a subtle white line along the side. I am more a bird photographer than birder but it was still exciting to see such a rarity."

I'd first been alerted to the bird earlier in the morning by our "Outdoors Tomorrow" columnist Bob Henke, who wrote this as a sidebar to his usual column that he had submitted by email (he was in the "Tundra" camp, but as of press time now is leaning to the "Taiga" camp, he texted me):

"I would be remiss if I did not report the tundra bean goose, which has been in the Hudson River in Fort Miller. This goose, a native of the arctic areas of Eurasia, is extremely common in its typical habitat and yet quite rare on this hemisphere. One was sighted on Saratoga Lake in 2021, traveling with a group of snow geese. My suspicion is,



this is the same bird, just happily setting up house-keeping with the snows."

I'd texted one of the bird watchers, who had blogged about the sighting. Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, a scholar and professor who trekked up here from downstate, is in the Taiga camp. He replied to my questions:

**DJ:** *Why are so many people interested in this bird?*

**ZSW:** The goose is a Taiga Bean-Goose (*Anser fabalis*) a species native to Scandinavia and the northern areas of Eastern Europe. This is the first record of this species for New York, and the first record for the east coast of the United States. It is probably the same individual that spent part of November and December in Matane, Quebec, which was the first record for Eastern North America. This individual was first sighted in New York at Saratoga State Boat Launch on December 31 by a birder named Karen Randall. It was seen there again two days later, and then went missing for a week, until John McKay rediscovered it at Fort Miller on the 9th. Since then it visited Northumberland and has spent the last 48 hours in Greenwich, moving between the river and cornfields.

Besides the extreme rarity of this species in this hemisphere, it's also notable that it was first seen at the exact same spot that the first New York record of its sister species, the Tundra Bean-Goose, was seen four years ago.

**DJ:** *So is it in fact a Taiga Bean Goose, or a Tundra Bean Goose?*

**ZSW:** The final determination on the ID will be made by the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC). This bird's bill shape and bill color, as well as head and neck shape, all point to Taiga over Tundra (which is also extremely rare in the US.). Compared to the 2021 Tundra Bean-Goose, this bird has a longer bill with much more orange pigmentation on it, and a much weaker "grin patch" on the bill. (Tundra Bean-Geese have shorter, darker bills, with limited orange, and a much more pronounced "grin patch.")

And that's where we are right now.

Keep your distance from this first-of-a-kind visitor to Greenwich. Keep your dogs away from the area. Let the professionals with the big zoom lenses get the photos. We'll post them online as we get them.

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# Protecting our peace

**MaryAnne Brown**  
*Journal & Press*

Peace be with you. We may think of this as a greeting during a prayer service or a gentle expression of comfort to others. Rather than making new year's resolutions, many people are choosing a word to focus on throughout 2025. I decided that my word for the year is "peace." In a world increasingly filled with conflict, noise, and division, I thought, "Peace be with you," might be a fitting way to begin the year with you.

Recently, someone said something unpleasant to me, catching me off guard. I never really learned how to fight. So, I usually try to soothe any ruffled feathers by using the conflict resolution skills I developed during my nursing career. Yet when it comes to personal attacks—especially from this one particular individual—I turn to jelly inside. I have even studied a book titled "How to Fight" by Thich Nhat Hanh, a world-renowned Zen teacher. I suppose I could have taken the bait, expressed my anger, and perhaps I might have felt relief by putting them in their place. However, Hanh explains that it is best to pause and take note of our feelings—anger, irritation, or (in my case) nausea. When these feelings emerge, we should pause and focus on breathing in calm and breathing out peace. "Mindful breathing is a wonderful way to fully make peace with yourself." This is a Zen practice that Thich Nhat Hahn has fostered in all students of life.

Back to my "How to Fight" story. This angry individual was ready to pounce—I could tell. But from my study and practice, I promptly took a careful pause and began breathing mindfully. Because this was a very vulnerable time in my life, I intentionally decided to protect my peace. I calmly proposed a solution to the problem, and when the person offered no response, I repeated my solution and offered a pleasant goodbye. Personal and interpersonal peace is essential for our well-being.

There are many common disruptions to

our inner peace. Gossip and criticism cause suffering and conflict; social media clashes increase our polarization; unresolved differences, unrealistic expectations or fear can create tension and bitterness. While it is easy to react in ways that perpetuate the unrest, we can grow into ambassadors of peace by how we respond to the disturbance.

The role of faith in peacekeeping is universal. Jesus teaches during the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the peacemakers..." Muslims see peace as central to relationships by greeting others saying "As-Salaam-Alaikum" (Peace be upon you). Buddhists practice mindfulness and detachment from anger as paths to inner peace. Judaism embraces Shalom as wholeness and harmony, both with God and community. Peace as a guiding fundamental begins with one person and radiates outward.

There is a Peace Prayer that is often linked to Francis of Assisi, yet there is no historical evidence that he wrote it, but it is believed the prayer is inspired by his principles. My favorite musical rendition of this Peace Prayer is "Instruments of Peace" on YouTube sung by the Drakensberg Boys Choir of South Africa. Their pure voices urge the listener to be a peacemaker: "where there is hatred, let me bring your love; where there is injury, we will never judge...where there is blindness, we will pray for sight; when there is sadness, we will bear the grief for the millions crying for relief. Rules of pride and prejudice will cease. We will be his instruments of peace."

This Peace Prayer offers us such splendid words to live by! It could become our very own Peace Plan.

Responding peacefully to disturbances in our corner of the world takes a thoughtful approach. Here are some practical strategies:

1. Pause and practice mindfulness to manage emotions.
2. Seek understanding: Ask clarifying questions; don't assume the worst.



3. Be willing to forgive and let go of grudges.
4. Model healthy communication: Use "I" statements and avoid blame.
5. Set boundaries by balancing love with self-respect.

Sacred Scripture speaks of a peace the world cannot give—yet our world desperately needs peace now more than ever. Our spiritual well-being depends on being grounded in peace. Inner peace requires a daily pledge to be understanding, kind, and patient. Peace begins with small, intentional efforts. As St. Mother Teresa reminds us, "Peace begins with a smile." Perhaps we can start with simple acts and trust that each gesture of peace will ripple far beyond what we can see. Peace be with you.

*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.*



# Living without TikTok (mis)information?

**Greg Schwem**

*Tribune Content Agency  
Special to Journal & Press*

While soon-to-be President Trump mulls the continued existence of TikTok in the United States, I am preparing myself for its demise.

The fate of the addictive and, opponents say, invasive video feed app currently rests with the U.S. Supreme Court, which is expected to hear arguments on Jan. 10. TikTok is owned by ByteDance, a Chinese-based organization. The Department of Justice is concerned the Chinese government may be, in effect, spying on the U.S. by accessing TikTok user data. ByteDance lawyers say any ban violates First Amendment free speech rights.

Trump's lawyers say the incoming president has "no position" on the controversy but asked the court for a temporary stay in hopes a "political resolution" can be worked out. I assume Trump will resolve the TikTok dispute after he departs 11 million illegal immigrants, creates a new national health care plan, slashes the price of eggs and solves the Ukraine and Gaza crises. So, on his SECOND day in office.

Meanwhile, I am trying to imagine what my life will be without TikTok. I'm currently tackling Dry January and that's going smoothly enough, but I still find myself craving the occasional glass of pinot noir or a local IPA with a creative name like Bleacher Bums, courtesy of Chicago-based Spiteful Brewing.

I'm not sure I can withstand the temptations of TikTok.

For starters, how will I function without reading about the deaths of celebrities, announced via TikTok, who turn out not to be dead? In 2024 Joe Pesci, Jeff Foxworthy and Bruce Willis all passed away, at least according to my feed. Last I checked, via sources other than TikTok, all are very much alive. TikTok told me Foxworthy, a fellow comedian and one time golf partner, died in a car crash

on May 13, 2024. A panicked phone call to another comedian friend unconfirmed that nugget of misinformation.

Then there is the mountain of "something's not right here" videos. These typically flood TikTok following a tragedy, such as the recent carnage on New Year's Eve in New Orleans. With evidence consisting of a grainy video, obtained from a camera mounted to a utility pole, these "sleuths" are convinced they saw SOMETHING that trained law enforcement officers and forensics experts missed. Maybe it's a panicked pedestrian who fled left when everybody else fled right.

"Something's not right here," is inevitably their conclusion. And if something isn't right, the entire tragedy must be a hoax, correct? Hey, if that's what TikTok says.

Will I be able to get through a day without absorbing videos of some random Gen Zer walking down a city street telling me that, under NO circumstances, should I eat at a certain restaurant, live in a particular city, visit a well-known tourist attraction or waste my money seeing "Wicked"?

Why? Because after one not so pleasant experience, these "critics" are convinced they speak for the entire universe.

Finally, who will advise me on issues of investment, diet and exercise regimens? I've spent hours watching TikTokers who call themselves analysts, nutritionists and "wellness coaches" telling me how to get rich and healthy in 30 days or less. All I must do is follow their advice, which first means subscribing to their TikTok feeds. Say one thing about these "experts;" they have awesome



multi-tasking capabilities. How else could one dish out expert advice while still finding time to make daily TikTok videos? Using TikTok's new AI features?

Should TikTok cease to exist, I will have no choice but to read about world events via Pulitzer Prize-winning newspapers. I'll have to visit doctors with real medical degrees for health and dietary advice. Or ask a broker who has actually worked on Wall Street for suggestions on where to park my savings. Just the thought of this makes me shudder.

So, let's hope the Supreme Court does the right thing and keeps TikTok around. Because if the judges vote to dismantle it, that can mean only one thing:

Something's not right here.

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



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# A fond farewell to Bill Taggart

William “Al” Cormier, Salem Historian  
Special to Journal & Press

*“Ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages, welcome to the greatest show on Earth!”*

On December 24, at about 10 AM at Palm Gardens, Sun City, FL, 94-year-old Bill Taggart passed away. The announcement came to me from Wes Fields, one of Bill’s close friends.

During Bill’s life, he made many friends in his chosen professions, professions exciting and gratifying. In the fall of 1953, as part of his Hiram College curriculum, he attended an American University Washington semester in Washington, DC. It was there that Bill “ran away with the circus” that summer. He was hired to work for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, taking care of show horses and working the ticket booth from 1953 to 1956.

His love for horses began as a child growing up in Clyde, NY. Wes Fields recalls Bill saying that as a boy he would ride his horse to deliver newspapers. Later, as an adult, he moved to Salem with his mother to live with his aunts and, Windsong, his last horse. Windsong was a Morgan horse that would carry him and neighbors throughout the streets of Salem in summer and in winter in his “two wheel jog cart” or his Frank Wright Studebaker Dealer Salem-built sleigh. Bill’s personality and graciousness made easy friendships coated with excitement and the unexpected.

The lure of circus life never left Bill, even though the outdoor big top circus had shut down on July 16, 1956 in Pittsburg due to complaints by animal rights advocates and Teamster Union pickets. It was here, in his assigned “Yellow Wagon,” that Bill sold the very last ticket for the last “under the big top” outdoor circus show. His story is told in “The Last Ticket” in the Bandwagon magazine, No. 1 2023. Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus would now perform indoor shows only. Bill, however, continued to work with Ringling Bros. in the large in-



door arenas and then smaller circuses such as Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus, and Cristiani Circus.

When he graduated from Hiram College, Bill took a teaching job in Savannah, NY near his home in Clyde and then, moving to Salem, he took a job teaching in Granville. It was here his love for honesty and righteous causes surfaced. He got the Granville Lions Club to sponsor Pete Seeger, and the Granville Sentinel newspaper promoted the March 29, 1967 concert. Seeger, despite being black-listed because of his political beliefs, drew a large crowd to the concert that was a rousing success.

In 1968, Bill managed Don McLean as the Hudson River Troubadour, and that summer the Salem Rotary Club sponsored McLean’s concert. Orchestrated by Bill, McLean participated in the July 4 parade and sang in concert on July 5 at the Salem carnival grounds. That fall Bill was asked by Pete Seeger to take a fund-raising job promoting the Hudson River Clearwater Sloop Inc. He helped raise thousands of dollars toward the estimated cost of \$100,000 to build the boat, and, with Peter Seeger’s leadership, affected the start of the Hudson River clean-up.

Bill left a legacy of circus life. During his employment with Ringling Bros. he took 8mm films of the circus acts and the performers in and out of the three rings. The film is

now in the archives of the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, Florida. His friendship with Chris Berry, VP of the Historical Society and Associate Editor of Bandwagon, led to Bill’s detailed stories of his experiences with the circus being published in Bandwagon, The Journal of the Historical Society. Upon Bill’s death, Circus History Alive! created a “Zoom Big Top” tribute to him, including a recording of VP Chris Berry’s interview with him, made only a couple of weeks before Bill died.

His friends such as Wes Fields, Bill’s Lyndhurst intern, Chris Berry, Pete Seeger, Don McLean, members of the notable Stephen Rockefeller family, and, of course, his Salem and Granville friends, whom he never forgot, gave him continued support. With his pet dog, Bill made annual summer trips to Salem and Granville to renew friendships. Granville Attorney John Winn said, “Bill was an inspiring teacher, who loved folk music.” Former Granville student, Paul Manchester, said, “Bill was the most interesting and inspiring person” he’d ever met.” Jan Coffinger Baxter, current editor of the Salem Press, recalled that when responding to her FaceBook posts, Bill called her “Salem-girl-Jan” and spoke of his abiding love for Salem. Bill’s endearments were genuine and his friendships lasting. We thank him for being a gentleman and for sharing his adventures. His memory will remain with us always.



## Several area students earn honors

Some Fall 2024 mentions we recently received about local residents who made honors. Feel free to send yours to editor@journalandpress.com.

### SUNY Potsdam

SUNY Potsdam announced its Fall 2024 President's List. To achieve the honor of being on the President's List, each student must have satisfactorily completed 12 numerically-graded semester hours, with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. This semester, the honorees included:

- Kimberly Brandt of Greenwich, NY, whose major is Music Performance
- Dillon Niles of Greenwich, NY, whose major is Music Education
- Ben Randles of Argyle, NY, whose major is Music Business

### Le Moyne College

Reilly McCormick, Freshman Nursing major from Schuylerville, NY, has been named to the Le Moyne College Fall 2024 Dean's List. To make the list, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or above.

### SUNY New Paltz

SUNY New Paltz announced its Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester, a recognition for students who excel academically and earn at least a 3.3 grade-point average in a semester with a full-time course load.

- Emilee Archer of Greenwich
- Sage Frank of Argyle
- Gabriel Gallagher of Salem
- Grace Overholt of Schuylerville

### SUNY Oneonta

To qualify for the SUNY Oneonta Dean's List, a student must earn a grade-point

average of 3.5 or higher while carrying a course load of 12 hours or more. Those who did locally include:

- Molly Abate of Greenwich
- Emma Carlo of Schaghticoke
- Carrie Humiston of Greenwich
- Tyler Humiston of Argyle
- Isabelle Jarvis of Schaghticoke
- Emily McDougall of Argyle
- Colin O'Brien of Schaghticoke
- Mia Sausville of Greenwich

### Nazareth University

Nazareth University has named the students to the fall 2024 Dean's List.

A student's grade point average must be at least 3.5 or above, and they must complete 12 credit hours of graded work that semester in order to be included on the dean's list at Nazareth.

- Jade Kobor of Schuylerville, NY
- Megan Stadel of Schuylerville, NY
- MacKenzie Dixson of Schaghticoke, NY

### St. Michael's College

Patrick W. McGloine of Schuylerville named to the Dean's List at Saint Michael's College for the Fall 2024 semester.

### Alfred State College

To be named to the Alfred State College Dean's List, students had to take a minimum of 12 credit hours of course work and earn a minimum 3.5 grade point average (GPA) out of a possible 4.0. One local student did that:

Parker Bendon of Greenwich (Schuylerville Central School): Elec. Cons. & Maintenance Electrician.

### SUNY Canton

Andrea Cary, a SUNY Canton Management major from Salem, N.Y., earned Dean's List honors during the fall 2024 semester. Dean's List recognizes full-time students who earned a GPA between 3.25 and 3.74.

### Clarkson University

Students have been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester at Clarkson University:

- Damon Brownell of Schaghticoke
- And the President's List (3.8-4.0 GPA):
- Seth Bodderly of Greenwich
  - Lauren Marci of Greenwich
  - Austin Mosher of Schuylerville
  - Eli Thetford of Salem

### Southern New Hampshire University

Mackenzie Watters of Salem has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU) Fall 2024 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

### Elmira College

Elmira College released its Dean's List for Academic Achievement for the Fall 2024 Term. The Dean's List recognizes full-time undergraduate students who were registered for at least 12 computable credit hours and who earned a term grade point average of 3.6 or higher.

- Faith Ingber of Greenwich
- Ellery Mays of Greenwich

# Benjamin Franklin – saving local lives!

**Michael Levy**  
*Journal & Press*

If not for a couple of Benjamin Franklins—yes, \$100 bills—this newspaper might have lost two readers and a columnist in recent weeks. While \$100 doesn't stretch far these days, in two separate instances, local lives were saved by devices priced at roughly that amount.

In the first incident, an electrical fire ignited in a residential home while the husband was working downstairs in the basement, and the wife was asleep in another part of the house. If they had relied on traditional smoke detectors, which only alerts occupants in the immediate vicinity, the family believes the outcome could have been tragic. Fortunately, they had installed interconnected wireless smoke detectors, which ultimately saved their lives.

The installation of a fully operational smoke alarm remains a cornerstone of home fire safety, but interconnected wireless systems go further by integrating advanced technology to enhance protection. Interconnected wireless smoke alarms offer a significant safety advantage by ensuring early detection and comprehensive notification in the event of a fire. Unlike basic smoke alarms that only sound in one location, interconnected systems trigger all alarms in the home simultaneously when smoke or fire is detected. This synchronized response provides crucial warning time, enabling occupants in every part of the house to evacuate promptly. For example, a smoke detector in the basement can immediately alert residents in upstairs bedrooms, bridging the gap left by traditional systems. Each intercon-



**A BW Clip**

nected unit costs roughly twice as much as a traditional unit, yet the total expense for each unit is only about \$100.

The second instance hits even closer to home—this one is about me. Recently, I had maintenance work done on an airplane that required the mechanic to remove and reinstall the exhaust system. During a post-maintenance engine run-up a few days later, my carbon monoxide (CO) detector briefly alarmed. On a subsequent flight, the detector went off again, which raised a red flag since this had never happened before the repairs. Suspecting an exhaust leak, I researched online for a detection method, and sure enough, I discovered three separate leaks. Thankfully, they have since been repaired.

A leaking exhaust system in an aircraft can allow CO—a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas—into the cabin, posing a grave threat. CO binds hemoglobin in the blood more effectively than oxygen, depriving the body of what it needs to function.

Between 1982 and 2020, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) attributed thirty-one accidents to CO poisoning, twenty-three of which were fatal, resulting in forty-two deaths and four serious injuries. Only one of those aircraft had a CO detector onboard, and it lacked the active audible or visual alerts now recommended by the NTSB. It was my CO detector, costing a single Benjamin Franklin, that first alerted me to the danger of the leaking exhaust, likely saving my life and keeping me out of a NTSB accident report.

Of note, I have only had my CO detector alarm during flight just once before, while landing at Albany International Airport with a local beekeeper aboard. A strong crosswind had temporarily blown exhaust fumes into



a cabin air vent, and the CO alert stopped within seconds.

For the past decade, I have relied on BW Clip CO Single Gas Detectors in airplanes. While this is not a product endorsement, it is what I have trusted for years after extensive initial research into these units. This device is always on and runs continuously for 24 months without requiring calibration, sensor replacement, or battery maintenance. When my current unit expires in a few months, I will be evaluating newer device options to ensure I am using the best technology available.

Next time you have a \$100 bill in hand, look at the smirk Benjamin Franklin gives you if you are buying something truly stupid. Instead, purchase interconnected detectors for your home! Buy a CO monitor for situations where carbon monoxide may be present! Trust me, Ben's smirk will change into a smile when you purchase some \$100 devices that can and do save lives. How about that for a random thought!

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



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# NYS BOARD OF REGENTS VACANCY

Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, effective April 1, 2025, for one representative from Kings County for a five-year term; one representative from Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Saratoga, Schenectady, St. Lawrence, Warren, or Washington County for a five-year term; one representative from Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, or Wyoming County for a five-year term; one representative from Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, or Westchester County for a five-year term; one representative from Nassau or Suffolk County for a five-year term; and one at-large representative for a five-year term. Additionally, effective immediately, one at-large representative for the remaining four years of a five-year term, and one at-large representative for the remaining year of a five-year term. Positions are non-paid. A public interview process is required. The applicant must be a resident of New York State and, where applicable, one of the above-listed counties. Resumes must be submitted by January 22, 2025. Applicant must submit a resume to BOTH:

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# Salem VFD off to busy 2025

Members of the Salem Volunteer Fire Department did not let the 20 degree temperatures deter them on Sunday, January 12, as they held ice water training for members on the 3 inch frozen top of Dead Man's Pond on Route 22 as shown in the photo.

Steve Saunders, Fire Chief for the Salem Volunteer Fire Department, has recently released year-end 2024 statistics for the Department which include the following numbers:

159 Calls were responded to during the 2024 Year including 170 Total Fire Hours, 6199 Total Man hours. The Salem VFD currently has 37 Active Members, 9 Support Group Members, and 4 Junior FF Members and is actively encouraging interested recruits 14 years and older to stop by the Fire House on any Tuesday evening during Department regular meetings to learn more. The Fire Chief notes there is a job for everyone who may have an interest in assisting the Salem Volunteer Fire Department.

The year-end OSHA MANDATES report for Chief Sanders included: All trucks were serviced and NYSI done and passed. Annual Ladder testing was done and were passed, yearly air packs and air station were serviced and passed. Yearly turnout gear inspection was done and repairs were done where needed. Yearly hydraulic and all extrication tools were serviced and passed inspection. Yearly hose testing

was done and passed, annual fire extinguishers and fire suppression system was inspected and passed inspection. Yearly fire department physicals were conducted, and all members passed. In addition, 17 Fire Department members are SCBA fit tested for the 2025 year.

During 2024 the Salem Fire Volunteer Department held 13 monthly meetings with one Annual election meeting. Fire Advisory Board Meetings were attended. Salem officers attended 6 bi-monthly Chiefs and Officers meetings throughout the county. Salem held several special meetings within the Chiefs and Officers organization, their Board of Directors, and attended Salem and Jackson Town Board meetings. In addition, Steven Saunders is the Treasure for the Washington County Fire Chiefs Association and attended their meetings.

Fundraisers throughout the year are an integral part of Salem Volunteer Fire Department's incoming funds. During the 2024 year, the following fund-raisers were held: Chicken/Rib BBQs, Fireman's Calendar Sales, 500 Dollar Club, Coin Drop, Sunday Breakfasts.



In the 2024 Calendar year, it is important to note that the average manpower hours per Firefighter totaled an average of 167.5 hours volunteered.

The Salem Volunteer Fire Department has two fund-raisers coming up. On Sunday, January 26 from 7-1am, the Department will host another of their popular Sunday Breakfasts with Adult tickets only \$10, children up to 10 years of age tickets are \$5 and children under 10 eat free. The firefighters will serve pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, several types of omelets, home fries, and more.

Super Bowl Sunday is on February 7 this year and the Salem VFD will host a fundraiser Take Out / Presale Only Chicken OR Rib BBQ. Dinners will be \$15 per meal of Chicken OR Ribs, baked potato, baked beans, roll, and brownie. Tickets can be purchased at Salem Hardware, A&J Agway, or through Fire Department members, or by calling 518-461-3317. BBQ meals will be ready for pickup at the Firehouse between 12-1pm on Super Bowl Sunday.

More information regarding the Salem Volunteer Fire Department can be found on their website at [salemnyfire.org/](http://salemnyfire.org/) or by calling 518-854-7516.

## On WAMC

Journal & Press's Darren Johnson was interviewed by WAMC recently on the separation of The Greenwich Journal from The Salem Press, after 55 years. There are some interesting insights about small-town

community journalism in this region, as well. To hear it, scan this QR code with your smartphone's camera app and click the link that your phone will provide.



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# Carrie Conkey's 1861 Diary, Part II

William "Al" Cormier, Salem Historian  
*Special to Salem Press*

**Editor's Note:** *The first part of this article was published in the prior issue of the Salem Press. If you would like William Cormier's full column, please visit JournalandPress.com or email Jan Baxter, Editor, at thesalempress@gmail.com. The diary entries and the familial ties mentioned within illustrate the local connection of the Conkeys of Pelham, Massachusetts, Mt. Morris, New York, with Salem, New York.*

That brings us to the 1861 diary of Caroline "Carrie" Conkey, unmarried, who died on April 13, 1871 in Mt. Morris, NY. Her entries give the reader insight into daily life at that time, including the start of the Civil War, politics, travel, social life, woman's work, arts and crafts, strong religious practices, medical practices, disasters, and, of course weather reports so important to everyone. The following are excerpts from the diary and are edited for clarification. The brackets are mine (William Cormier note).

Feb. 25. Johnny better. A note from Mr. Lee in regard to coming to Perry.

Feb. 26. Ed. Thomas. To Mrs. Bulfinch, sketched my Poplar Tree, she is quite sick. Johnny Hastings nice.

March 1. Called at Mrs. Percivals, Miss Parsons, Mr. Wygent. Julia sick with a headache.

March 2. Heard the first robin. To a lecture in the P.M. Mrs. Hastings, Mrs. Weson called. Mrs. Rathbun.

March 5. Kate here today. Oysters for dinner. Tea at Mrs. Masons, Mr. and Mrs. Bond, Mrs. Martindale.

March 7. Walked to Dr. Thomas and to see Mrs. Ames.

March 8. Mrs. Towers, 3 grandchildren baptized this afternoon.

March 9. To Mrs. Whitings.

March 10. Down to Mrs. Conkeys, church school in the evening.

March 11. Mrs. Carpenter in to bid good-bye, and off to Connecticut.

March 13. Mrs. Symones baby at house this afternoon.

March 15. Walked to Mrs. Conkeys before tea. Johnny went with us. Mrs. Conkey low spirited.

March 19. Tuesday. Joshua Conkey died of Apoplexy.

March 21. Joshua buried today. Went down to Augustus Conkeys, the old recluse was alone.

March 22. Attended Church Conference, came home and found Mrs. (looks like) Wanover. Johnny Hastings, stayed most of the day, father and mother went to Rochester to attend the funeral of Orlando Hastings.

March 23. Finished my Tree today, called on Mrs. Lucino Bingham and Mrs. Green, C. Johnson to Connecticut.

March 25. Mr. [Samuel L.] Rockefeller started to N.Y. this morning. Commenced to sketch my head. Practiced on my Horse chestnut tree.

March 26. Walked to Augustus Conkeys, Julia and Johnny came to tea, walk home in the rain.

March 27. Damp today. Class meeting. Mary Jocelyn, Mrs. Mary Bea\_\_\_, Lillie Mills new members at the meeting. Was not interested and felt wicked.

March 28. Mrs. Conkey spent the day with us. Walked down with Johnny after class. Clara and Mrs. Conkey to tea. Mrs. Sandford lectured on Temperance. Did not attend.

March 30. We were about half past 12 by fire alarm, originated in Mr. Nash barn and burned several shops, and Mr. Nash new house, his old one and several houses. We were very much frightened.

March 31. Attended church twice, was peaceful from staying with my school class.

Johnny began to cry and I had to go home with him. Julia sick with headache.

April 1. Johnny had the croup last night and consequently we had little sleep. It has snowed and blown all day, commenced my second head, very tedious.

April 3. Pleasant Prayer Meeting. Mrs. Mathus a niece of Mrs. \_\_\_met with us.

April 4. Jennie McNair went with us to hear Cheney's lecture, spent the night.

April 5. Mr. Rockefeller home today. Jennie McNair took dinner. Julia has a cold. I went to an exhibition.

April 7. Sunday. Had a cold did not go out today. Calls today: Dr. Thomas, Mrs. Bulfinch, Mrs. Wygant and Pa.

April 10. Walter Coy and Sara Rathbun only one at Prayer Meeting.

April 15. Monday Washing Day, Smashed my hand. Very chilly today.

April 16. Have drawn my 3rd, little boy with grapes and peaches. B. J. Frank took tea with us. Mrs. Pratt went down with Mrs. Conkey to Mrs. Wombines (Watkins?) melted sugar. Snowing very fast this evening.

April 17. Have not been out today. The snow is four inches deep this morning. Did not go to the evening meeting.

April 19. 7th Regiment of N.Y. left for Washington to protect the Capitol. [early Civil War regiment from New York City]. Went to the Ladies Prayer Meeting., very cold there. After tea called at Mrs. Masons, Mrs. Lakes, from there to Augustus. Mrs. Walker is very miserable.

April 20. Very beautiful day. Have worked a good deal on the boys head [drawing]. Mrs. Bulfinch not well, the excitement of War is increasing. What the word will be no one can tell.

April 21. Mr. Parsons preached upon the horrors of the war and the necessity of sustaining the church in these troublesome times. Walked down to see Mrs. Walker,

**Please read more on next page**

# SALEM HISTORY

## (cont.)

found her very weak. People are all excitement in fear that Washington may be taken by the Rebel forces.

April 22. Very warm and uncomfortable today, great excitement upon the state of the country. A company being formed from this place. A mass meeting tonight. Judge Hastings speech was very (looks like) irritating. A crowd formed and went to serenade him and called him out to have him state decidedly whether he was for the Union.

April 23. Warm today. Still exciting news.

April 24. At home today. Sarah and Wal\_\_\_\_ present at the meeting. We read\_\_\_\_by Prof. Phelps of Andover. After tea we went down to Conkeys to call on Miss Allen and also down to Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.

April 25. Today we had company Mrs. Conkey, Mrs. Smith, Miss Allen, had a pleasant visit, all went up to the studio. The talk was on the war, the delay in getting supplies.

April 26. Kate cleaned the cellar. I worked a good deal upon the boy's head. Julia sick with sick-headache. Johnny outdoors all day.

April 27. Saturday very war today, up early, finished my little boys head, sketched a little drawing but did not get on very well.

April 28. Mr. Parsons preached from Timothy 3-1. Sara and Mattie \_\_\_\_\_ in the evening. Mr. Hastings took charge and gave some very\_\_\_\_\_remarks upon the duty of \_\_\_\_\_Southern brothers. Sketched my third head today, a little girl with long wavy hair. Walked down to Mrs. Conkeys with Mrs. Ray and Miss Smith.

May 1. Very cold house, torn up. Mrs. Calahan here cleaning, could not hold meeting on account of the confusion.

May 2. All is in commotion, helped black a stove. Mr. Rockfellow's clerk Wallace Green came yesterday and left this morning. Is homesick.

May 3. Mrs. Conkey invited us down there to meet Mrs. Allen, we were too tired to go.

May 4. Called on Mrs. Wood at Mrs. Charles Bingham, also a Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.

rowed a question book, to think about using it in class. The country begins to look beautiful, the leaves are popping out.

May 5. Have been out to church all day. Communion Season. Very interesting. Deacon Allen preached.

May 6. Mr. Martin gone to Albany, 18,000 troops in Washington.

May 7. Called on Mrs. L. Woodfords and Mrs. Nichols. Charles Smith father at dinner. Julia, Johnny and I went up to the Hastings, left Johnny there. We went to Allens. Sarah has come home, her father with great difficulty can make himself understood. I am so sorry for them.

May 8. Still cloudy and chilly. Sarah the only one present at the Meeting. Attended the evening Prayer Meeting, my head very unsensible at the thought of asking God for Blessings.

May 9. Pleasant out. Put pockets in Johnny's apron. Walked up to Mrs. Hastings and came home through Janesville. Another War meeting. No decided hostilities between the armies and probably before many days the blood of our men will be spilled.

May 10. Commenced raining this afternoon. Sam found the pipe in sitting room.

May 11. Saturday. Called to see Mrs. Wygant, found her children quite sick. The ladies are making arrangements to make up clothing for the Company formed here.

They will leave probably next week. Been to church and Sunday School. The report is Harpers Ferry has been taken. 800 prisoners.

May 13. Commenced painting today, found it very awkward, do not feel well and the bells ringing calling the troops make me feel more than ever before the dreadful state of our country. There has been no fighting. Today the ladies are sewing for the Volunteers, making shirts. Mrs. Bulfinch and I made one.

May 15. Very pleasant and warm. A man ascended in a balloon about one half mile and landed in Mrs. M (?) Carkins yard. Bab was the only one at the Meeting.

May 16. The whole day has been spent by the pupils getting ready for the departure of the Volunteers [104 New York Infantry Regiment].

**Editor's note:** *End of Part II. This excerpt thus ends a partial year in the life of Carrie Conkey. She died at the young age of 43. Many questions are left unanswered. What remedies were in vogue to combat Carrie's physical and emotional problems? Was Carrie able to fulfill her dream of teaching? Was her artwork sellable or just a hobby? What medical practices existed to combat croup, colds, bad teeth, psychological, physical and other illnesses? What influence did the Rockefellow family have on her life and goals?*

## Town Hall Calendar

**Wednesday, January 22nd**

5pm at Town Office

Special Town Board Meeting to discuss grants and contract

6pm at Town Office

Sewer Committee Meeting

**Thursday, January 23rd**

7pm at Town Office

Planning Board Meeting

**Tuesday, February 18th**

5pm at Town Office – Audit

6pm at Town Office – Regular Town Board Meeting

**Tuesday, January 28th**

*Please contact the Town Offices with any questions by calling: 518-854-3277.*

# Wrestlers move on to qualifiers

Salem-Cambridge wrestlers Ethan Adams, Isaiah Lohret, and Camden Hill were honored at the Salem home meet on Wednesday, January 15th for Senior Night. Coach Frank Fronhofer II's team faced the Warrensburg-Lake George squad, culminating with an impressive final score of 51 to 21 over the visitors.

The Salem-Cambridge Boys Wrestling team (11-0) will compete in the January 21 Section II dual-meet state qualifying matches. The Section II, Division II semifinals will be held at Cobleskill-Richmondville beginning with the semi-final matches starting at 5pm. Going into the matches as the No. 2 seed, Salem-Cambridge will face No. 3 seed Coxsackie-Athens. Winners of the semi-final matches move onto a 6:30pm face-off. Other Section II qualifiers' matches on January 21 include top-seed Cobleskill facing No. 4 seed Hudson Falls.

The winning teams in the January 21 qualifying matches then head to the State Dual Meet Championships on February 1 at Onondaga Community College's SRC Arena in Syracuse.

The remaining schedule for Salem-Cambridge Boys Wrestling is:

21-Jan Tues @Cobleskill 5PM & 6:30PM Section 2 Dual Meet Championships

22-Jan Wed @ Corinth

25-Jan Sat @Duanesburg Dual Tourn (9:00AM)

28-Jan Tues JV Foothills Throwdown @Hudson Falls (5PM)

1-Feb Sat Ken Baker Classic Tourn @Mechanicville (9:30AM)

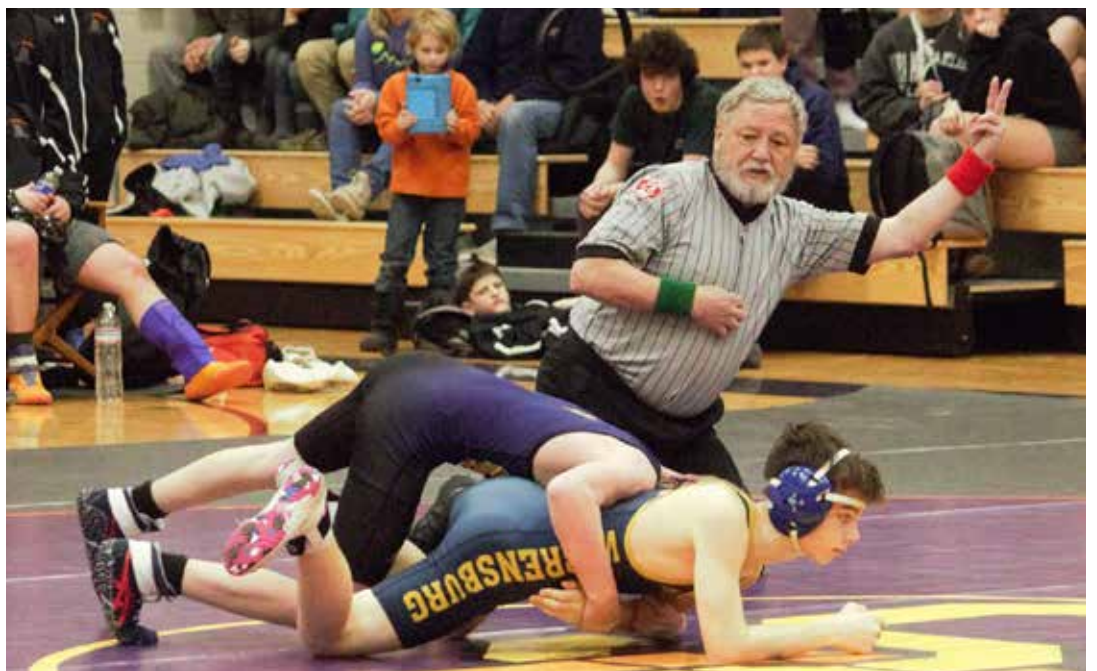
1-Feb Sat NYSPHSAA Dual Meet Championships @SRC Arena in Syracuse

3-Feb Mon Adirondack JV Multi Team Event @Hadley (5:00PM)

8-Feb Sat Class D Sectionals @Cambridge (9:30AM)

15-Feb Section 2 State Qualifiers (9:45AM) @Cool Insuring Arena

28-Feb&1-Mar NY State Championships @Albany MVP Arena (10:00AM)



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