



SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

Otselic Valley Central School librarian named state “School Librarian of the Year”

SOUTH OTSELIC - Otselic Valley Central School librarian Catalina “Katy” Charles has been named School Librarian of the Year by the New York Library Association, a state-wide honor recognizing a rural library program that outgrew its own walls.

When notified that she had been chosen as the School Librarian of the Year, Charles said she felt honored and grateful to be recognized for the work that she loves doing each day. She will be celebrated at the NYLA’s Inaugural Reception, to be held at NYLA Annual Conference in Saratoga on the evening of Friday,



Otselic Valley Central School librarian Catalina “Katy” Charles has been named School Librarian of the Year by the New York Library Association. (Submitted photo)

November 6.

The Otselic Valley Public Library operates

in a unique way: it is inside the school building, staffed by Charles as library manager and Amy Guernsey as library clerk, but it offers computer and internet access, technology training, programming for all ages, and local history and genealogy resources to both students and the public.

“I have always believed that a library is so much more than a room filled with books,” she said. “It is a place where students can discover who they are, explore new ideas, create, take risks, ask questions, and know that they belong. I’m especially proud that our library has grown

beyond the walls of the school to serve our entire community.”

That work has reshaped what a library means in a district of roughly 300 students spread across some of Chenango County’s hill country. In May 2023, district voters approved a proposition converting a once-weekly open library into a chartered public library operating 20 to 25 hours a week, housed inside the school and governed by an elected board of trustees. The change brought Otselic Valley into the Four County Library System, opening access to nearly 500,000 volumes across 45 mem-

ber libraries in Broome, Chenango, Delaware and Otsego counties, along with ebooks and audiobooks through Libby.

“In a small rural community, libraries can play an especially important role,” Charles said. “They provide access not only to books, but to technology, programs, experiences, resources, and perhaps most importantly, connections with each other.”

She credited colleagues, administrators, library staff, trustees and neighbors who, as she put it, “have been willing to say yes to some of my ideas, even the unusual ones.”

Her students, she said, are the reason the ideas keep coming.

“They are the reason I continue to look for new ways to make our library a place where they are excited to walk through the door,” Charles said. “They inspire me every day to keep learning, experimenting, and imagining what a school library can become.”

“To be recognized by my fellow library professionals for work that means so much to me is something I will never forget.”

- Information from Otselic Valley Central School

Explore Chenango Outdoor Challenge grand prize winner sets sights on Appalachian Trail

REBECCA LAIBOWITZ
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

CHENANGO COUNTY — The 2026 grand prize winner of the Explore Chenango Outdoor Challenge is Penni Bradley. A life-long Chenango County resident and longtime hiker, Bradley visited all of the locations in the challenge this summer on her own. To her, hiking has been a way to stay healthy, decompress and appreciate different landscapes. Now, she finds herself preparing for an attempt at the Appalachian Trail in 2027.

Despite hiking for years and at one time being a Boy Scout leader, Bradley still found new sights across the county through the challenge. Her favorite discovery was at the Greenway River trail system in Norwich, where she



The 2026 Grand Prize Winner of the Explore Chenango Outdoor Challenge, Penni Bradley posing with the brand new Coleman cooler she won. The challenge is organized each year by the county’s Health and Planning Departments to encourage outdoor activity and visitors to local hiking, biking, and paddling trails. (Photo taken by the Chenango County Health Department.)

hiked the stone quarry.

“I’ve never been there, so it was very interesting. There were a lot of different trails in that

same area. So that was my favorite,” she said.

Hunts Pond, Whaupunaucan Forest and the lean-

to-lined trails at Rogers Environmental Education Center were also new stops with winding paths and unexpected features she hadn’t realized were there before.

“You can hike all of the four or five different trails that are right there, and you can camp in a lean-to,” Bradley said, “which would be good for me as far as prepping for AT [Appalachian Trail],” referring to her discoveries at Rogers.

Bradley said she likes to go for hikes alone “because if you’re hiking with other people, you’re not really focused on you.” For her, hiking alone provides the time and space to decompress from everyday life.

“Every hike to me is mental therapy as well. When I’m out there, it gives me time to sort out things,” she said. “It really does help my

mental clarity. I can come back and I’m kind of refreshed.”

She does sometimes go on hikes with her husband.

When hiking alone, Bradley said she carries the 10 hiking essentials with her on each outing. The National Park Service list includes navigation, such as a map, compass or GPS system; sun protection, including sunglasses, sunscreen and a hat; extra clothing, such as a jacket, hat, gloves, rain gear or other layers; illumination, such as a flashlight or headlamp; first aid supplies; fire-starting supplies, including matches, a lighter or fire starters; a repair kit and tools, such as tape, a knife, multi-tool and scissors; extra food; water or water-treatment supplies; and emergency shelter, such as a tent, blanket, tarp

or bivvy. Find the list at nps.gov/articles/10essentials.htm.

“I take the 10 essentials every time so that I’m always prepared,” Bradley said, “and always let everybody know where I’m going.”

Her favorite piece of gear is a well-worn fanny pack because it makes the other items easy to access.

When she heard about the challenge from a friend, she saw it as a prime opportunity to practice for her ambition to complete the Appalachian Trail and train her recovering knee. She also said it helped her stay active in retirement and maintain her weight over the summer.

Her grand prize for completing the challenge was a Coleman Snap N Go cooler, which

Continued on page 3 ►

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Business Directory 12	Classified Ads 9	Early Files 5	Shortcuts Kids 16	New Berlin Library 16	High School Sports 7	Crossword Puzzles & More 6
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Community invited to National Public Lands Day at Rogers Environmental Education Center

SHERBURNE — The nation’s largest single-day volunteer effort for public lands will be celebrated at Rogers Environmental Education Center on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 1 to 5 p.m. The event will feature Haudenosaunee smoke dancing and tree identification with DEC Forester Paul Romanenko. The Friends of Rogers invite the greater community to join volunteers who steward public lands.

Chris Thomas, an Onondaga Beaver Clan smoke dancer, will lead dancers from the Haudenosaunee Nations in skillful dances that honor Haudenosaunee traditions and culture. Thomas often invites



Volunteers take part in National Public Lands Day at Rogers Environmental Education Center in Sherburne in 2025. This year’s event returns Saturday, Sept. 26, with volunteer stewardship projects, Haudenosaunee smoke dancing and tree identification. (Photo by Sean Cooney)

guests to join in, providing an entertaining and educational social dance exhibition for all. The opening dance is at 1 p.m., and the closing dance will be at 4:30 p.m. Volunteer opportuni-

ties will include mulching the Hall of Trees, organizing saplings in Nature’s Nursery and maintaining the well-loved trails of Rogers Environmental Education Center.

“The public lands here belong to us all, and this special day is a perfect chance to care for a magical place that offers connection, adventure, countless stories, and a sense of belonging to so many,” said Gil Polk, community engagement coordinator for the Friends of Rogers.

This year’s event will continue the annual tradition of connecting representatives from the Oneida Indian Nation, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Friends of Rogers and volunteers from the community, the heartbeat of public land stewardship.

“I love nature, and volunteering at Rogers has deepened that,” said Rogers Center volunteer Garett Brigham. “It’s a great place. I never have a bad thought while I’m there.”

Questions may be directed to Gil Polk at gil@friendsofrogers.org.

Rogers Environmental Education Center, operated by the Friends of Rogers, is one of four DEC environmental education centers and is located at 2721 state Route 80 in Sherburne.

— Information from Friends of Rogers

A “Very Prairie” party celebrates “We Want More History!” and “Worldwide Day of Play”

NORWICH — Step away from screens and step back in time as the Chenango County Historical Society (CCHS) brings global play day to life with a frontier twist. CCHS joins Nickelodeon and the Association of Children’s Museums (ACM) for “Our World: Worldwide Day of Play” on Sept. 26, kicking off the fun with A “Very Prairie” Party.

Dedicated to experiencing joyful learning through play, this day focuses on getting kids and families up, out, and playing around. Held at CCHS — 45 Rexford St., Norwich — this event will feature a live, interactive musical performance by regional favorite Jenni Larchar from 10:30–11:30 a.m., along with play-based activities throughout the day at Ward School No. 2. Larchar’s program will include music and fun for all ages inspired by the “Little House on the Prairie” series.

Larchar, the beloved voice behind “Jenni’s Music” of Sherburne, is known throughout the region for interactive preschool programs, symphonious vocal performances, personalized music lessons, and a vast performance repertoire. She recently produced the popular children’s series A “Very Prairie” Summer, and she directed the 2024 award-winning Sherburne Music Theater Society production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” which earned eight commendations from the Theatre Association of New York State.

New this year, CCHS joins communities across the country in celebrating “We Want More History!” This national initiative, taking place Sept. 25–27, features community organizations such as historic sites, libraries, museums, and parks. Designed to build community engage-



The Chenango County Historical Society celebrates “We Want More History!” and “Worldwide Day of Play” with A “Very Prairie” Party from 10:30–11:30 a.m. on Sept. 26. The program includes music and fun for all ages inspired by the “Little House on the Prairie” series. (Submitted photo)

ment, strengthen civic health, and showcase the essential role of history in public life, “We Want More History!” connects people with the stories of the places they call home.

“We are so excited to be hosting ‘Jenni’s Music’ again at CCHS,” said Jessica Moquin, CCHS executive director. “What better way to explore history and be playful here at the museum than through A ‘Very Prairie’ Party with Jenni? This opportunity to learn and experience our museum promises to be fun for kids of all ages.”

“Play is a powerful experience that enriches people’s lives in museums, schools, homes, and beyond,” said Arthur G. Affleck, III, executive director of the ACM. “ACM is pleased to partner with Nickelodeon on amplifying the importance of play on wellbeing and healthy brain development, and to make learning more effective and joyful for everyone. We believe in the power of play and we strive to nurture more play and playful learning everywhere we go.”

First established in 1939, CCHS is the area’s premier heritage museum dedicated to celebrating local culture — its unique traditions and noteworthy stories. CCHS programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. While there is no charge for A “Very Prairie” Party, CCHS welcomes contributions to support future operations. Visit www.chenangohistorical.org.

ChenangoHistorical.org for more details about this and other CCHS programs.

“Our World: Worldwide Day of Play” is part of Nickelodeon’s Our World global initiative to inspire kids and provide them with tools to activate their individual and collective agency. As part of a network of more than 1,500 museums participating in Museums for All — a national access initiative that ACM manages — CCHS is a vital collaborator in the “Our World: Worldwide Day of Play.” For more information, visit www.childrensmuseums.org/dayofplay.

Founded in 1962, the ACM is the world’s foremost professional society supporting and advocating on behalf of museums that prioritize serving children and families, and those who work at and otherwise sustain them. With more than 500 members in 50 states and 13 countries, the ACM leverages the collective knowledge of children’s museums

through convening, sharing, and dissemination.

Nickelodeon, now in its 49th year, is the number one entertainment brand for kids. It has built a diverse, global business by putting kids first in everything it does. The brand includes television programming and production around the world, plus consumer products, digital, location-based experiences, publishing, and feature films. For more information visit www.nickpress.com. Nickelodeon is a part of Paramount’s (Nasdaq: PARA, PARAA) global portfolio of multimedia entertainment brands.

“We Want More History!” is organized by the American Historical Association, Organization for American Historians, American Library Association, Urban Libraries Council, American Association for State and Local History, Association for Rural and Small Libraries, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, National Council for the Social Studies, National Council on Public History, Explore Kentucky, and Yale University’s Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition.

— Information the Chenango County Historical Society

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County board passes salary increases for department officers following quiet public hearing

BY KELLI MILLER
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

NORWICH – The Chenango County Board of Supervisors recently held a public hearing on the proposed salaries of seven department officers prior to approving them for the coming year’s budget.

The public hearing was held on September 14, in the supervisor’s chambers in the Chenango County Office Building

in Norwich with very little public attendance or comments.

The board unanimously voted yes, in favor of the salaries and they will take effect on January 1, at the start of the new fiscal year.

The flat annual salaries of county officers include:

Commissioner of Social Services: \$125,000; Director of Public Works: \$99,300; Personnel Officer: \$95,470; Commissioner



The Chenango County Board of Supervisors recently held a public hearing on the proposed salaries of seven department officers prior to approving them for the coming year’s budget. Board officials unanimously voted yes, in favor of the salaries that will take effect on January 1, at the start of the new fiscal year. (Photo by Kelli Miller)

of Elections (2) each:	\$129,140;	County Clerk:	Property Tax: \$90,177.	retirement or other ben-
\$68,024;	County Sheriff:	\$89,139;	Director of Real	Salaries do not include
				efit costs for employees.

Chenango Arts Council to screen classic horror films this fall

NORWICH – Chenango Arts Council will once again screen spooky movies in the Martin W. Kappel Theater this Halloween season, in partnership with Guernsey Memorial Library and as part of its 2026-27 performance season.

Scream Screen is a series of free classic horror films the council and library present together each fall. Popcorn and light refreshments will be available.

This season’s movies will include Bela Lugosi in “Dracula” (1931), Vincent Price in “The Invisible Man Returns” (1940), the original version of “The Little Shop of Horrors” (1960), Vincent Price in “The Last Man on Earth” (1964) and the zombie horror “Night of the Living Dead” (1968).

The movies will be shown Wednesdays at 7



Chenango Arts Council will present its annual Scream Screen series of free classic horror films this fall at the Martin W. Kappel Theater in Norwich. The series begins Sept. 30 and continues through Oct. 28. (Submitted photo)

p.m., beginning Sept. 30 with “Dracula” and ending Oct. 28 with “Night of the Living Dead.”	Oct. 7, “The Little Shop of Horrors” on Oct. 14 and “The Last Man on Earth” on Oct. 21.	son opener will be Film & Strings: “The Cat and the Canary” on Saturday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m. This special event will combine a silent movie with
“The Invisible Man Returns” will be shown	Chenango Arts Council’s 2026-27 sea-	

a live original musical score performed by violinist Elizabeth Simchik, guitarist Jeff Ingersoll and percussionist Mark Shiner.

Released in 1927, “The Cat and the Canary” set the tone for “creepy mansion” style films, as well as becoming a cornerstone of the Universal horror movies the studio went on to release over the next several decades. A haunted house, comedy, mystery, spooky vibes, suspense and big reveals will be offset by Simchik’s original score.

This will not only be an opportunity to experience a new work, but also to view an iconic film as it was meant to be seen in theaters.

Tickets are on sale now at chenangoarts.org and will be available at the door. Chenango Arts Council members will receive free admission. To become a member, visit chenangoarts.org and click on JOIN in the gray box at the top, or call 607-336-2787.

The Martin W. Kappel Theater is located inside Chenango Arts Council at 27 W. Main St. in Norwich. For more information, call 607-336-2787 or email info@chenangoarts.org.

Chenango Arts Council thanked NBT Bank, NBT Insurance, The Greater Norwich Foundation, The Mirabito Foundation and the RC Smith Foundation for making the season possible.

Chenango Arts Council programming is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

– Information from Chenango Arts Council

Explore Chenango Outdoor Challenge grand prize winner sets sights on Appalachian Trail -

Continued from page 1 ►

she has already found a purpose for. She’ll use it for an upcoming road trip to visit family, and she plans to keep it in the car for spontaneous day hikes with her husband.

Bradley’s experience with the Explore Chenango Outdoor Challenge reflects what organizers intended it to inspire. Designed by the county’s Health and Planning departments, the challenge aimed to get people outside, exploring the county and

being active.

According to Christina Arnold, senior public health educator at the Chenango County Department of Public Health, only 24 participants submitted completed brochures for the raffle, but engagement far exceeded expectations.

“We had 24 submissions for the raffle prizes but gave out over 2,000 brochures and had over 50,000 social media and website hits with our Challenge over the summer,” Arnold said. “We consider this project highly successful for

that reason.”

She said they received a lot of positive feedback.

“We heard from a lot of people that loved the idea and enjoyed visiting local places they had not been before. People enjoyed taking their pets on walks, planning day trips with their children and visiting a pond or lake they had never been to,” Arnold said.

The challenge provided a way to encourage outdoor activity at spots right here in Chenango County.

“The goal is to get people out into nature with

their families and out visiting our local parks, hiking trails, bodies of water and bike trails,” Arnold said. “The other benefit was the physical activity that was increased because of this project.”

Planning Director Shane Butler emphasized that the challenge aligns directly with the county’s 2050 Vision Plan.

“One of the four main pillars of the Chenango County 2050 Vision Plan was Community Health and Wellbeing. Specifically, ‘Strategy 1: Support Healthy

Lifestyle & Enhance Quality of Life,’” Butler said. “What better way to support healthy lifestyles and enhance quality of life than being outside in the fresh air, spending time with friends and family and just enjoying the natural beauty that Chenango County has to offer. Even if you wanted to complete the challenge by yourself and focus on your own mental health, this challenge, we hope, has been beneficial to those who took the time to experience it.”

Bradley hopes more people will try the chal-

lenge next year. Her advice is simple.

“Just do it. Just head out and do it,” she said, noting that the challenge is accessible because it includes trails for all skill levels and is flexible with how much someone wants to walk.

For Bradley, the hiking trips won’t end with the summer challenge. The Appalachian Trail is on the horizon for 2027, and she is looking forward to seeing the fall foliage across New York state.

SNB Horseshoe Club comes to an end for 2026 season

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

SOUTH NEW BERLIN— The South New Berlin Horseshoe Club finished its final week of play on September 2.

The Stadium’s Al Bush and Al Patten finished the season out on top with a final record of 55-5-16.5 with Potter’s Tires’ Billy Schermerhorn and John Edwards, who lead most of the season, in second place at 55-17. Kelly’s Flowers, Webster Paving, and Fun Lovers finished off as the top five teams.

Billy Schermerhorn and Becky Moffitt swept both the men and wom-

en’s leaderboards. Schermerhorn had a high singles game of a 74 and a high series of a 204.

Moffitt finished with a high singles game of a 55 and a high series of a 140.

Potter’s Tires took both the team high singles and series while The Stadium won the high single handicap and Carpet Protectors took the high series handicap to close out the season.

The South New Berlin Horseshoe Club resumes for a new season in 2027 in April.

Full Standings as of September 2:
1. The Stadium (Al Bush/ Al Patten) 55.5-16, 10784 points

2. Potter’s Tires (Billy Schermerhorn/John Edwards) 55-17, 10923 points
3. Kelly’s Flowers (Lee Coon/Jess Sherwood) 51-21, 10565 points
4. Webster Paving (Ed Webster/Bob Wells) 48.5-23.5, 10599 points
5. Fun Lovers (Tim Lidell/Mike Grant) 44-28, 10406 points
6. Old Skool Lawnmower Repair & Service (Larry Shaw/Darla Smith) 43-29, 10556 points
7. Rustic Ridge (Ron Anderson/George Hanslmaier) 40-32, 10293 points
8. Top Notch Timber (Keith Clark/Jim Bulger) 39.5-32.5,

- 10373 points
9. Carpet Protectors (Brian Prentice/Chris Davis) 39-33, 10419 points
10. Ryno Graphics (Ryan Lund/Bill Wetherbee) 32.5-39.5, 10151 points
11. Roger’s Best Value Tire & Auto (Cindy Miller/Joe Miller) 32-40, 10402 points
12. RTG (Connie Barnes/Darlene Conkling) 30-42, 10311 points
13. Aptitude Design Co. (Tresta Raymond/Kate Lloyd) 30-42, 9740 points
14. Pitch Perfect (Lisa Webster/Brynn Grant) 27-45, 10111 points
15. Rolling M Stables (Jim Moffitt/Melvin

- Harvey) 25.5-46.5, 10042 points
16. The Retirees (Bob Aitkin/Denys Meade) 21.5-50.5, 9469 points
17. Upstate Companies (Laura Pegg/Ashley Barrows) 19-53, 9069 points
18. Tuttle’s Hot Diggity Dogs (Sam Tuttle/Trevor May) 11-61, 9412 points
Men’s High Singles: Billy Schermerhorn 74
Al Patten 69
Lee Coon 67
Women’s High Singles: Becky Moffitt 55
Cindy Miller 41
Jess Sherwood 39
Team High Singles: Potter’s Tires 129
The Stadium 129

- Webster Paving 108
Team High Singles Handicap: The Stadium 222
Potter’s Tires 217
Carpet Protectors 215
Men’s High Series: Billy Schermerhorn 204
Lee Coon 200
Al Patten 179
Women’s High Series: Becky Moffitt 140
Cindy Miller 121
Jess Sherwood 110
Team High Series: Potter’s Tires 355
The Stadium 340
Kelly’s Flowers 310
Team High Series Handicap: Carpet Protectors 626
Potter’s Tires 619
The Stadium 619

Historian Ed Erickson to host fall talks at Guernsey Memorial Library

NORWICH — Historian Dr. Edward J. “Ed” Erickson will continue his popular presentations this fall at Guernsey Memorial Library.

Although Erickson specializes in Ottoman and Middle Eastern history, he returns to his hometown roots in many of his presentations. His range of topics

includes local history, New York state history and American history.

The presentations are open to the public and begin at 6:30 p.m. on Monday evenings at Guernsey Memorial Library. There will be time for questions at the conclusion of each presentation.

Oct. 12: “Conspiracy Theories in American

History”

From the nation’s earliest days, Americans have been fascinated with conspiracy theories.

How do conspiracy theories enter the popular imagination? Why do they persist in our culture?

The presentation will examine Robert F. Kennedy Jr.’s public

claims that Lyme disease may be connected to military research at Plum Island, theories surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and claims involving Dr. Anthony Fauci and RNA viruses.

Erickson will also examine major conspiracy theories in American history, including the Lincoln conspiracy,

FDR and Pearl Harbor, JFK and Dallas, the moon landing, Area 51, RFK and Plum Island, COVID-19 vaccines and more.

Dec. 14: “Appalachia, Chenango County & LBJ’s War on Poverty”

The presentation will examine common claims about whether Chenango County tax dollars flow downstate to New York

City and how state and federal tax dollars flow in and out of the county.

Erickson will also discuss poverty in Chenango County and the county’s inclusion in the federally designated Appalachian region.

— Information from Guernsey Memorial Library

Otsego Dance Society will hold a contradance on October 2

FLY CREEK - Otsego Dance Society will hold a contradance on Friday October 2nd at the Cornfield Hall in Fly Creek. Music will be by Contrasonics and Robby Poulette will be the caller.

Contrasonics is a familiar local band from the Springfield area. Members are Kathy Shimberg playing piano and keyboard and fid-

dlers Erik House and John Potocnik. They’ve been playing area contradances for over 50 years and their years of musical experience in a variety of styles offer a great selection of contradance tunes. And you might have seen Erik and Kathy at the Harvest Festival.

Poulette has been calling at a variety of dances in the Cooperstown

area since a student at Hartwick College. He has a friendly and easy-going calling style and his teaching ability helps new dancers feel comfortable.

Contradancing is a lively style of dance done to live music and is loads of fun for singles, couples and families of all ages. No experience is needed since the caller teaches each dance. And

beginners can come at 7:15, when there will be a short introduction to some basic steps.

Dancing begins at 7:30 PM and continues until 10:30 PM with a short break halfway through for some light refreshments. Suggested donation is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students and teen-agers and free for children 12 and under, with a maximum of \$25

per family. The Cornfield is located on Cty Route 26 in Fly Creek. You can find detailed directions on our website.

For more information, call (607) 435-8585 or (607) 547-8164. You can also check our website at www.otsegodancesociety.weebly.com for more details or announcements..Or check out our Facebook page.

This project is made possible with public funds from the Statewide Community Re grants Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and administered by The

Earlville Opera House - Information from the Otsego Dance Society

Chenango Arts Council announces Grants for Teachers 2026-2027 Award Winners

NORWICH — The Chenango Arts Council is proud to announce the recipients of this year’s Grants for Teachers program. A total of \$5,385 was awarded to 13 Chenango County teachers in the Norwich, Greene, Otselic Valley, Sherburne-Earlville, Afton, Greene, Oxford, Bainbridge-Guilford,

and Valley Heights school districts. Thanks to this support, over 1,000 students in Pre-K through 12th grade, including those in special education programs, will have the opportunity to explore engaging and creative learning experiences. Topics range from “STEM in the Classroom” and

“Illuminating Young Minds: a STEAM Light Table Exploration Center” to ceramics classes, Magnetiles, KEVA planks, and new supplies for the Nature Art Club.

Grants for Teachers provides individual grants of up to \$500 directly to Chenango County educators to

assist with the inclusion of arts-related projects or events into their standard curriculum. Awarded annually, the program involves submission of an application detailing the project, and requires a budget, itemized wish-list, potential benefit to students, and number of students potentially

reached, and if a prior applicant, a final report outlining the previous year’s project outcome. Applications for next year’s program will be available in the spring of 2027 on the Arts Council website: ChenangoArts.org

The Arts Council would especially like to thank the sponsors who

made this year’s program possible: the Otis Thompson Foundation, Golden Artists Colors, Walmart, and the Greater Norwich community.

For more information about the program, please visit the Chenango Arts Council website: www.ChenangoArts.org or call 607-336-2787.



The Unadilla Valley volleyball team hosted Greene on Monday night, where both teams were competitive with the match going to four sets, where UV won 3-1. (Photos by Morgan Golliver)

UV volleyball hosts Greene; comes back and wins in four sets

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

NEW BERLIN— The Unadilla Valley volleyball team hosted Greene on Monday

night with both teams getting a feel for MAC league play early in the season. Both teams played competitively and intense with Greene taking the first match 25-17 and

UV taking the second match 25-20 to split the sets, forcing four sets either way. UV won the third set and took control 25-11 while Greene fought back tying up the fourth set but UV

saw good serves from Shyla Roberts and Molly Pizzuto to pull away with the 25-20 victory.

Greene's Molly Harris had good serves in the first set to give

UV's Jade Cook led the team with 25 assists and a block while MaKenzie Knuth led the team with 10 digs.

Shyla Roberts had

a team-high 15 kills and eight aces while Cheyanna McMahon had five kills and two aces. Emily Vatovec added four kills as Logan Cook had two kills in the win.

UV XC hosts local meet, featuring BGAH and Norwich

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

NEW BERLIN— The Unadilla Valley cross country team hosted a small meet, outside of invitationals, that also featured local contenders BGAH and Norwich as well as Edmeston/Morris, Deposit-Hancock, Sidney, and Delhi/South Kortright. The meet had 54 male runners compared to 29 females.

The BGAH boys took

second behind Delhi/South Kortright with Norwich in fifth. The BGAH girls came in third behind Edmeston/Morris and Delhi/South Kortright on the 2.5 mile course.

Boys:

UV's Jake Favinger won the official meet with the fastest time of 13:53 with Norwich's Nic Sutton in second at 14:25. BGAH's Owen Degan came in third with a time of 14:29. Teammate Sean Fowler and Ethan Beardslee

came in eighth and ninth place respectively.

Aidan James earned a top 10 finish for the Storm at 15:34 as the only other male athlete for UV.

BGAH's Jackari Garipoli finished 20th with a time of 17:05 with Mason Lans in 22 with a time of 17:13, the same as teammate My'Kel George in 23rd.

Norwich, who has a full male team this season, had Maddox Wolford in 25th with Richard Hatton behind

him in 26th. Ethan Tang came in 50th with Adrien Browne in 51st to round out the Purple Tornado scorers.

BGAH saw freshman Zion Lucchese in 31st with a time of 18:33 as fellow freshman Teagan O'Connor followed in 32nd (18:42) with Connor Rowe in 34th (18:54). Johannes Willumson took 36th place as Caleb Robertson finished behind him in 37th. Andrew Menard (39th) and Peter Blance (53rd) rounded out the

BGAH male runners on the day.

Girls:

Edmeston/Morris' Paige Sherwood led all female runners with the fastest time of 16:40 out of the 29 runners partaking the course. UV's Kathleen Pizzuto came in sixth with a time of 18:23 as teammate Margaret Kemnah finished 12th with a time of 19:36.

Gabby Gross led BGAAH with a 13th place finish with a time of 20:38 with Norwich's

Malea Sutton behind her
in 14th (20:49).

Laeni Baldwin, Jalyne Winans, Myahlee Palmer, Elzie John all followed each other for BGAH in 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th places. Ruth Wilson earned a 21st place finish with a time of 21:38 with Macey LaFever in 24th with a time of 21:45. Marissa Mayo finished things off for BGAH with a 27th place finish at a time of 22:17.

S-E XC competes at Poland

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

POLAND — On Wednesday, the Sherburne-Earlville Cross Country team traveled to compete at Poland. The varsity boys earned three wins against incomplete NY

Mills, Hamilton, and Remsen teams.

Boys:

Dominick Hirst led the S-E boys with a fourth place finish with a time of 17:53.9 as Clifford Russett followed in fifth place with a time of 18:01.5.

Aaron Romanowski

earned an eighth place finish with a time of 18:40.5 with Brett Lewis in 11th with a time of 19:11.4. Victor Smith, Logan Smith, Silas Perrin, and Trevor Harris all finished 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th respectively.

Girls:

Out of 17 female runners on the day, S-E was led by Isabel MaGrath and Aurora

Burk. MaGrath, a freshman, took second with a time of 21:50.5, behind lead-

ing 21:46.1. Burk, a senior, came in 11th place with a time of 27:18.1.

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Greene boys defeat UV/GMU

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

GREENE— The Greene Trojans and UV/GMU boys' soccer teams faced off for a MAC league matchup on Thursday. Greene stayed

hot with a 7-0 shutout victory to improve to 4-1 on the season. Greene was led by Judd Dutcher and Jack Rice, who both scored three goals each while Levi Pritcher netted one in as well. Greene also put up 20 shots on goal.

Jacob Acevedo picked up two assists with Rice, Dutcher, and Ben Lipari each had one. Goalkeeper Jackson Roth made four saves in the win as UV/GMU's Caleb Dix made nine saves in the loss.



UV/GMU's Madison Dix (#6) plays stellar defense against Unatego/Franklin. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)

S-E boys soccer falls short to Camden

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

CAMDEN— The Sherburne-Earlville boys' soccer team traveled to take on the Camden Blue Devils on

Thursday. S-E came up just short 3-2. Camden scored all three goals in the first half while S-E tried to fight back with their two in the second half but could not make the official comeback.

Nasick Chrisbacher and Matthew Morgan both scored for S-E behind goalkeeper Hudson Schwartz-Pumilio's seven saves. S-E (1-5) hosts Herkimer on Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

UV/GMU golf falls to Delhi

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

SHERBURNE— The Unadilla Valley/GMU golf team hosted a tough Delhi team on Wednesday afternoon,

falling 234-247. Carter Simonds led the team with a match low 40 while Evan Hill chipped in a 45. Urijah Drake added a 51 as Blake Lawrence shot a 55 and Daren

Smith with a 56. Paul Ruffles finished as the team's sixth golfer on the day. UV/GMU (0-8) hosts Unatego/Franklin on Friday at 3:45 p.m.

B-G golf defeats UV/GMU at home

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

BAINBRIDGE— The Bainbridge-Guilford Bobcats and the UV/GMU golf teams faced off at Sundown Golf Course on Monday. B-G defeated UV/GMU 243-252 on the par 36 course.

Braison Ives led B-G with a 43 while Frank Parsons shot a 44 and Levi Nightengale with a 48. Cole Fleming and Kate Baciуска both shot 54s as Mason Acquisto finished as the sixth golfer. UV/GMU's Carter Simonds led all golfers

with a match low 41 on an away course. Paul Ruffles chipped in a 48 while Reed Osborne shot a 52. Urijah Drake had a 54 and Gavin Underwood with a 57 with Evan Hill being the team's sixth golfer.

UV/GMU girls fall to Unatego/Franklin at home

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

NEW BERLIN— The Unadilla Valley/GMU girls' soccer team continued its homestand against MAC league opponent Unatego/Franklin on Tuesday night. UV/GMU fell 5-0 but played a strong defensive front. Unatego/Franklin had control of possession most of the game

with UV/GMU having to stand their ground defensively, led by Madison Dix, who man marked her opponent well and even had a steal and good movement offensively as well. Noelle Fernandez-Naughton had many breakaways and put up six shots on goal, along with some help from Molly Gorrell and Logan Lindholm, who pressured the goalie towards

the end of the game, but couldn't capitalize. UV/GMU goalie Alexis Davis faced many shots on goal and made crucial saves to start the game and ended up with 10 saves in total in the first half. Molly Knuth took over goal in the second half and made seven saves. UV/GMU (2-2) hosts their annual NY Pizzeria tournament on Friday and Saturday.

B-G girls shut out Sidney

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

BAINBRIDGE— The Bainbridge-Guilford Bobcats girls' soccer team faced off against Sidney for the second time this season on

Tuesday, following the Flannery tournament championship game. This time for a MAC league showdown, which B-G came away with the 1-0 victory. Keelan Ammon's shot hit the top of the crossbar and went in

for the only goal of the game. Goalkeeper Saige Barnard had six saves for the shutout and owned the 18. B-G (3-0) heads to Delhi on Thursday to face the Bulldogs again already this season.

UV/GMU girls' soccer take down Laurens at home

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

NEW BERLIN — The Unadilla Valley/GMU girls' soccer team hosted non-league opponent Laurens on Monday afternoon. UV/GMU kicked off a five-game

homestand and defeated Laurens 5-1. It was UV/GMU's third game of the season after taking on Greene and Mount Markham. Noelle Fernandez-Naughton led the team with a hat trick, netting in three goals while

Madison Dix and Allisyn Daniell both scored one goal apiece. Dix also picked up an assist in the win. UV/GMU (2-1) hosts Unatego/Franklin to resume MAC league play this afternoon at 4:30 p.m.

S-E field hockey drops to Mt. Markham

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

WEST WINFIELD — The Sherburne-Earlville Timberwolves field hockey team traveled to take on Mount Markham

on Wednesday. S-E fell 10-1 on the road. S-E scored in the second quarter and put up two shots on goal. Alivia Franklin converted on one of the shots on goal to put S-E on the board.

Goalkeeper Peyton Darragh faced many shots on goal, where she made 25 saves in the loss. S-E (0-4) hosts Sauquoit Valley on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

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The hearing will be held at the Morris Fire Station, 117 Main St., Morris, NY.

Matthew Sheldon
Treasurer, Board of Fire Commissioners
(t1GZ 09/24)

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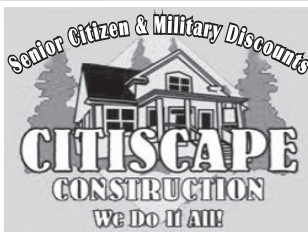
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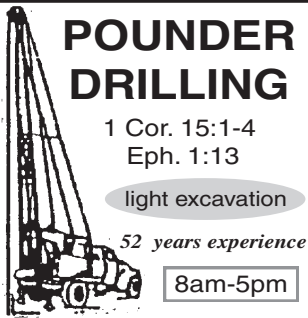
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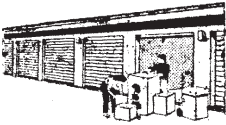


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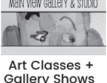
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Colorscape weekend was a hit with 2026 award winners announced

BY KELLI MILLER
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

NORWICH — The 32nd annual Colorscape Chenango Arts Festival was once again a big hit over the past weekend with three days of art, music, creativity, and community celebration, including a brand-new Friday night kickoff concert.

Live music on three stages featured an exciting mix of regional and nationally recognized musicians and performers, offering folk, blues, rock, poetry and family entertainment.

Colorscape Chenango Arts Festival Executive Director Michele Ericksen said art remains at the heart of Colorscape with more than 120 juried artists showcasing their work throughout the parks and featuring a variety of mediums, such as photography, fiber art, ceramics, woodworking, fine crafts, jewelry, and more.

“Judging more than 120 incredibly talented artists is never easy,” said Ericksen. “There is so much creativity and craftsmanship on display that choosing just a few winners is a real challenge.”

“I don’t envy the job of our judges,” she said.

Overall, Ericksen noted she couldn’t be happier with this year’s festival and saw people of all ages filling the parks, discovering art, listening to music, creating together, and enjoying the community.

“From the artists and performers, to our volunteers, sponsors, partners, and attendees, it takes an enormous community effort to make this festival happen,” she said.

“I couldn’t be more proud of how this year’s Colorscape came together, and I’m already looking forward to what we can create together next year,” Ericksen added.

Colorscape Chenango Arts Festival has celebrated premier artists in downtown Norwich since 1995. The free outdoor festival draws about 12,000 people to downtown Norwich



“Art remains at the heart of Colorscape with more than 120 juried artists showcasing their work throughout the parks and featuring a variety of mediums, such as photography, fiber art, ceramics, woodworking, fine crafts, jewelry, and more” at the 32nd annual Colorscape Chenango Arts Festival. (Photos from Earlville Opera House Arts Center Facebook)

on the weekend after Labor Day.

According to their website, their mission is to be the premier free arts festival in the heart of central New York.

The Festival has again been recognized by Sunshine Artist Magazine as one of the Top 100 Fine Art & Design Festivals in the country.

Colorscape also offers nationally renowned musical performers, poetry and literary arts, food, and interactive art activities for all ages.

For more information, visit their website at colorscape.org.

Colorscape winners

Acrylic and Oils:

- 1st place- D. Michael Price, Bainbridge, NY.
- 2nd place- Gary Lawrence, Binghamton, NY.
- 3rd place- Sylvan Grajo, Ithaca, NY.

Ceramics:

- 1st place- Ede Walker Pottery, Smyrna, NY.
- 2nd place- Alaina Hall, Alaina’s Art Studio, Syracuse, NY.
- 3rd place- Chris Pettingill, C&P Studio Ceramics., Afton, NY.

Drawings, Pastels and Prints:

- 1st place- Lyell Castonguay, Drawings, Troy, NY.
- 2nd place- Mathias Kern, New York, NY.
- 3rd place- David RC Oster, Utica, NY.

Fiber:

- 1st place- Elizabeth Yates, Fiddlehead Fiber, McDonough, NY.

- 2nd place- Lis & Michael Madsen, Heirlooms, Harrisville, NY.
- 3rd place- Alan Williamson, Sweep Heart Brooms, Greene, NY.

Wearable Fiber:

- 1st place- Lis & Michael Madsen, Heirlooms, Harrisville, NY.
- 2nd place- Deborah Sylstra, Quilts & Curiosities, Norwich, NY.
- 3rd place- Josanne Murer, Norwich, NY.

Glass:

- 1st place- Cheryl Gunmaker, The Lady’s Got Glass, Corning, NY.
- 2nd place- Chrissy Lapham, Handblown Glass, Ithaca, NY.
- 3rd place- H. Dennis Christie, Christie Glass Works, Easton, NY.

Herbal and Nature:

- 1st place- Teri Stratford, Autumn Emeralds Art Prints, Walton, NY.
- 2nd place- Mia Sohn, Pysanky by Mia, Rochester, NY.
- 3rd place- Jackie Foley & Lisa Benner, Elder Sisters Apothecary, Davenport, NY.

Fine Jewelry:

- 1st place- Beth Dubois, Among Stones, Earlville, NY.
- 2nd place- Nancy Miller, Nancy Miller Fine Jewelry, Saratoga Springs, NY.
- 3rd place- Courtney Niederer, Courtney Elise Handmade, Morris, NY.

Craft Jewelry:

- 1st place- Marissa Perkins, Creative Roots Studio, Herkimer, NY.
- 2nd place- Kathleen Petrocci, Pocketbooks & Pages, Auburn, NY.
- 3rd place- Cheryl Mirkin, CM Design, Lynbrook, NY.

Mixed Media:

- 1st place- Sonoka Fukuma Gozelski, Sonoka County, West Edmeston, NY.
- 2nd place- Felix Eddy-McLain, The Clockwork Sphinx, Endicott, NY.
- 3rd place- Carol Bloomgarden, Micrography, Trumansburg, NY.

Photography:

- 1st place- Stephan Foster, Revive the Ambiance, Norwich, NY.
- 2nd place- Jody Hildreth, Acorn Whimsey, Waterville, NY.

- 3rd place- Lee Ingraham Stonehouse, Smyrna, NY.

Sculpture:

- 1st place- Linda Kays-Biviano, Linda Kays Studio, Norwich, NY.
- 2nd place- John Jackson, Whimsical Sculpture, Jefferson, NY.
- 3rd place- Casey Shepherd, Hippie West Crafts, Greene, NY.

Watercolors:

- 1st place- Kate Griffith, Her Unruly Art, Montoursville, PA.
- 2nd place- Terry Smith, Wild Ravens, Johnstown, PA.

Wood:

- 1st place- Richard Phaneuf, PENEUF, Saratoga Springs, NY.
- 2nd place- Susan Sims, Collar City Spoons, Troy, NY.
- 3rd place- Steven Plaisted, The Rafters

- Wood Crafts, Endicott, NY.

Miscellaneous:

- 1st place- Lara Bremer, Paper Wolf Design, Oneonta, NY.
- 2nd place- Kathleen Petrocci, Pocketbooks and Pages, Auburn, NY.
- 3rd place- Joan Shroyer-Keno, Alta’s Ornamentation, Dryden, NY.

Best Booth:

- Mina Clark Art, Glass, Rainbow Lake, NY.

Best of Show:

- Lyell Castonguay, Woodcuts, Troy, NY.

Best Savory Taste of Colorscape:

- UHS.

Best Sweet Taste of Colorscape:

- Freddie’s Rockin’ Lemonade.

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New Berlin Library Corner

Children’s book author Suzanne Bloom to visit the Library

NEW BERLIN - Adults and children age 7 and older will have the opportunity to meet award-winning children’s book author and illustrator Suzanne Bloom when her “It Takes a Village” program comes to the New Berlin Library on Saturday, September 26, at 10 a.m.

Bloom, best known for her beloved Goose and Bear book series, will be at the library for her “It Takes a Village” program. This program celebrates the importance of community. As part of the program, participants will create a sculpture project involving the entire county. Children age 7 and older, as well as adults, are invited to paint little houses. Once assembled, the houses will be incorporated with villages created by other participants into one large panel to be displayed at the Guernsey Memorial Library.



Smocks will be available, but participants are encouraged to wear clothing that can get a little paint on it. Call the library or message on Facebook to sign up for this program. Registration space is limited. The program offers children and adults a special opportunity to participate in a county-wide community art project while enjoying the creative talents of a published author and illustrator. Families are encouraged to mark their calendars for Saturday,

September 26, at 10 a.m. at the New Berlin Library. For additional information or registration details, contact the library. Coloring Contest for Children Children age 12 and younger are invited to participate in a Halloween coloring contest running from September through October 23. The coloring sheets were designed by graphic designer and library employee Renee Priola. Completed sheets must be returned to the library by October 23. Winners

will be announced Monday, October 26. There will be two age groups: children ages 6 and younger and children ages 7 through 12. A grand prize will be awarded in each age category. The prize package includes a Halloween bucket, a Halloween Squishmallow, a bag of candy and a light-up Halloween wand. Children should remember to put their first name, age and contact number on the back of their coloring sheet. And everyone is a winner when it comes to the fun! Each child who turns in a completed coloring sheet will be able to choose a small prize, including whistle pops, light-up Halloween rings, skeleton pops or Halloween fidget spinners. The next meeting of the New Berlin Library Board of Trustees will be held Wednesday, September 30, at 6 p.m.

The public is welcome to attend. The library will be closed Monday, October 12, in observance of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples’ Day. Some great new additions to the library include: Wild Dark Shore by Charlotte McConaghy, Sharp Force (Scarpetta Novel) by Patticia Cornwell, Dead Beat (Ninth House Trilogy) by Leigh Bardugo, Hollow Bones by Judy Picoult, Amish Murder (Ettie Smith Amish Mysteries) Large Print by Samantha Price, Murder in the Amish Bakery (Ettie Smith Amish Mysteries) Large Print by Samantha Price, Secrets Come Home (Ettie Smith Amish Mysteries) Large Print by Samantha Price, Be Prepared (Graphic Novel)By Vera Brosgol, Bunnacula (The Graphic Novel) by James Howe and Andrew Donkin,

Atlantis The Lost City? (Level 4 Reader) by Andrew Donkin, Bermuda Triangle (Level 3 Reader) by Andrew Donkin, and Detective Beans & The Case of the Missing Hat (Graphic Novel) by Li Chen. The New Berlin Library is located at 15 South Main Street, New Berlin. The Library is open Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Saturdays 10 a.m.-noon. The web address is libraries.4cls.org/newberlin/. Please contact us at 607-847-8564 or like and message our Facebook page New Berlin Library and Museum (www.facebook.com/newberlinlibrary.newberlinny) with any questions. - Information from the New Berlin Library

The cashew tree was first cultivated in northeastern Brazil. In the early 1500s, the indigenous people of Brazil introduced the cashew tree to European explorers. Those explorers later introduced the tree to India and eventually the rest of the world, where it thrived in the tropical climates of countries such as Ivory Coast, Vietnam, Tanzania, Mozambique, Indonesia and the Philippines. Today, cashews are one of the world’s most popular snacks.

In A Nut Shell

In addition to being one of the world’s top producers of cashews, India is also the world’s biggest consumer of cashews, followed by the United States and Germany.

Cashew trees grow to be about 6 to 15 m (20 to 50 ft.) in height.

What do nuts wear on their feet? Cash-shoes.

In many countries, cashews are seen as a symbol of good luck and prosperity.

Astro-Nut

Can you help this astronaut reach the snacks?

Why is it a bad idea to run from the cashew police? They will cashew (catch you).

This cartoon is driving me nuts.

Shortcuts
by jeff harris

Snacking On Cashews

What app do nuts use for payment? CashewApp.

The indigenous people of Brazil used almost every part of the cashew tree, including the nut, cashew apple, bark and leaves.

The cashew tree belongs to the Anacardiaceae family of plants, along with mangos, pistachios and poison ivy.

The cashew nut we eat grows inside a protective shell filled with a toxic oil. The oil irritates skin like poison ivy and must be cooked or roasted away before the cashew nut can be safely eaten.

What looks like the fruit of a cashew tree is actually an enlarged, pear-shaped stalk called a “cashew apple.” The actual fruit is a kidney-shaped shell that hangs from the bottom of the cashew apple. The shell contains a single seed, and that seed is the cashew nut we eat.

The cashew apple is often discarded during the process of harvesting cashews, but the juicy “fruit” can be eaten fresh or used to make preserves, jams, chutneys, juices, vinegar and wine.

What sound does a nut make when it sneezes? CashCHOO!

Cashews are called nuts, but they are actually classified as seeds.

Nuts And Bolts

Cashew trees grown commercially will produce nuts for about 25 years before being replaced, but some may live for as long as 100 years.

About 3.4 million tonnes (3.9 million tons) of cashews are harvested worldwide each year.

Word Search

Can you find the hidden words? Search carefully because some words are backward or diagonal.

HARVEST	TOXIC	BARK
CASHEW	FRUIT	BOB
POISON	TREE	NUT
LEAVES	WINE	JAM
APPLE	LUCK	IVY
SHELL	SEED	OIL

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