



The Spartan Times



S.S. Seward Students Attend Journalism Field Trip

By Malina Grove



On January 17th, a group of students from S.S. Seward's Newspaper and Literary Magazine Clubs, as well as Mrs. Moon's journalism class, got the opportunity to visit the Orange County Government Center and Straus News to learn more about the journalism industry.

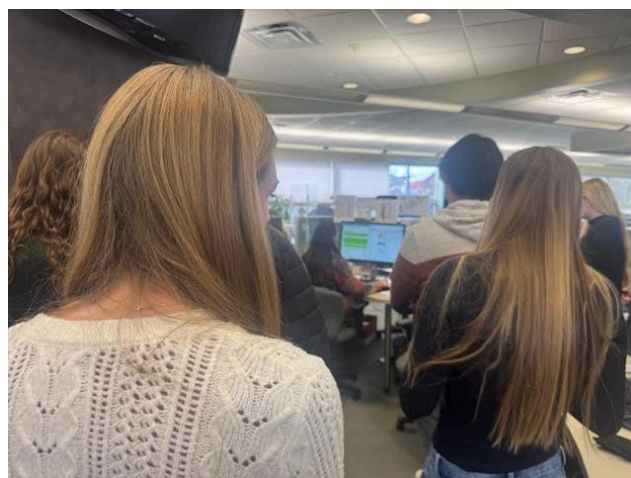
At the Orange County Government Center in Goshen, students heard from Amanda Dana, the Orange County Director of Tourism and Film, about working with travel journalists to promote

Orange County. Students were able to ask questions about tourism, travel journalism, and how some of the speakers there chose their careers. Another speaker, Hank Gross, a local news reporter for Mid-Hudson News who has worked in TV, newspaper, and radio journalism for over fifty years, gave some insights into the journalism industry and how it has changed. When asked to describe what a typical day as a journalist is like, he told the students, "One of the beauties of journalism is that no two days are alike."

Before the students departed, they were encouraged to follow and support Pick OCNY, which Amanda Dana and her team use to bring more attention to Orange County, as well as Mid-Hudson News, of which Hank Gross is the founder.

After leaving the Government Center, students visited Straus News in Chester to hear from more journalists and learn about the process of putting together a newspaper.

Students were welcomed by Molly Caulken, Lisa Reider, and Jeanne Straus, who write, edit, and publish for Straus News. Students were then able to ask questions about the field of journalism. Molly Caulken affirmed Hank's claim that



no two days are alike when working in journalism, and described various tasks she often performed as part of her job, including attending local events and utilizing social media platforms. When asked what advice they would give to aspiring journalists, Lisa Reider responded that it's best to go into the writing process of an article with the knowledge that everything is more complicated than one may think, and to be aware of one's own biases. Jeanne Straus, who's been working in the field for over thirty-five years, advised that reporters should always ask open-ended questions.

After answering questions, the journalists turned the interview around and asked some questions to the visiting students! Students were able to share their thoughts on what it's like being a teen today, as well as current issues like AI and cell phone usage in school. Afterwards, the students were shown around the building and had the opportunity to see some behind the scenes action of how a newspaper is put together.

Thank you to Ms. Scheibling and Mrs. Moon for organizing this trip, as well as Orange County Tourism and Straus News for having us!



Holiday Toy Drive

By Georgia Maesano

Every year the Spanish Club holds a holiday toy drive to provide families with toys and gifts on Christmas morning that would otherwise have nothing. When we are young we can often take what we have for granted. We expect the presents under the tree, and the stockings filled with little surprises. Can you imagine waking up on Christmas morning and seeing a bare tree and empty stockings? You would be devastated and disappointed. However, did you also know you could prevent a child from experiencing this? Well, you can! By donating toys, so many kids will be blessed with a present they will forever be grateful for. This year, toys donated to the Spanish club were donated to the Florida Community Food Pantry and distributed to over one hundred families in need. Thank you for making this a special holiday season for so many!

Diversity Club's Snowflake Project

by Cricket Carey

On December 17, 2024, the S.S. Seward Diversity Club hosted a very unique event. Members of the club had a table in the lobby during all lunch periods, where people were encouraged to come up and make paper snowflakes with the paper and scissors provided. This wasn't a fundraiser or giveaway; all you had to do was make a snowflake or two.

All the completed snowflakes were collected, and the next day they were all turned into a big mural outside of room 206.

The goal of this project was to illustrate how we're all different, just like snowflakes. No two are exactly alike, and that's the kind of thing that Diversity Club celebrates. There's so much beauty in what makes us all unique, and society today needs to recognise that.

If you're interested in becoming a member of Diversity Club, or even just stopping by to see what we're all about, then come on down to room 206 (Mr. Pascullo's) at 2:25 every Wednesday.

Senior Enrichment Trip #3: Hamilton on Broadway!

Malina Grove

On Wednesday, December 4th, six seniors from Seward took their third Senior Enrichment Trip and ventured into the city to see Hamilton on Broadway! However, the trip didn't only feature the Broadway stage. While in the city, the group got to experience Times Square and St. Patrick's Cathedral. The show was fantastic, and the various sightseeing spots and quintessential NYC tourist spots made the trip a day to remember!



S.S. Seward Journalism Students Experiment With Photojournalism



Gabriella Campana: The Seward Varsity Cheer Team coached by Ms. Allen cheered on the girls' basketball team. On Friday, December 13th, during the game, and during halftime they cheered on the varsity team for their game against Port Jervis. They all wore orange and blue outfits representing our school and they cheered on the girls basketball team encouraging them during the game. They put on multiple different cheers and it was a great addition to the game.

Gabriella Campana: This is a picture I took on Ms Allen's camera during spirit week for the yearbook. This was on December 19, 2024 when students and staff were encouraged to wear ugly sweaters for spirit week. The people in this picture are Carla Zuluaga and Tyzhae Hicks. The picture was taken in the hallway outside of Ms. Duquette's classroom. I used depth of field to blur out the background of this picture to get a clear focus on the camera and the picture taken on the camera.



Watt Christmas Wonderland - Cesar Cabrera



This is the entrance to the light show, it opens at 6:00PM. Admissions are \$10 a car.

The entrance has many lighted arches, I think it is a pretty nice way of starting the light show. At the time there were only a handful of other cars driving.



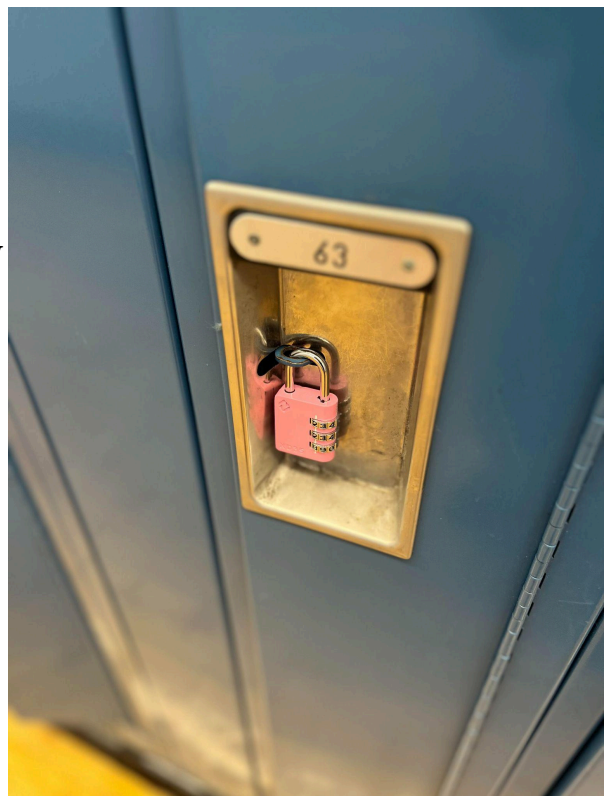
This is the road right before entering. As you can see the whole place is decorated with winter soldiers.





Barbara Hamling:
Children's art is very unique. Their minds give them any idea and they execute it the best they can. This piece of clay art was made by an 8th grader. They painted it with acrylic paint and used water to mold it together.

Barbara Hamling: Many kids in school have blue, red or black locks. What they don't realize is that you can get a lock in pretty much any color. If you go on amazon, you can find pretty much any color you desire. Consider a pink lock for your locker next year!



How To Build The Perfect Snowman

By Violet Collins

Ingredients

- Fluffy Snow
- A scarf
- A hat
- 2 sticks
- 1 carrot
- 2 buttons

Instructions

1. Make 3 round different sized spherical snowballs that are smooth with one side a little flatter than the other out of snow
2. Take the medium size snowball and place it on top of the biggest snowball
3. Then place the smallest snowball on top of the medium sized one. At this point you should have a snowball tower
4. Take your stick and place them across from each other with one end in the medium sized snowball
5. Take your carrot and place it on the smallest snowball and in between the two arms.
6. Then Place your buttons above the carrot, a small but noticeable difference apart with one on each side of the carrot.
7. Then place the hat on top of the smallest snowball and wrap the scarf in between the medium and smallest snowball
8. Now you have a Friendly Snowman!

Best Small Hudson Valley Bands Who YOU Should Know About

By Cricket Carey

#8: The Yagas

BIO: S.S. Seward's very own Mr. Visconti is a dedicated guitarist and founding member of a brand new rock band based in New York called The Yagas. Having already amassed several thousands of followers across social media in just a few months, The Yagas have immense potential that we're only just beginning to witness.

I asked Mr. Visconti if he could tell me a little bit about how this group came to be. Here's what he had to say:

"We all met as parents at The Rock Academy in Woodstock. Our kids were students there. Renn [Hawkey], Vera [Farmiga], and I carpooled. Then we all participated in the Adult Program. Renn, Vera, and I started writing together and then Jason [Bowman] and Mike [Davis] joined the fold. Our first album "Midnight Minuet" will be out in March, and our second single will drop in January. Our first single "The Crying Room" is available on all streaming platforms and the song's video is on YouTube (over 1.1 Million views so far)."

Mr. Visconti also mentioned that the people who mastered and mixed The Yagas' music have both been nominated for GRAMMYs in the past, with one of them even winning one. The members of this group are also affiliated with other well-known rock bands, including The Red Hot Chili Peppers, Deadsy, Coldplay, Beck, Deftones, and 30 Seconds to Mars. The band got their name from the Slavic witch Baba Yaga.

MY REVIEW: It doesn't look like The Yagas have performed live yet, so I couldn't give you a personal concert review. However, I do happen to be one of the 1.1 Million people on YouTube who's seen the music video for their debut song "The Crying Room," and I can confirm that this song is nothing short of incredible. It's spooky, dark, and mysterious, with incredible vocals and a very unique instrumental. The video is extremely captivating, with beautiful cinematography and a lot of great acting from the lead singer, Vera Farmiga, who also happens to be a famous actress. But when you see Mr. Visconti, you'll be like, "Oh my God, I know that guy!" which was the best part for me. The whole song and video were very well done though, and I'm very excited for more new content from this band.

WHERE TO CATCH THEM NEXT: The Yagas have one upcoming single set to release in January. Their debut album, "Midnight Minuet," will be released in March. No live performances or tour dates have been publicly announced yet, so be sure to follow them on social media to stay updated! Follow The Yagas on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and anywhere you stream music.

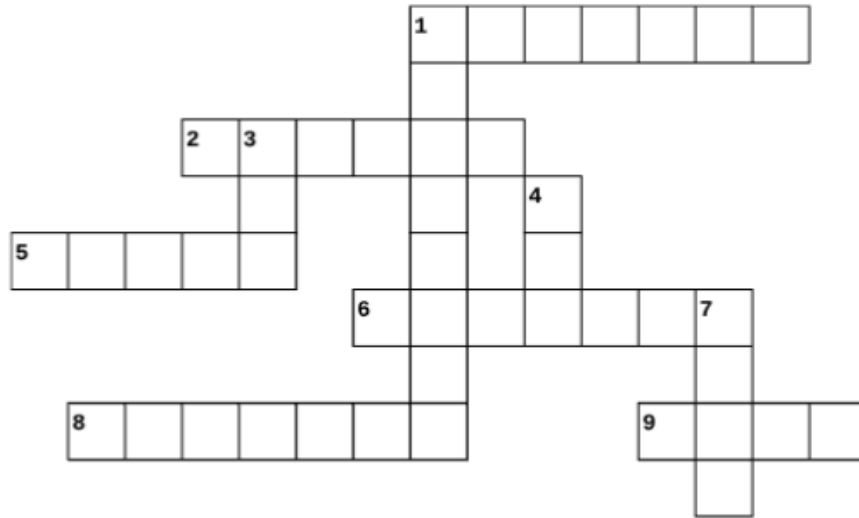


Winter Crosswords - Violet Collins

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Winter Crosswords - Crossword Labs

Winter Crosswords



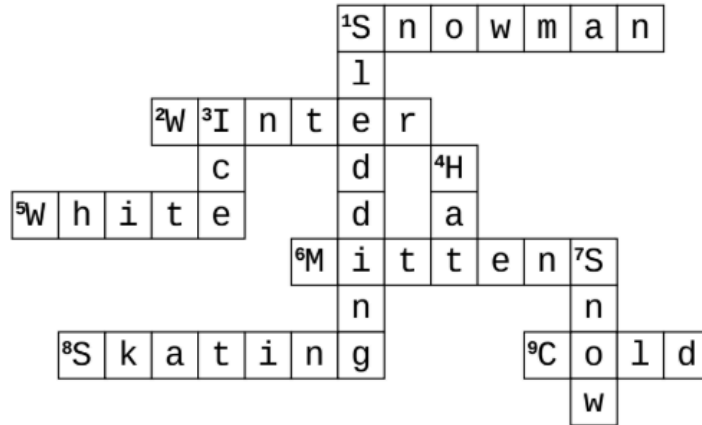
Across

1. Man made out of Snow
2. What am I called
5. Color of snow
6. Not gloves but
8. Ice _
9. It is _ outside

Down

1. A way to play in the snow
3. You don't want to fall on this
4. Keeps your head warm
7. It is white and Fluffy

Winter Crosswords



Our Mission:

To inform, entertain, and keep our audience well versed in the happenings of S.S. Seward Institute. We strive to be reliable, original, impartial, and compassionate to all who choose to immerse themselves in our school's culture. We abide by the same high standards that any other newspaper would, ranging from *The Florida Focus* to *The New York Times*. If there are any questions regarding our newspaper or our intent, please contact any of our officers or our advisor.

***The Spartan Times* is produced by the S.S. Seward School Newspaper Club and advised by Mrs. Moon.**

**This issue was contributed to by:
Violet Collins, Cricket Carey, Malina Grove, Georgia Maesano, Cesar Cabrera, Gabriella Campana, and Barbara Hamling**