

FIAT LUX NEWS

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How many swords can you swallow?



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On November 1st, Alfred's campus was graced by the presence of a sword swallower named Dai Andrews. Aged 46 years, Andrews is a man who has broken several Guinness World Records in his life, all involving the art of swallowing swords, including swallowing 11 swords at the same time. He has been featured on several television programs as well, such as CNN and the Discovery Channel. However, his performance for Alfred University was witnessed by a measly crowd of around 15.

Though his performance on that day did not contain all of the stunts he is known for (such as the bed of nails, fire eating, and breaking steel bars with just his hands), Andrews performed many acts for his audience, and engaged with them the entire time. Some of the more basic tricks he did included using his throat to break an arrow and bend a steel rebar spear. He had far more tricks of his sleeve, however. Andrews performed a few of the stunts associated with Harry Houdini, such as escaping straightjackets, and escaping from restraints tied by two volunteers, while also handcuffed. All of these stunts involved members of the audience helping him set up

the stunts, while Andrews himself was cracking jokes the entire time.

Finally, of course, there was tons of sword swallowing amidst Andrews' many tricks. He brought many swords for use in these performances, the shortest of which was one foot long (if you discount a retractable prop). Andrews first demonstrated the sharp, honed edge of each of these blades by stabbing them into a block. Along with the 12 inch blade, Andrews also had two other swords, one being a stereotypical version, and the other having the blade be zig-zagged, making it take an interesting path down his throat. By using an airport metal detector, the swords were clearly shown to be made of metal, even while they were inside his body. One of his more risky stunts involved 6 separate identical swords. Not only did he swallow each of these, but he did so simultaneously.

The show's finale was one final sword, which was curved 90 degrees, as said by Andrews himself. By curving his body to match the sword, Andrews successfully performed the act without dying. Thus, this exquisite event concluded, without a drop of blood ever being spilled.



AU moved from blue light poles to smartphone alerting, but many students are unaware

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On college campuses all over the country, there is a light that symbolizes safety turning on in the streets and alleys, and it's blue. Blue Light security systems are poles with lights on top, and once their button is pressed, it notifies authorities and shines a blue light for the caller. The company's website, Codeblue.com, says the lights "are installed as a precautionary and communications measure to ensure safety and quick access to help and information in various locations and situations." There is only one problem: At Alfred University, they don't work. According to Fiat Lux News writer Sam Sage in 2022, the school posted posters announcing a switch from the physical buttons to an app, Rave Guardian, but the advertising was subpar. Sam found in an online study of Alfred students that 38.5% of students were unaware there was any blue light system. And 59% of students voted that they wanted both the app and the physical buttons, but even then, the buttons were already out of order, with red posters saying "Do Not Use" and the numbers for Public Safety and 911. Two years later, posters remain on the dead blue light poles.

Amy DeKay, the Vice President for Student Experience, provided her insight. "The blue light system is not in use because it is not functional. The system is old, and it is my understanding from our Facilities staff that it is non-repairable. The app has dual features where you can call public safety or notify someone of your location in a true emergency. We have had several students use the app to call Public Safety." She also believes that there is an advantage to the phones being more mobile. But blue light phone systems are still very common on campuses throughout the country. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, in the 2011-12 school year, 92% of all four-year college campuses used a blue light phone system, and students around the country have gone to lengths to protect them. The codeblue.com website mentions how at the University of Tulsa, students signed

a petition to keep physical phones over the blue light app, because of fears of smartphones not always being available, compatible with the app, charged, and on. In 2019, there was a student protest at the University of Florida when a resolution for the blue light phones on a fraternity street of the campus was denied, ending with a student speaking on the Senate floor in support of blue light phones. One student at Alfred University who wished to stay anonymous didn't feel very caught up on the safety precautions. "I have not heard of many other safety installments than cameras. I don't know if those are even monitored consistently" she said. "I do know that we are supposed to have a blue light system, but they haven't fixed them yet even though they say they are supposed to." She was entirely unaware that there was an app.

Alfred University believes that the app is a worthwhile substitution for blue light phones. According to a statement from Mark Danes, the Vice President for Marketing and Communications, when responding to questions for the Fiat Lux in the spring of 2024, the school has made many upgrades in the past couple of years to improve safety. "Coming out of the pandemic, we resumed assessing campus safety needs and prioritized moving to 24/7 Campus Safety coverage, adding officers, purchasing the mobile blue light app system, and other projects across campus," he provided. Other projects include moving Public Safety to Powell Campus Center, adding a security vehicle, and investing in training for officers. He also provided some information on the app: "We are nearly finished with a campus assessment of the needs for Blue Light services and additional campus exterior lighting. The smartphone application for urgent alerts has already been purchased and is operable on the campus." The app has been implemented for a few years now, starting around 2021, and DeKay said that it has not been used for any emergencies yet. "The location device

part of the app has only been activated a handful of times in the last 2.5 years I have been here. All times were non-emergency situations and/or tests of the system," she confessed. There are relatively low crime rates at Alfred University, but the information on this app is scarce, and not many people have it. The student from before expressed this concern, saying, "I kind of feel indifferent about it, but I know it worries people that if something bad were to happen, getting help would be pretty difficult. And in my experience, public safety usually feels unapproachable and not very kind or understanding."

When students have to worry about work, sleep, and money, they shouldn't have to worry about their personal safety. Many aren't aware of the safety precautions, such as the app, that the school has in place, because of advertising. Standing blue light phones have their drawbacks, such as being immobile, having expensive maintenance (\$1,000 per year, according to blog.motorolasolutions.com, an article arguing against the phones), and the misuse of blue lights and prank calls, as DeKay confirmed was a problem for Alfred. Whether the app or other forms of campus security are more effective remains blessedly untested with the low crime in Alfred, but there still is some. According to the U.S. Department of Education, between the years 2020 to 2022, there were two accounts of rape, two burglaries, and one motor vehicle theft on campus. But all it takes is one incident for dire consequences; the question is how students will protect themselves.



Election Day on campus



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Any misspelling of names, which were given to our reporter verbally, is unintentional. Some quotes have been edited for length and clarity.

On Election Day (November 5th), Alfred University held an election "watch event" in the Powell Campus Center's Nevins Theater from 7:00 PM-11:00 PM. Abby Hurley, director of the Judson Leadership Center, stated that "the JLC, Political Science, and Residential Communities all collaborated to plan and host the event." She added that "The JLC is the office on campus tasked with voter education and engagement, so we felt it was important to participate in helping host this event."

This event was also assisted by Dr. Angie Taylor, Chief Diversity officer; she said her "role was to support the students as we watch this very critical election night" and "just to be here in case some students felt concerns, to answer questions, and to reassure them that no matter what happens, everyone's still going to support them and be there for them in any way we can." Max also wanted to thank Eliza Ordway, who helped by reserving the room and ordering the food.

When asked about the importance of this election, Dr. Sari Rivera, a Political Science professor at the University stated that "Not only do we have a very contested close presidential election that could have consequences that are significant either way, but we have many down-ballot races that are important that could decide the House and the Senate on the federal level, and everyone has local races on their ballot as well." When asked

about specific down-ballot races, Dr. Rivera referenced New York State's proposition 1, which she describes as "codifying equal rights in the New York State constitution. It mentions access to reproductive freedom. It mentions gender issues too, so proponents of it think that it's something that protects women and transgender folks from discrimination, and opponents of it think it could cause trans people to play on the wrong sports side."



I asked Ty Thomas (political science major) and Jessica Remm (political science & criminal justice double major) what brought them to the event. Ty responded, "I'm a political science major, and my whole academic year has kind of been leading up to this election." Jess added that "these are the things that our kids are going to be studying in history. So I think it's important to be aware, and to really be able to accurately tell them your experience."

Riley Shin (history & political science major) seemed excited about the youth turnout votes, in particular for Republican candidates. He said that "Trump has done a great job of getting the youth to vote, especially younger Trump supporters. There's a lot of first time voters who weren't eligible to vote in 2020, myself included, who cast their first vote for Donald Trump." This sentiment was similarly held by Nick

Aglio (legal studies major), who stated "I wanted to see how new young voters would vote," & Colin Jakes (political science major), who said that he was "excited to see what people really thought about the candidates".

I asked the students what their biggest policy priority was. Jess stated "I am going into the United States Navy, so national security is something that I've been paying a lot of attention to." For Riley, he said education. Colin mentioned the war in Ukraine and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). For Ty, she says it was abortion, adding that "since it has gone back to the states, it's important to see where people poll on it. I think it's less of a polarizing issue than people realize."

A ballot measure for abortion access in Florida failed to reach the 60% yes requirement. When asked about the results, Ty said "I think 57% is a high mark to have. I understand the 60% rule, but I would hope that that 43% could understand the possible consequences and dangers of not having the right to abortion, and I'm kind of interested to see where it goes from here, if there's gonna be new legislation introduced now." Riley, a Florida voter, said "I voted 'no' on that ballot because there were no restrictions in the vote itself. I feel like that's a main reason why that measure failed"

By 9:24 pm, about 27 people had checked into the event, at which point entry slowed down. There were mixed feelings about whether 27 was a good turnout, but people seemed pleased with the participation of those who did come.

Republican Party sweeps 2024 election



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November 5th saw 435 house seats, 34 senate seats, and 1 presidency up for grabs. 7 swing states were set to decide the next president after one of the most heated campaign seasons in modern history. Pennsylvania, with 19 electoral votes, would likely pick the next president. With an early lead, the Kamala Harris campaign felt confident as the results in North Carolina and Georgia began to swing in favor of former president Donald Trump. As it drew closer to midnight, Harris's early lead in Pennsylvania was wiped away.

As Wednesday the 6th began, it became increasingly obvious the path to the presidency was closed for Democrats, and Donald Trump would make a triumphant return to the White House. In the coming days, the western swing states of Nevada and Arizona were

called for the former president. Within a week, every swing state was carried by president-elect Trump, as well as the popular vote, which hasn't been won by a republican in 20 years.

Election night continued, with the Senate quickly being regained by the Republicans— an expected victory to anyone familiar with the seats up for grabs, but no less a blow to the Democratic party. Over a week after election day, enough races were called to officially say Republicans would hold on to their majority in the House of Representatives. The Republican trifecta of the House, Senate, and Presidency ends the divided government we've had in Washington since the 2022 midterms.

The obvious question is, what comes next? Democratic governors are

already trying to "Trump proof" their states. The rest of the party is looking forward to the 2026 midterms, where the incumbent party rarely performs well, and the 2028 presidential election, where presidential hopefuls will attempt to steer the party into a new direction. For Republicans the future looks bright with a Trump White House; while the midterms may be trouble, it's not unheard of for an incumbent party to hold on to at least one chamber of Congress. After all, the Democrats expanded their hold on the Senate in 2022. The 2028 election, however, will force an answer to another question, one that has plagued Republican leadership for nearly a decade now: what comes after Donald Trump?

HEALTH

A student's guide to exam season



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As final exams loom on the horizon, students across campus are feeling the pressure. But success during finals isn't just about hitting the books – it's about maintaining a balanced approach to both studying and self-care.

"The biggest mistake students make is sacrificing sleep for study time," says Dr. Sarah Chen, director of student wellness at Alfred State University. "Your brain needs rest to consolidate information and function effectively."

Of course, studying is still crucial during this time. One proven method is known as the Pomodoro Technique,

which consists of breaking study sessions into focused 25-minute blocks, followed by short breaks. This approach has been shown to maintain concentration while preventing mental fatigue. By using this method, you can ensure you are actually understanding and learning throughout your study time.

Other effective preparation strategies include creating summary sheets of key concepts, teaching material to classmates, taking practice exams under timed conditions, and reviewing past assignments and quizzes.

However, don't let your time only

consist of studying and books. Your mental health is just as important as, if not more important than that final. Don't let exam season scare you; you will be ok. The key to exam success lies in balance. Study effectively, but don't neglect basic needs: maintain regular meals with nutritious foods, get 7-8 hours of sleep nightly, take short walks between study sessions, and stay connected with friends and family.

Remember: finals are important, but they're not everything. Your worth isn't determined by your GPA.



AU faculty and staff speak on wages



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On October 25th, senior chemistry student Eric spoke at a fundraising dinner for Alfred University's donors and trustees, along with art and English double major Natalie, AU's former student senate president. Eric's speech, however, garnered extra attention. They not only discussed the ways they've enjoyed and appreciated their time at Alfred, but also brought up a major issue: wages for faculty and staff. Eric said afterwards that "students see that their faculty and staff are suffering, and we care. Alfred does a great job building relationships between students and their faculty and staff, and this is a result of that." After the speech, dozens of people spoke to Eric, giving congratulations, thanks, and differing opinions—not every response was positive.

According to a student working tech at the event, the booth debated cutting Eric's microphone during the speech. "I just don't think it was the right time or place," said that student, and other students present agreed. Whatever your opinion on that, the *Fiat Lux* wants to continue the conversation about wages at AU, with both faculty and staff members.

I sat down with a member of the Support Staff Council. "Support staff" refers to employees who support faculty and administrators in keeping the university running. This includes custodians, technicians, secretaries, groundskeepers and specialized maintenance workers, mechanics and equipment operators, coaches, assistants, clerks, and bookkeepers, among many others. The council represents their interests, and this member told me that while the recent increases to wages and salaries at AU are a good start, there's "still room for improvement." They mentioned that the cost of living in the area has gone up, while pay hasn't compensated. The employee with whom I spoke, who's been at their position for nearly ten years and came to AU with decades of experience, has a second job in retail to make ends meet. They also make less

than 50 cents more per hour here at AU than at their retail job.

The support staff member loves AU and the unique, warm culture here. While I sat in their office, at least five people came in, all of whom they knew by name. Both students and faculty looked for supplies, asked questions, said hello, and even introduced their families. They believe it's not like that at a state school; that's why they stay, despite wages that they don't consider liveable. "Other people in positions like this get 19, 20 dollars an hour," they said, "and we don't get anywhere close to that. I don't think any support staff member makes over \$30,000 per year, while upper admin makes six figures." They also believe, as Eric cited in their speech, that low wages hurt faculty and staff retention, which hurts students in turn. "Plus, now they have to spend money recruiting for those positions, when they could have spent less to keep those people."

What solutions are out there, other than more flat raises across the board, which AU might not be able to afford? The staff member told me that the council has been proposing performance-based raises since at least 2017, but the university told them there was "no system in place" for that to work. They think that idea has potential, and said there's widespread support for it among staff.

A faculty member, whose spouse works at Alfred State College, challenged the idea that Alfred State employees make significantly more money than Alfred University employees. They clarified that their experience was limited to the humanities, but that in their experience "it's fairly comparable." They didn't feel that they'd been at AU long enough to speak much, but said that when the new plan for pay increases went into effect, they got a significant bump, about a 7% increase in just a year. A different faculty member, who has been here longer, was also impressed with the new plan, saying that

they've "gotten somewhere near a 20%-30% raise. That's way more than nothing, and FAST." However, a different staff member, who recently went from being an hourly employee to a salaried one, called the changes "too little, too late." They believe that performance and years of service need to be considered more, and that while the university is moving in the right direction, progress is slow.

I spoke more with this employee, who works in a technical role in CLAS, about their thoughts. They said that they make "just a living wage for the area," and wouldn't be comfortable if their partner didn't also work. They talked about the transition to a salaried position, which wasn't an "enjoyable" process. They felt like the administration's attitude was one of "if we put it off long enough, hopefully [they] just forget about it." However, "my department was amazing at supporting me, and I do not think anything would have changed if it was not for the support of my entire department." The unique AU culture came up again, as they shared that they've considered leaving, but stayed because of the culture, and because they love their job and the people they work with.

Overall, faculty and staff expressed opinions that fell across the board. The most common thought, expressed by a professor who's been here for decades, was simply "it's complicated." Everyone agrees that AU has a unique culture, where faculty, staff, and students are friendly, kind, helpful, and supportive—many believe they can't get that anywhere else. People are also hopeful, especially because of the recently implemented plan to give faculty and staff raises. While wages are a sensitive and complex issue, people from many different departments concur on one thing: Alfred University is a special place, and they love it here. Hopefully as the new plan continues to grow, that culture will only get stronger.

Don't Dress For Dinner: a stellar performance



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Seeing this performance was exhilarating. The twists and rapid pacing of the play made it impossible to not get caught up in the characters' absurd attempts to keep their secrets hidden. Watching the actors scramble to keep up with each new deception brought a new level of appreciation for the complexity of the play, as well as the skill of those performing.

The audience reacts instantly to the characters' missteps, misunderstandings, and improvisation, adding to an infectious energy that would be hard to capture without the live audience.

One of the aspects of the performance that stood out the most for me was the physical comedy. The web of lies that these characters are in demands constant movement—exaggerated gestures, quick changes in tone of voice, and chaotic entrances and exits that require impressive timing. Watching the actors navigate this onstage dance in real time highlighted

their talent. Seeing it makes you notice how essential these moments of physical humor are in heightening the tension and creating those laugh-out-loud moments that define this genre.

Overall, *Don't Dress for Dinner* leaves a lasting impression due to its clever writing and the high-energy performance from its cast. Experiencing it live reveals just how much this play, and others like it, depends on timing, chemistry, and audience engagement. We see the play becoming something more than just a comedy; it turns into more of a shared experience between the audience and actors, as every laugh and reaction feeds back into the energy onstage. It's a performance that reminds you of the unique thrill of live theater—an art form where each performance is one-of-a-kind, shaped by the audience, the actors, and the lively interplay between them.

INTERVIEW

Ade Dining Hall's sudden shutdown



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On October 27, 2024, students received a message through the Alfred University alert system that Ade dining hall would not be open during the day's dinner service. I reached out to Erich Dobson, Resident Director of Dining Services for AVI at Alfred University to ask him about what happened. This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q. What happened on October 27th that required Ade to be shut down?

A. One of our cooks was grilling prime rib for dinner service when a piece flared up on the chargrill, triggering the safety nozzle. The safety feature functioned perfectly, so we just needed to shut down briefly to recharge the system.

Q. Was it related to the issue of flooding in the kitchen on the 20th?

A. We had our hood vents and Ansul System professionally cleaned on the

20th, a task that typically takes 8 to 12 hours. Unfortunately, water was an unintended byproduct of that cleaning process.

Q. From your perspective, how did the issues on the 20th & 27th affect service?

A. We successfully fed the student body during both events by creatively adapting our approach and exploring innovative solutions. By thinking outside the box, we were able to overcome various challenges and ensure that everyone enjoyed a delicious meal.

Q. Are there any lingering effects that might impact food service, or food quality?

A. There are absolutely no lingering effects from the incident. We adhered strictly to health code guidelines while thoroughly cleaning and sanitizing the affected area. All equipment is now fully operational, and we can ensure that all

kitchen safety features are completely restored. Our commitment to maintaining a safe and efficient kitchen is unwavering, so we take these protocols seriously to prevent any future issues.

Q. What are your next steps as a preventative measure?

A. We are creating a comprehensive kitchen equipment training program aimed at preventing similar incidents in the future. This program will not only reduce the likelihood of high-risk situations occurring, but will also enhance our kitchen staff's reaction times in the rare event that they do arise. In this particular case, all safety features functioned as intended. Our ultimate goal with this training initiative is to foster an environment where we can operate safely and efficiently without having to rely on those systems.

Alfred University student spotlight: grad student Sienna Cefalu on helping the community

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This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

MBA student Sienna Cefalu is assisting Dr. Freyn, a marketing professor at Alfred University. It is Sienna's fourth year here as she obtained her undergraduate degree one year early. She is also the president of the Alfred Marketing Association, a student-run club.



Sienna has worked with Dr. Freyn to support local businesses, where the students generate ideas, research target markets, and develop written work. Sienna has worked in the classroom doing this as a student, and now she is on the other side supporting current undergraduate students to be successful in generating marketing campaigns and ideas for local businesses. When asked about her experience, Sienna said that after being both a student and now a support system for current students, it feels great to be able to see the impact she has on current undergraduate students. "It's a great experience to go through the coursework, develop needed skills, and now help others develop those same skills."

The Alfred Marketing Association organizes several activities each year. Not only do they like to bring in guest speakers, to help network with the students and have students learn from these professionals, but they also

work with local businesses. Sienna stated, "whenever we have events, we like to get things from N'Dulge to support them." The club also does fundraisers, such as Honey Pot Chocolates, on Valentine's Day and on Christmas to donate to local families in need. Another example is the toy drive, where sports teams compete against each other to bring in the most toys for kids in Hornell. Apart from toys, last year they collected \$700 through Venmo. In the classroom, Sienna is there to help students with course material and assignments. Jim Connelly, one of the students in her class, states, "she helps me gain a deeper understanding of the topics I struggle with and clarifies assignment requirements." Sienna added, "I help them with citations, creating Google forms on market research, helping create ideas for these small businesses for their projects, and just acting as a resource for the students when working with these small businesses."

As these classes work with small businesses, it can be overwhelming for the businesses, and it takes a while for them to implement what they are given from the classes. Sienna noted that "we have seen some changes based on those recommendations we give them, and the business owners are always so thankful to have this free help from students."



There was a situation with Honey Pot Chocolates when the countrystore

closed, and the club was able to help the business by purchasing a lump sum of chocolate. "We were able to make a big order from her, because she lost about a quarter of her business when the store closed so we were able to give her some of that business back when we bought about 100 to 200 boxes of chocolate and sold those. She was very grateful for our business," Sienna continued.

The Alfred Marketing Association, along with Dr. Freyn's classes usually help multiple companies a year. Sienna mentioned, "We helped the federal credit union in Hornell, the distillery, like I said N'Dulge, everything because it's usually about two classes working with companies, and it's usually about two companies per semester and then the club also supports local businesses."



Lastly, through the Alfred Marketing Association, Sienna facilitates the downstairs area of the Frank W. Olin building on campus, where the little free library and the studio are. These resources provide students with free books to read, and a place to study, do group projects, and do focus groups. There is also a showcase, which displays different work from the Business 106 class which every freshman business student takes. This showcase is updated every year with the new projects the freshman come up with.

Keeping small town newspapers relevant: the journey and experience of the Alfred Sun's David Synder



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This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Dave Snyder is a local who works at Alfred University's Herrick Library as a Public Service Coordinator, and he also owns the local newspaper, the Alfred Sun. Dave acts as a local historian; the storyteller of Alfred, and he is committed to keeping the village informed. Writing has always been part of Dave's life, starting as a young boy, when he created his own newspaper, writing about sports. This passion translated all throughout high school and college eventually leading him to working for and owning the Alfred Sun.



David Snyder is the owner of The Alfred Sun and Public Service Coordinator at Herrick Library at Alfred University.

When asked if Dave always wanted to be a writer, he explained that he loved writing about sports, and so he wrote for his high school newspaper about the Alfred Saxons. It wasn't until some years later that Dave would find that his passion reached beyond just a school club and felt more like a career. Dave explained that this transition started "in 1970.

The editor and the printer of the Alfred Sun very abruptly called it quits on the paper, so we had no paper in Alfred from 1970 to 1973, and during that time, I was in church youth group. We put out a newspaper and called it About Town, and it was PTA meetings and what-have-you." As Dave would say, this was his calling, his time in the youth group writing for Alfred set in motion his now forty-year ca-

reer at the Alfred Sun. It wasn't until three years after his youth groups paper that, in "1973, mayor Garry Horowitz decided our community needs a newspaper."

At this time Dave was a college student, not in Alfred, yet he was still on the search to bring back the Alfred Sun. However, Dave is certain that there is a right place and a right time for everything. "I went to Morrisville for journalism to be a sports writer. I was a sports editor for the Morrisville Times, a weekly student newspaper, and in doing that I learned everything I needed. Betty Flynn from Alfred, and her husband Joe, were going abroad to Europe. They said that the Alfred Sun would not shine unless they found a managing editor, and so I graduated on Sunday, interviewed on a Wednesday, and started selling ads the next day. I was twenty years old, fresh out of journalism school."



Dave, the managing editor of The Alfred Sun, in 1976.

Dave credits his dad for being the reason he owns the paper, and it was Dave's father that said, "when you go work, ask him for the right to buy the paper. I asked, and Garry said for sure it's almost like I was made to do it."

We discussed the value of print media, especially in a society where small newspapers are either shutting down or becoming available online. "I have toyed with the idea of going online, and a lot of newspapers just jump online without really thinking about their business model, and I think that there's a lot of them in big trouble, because the first thing they did

was they put all the information that they gathered for their print, and they just put it online for free. That's killing their business."

Dave feels nostalgia for reading newspapers, and he remembers when it was a routine in one's day. "I'm finding that there's still a love for sitting down with a newspaper and turning the pages, doing puzzles, reading the cartoons. With a newspaper, you're in charge. You don't have these ads popping up all the time." Dave hopes to keep this simple practice alive.

Dave is a proponent of trusting the process, and this has been a key contributor to his paper's longevity and success. He credits this to never being "one to jump on a bandwagon. I'm always like, let's wait and see what happens."

Dave has learned a lot of lessons, and is always willing to share advice with the young writers. "I firmly believe that if somebody is willing to put in the work, there is a market for local newspapers, local news."

Dave educates those that wish to go into small news, saying that it is important to focus on all the aspects of the news. "All of these public officials need a watchdog, they need a local newspaper that's watching what they do and reporting it to the people, otherwise how are the people gonna know?"

Dave plans to continue the newspaper until "I drop," he says. "Occasionally, if I find a young kid interested in journalism, interested in covering local news, I see if they're interested in a career, because I think that I bought it cheap. I paid 2,500 dollars to buy a newspaper business that's been established since 1883. However, I've neglected to raise my subscription prices. I don't want to be part of the problem, I want to be part of the solution."

Dave is not stopping anytime soon, and he has one last piece of advice: "if you're going to be a community newspaper, you have to reflect the entire community. Inclusivity is very important. I include local people, who are outstanding in their fields and write about what they know."

Alfred welcomes Noonday: insight into owning a small business



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Tiffany Nolan is the new owner of Noonday, previously known as the Rogue Carrot. Nolan previously worked for Alfred University as an arts admission counselor. Noonday opened its doors Sept. 29.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: What made you decide to open a small business?

A: It spawned from a friendship with the previous owner of the Rogue Carrot and it's something that, moving to the community here, I realized is essential to the community: a space where students, faculty, and residents can come to find nutritious healthy food and don't have to drive farther away.

Q: Why did you choose the name Noonday?

A: I have joked with a lot of customers, because a lot of customers have asked. It is quite simple, it really boiled down to thinking about food, vegetation and produce, and the noonday sun. I think it's kind of a snappy one-word that people will hopefully remember.

Q: How have you tried to keep your prices and products accessible?

A: That's something we're still actively working on honing, my vision of a space that has a couple different things happening with it. I want the space to contain practical pantry essentials, at reasonable price points that are affordable to everyone, while still bringing in exciting things. I want this to be a destination, also, for people outside of the community to come to. That's all part of this idea of revitalizing Alfred's community.

Q: How has the community embraced you since becoming a new business owner?

A: Everyone has been so generous, I

have been really shocked about how open everyone has been. I was a little concerned that the changes in this store would be a little too much, too soon. I know everyone has held the space near and dear to their hearts here. But everyone was very excited, and everyone has been very supportive.

Q: What would you want people to know about Noonday?

A: I would tell people that this is a space for everyone. We want to be able to meet your needs and exceed your needs here. We have some exciting things, as far as our espresso machine and cold pressed juices. I want this to feel like a communal space.

Q: What do you hope to see for the future of Noonday?

A: I hope it can carry this energy of being this easy market to shop, but also being a touchpoint of people's day. I hope this builds our community and fosters relationships with other small businesses, within Alfred and beyond.



Rochester's Alicea Baseball Academy helps children pursue their dreams

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For several years now, Luis Angel Alicea, who graduated from Monroe Community College (MCC), has had his own baseball foundation. The Alicea Baseball Academy Foundation works with kids and young teenagers to give them better opportunities and increase their involvement with sports, starting at a young age. Mr. Alicea is not only the president of the foundation; he is still directly involved, as he is the head coach of the team he manages with help from his staff. The foundation provides a setting where youth may develop both on and off the field, assisting them in pursuing their goals and molding them into capable and driven adults.



Alicea for a TV commercial shoot.

The foundation's mission stems from its goal to use baseball to significantly improve children's lives. "The foundation aims to provide access to quality coaching, mentorship, and resources for underprivileged youth," stated Mr. Alicea. Resources for sports and formal instruction are frequently out of reach for many kids. This gap is filled by the foundation, which promotes both personal and athletic development. Mr. Alicea underlined that the goal "is to create a positive impact in the community by helping kids pursue their dreams, both on and off the field." The foundation aims to help young athletes achieve their goals by providing them with ongoing mentorship and assistance, teaching them important life skills that go well beyond the realm of sports.

The foundation's mission is to use baseball to improve children's lives. Ac-

cording to Mr. Alicea, one of the most significant difficulties was "identifying potential sponsors and volunteers to help with the foundation." Additionally, he spoke about how resources for sports and formal instruction are frequently out of reach for many kids.



Alicea Baseball Academy Foundation logo.

Mr. Alicea stated, "It was challenging to find the right time to launch the foundation in the community." Careful planning and a strong dedication to the foundation's mission were necessary to establish the league and the foundation simultaneously. Despite these challenges, the project was completed thanks to the founder's perseverance and commitment, which established the foundation for a powerful, influential company.

The foundation has exciting plans to broaden its reach, and big aspirations for the future. In order to further encourage young people to participate in baseball, one of the primary goals is to strengthen the connection with the City of Rochester Recreation Department to provide community baseball clinics. Additionally, Mr. Alicea hopes to host a global youth baseball competition, saying, "I would like to host an international youth baseball tournament with teams from Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, and the USA." In addition to bringing young athletes from all backgrounds together to compete, this event would highlight local talent in Rochester's inner city, fostering cross-cultural interaction and enhancing the experience for all.

Mr. Alicea then spoke about his

future plans going forward with his foundation. "An international partnership with the Rochester Puerto Plata Sister City Committee and the Rochester Recreation Sports Department is the foundation's next major objective as it expands." The foundation plans to travel to the Dominican Republic in June 2025 with a group of 15 players, ages 13 to 15, for a baseball tournament. These young athletes will get a rare chance to go to another country, practice hard, and play against teams from around the world. The foundation is in charge of training young athletes, giving them the abilities and self-assurance they require to represent their community with pride on a global scale.

The Alicea Baseball Academy Foundation has shown itself to be a movement devoted to the development and empowerment of young people, not merely a sports organization.



Dominican baseball team from ABAF baseball tournament.

The foundation uses baseball to foster self-control, resiliency, and a feeling of belonging. By nurturing athletic talent and personal growth, the foundation continues to open doors for young people, shaping them into well-rounded individuals who are equipped to face life's challenges. With each new goal, the Alicea Baseball Academy Foundation remains committed to its mission, making a lasting impact on the lives of young athletes and the community of Rochester. As stated by Mr. Alicea, "Our goal is to create a positive impact in the community by helping kids pursue their dreams both on and off the field."

The rise of the WNBA



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The WNBA's popularity skyrocketed during the 2024 season; the league set all-time records for digital consumption and merchandise sales. On top of all the historic viewership numbers that were broken throughout the season, the WNBA showed signs of being able to compete with major sports leagues. During game 5 of the WNBA finals, the peak viewership was over one million on ESPN; this took the world by surprise, as the WNBA was able to have the most viewed WNBA finals game in 25 years while the NLCS game and NFL Sunday were occurring at the same time. The league has been producing a similar product since 1997, so why has the WNBA now become one of the most popular sports leagues in the world?



There have been high level players in the WNBA throughout the league's history, but today there are players on each team that play and understand the game at an elite level. The 2022 and 2023 WNBA champions, Las Vegas Aces, have three players in A'ja Wilson, Jackie Young and Kelsey Plum that all represented Team USA during the 2024 Olympics. This team with a loaded roster finished 4th in the 2024 WNBA regular season. The New York Liberty won the WNBA finals with the assistance of multiple two-time finals MVPs, Breanna Stewart and Jonquel Jones, along with Sabrina Ionescu, who is commonly known as the best female basketball shooter ever. On paper this team seems unstoppable, but they played an incredible series against the Minnesota Lynx, where many believe the Lynx were robbed of the WNBA finals.

Many members of the public are

aware of the talented 2024 rookie class headlined by Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese because of their controversial rivalry, but many aren't aware of the historic seasons that they had. Clark averaged 19.2 points, 5.7 rebounds and 8.4 assists throughout her rookie season, making her the first rookie since Candance Parker in 2008 to appear on the All-WNBA 1st-Team. Clark led the Indiana Fever, a team that won the 3rd fewest amount of games in the WNBA during the prior season, to the franchise's first play-off appearance since 2016. Reese's season was almost shadowed due to the popularity of Caitlin Clark's special season, but showed dominance throughout the year before missing the final 6 games of the season due to injury. The Chicago Sky star set the single-season all-time record in rebounds with 446. Reese also set the all-time record for most consecutive games (15) recording a double-double. Reese averaged 13.6 points along with league's best 13.1 rebounds per game. The scary part for the rest of the WNBA competitors is that both Clark and Reese showed much improvement throughout their rookie year.



For years the WNBA has stressed the need for more media attention for the league to grow. The WNBA received significantly more media spotlight, which in turn led to multiple league-record numbers in attendance, viewership, and interest. The WNBA's social media platforms received a single-season record of over 2 billion views—a number that was only at 378 million the year prior.

WNBA stories and news were covered every day during the season. Sports shows, podcasts, and analysts that never talked about the WNBA now had episodes/articles primarily focused on the WNBA. Larger conversations about women in sports and gender narratives often arose during WNBA discussions. The phrase, 'any publicity is good publicity' was definitely true for the WNBA during the 2024 season. The public, oftentimes for the first time, were aware of WNBA scores, storylines, and other content within the league, which ended up spiking fan interest to levels never seen in league history. The major focus for the league has to be on how to continue the fan engagement while appealing to possible new fans.

In July of 2024, the WNBA capitalized on the generational talents already in the league, and the projected future stars coming into the league. The WNBA recently signed an eleven year media rights deal with major streaming platforms, Disney, Amazon, and NBC for over \$2B. With the WNBA's expansion team being added in 2025, followed by two other teams in 2026, the league has a lot in store for what they hope continues to elevate the WNBA. Every league changes from year to year to compete against other major sports leagues, and the WNBA is one of the youngest leagues, and already has plans to put themselves in the same category amongst the biggest leagues.

**THE WNBA WILL BE EXPANDING
BY 3 TEAMS STARTING IN 2025**



Another year, another disappointing finish for the NY Yankees



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The New York Yankees finished top of the AL East division for the 3rd time in six years. Winning the division, making the playoffs, and competing late in October are goals that some franchises wish for, but for the Yankees franchise, that won't cut it—World Series or bust. The 2024 season would fall under the bust category for most Yankees fans, as the team lost to the Los Angeles Dodgers in the World Series. The Yankees consistently rank towards the top end of MLB teams in regards to payroll salaries year-to-year, but have not captured a World Series title in the past 15 years.

A major issue for the franchise has been dominance and success during the regular season, but a decreased level of play in the postseason. Aaron Judge, who currently has a 9-year / \$360M contract, and is oftentimes considered the best hitter in baseball, has been spectacular during the regular season. He has a career postseason batting average of .205, and recorded a total of 9 hits during this past year's run to the World Series. The Yankees have one of the most expensive bullpens, as two of their starting pitchers (Gerrit Cole and Carlos Rodón) rank in the top 8 of highest paid pitchers. This same bullpen allowed an average of 5 runs in the World Series.

Fresh off of a World Series appearance, this off-season hasn't been too uplifting for the Yankees franchise, as Juan Soto enters free agency. The 26 year old was traded to the Yankees in December of 2023 and would instantly be one of the best players in the AL. Soto, who was an AL MVP finalist, hitting 41 home runs and recorded 109 RBI's, has been the topic of discussion going into free agency. Soto is projected to land a contract that will be around 14 years for over \$650M. With the MLB's revenue structure, only a few teams can realistically afford Soto.

The good news for the Yankees is that most MLB analysts believe the Yankees are the front runners in the race to sign Juan Soto.



There is an argument to be made that this season was a positive sign for the Yankees—maybe they just ran into a better team? The Los Angeles Dodgers had one of the strongest lineups, matched with the best bullpen in baseball. The Yankees faced the challenges of pitching against this Dodgers lineup early in the series, when they had to make a decision in Game 1 to pitch to Mookie Betts or Freddie Freeman in the bottom of the 10th inning while holding a 3-2 lead. Intentionally walking the six-time slugger award winner, Mookie Betts, might've taken the World Series away from the Yankees. Freddie Freeman, who would later be named World Series MVP, walked up to the plate against Nestor Cortes and hit one of the most memorable grand slams in MLB history. The Dodgers broke a bullpen record by having 8 different pitchers appear on the mound in game 5—the most ever in a series win. This is without the best player in baseball, Shohei Ohtani, throughout the series due to injury.

The Dodgers showed all year, especially in the playoffs, that the only way to beat them is to play as close to perfect as possible; the Yankees struggled to be perfect, and oftentimes allowed the Dodgers to capitalize on their mistakes. The Yankees went into Game 5 perfect; they led the

Dodgers 5-0, and momentum seemed to be shifting back into New York's hands. After 3 errors in one inning, the Dodgers scored 5 unanswered runs in the 5th inning, which was all the momentum they needed to record the largest comeback, in a World Series clinching-win. The Yankees were the best hitting team all year, but lost the first three games of the series without putting more than 3 runs on the board.



The Yankees have been one of the winningest franchises in the MLB over the past 15 years, but without the World Series title, that winning won't do the franchise much good. This off-season is crucial for the Yankees. Will they resign Juan Soto? Will they resign Gerrit Cole? The front office must have a backup plan in case Soto signs elsewhere, which is a realistic possibility. It's clear that the bullpen needs some rebuilding, but the Yankees have to decide what free agents available elevate the bullpen. Aaron Boone, despite leading his team to the World Series, has some crucial decisions to make as his seat gets warmer and warmer.

Success and dedication: Erich Kaempffe discusses coaching career

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Erich Kaempffe is an inspiration for young leaders and future coaches in the College basketball field. Kaempffe, who is now Alfred University's head coach, began his coaching career after graduating from Wells College, where he set a school single-season record for three-point shooting percentage (47.6%), and graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in business and entrepreneurship. His coaching career began in the 2015-16 season at Ithaca College. Since then, he's elevated his role at various colleges, such as SUNY Oswego and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). His most notable accolade came from his 2019-20 season with RPI, where he was named among the NABC top 30 under 30 coaches in men's college basketball, as an Assistant Coach.



Kaempffe dedicates his success to early mentors who guided him throughout his collegiate and professional career, like coaches Joe Wojtylko, Jason Leone, and Mark Gilbride, who intro-

duced Kaempffe to the field of coaching. "I just developed a really cool relationship with my coach, Joe Wojtylko. It's not like I wouldn't have gotten through college without him, but he sure made it a lot better for me," he said. "He helped me learn how to network, work camps, and get my foot in the door at the entry level. I'm not one of the older coaches in the profession, but I am at a point in my life where I couldn't imagine doing anything else."

Coach Kaempffe explained that his roles before his Assistant and Head Coach opportunities played a huge part in the development of his career and success, emphasizing the responsibility of handling a plethora of various roles at once, such as Director of Scouting, Player Development, and Academic and Recruiting Coordinator.

His success as a coach has had a profound impact on Alfred University's men's basketball program, such as Alfred University's point guard, KJ Allison. He calls Coach Kaempffe "a consistent mentor throughout my career. Having him as a coach for the past four years has been extremely beneficial for my development, not only as a basketball player, but also as a man." Allison says Kaempffe is a big factor in his success during his college career on and off the court. "Kaempffe implores all of his players to be a student first, athlete second,

and this has opened my opportunities to an elevated level."

Erich prioritizes the connection he builds with his team. As a young coach, he recognizes his advantage in connecting with players who may have similar struggles to those he faced in college. "We get to work together, talk, and interact as a group every day. Communication and relationship building are the two biggest things, and with the relationship side of things, I've always believed that if you have trust and communication, you can do anything."

Coach Kaempffe plans to build upon his promising team, explaining that aside from winning success, he wants to create men who pursue on and off the court.



"You want to win, and you have to do it the right way. I want our program to be about good people, competitors, and guys who find ways to win. I want you guys to all be good husbands, good fathers, and get promoted 19 times before you come back for your first alumni game."

SATIRE

Obituaries



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In memory of Joey Pickle, 1965-2024

Joey Pickle, 59, was born in Staten Island and passed away on October 12th. Joey worked in the waste management business for 30 years. In 1994, Joey purchased a 7.8 million dollar home in Todt Hill to house his wife, Vivian Pickle, and his 7 children, Rudy, Joane, Deanna, Geoff, Ravioli, Joey Jr, and his youngest Dill. The funeral will be none of your business, and will be attended by a large group of 40-80 year old men who have never even heard of the guy.

In memory of the Harder Hall Gorilla, 2000-2024

Mr. Gorilla, 24, was a beloved member of his community, having lived in Harder Hall for well over 15 years. Mr. Gorilla was well known for his exquisite sculptures depicting bananas. His passion for Mario Kart's banana cup brightened every room. When he wasn't carving bananas from marble, you could find him racing on DK Jungle in Mario Kart 8. He was preceded in death by the statue of a lady gorilla he made out of rocks in 2008, which he called "mmmmm hoo hooo hooo hoo mmmmm wife."

In memory of 12 million Democratic voters, 2020-2024

Dr. 12 Million was born on November 3rd, and passed away sometime between then and November 5th, 2024. They were known for voting in the election for the 46th president of the United States. While reports of their death are unconfirmed, they missed an important roll call meeting on Tuesday the 5th. Their cause of death is currently listed as "apathy" and "that was today?-itis." A funeral is expected to take place on January the 20th.

“Q&A”



Friend Holley
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Q: How do I register to vote?

King Alfred: WHY CONCERN YOURSELF WITH THIS MODERN CONTRAPTION OF VOTER REGISTRATION? PONDER THE FOLLOWING: WHEN HAVE THE MASSES EVER MADE A SOUNDER DECISION THAN THAT OF A KING'S? IF I WERE TO ASK YOU TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A DEBAUCHEROUS BANQUET AND A MEAGRE SCHLOOP OF YUCKY WUCKY PORRIDGE, WOULD YOU NOT CHOOSE THE BANQUET? YET HERE WE STAND IN THIS SACRILEGIOUS NATION WITH OUR VERY FATES TO THE WHIMS OF GLOOP! OF PORRIDGE! OF COMMON FOLK. A SOVEREIGN NATION MUST BE LED BY A SOVEREIGN! LIKE A WELL-SMITHED SWORD, A NATION IS STRONGEST WHEN WIELDED IN THE HANDS OF A GODLY MONARCH, NOT A CACOPHONY OF VOICES WHO CRY OUT OF ISSUES THEY KNOW NOT! WHAT, WOULD YOU SHATTER THE SWORD INTO 350 MILLION PIECES AS TO LET EVERY MAN (AND THE OTHER KINDS OF PEOPLE) I GUESS) GET A SHARD? IF YOU THINK SUCH A THING, I CALL YOU LUNATIC! SCOUNDREL! SILLY-FACE! TRUST IN A KING, LIKE ME. LEAVE NOT YOUR FATES IN THE HANDS OF THE GLORPY PORRIDGES OF PEOPLE.

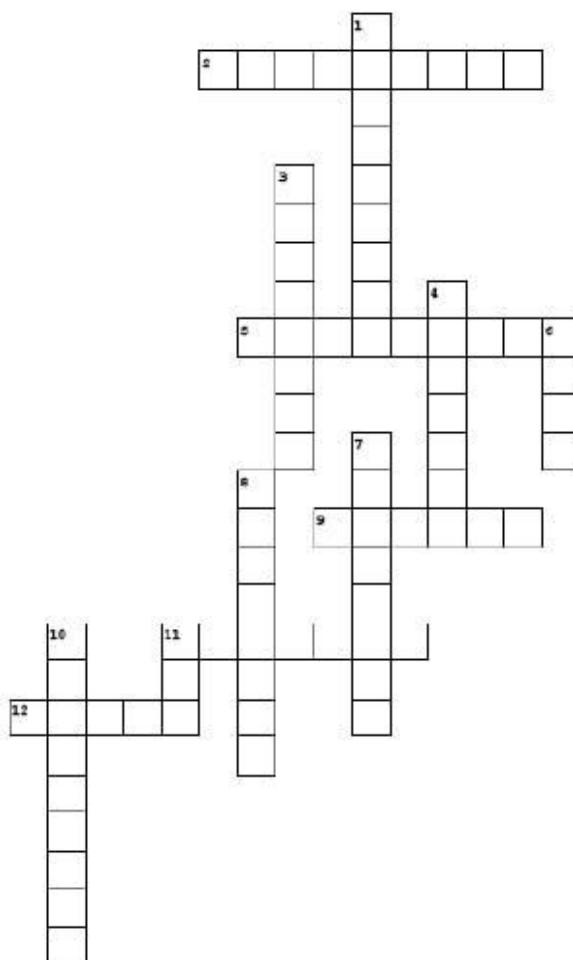
Chat GPT: Here's a simple list of steps to register bees (depending on your location, the process may vary slightly):

1. Research Local Requirements: Check with your local agriculture or beekeeping authorities for specific regulations.
 2. Obtain a Beekeeping License/Registration Form: Many regions require you to apply for a permit or register your apiary.
 3. Complete the Registration Form: Fill out the required details, including your name, location, and number of hives.
 4. Submit the Form: Submit the completed form to your local authority, either online or by mail.
 5. Pay the Registration Fee (if applicable): Some regions may require a small fee for registering your bees.
 6. Site Inspection (if required): In some areas, an official may inspect your bee site for compliance with local regulations.
 7. Receive Your Registration Certificate: Once approved, you will receive a certificate or permit confirming your registration.
 8. Renew Annually (if applicable): Some regions require annual renewal of your beekeeping registration.
- Always check specific requirements based on your location, as laws can vary.

Zark Mupan: Whatever you do, DON'T check your voter registration status online. You can probably skip that. And don't view your qualifications to register – why even bother knowing whether or not you can in the first place? Registering is super inconvenient, so if I were you, I'd avoid registering online using the Board of Elections' Online Voter Registration system or going in-person to any county board of elections, New York State Agency-Based voter registration center, or nearby Department of Motor Vehicles. And as a college student, registering by mail would probably suck even more. Like entering your name into the Board of Elections' mailer list or calling 1-800-FOR-VOTE to request an application and mailing the completed form to your county board of elections. WOULD. NOT. RECOMMEND. Being aware of the registration and election deadlines is also a load of junk you don't need floating around in your head after midterms. Relax a little! Clear out from your head the dates October 26th (the last day for your ballot application to be received by board of elections, either by mail or online portal), November 4th (the last day to apply in person for the general election ballot) and November 5th (the last day to postmark, or deliver in-person to your county board or poll site, your general election ballot).



Thanksgiving



Across

- 2. Native people who helped early settlers
- 5. Type of berry used in a traditional Thanksgiving sauce
- 9. Meat often served at Thanksgiving
- 11. Bright orange squash that's often roasted or made into pie
- 12. Where families and friends gather to share a Thanksgiving meal

Down

- 1. Thanksgiving follows this holiday on the calendar
- 3. People who sailed on the Mayflower and celebrated the first Thanksgiving
- 4. Popular holiday parade city, known for its giant balloons
- 6. Another word for sweet potatoes, often served candied
- 7. Thanksgiving side dish, also called dressing
- 8. The month when Thanksgiving is celebrated in the U.S.
- 10. Another term for "thankfulness"
- 11. Tasty Thanksgiving dessert made with spiced pumpkin

By Yaro Videtskykh

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD

- 1) bookshelf, 2) artificialintelligence, 3) Jupiter, 4) Mark, 5) baseball, 6) realism, 7) regress, 8) lasagna, 9) air, 10) Celts, 11) Nile, 12) accounting, 13) Titanic, 14) Columbus