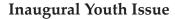
# **CORNWALL CHRONICLE**

**VOLUME 28 : NUMBER 6 JULY 2018** 



Welcome to the *Chronicle's* first youth edition. This month we feature news of recent graduates, poetry, essays, and articles written by some of our students. The seventh-grade students responded to queries such as, "Do you see yourself living in Cornwall when you are older?" or "How can we improve Cornwall or our schools?" Special thanks to Dean Saccardi, a rising senior at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, for reaching out to students and teachers at Cornwall Consolidated School and for his assistance with this issue.

# Cornwall: My Entryway to the World

It took me a while to figure out that I talk about my hometown an abnormal amount. It didn't occur to me that I was obsessed with where I grew up when I was reading my hometown Wikipedia page out loud one night my freshman year of college, or when I stopped a conversation at my job, 400 miles from home, to tell someone on the other end of the phone that they lived down the street from me. I realized my extreme affection for Cornwall—and all of Connecticut's Northwest Corner for that matter—when I spent the last \$26 in my bank account on

a map at a flea market because Cornwall was labeled on it.

I take pride in Cornwall's every detail. There are the obvious things, like the fact that it has one of only three covered bridges in the state, and that Dudleytown, a village in the most haunted forest in Connecticut, is actually part of Cornwall. But I also love that my eighth-grade class had the same 14 students that my kindergarten class did, and even though it has a population of only 1,400 people, Cornwall has three post offices.

I love all three of Cornwall's post offices. I love that when I walk in, the postmistress asks me if my parents enjoyed their vacation, and I love that when, in kindergarten, someone addressed a letter to "Madeleine Longwell, Cornwall, CT" it arrived safely in our mailbox.

It isn't simply that Cornwall is rural or beautiful or that everyone knows each other that makes it a special place. The size and beauty contribute to a unique identity that I carry intensely with me into the world.

To be from Cornwall is to know that although we don't appear on local weather maps or have a single stoplight, we are not insignificant. We cannot be overlooked; we are the home of the first ski area to make fake snow! The first piece of art purchased by Congress that wasn't a portrait was from a Cornwall artist!

To be raised in Cornwall was to be raised by a village of people who were proud of their community. My neighbors cared that I got to dance class even when the roads hadn't been plowed and that my letter got delivered, even when there was no address on the envelope.

When I told my neighbor that I was taking a trip with my university to France, she said "I know a woman who grew up on Cream Hill who moved to France in the 90s." To be from Cornwall is to know that should anything have gone terribly wrong, my first call would not have been to the university emergency contact, it would be to my neighbor's neighbor.

Cornwall can be my hideaway from the rest of the world or my entryway into it. It is a shield, and a badge of honor, and a tiny black dot 20 minutes between New York and Massachusetts on a map at a flea

-Madeleine Longwell, HVRHS Class of 2015

# Cornwall Best for Seniors, Youth

I would not like to stay in Cornwall or come back here because I feel like this is a place

(continued on page 2) **SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY** 1 2 3 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 6  $\mathbb{D}$ 4thO Brendan O'Connell Artist Reception Inland Wetlands Agency ◆ Agricultural Advisory ◆ Ballads & Barn Dances Opening 5 pm Historical Society 7 pm Town Hall
◆ Board of Selectmer
7:30 pm Town Hall ◆ First Half of Taxes Due 5 pm Library
◆ Community Committee 7:30 pm Town Office Bldg Contra Dance 7 pm Town Hall 8 9 11 12 13 ◆ No Senior Lunch This Month ◆ P&Z 7 pm Library ◆ Housatonic River 1 pm Hammond Beach ◆ Adam Van Doren Author Presentation Rich DuPont ◆ Women's New Moon Drum Circle 6-7:30 pm Local Farm ◆ Camp Eureka Sampler at Republican Town Commission 7:30 pm WC Firehouse Woods/Waterways Committee Meeting 5 pm Library
◆ Jammin' at the Hammond
w/Joint Chiefs
5:30–8 pm Beach 9 am-1 pm Motherhouse 7 pm Library Stonewall Farm Town Meeting 7:30 pm Town Hall 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 ( ◆ Cornwall ◆ Movie: Good Dinosaur Conservation Commission Deadline Outdoors at Trinity at Dusk

• Woman's Society August Chronicle Copy
◆ Free Family Workshops ◆Board of Selectmer 7:30 pm Town Hall 7 pm Library Rummage Sale 9 am-3 pm 1-4 pm Hughes Library Board of Finance 7:30 pm Town Hall 23 25 27 28 • Theater Arts Camp ◆ Theater Arts Camp Grumbling Gryphons
Town Hall ◆ Yoga at the
Lake 9–10 am Hammond
Beach ◆ Stand up Paddle ◆ Theater Arts Camp Grumbling Gryphons Town Hall Theater Arts Camp Grumbling Gryphons Town Hall Grumbling Gryphons Town Hall Theater Arts Camp Theater Arts Camp Theater Arts Camp Woman's Society Grumbling Gryphons Town Hall Grumbling Gryphons Town Hall Rummage Sale 11 am–2 pm Free Family Workshops Woman's Society Grumbling Gryphons Town Hall Board Yoga 11:30 am
Hammond Beach

• 80 years of Superman:
Comic Books 5 pm Library Rummage Sale 9 am–Noon \*ZBA\* 7 pm Library ◆ Family Full Moon Drum Circle 7:30–9 pm Local Farm 1–4 pm Hughes Library 29 **Every Week This Month:** 30 Mondays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Mat Squad, 6:30 pm UCC ◆ Tuesdays: Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Zumba, 5:30–6:30 pm Library ◆ Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 5–7 pm Town Hall call 672-0064; Tai-Chi 5:30 pm and Qui-Gong 6 pm UCC; Stitch 'n Spin, 7:15–8:30 pm UCC ◆ Thursdays: Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Theater Arts Camp Children's Children's Summer Camp 9 am–5 pm Library Grumbling Gryphons Town Hall Summer Camp Toddler Play Group, 10:30–11:30 am Library; Meditation, 4–5 pm call Debra 672-0229; Zumba, 5:30–6:30 pm Library; Mah Jongg, 7–9 pm Library call 672-6874 ♦ Fridays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library ◆ Saturdays: West Grumbling Gryphons –5 pm Library ◆ Voter Registration 3–5 pm Town Hall Performance 2 pm Town Hall Cornwall Farm Market, 10 am−1 pm; Cornwall Coop Farm Market, 9 am−12:30 pm ♦ Sundays: Yoga, 9-10:30 am Library; Meditation, 1 pm call Debra 672-0229

for little kids or old people in retirement. I feel this way because it is a nice place to have young kids and let them grow up here because of all the places to play and all the nice people around. I also think that it is a nice place to retire because it's a quiet town.

I say this is mostly for people retiring because, no offense to old people, but all of the people reading this are probably pretty old. I also think this is for retirement because I don't see young adults a lot (by young adults I mean around 20 years old). I don't know where I would go, but I know that I don't really want to stay in Cornwall. It's a nice village with nice people and everyone knows most everyone else. It's just there is not much to do here so I think when people like my age (13) get older, we would want to move away. When some people get to retirement I think they will come to Cornwall and just rest.

-Nathan Forrest Benjamin, Grade 7

## **Committed to Cornwall**

Cornwall is a very pleasant place to live, and I can see myself living in this town in the future. Except for the occasional visit from a bear or other wildlife, Cornwall is a quiet and peaceful place to live.

I have lived here for all of my life and I plan on still living here in the future. I have been to New York City a few times before and it just is not my place. There are too many people and it is very loud. Cornwall has an irreplaceable quiet demeanor that is like nowhere else I have ever been. Almost anywhere in town, you can find beautiful views of sunsets or sunrises. Although Cornwall is a small town, there are so many friendly neighbors always waving and saying hello. When I am older (old enough to get a job and live on my own), there are many places in the community for me to get a job. Cornwall is a very friendly town with a clean environment and it is a place that I would like to live in the future.

-Quinn Hedden, Grade 7

# School Faces Population, Grading Issues

Cornwall Consolidated School faces a slew of issues. However, the one with an evergrowing presence remains the declining population. The school has fewer than 80 in the student body, and fewer and fewer each year. This needs to be remedied in some way. Combining with a second school is feasible, but drastic. If the population grows, the problem could be irrelevant. But, the current seventh-grade class has 12 students. Losing this class will be detrimental to the school, and we will need to address it with haste.

Another issue is that students don't understand the relevance of the new grading system that will supposedly be-

come standards-based in a few years' time. I understand that there have been walkouts due to the grading system at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, and students at this school have similar views. Students need to understand the system or they will never accept it. Teachers in the beginning of the year did not communicate the system in a way that students understood in a few cases, and that led to a bit of animosity toward officials who were a part of this change. I do not understand this system fully, even during the third trimester of being in this environment, and this needs to change for many students. However, communication is growing stronger, and I believe that students are accepting and conforming to this system as the year wears on. These issues need to be dealt with, and when they are, the school system will be better for it. I, for one, think this progress is good and well-thought through, albeit slow and hard to get through the ranks of students in this region. I am hoping for the best.

—Harold Sanders, Grade 7

# **Grading System**

I think that one big problem is the grading system. I do not know about other people, but for me I feel like it is forcing me to get good grades. Yes, I do like getting good grades and fixing them, but I do not see why someone would need to be forced to fix them. I think that someone should have the choice to fix their own grades, and not be forced to fix them. I think that we should just go back to the old grading system. The old grading system worked for 300 years, yet now that it is that old, we have to fix it?

— Aramis Oyanadel, Grade 7

# Making Cornwall Inviting

Some things that might make Cornwall more welcoming is if we had a few more local shops and restaurants to attend during the weekends and the summer for people who live in Cornwall year-round, or those who come to tour the lovely town. Although Cornwall may be a very good example for other schools in the region, Cornwall Consolidated School could use some improvements as well.

One thing that could definitely improve our school is if we interacted with the other schools in the region more often. Most kids nowadays own phones to be able to contact their friends from a school not too far away, but one that they never get to see. As for ideas, we could have weekly sport days to not only let kids be able to hang out with their friends, but also to encourage activity and outdoor events. During the winter we could have weekly or biweekly sledding days at Housatonic Valley Regional High School or at certain schools. During the fall and spring, we could have soccer, baseball, and just free running time

# Welcome

Greyson Stephen Bronson to Melissa and Roy Bronson Remy Meneau Boynton to Darcy Boynton and Theophile Meneau Grayson Louis Dinneen to Beth Saccardi and Garrick Dinneen

# Goodbye to Friends

Thalia Scoville Karen Jean Coleman South

# Congratulations

Skylar Alexandra Shapiro and Christopher R. Ivey

#### **Land Transfers**

Robert S. Kalmes and Tonya Kalmes to Christopher Donald Doring and Rebecca Doring, land with all dwellings and improvements thereon at 115 Kent Road for \$222,600.

Laurie Ann Bianchi to House That Tokens Built, LLC, land with buildings and improvements thereon at 14 Ford Hill Road for \$423,000.

Jean Clark Banks, Carol Clark Fife, and Lorraine Clark Cochrane to YMCA Camp Mohawk, Inc., 6.808 acres of land on Clark Road for \$165,000.

Doris Elizabeth Mauro to Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc., 3.096 acres of land on Cherry Hill Road for \$250,000.

sometime after school. During the school year, we could also include more inner school gatherings where kids can get to know their fellow school members better and show leadership throughout the school.

Another issue in Cornwall is the small variety of people in Cornwall. I don't want to say that this is a problem of some sort, but the ratios of kids to seniors is fairly similar, and our school could definitely use some more students. I don't have any solutions for this that I would share, but this is definitely something to consider. These are things that could improve our town.

Although Cornwall may be an amazing place to raise a family, the town doesn't have very many job and employment choices. One thing that Cornwall would need if it was looking for more people to move back, is more small businesses and jobs. These jobs would be high-paying jobs that could support families. Personally, I want to become an obstetrician; I don't have to mention the very little use of an obstetrician in Cornwall. These types of jobs are of very little use in a town that doesn't have a hospital or public medical building, other than the fire station. Despite all the negative things I could say about Cornwall, it is a very beautiful place containing the nicest people.

—Melody Matsudaira, Grade 7

# **Congratulations 2018 Grads**

Graduation season has recently come and gone and the *Chronicle* would like to congratulate and recognize all the Cornwall students who have made the

leap into a new chapter of their lives.

Saying goodbye to Cornwall Consolidated School are Reilly Hedden, who will be attending Kent School next fall, and Gavin Budny, who will be attending Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS).

The following students have graduated from HVRHS: Patrick Kennedy (UConn); Dartanian Oyanadel (Ithaca College); Teagan Lynch (Quinnipiac); Emily Geyselaers (Plymouth State); Roxy Hurlburt (University of New England); Ewa Urbanowicz (University of Hartford); and Eliana Calhoun (Lawrence University).

Graduating from other New England schools: Iris Hubbard, Washington Montessori School to the Gunnery; Willa Neubauer, Hotchkiss School to Bates College; Olive Cowan, Hotchkiss School to Kenyon College; Ian Tyson, Indian Mountain School to Gould Academy; Tim Lacy, St. Hilda's and St. Hugh's to Northfield Mount Hermon.

Congratulations to all of the graduates. We wish you luck on your next endeavor!

—Dean Saccardi

#### Summer

We like to play with our friends, cats, and dogs Until fall there will be no school for us When we swim, we swim with the fish and frogs For two more months we won't see that old bus Soon the fireflies will buzz and glow all night They inspired someone to write a song They communicate through their blinks of light But once they are out they are not out long The ocean waves crash against the beach sand People take vacations to hang with fam Sometimes people go to see a rock band Summer comes in and out like a lamb Summer is good for picnics, grilling steak These three months are the best for a break!

#### -Rose Fitch and Eliza Tyson, Grade 5

# Community Reaches Consensus on School

The four-part Community Conversation about the future of educating Cornwall children wrapped up on June 7. The sessions, led by Jonathan Costa (and final one by Superintendent Pam Vogel) sought to establish the community priorities regarding CCS. The first meeting identified the major areas of concern as quality of education, affordability for taxpayers, student involvement in the community (and vice versa), and managing the declining population size. Solutions proposed at the second meeting included building affordable housing, improving the business climate, making CCS a magnet-type (themed) school, using the school building as multipurpose space, creating a campaign to attract young families, and regionalization of the schools in the area.

Because many of these solutions fall out of the purview of the Board of Education,

the third and fourth meetings mainly focused on deciding whether CCS should remain a K–8 grade school, become a K–4 or 5–8 school with the possibility of combining with another school, or to close the school and send children to surrounding schools. The group immediately ruled out sending all the students to other schools, insisting that students remain in Cornwall for at least part of their education. The second most popular option was busing children to other schools for elementary school or middle school and whichever age group of students remained could be joined by students from other schools.

The most desired option was for students to remain at CCS for K–8 because it would be best for attracting families to town, creating roots for the children in the community, increasing community involvement, assuring before- and after-school child care, and mixing of age groups. Attendees recognized that combining with an area school might provide greater social opportunities for students, greater access to local talent in the area, and exposure to more children from different backgrounds and cultures.

A notion raised frequently in the meetings and around town has been that CCS should combine with Falls Village, as both schools have small enrollments. However, Falls Village residents, through a similar process, have strongly affirmed their support for their own K-8 program. Likewise, Cornwall's Board of Education will now move forward with the community mandate to keep Cornwall kids at CCS.

-Mary Kate Kosciusko, CCS Class of 2009

# Future of Stonewall Farm on Town Agenda

A town meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, at 7:30 P.M. at town hall to discuss a proposed purchase and lease of the Stonewall Farm in Cornwall Bridge. In April 2006, the town received approval to purchase approximately 100 acres east of Route 7, across from the house and barns. Through public fundraising the transaction was completed. In June of that year, Chris Hopkins purchased the farmhouse, barns,

and some acreage on the west side of Route 7 from Art Lorch. In addition, Hopkins leased the town property to the east. Since then, this has been operated as a busy dairy farm, and for those who relish the open space and view of grazing cows, the farm has been an important part of our scenic roads.

Hopkins has decided to hang up his milk pail. Jeff and Sarah Casel are in negotiations to become the next future farmers on Stonewall Farm. They have proposed purchasing the properties currently held by Chris Hopkins, and if approved, want to enter into a 30-year lease for the property to the east. Their goal is to bring

# Letter to the Chronicle

MOVIE NIGHT WAS THE EPITOME OF SUMMER FUN The outdoor movie at the Trinity Retreat Center

Saturday night, June 16, was marvelous. Not only was there a Mr. Softee truck providing free ice cream sundaes and popcorn, but there were millions of stars—not the movie kind, but the ones up in the sky. The slivered moon was low in the western sky, so the dark sky above made the entire experience dramatic. Of course, The Natural is a big favorite and never ceases to be enjoyable. The screen is HUGE, and the four outdoor speakers provided perfect sound, even for those with hearing aids. Add to that soft grass, a new ball field for those who wish to play there, and one has the perfect spot to drift away into another world, or part of town. There are even two tennis courts and plenty of running space for kids. There will be more movie nights this summer. GO and ENJOY.

—Carol Goodfriend and family

another family along to assist in the labors of maintaining an active dairy farm. The meeting will be an opportunity to meet the families and learn the proposed plans for the farm and town-held land.

—Diane Beebe

# Rummage Sale is Cornwall Rite of Passage

For many kids in Cornwall a summer highlight is the Cornwall Woman's Society rummage sale. Not only does the sale provide an exciting weekend of shopping and swapping clothes, knickknacks, and furniture, but it also employs many of the local kids who work as "gofers." Gofers help move, sort, clean, and organize countless items. The rummage sale raises money for awards available to Cornwall's graduating high school seniors. This year the Woman's Society came across a particularly interesting cache of items. The Hart family donated over 2,000 magic lantern slides that were taken or purchased by Gould W. Hart in the late 1890s and early 1900s. Hart lived in Brooklyn, NY, and spent time in Cornwall. The slides show significant events such as the building of the Brooklyn Bridge. The slides will be auctioned off separately at the Copake Auction House this month. Slides of West Cornwall and Falls Village were given to the historical society. —Dean Saccardi

## **CVFD Count**

5 false alarms 1 motor vehicle accident 1 car fire 1 appliance fire 6 emergency medical calls

#### **Events & Announcements**

Also: check our Facebook page for event reminders and Cornwall updates

Taxes Due July 1: The first half payment of taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2017 is due July 1, 2018. Taxes not in excess of one hundred dollars and Motor Vehicle taxes shall be due and payable in full on July 1, 2018. Payments must be postmarked by August 1, 2018 to avoid interest. Any tax bills not paid by August 1, 2018 will be considered delinquent, and interest will be charged at the rate of 1.5 percent per month and fraction thereof (including July). This means that even if you pay on August 2 you will be charged for two months' interest. No additional bills will be mailed for second installments. Please use the bill you received in July. Taxes may be paid at the Tax Office on Mondays from 1 to 4 P.M. and on Wednesdays from 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. and 1 to 4 P.M., or sent by mail, addressed to: Cornwall Tax Collector, P.O. Box 97, Cornwall, CT 06753, or pay online at www. cornwallct.org (2.95% charge for this service), or pay with an e-check. Jean D. Bouteiller, CCMC, Tax Collector

Voter Registration and Absentee Ballots.

The deadline for voter registration is August 8 in order to vote in the August 14 primary. A registration session will be held at the town hall on July 31 from 3 to 5 p.m. Registration applications are available at the town hall and the library. Absentee ballots will be available starting July 24. The town clerk's hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. They must be returned by 8 p.m. Primary Day, August 14.

Cornwall Historical Society: Ballads and Barn Dances, Cornwall's Homegrown Music exhibit. Opening reception July 6 at 5 p.m., 7 Pine St.

## **Art in Cornwall**

At the Cornwall Library: work by Brendan O'Connell, July 5 through August 18. Reception on July 7 at 5 P.M.

## **Heat Wave**

Extreme weather is on the rise: severe thunderstorms, microbursts, hurricanes, etc. Whatever hits Cornwall this summer, stay prepared by reading the *Chronicle*. And help insure that we stay afloat even as the ice caps melt by contributing today!

At the Souterrain Gallery in West Cornwall: Peter Joslin's exhibit "Trout Markings & Landscapes" continues through July 29.

At the Toll House Gallery: works by Lennard Swede Ahrstrom, Scott Zuckerman, Susan Rand, and Don Bracken.

#### **Motherhouse Events**

Dances of the Revolution, Community Dance, Saturday, July 7 at 7 p.m. at town hall with teaching caller Anne, and Still, the Homegrown Band. Donations \$5–8/child and \$10–15/adult. Call 672-6101 for more info.

Exploring Woods, Observing Waterways, with Camp Eureka, Wednesday, July 11, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Doeblin-Lacy Woods. \$50/child, \$25/each additional sibling. Children under 8 MUST bring a parent.

Women's New Moon Drum Circle, Thursday, July 12, from 6 to 7:30 P.M. at the Local Farm barn. Suggested donation \$10.

Family Full Moon Drum Circle, Friday, July 27, from 7:30 to 9 P.M. at Local Farm. Suggested donation \$15-20/family. (Rain date July 28.)

For all events see motherhouse.us or call 860-671-7945 for more info.

Republican Town Committee meeting: Monday July 9 at 7 P.M. at the Cornwall Library, Rich DuPont, candidate for the Congressional House 5th District will attend. RSVP kmcjewel@gmail.com.

#### At the Cornwall Library

"Stones of Yale," author talk and book signing by Adam Van Doren, Saturday, July 14 at 5 P.M.

"80 Years of Superman: Comic Books 1938-Now," author talk by Nat Homer, Saturday, July 28 at 5 P.M.

Children's summer camp, July 30 through August 3, from 9 a.m. through 5 p.m., for children entering grades K through 4. \$100. Space is limited and registration is required. Call 672-6874 for information.

# At the Town Beach

Jammin' at the Hammond with the Joint Chiefs: July 14, from 5:30 to 8 P.M. Bring your own picnic.

Stand-Up Paddle Board Yoga: July 14 at 1 P.M. and July 28 at 11:30 A.M.

Yoga on the Lake: Saturday, July 28 at 9 A.M.

At Hughes Memorial Library: Free family workshops at 35 Lower River Road, West Cornwall (best for ages 8 and older). Sunday, July 15, drop in between 1 to 4 P.M.,

make a survival bracelet; Sunday, July 22, drop in 1 to 4 P.M., stitch a leather pouch. Information: lostartworkshops@gmail.com.

#### **At Trinity Retreat Center:**

Outdoor movie, July 21 at dusk, *Pixar's The Good Dinosaur*.

Trinity Camper Reunion, July 27 at 6 р.м.

Annual Rummage Sale: Cornwall's Woman's Society sale will be Saturday, July 21, from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.; Sunday, July 22, from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.; and Monday, July 23, from 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. at Mohawk Ski Lodge, UCC Parish House and town hall.

Grumbling Gryphons: Annual Theater Arts Camp for children ages 5 to 16, Sunday, July 22 through July 29 at town hall. Public performance on Sunday, July 29, at 2 P.M. To register, or for more info call Leslie Elias at 860-672-0286 or grumblinggryphons@gmail.com

**Senior Luncheon:** There will be NO luncheon this month.

Recyclable Reminder: When bringing your items to be recycled to the transfer station, please remember to rinse your recyclables. The hot weather makes unrinsed items smell and attract flies. For the health and comfort of our town employees, please rinse.

Little Free Library at Pearly's Farmhouse Café, a free book exchange AND seed exchange. Take a book, leave a book, take a seed packet, and leave a seed packet. General donations also accepted (hardcover, paperback, adult, youth, and children's books).

# CORNWALL CHRONICLE cornwallchronicle.org

#### THIS MONTH

Simon Horan, Illustrations Dean Saccardi, Youth Editor Pamela Longwell and Diane Beebe, Consulting Editors Pamela Longwell and Caroline Kosciusko, Facebook Posts

#### NEXT MONTH

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 ${\bf CIRCULATION}\ Hunt\ Williams,\ Nan\ {\bf and}\ John\ Bevans$ 

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