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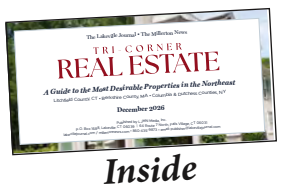

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Covering The News In Connecticut's Northwest Corner And Its Environs Since 1897

Sharon revisits speed cameras, weighs humps

By Patrick Stachniak

SHARON — A group of more than 20 residents who live along Jewett Hill Road has petitioned the town to install speed humps on their roadway. Jewett Hill Road runs less than a mile between Calkinstown Road and Jackson Hill Road.

The petition prompted a broader discussion about speeding at the Sharon Board of Selectmen meeting on Nov. 10. First Selectman Casey Flanagan said he plans to revive an earlier proposal to use speed cameras on town roads and resume talks with an installation company.

Selectman John Brett emphasized the board's responsibility for neighborhood safety and then discussed the petition.

The board said a public hear-

See SPEED CAMERAS, Page A8



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

A Patriot Front sign hangs in front of the Canfield Building on Main Street in North Canaan on Wednesday, Nov. 11. The sign was removed later that day.

Residents tear down Patriot Front signs in North Canaan and Falls Village

State police refer incidents to hate crimes investigators

By Madi Long

NORTH CANAAN — Residents in North Canaan and Falls Village have taken down signs bearing the name Patriot Front, which the Southern Poverty Law Center classifies as a white nationalist hate group. Connecticut State Police said they referred two incidents to hate crimes investigators.

On Nov. 2, a Troop B sergeant spotted a sign on a utility pole near Route 7 and North Elm Street. State police contacted the utility company, which took down the sign.

State police said they alerted the resident troopers in North Canaan and Salisbury, along with other troopers assigned to Troop B.

On Nov. 3, North Canaan residents Mary Riccardelli and Dean Saccardi spotted a sign near Canaan United Methodist Church and took it down. It read, "Strong families, strong nations" and displayed a white father, mother and child.

The two brought the sign home and repainted it with a message about community unity. "We're gonna make it into a positive message about the community and unity as a nation," Riccardelli said.

See PATRIOT FRONT, Page A8

North Canaan recovers $15,000 in nip fees sent to New Canaan

By Patrick Stachniak

NORTH CANAAN — The town has recovered $15,000 in lost revenue from a surcharge on miniature liquor bottles after Treasurer Melanie Neely discovered that the money had mistakenly been sent to New Canaan.

First Selectman Jesse Bunce announced the recovery at the Nov. 9 Board of Selectmen meeting, drawing a round of applause. Bunce investigated the discrepancy after Neely brought it to his attention.

Neely spotted a drop in revenue while reviewing the town's finances in late October. She said North Canaan had typically received between $4,000 and $6,000 every six months since the surcharge took effect in 2021. Payments had fallen to between $1,600 and $1,900.

"I just thought it didn't look right," Neely said after the meeting.

Bunce said the error originated at a North Canaan package store that has been under new management for about 18 months. The store mistakenly listed the town as "N. Canaan," he said, and the money went to New Canaan in Fairfield County.

Connecticut imposes a surcharge on miniature liquor bottles known as nips. Wholesalers send the proceeds twice a year to the towns where the bottles were sold and report sales by town to the state. Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of Connecticut compiles figures on how much each town receives.

State law requires towns to use the money to reduce solid waste or the impact of litter. The Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality reviews how municipalities use the funds.

See FEES, Page A8



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Local veterans salute during the Veterans Day ceremony in Kent.

Northwest Corner honors veterans at schools and memorials

NORTHWEST CORNER — Students, veterans and neighbors across the Northwest Corner marked Veterans Day with school assemblies and ceremonies at town memorials.

Salisbury Central School held its assembly Tuesday, Nov. 10. Schools in Falls Village, Cornwall, Sharon and Kent also observed the holiday. About 50 people gathered outside Salisbury Town Hall on Nov. 11. In Kent, American Legion Hall-Jennings Post 153 held a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial on Maple Street, followed by a luncheon at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

In North Canaan, Couch-Pipa VFW Post 6851 joined residents for a rifle salute at the Doughboy Memorial.

For more Veterans Day coverage, turn to page A7

Northwest Corner veterans help one another get care

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — As the flags from Veterans Day parades are furled and the public tributes fade, veterans in Connecticut's rural Northwest Corner still face the quieter work of finding care and talking about the pain and anguish they brought home.

Those challenges can become

See VETERAN CARE, Page A8

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Veterans Day
For additional photos of local commemorations, go to lakevillejournal.com.

POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

The following information was provided by the Connecticut State Police at Troop B. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Falls Village crash

Two vehicles were towed after a crash at the intersection of routes 7 and 126 around noon on Nov. 11, police said. Neither driver was injured.

Police said Duncan Jenny was driving north on Route 7 as Lucia Smith approached the intersection from a different direction. According to police, Jenny did not see Smith before his truck struck her Subaru Forester. Both vehicles sustained disabling damage.

Police cited Jenny for failing to obey a stop sign.

Falls Village nitrous oxide

An officer responded to a report of possible drug activity in a gray vehicle parked on Page Road on the afternoon of Nov. 14.

Police said Christopher Dunn, 30, was inside the vehicle holding a black canister with a mouthpiece. The responding officer saw Dunn exhale a white vapor that police identified as nitrous oxide.

Police arrested Dunn on a charge of manufacture, sale or administering of restricted substances. He was released on $2,500 bond and is scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on Nov. 30.

The Lakeville Journal will publish the outcome of police charges. Send mail to P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039, Attn: Police Blotter, or send to editor@lakevillejournal.com

Salisbury's median home sale price rises 5% to $920,000

By Christine Bates



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

This four-bedroom house at 175 Main St. in Salisbury sold for $990,000 on Sept. 30. It sold for $1,025,000 in January 2022.

SALISBURY — The median sale price of a single-family home in Salisbury rose to $920,000 for the 12 months ended Oct. 31, up 5.1% from $875,000 a year earlier and 6.4% from $865,000 for the same period in 2024. The figures exclude condominiums.

The rolling 12-month median peaked at $1.35 million in May 2025 and fell to $775,000 at the start of 2026. It has remained above $900,000 since July.

Sixty-six single-family homes sold in the 12 months through Oct. 31. In the comparable periods ending in October 2025 and October 2024, 47 and 45 homes sold, respectively. The 12-month sales total peaked at 117 in May 2021.

The average sale price for single-family homes that closed in October was $1.43 million, up from $1.38 million in September and $1.33 million in August.

In early November, 20 residential properties were listed for sale. Fifteen were priced above $1 million, while five were listed below the $920,000 median sale price. Of the eight parcels of land on the market, one was listed below $500,000.

None of the 21 broker-listed rentals was advertised as unfurnished. Furnished rentals were available on year-round, winter and academic-year leases.

Salisbury Transfers in October

175 Main Street – 4 bedroom/2.5 bath home on 1.1 acres transferred by Danielle Do to Adele Lindenmeyr for $990,000

Taconic Road – 7.08 acres of land transferred by DNA Motorsports 2023 LLC to 360Circle LLC for $4,275,000

136 Interlaken Road - 4 bedroom/3 bath home on 1.3 acres transferred by 135 Crown Victoria LLC to Allison Penn and Armin Harris for $4,450,000

Robin Hill Lane – 3 bedroom/2 bath home on 1.84 acres transferred by Lemon Properties LLC to Sheila Davis for $680,000

30 East Street – 4 bedroom/2.5 bath ranch on 0.7 acres transferred by Leslie Sheldon Trustee Leslie A Sheldon Trust to Reed and Melissa Balmer for $915,000

160 Dugway Road – 3 bedroom/3 bath home on 2.28 acres transferred by Lemon Properties LLC to Daniel Keenan for $1,435,000

87 Canaan Road, Unit 7A – 3 bedroom/3 bath condo transferred by Anna Maria Eduarda Armstrong Trust to Richard and Kathleen Beatty for $815,000

22 Undermountain Road – 3 bedroom/2 bath home transferred by WYCT LLC to Peter and Marilla Palmer Zaremba for $750,000

87 Canaan Road, Unit 3F– 2 bedroom/2 bath condo transferred by Alden Warner Trustee Alden Warner Revocable Trust to 496 Dune Road LLC for $545,000

56 East Main Street – 3 bedroom/3 bath house plus guest house transferred by Erik Tomaino to Biscuit LLC for $975,000

5 Apple Way – 3 bedroom/1.5 bath home on 0.86 acres transferred by Susan Belcher Trustee for Susan Belcher Second Amended and Restated Revocable Trust Indenture to Joanne Beveridge and Benjamin Emerick for $575,000

33 Red Bird Lane – 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home transferred by Edward Blank to Margaret Rice Trustee AKA Peggy Rice Trustee to Peggy Rice Trust UTA for $890,000

Robin Hill Lane – 4.24 acres of vacant land transferred by Edward Blank to Margaret Rice Trustee AKA Peggy Rice Trustee to Peggy Rice Trust UTA for $310,000

33 Wells Hill Road – 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home on 16 acres transferred by Charles and Sandra Kalison to Martha Beyer Trustee for Beyer Family Trust for $715,000

96 Bunker Hill – 3 bedroom/2 bath home on 5.85 acres transferred by Steven Heller and Louise Fili to McBride Builders LLC

** Town of Salisbury real estate transfers recorded between October 1, 2026, and October 31, 2026, provided by Salisbury Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS and market statistics from InfoSparks. Note that monthly recorded transfers may lag sales by a number of days and include properties not appearing on the MLS. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.*

Lakeville resident launches push for healthcare overhaul

By Patrick L. Sullivan



PHOTO PROVIDED

Lakeville's Stephen Lehner launched America Denied to push for U.S. healthcare reform.

LAKEVILLE — Stephen Lehner of Lakeville thinks America spends too much on healthcare, spends it inefficiently, and he's got a plan to do something about it.

In October, Lehner's new organization, America Denied, launched its website (www.americadenied.org).

In an interview earlier this month, Lehner started by pointing to the scale of U.S. healthcare spending. Federal actuaries estimated spending reached $5.7 trillion in 2025, or 18.4% of gross domestic product (GDP).

For comparison, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimated that healthcare spending in 2024 accounted for 12.3% of GDP in Germany, 11.5% in France and 11.1% in the UK.

Lehner said prescription drugs and medical services and procedures generally cost significantly more in the U.S. than in other developed nations, with administrative expenses further driving up spending.

He called the situation "America's most urgent socio-economic problem."

America Denied's solution is to first develop a complete plan for the overhaul of the American healthcare system, and then advocate for it by building a network of patients.

The idea is to present Congress with a complete package of reforms and press for an up-or-down vote.

Lehner's plan starts with a bottom-line goal. He wants to put healthcare spending on a budget, perhaps 12% of GDP.

The plan calls for a federal program that starts with "universal, essential healthcare" that doesn't require signing up.

Private insurance would remain available.

Under the proposal, Congress would set the healthcare budget, and a federal health board, similar to the Federal Reserve Board, would oversee the plan with the goals of providing the highest-quality care for the greatest number of people and keeping the cost within the budget set by Congress.

Lehner envisions a single-payer plan using metrics not currently used in the U.S.

Ultimately, he believes his plan would reduce costs without increasing taxes.

"I'm doing this for lower taxes," he said."If Medicare for All passed, I'd still advocate for America Denied."

Lehner was critical of the healthcare lobby, which he calls the "Healthcare Industrial Complex."

The website asks ordinary Americans to chip in $6 to get the plan written and advocate for it.

Asked if it might be more effective to start with smaller reforms, such as allowing health insurance to be sold across state lines, Lehner said it's a good idea but a "second order problem."

"I think we're beyond that point," he said. "We need to tear down the existing system and replace it with something else."

Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning. Notice of such error must be given to us after the first run of the advertisement.

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CONTACT US

Christian Murray
Executive Editor
christianm
@lakevillejournal.com

Sandra Lang
Subscriptions
circulation
@lakevillejournal.com

Advertising
Roxanne Lee, Mary Wilbur
advertising
@lakevillejournal.com

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF COLAINE DUNTZ, Late of East Canaan, AKA Colaine A. Duntz (26-00407)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated October 7, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
The fiduciary is:
Fawn Duntz
c/o MICHAEL PETER CITRIN,
DRURY, PATZ & CITRIN, LLP,
7 CHURCH STREET,
PO BOX 101,
CANAAN, CT 06018
Jordan Bergs
Clerk
11-19-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF LEE STRATTMAN Late of Canaan (26-00406)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated October 14, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Jordan Bergs, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Barbara Strattman
c/o KEVIN F NELLIGAN,
THE LAW OFFICES OF,
KEVIN F. NELLIGAN,
LLC, 194 ASHLEY FLS RD POB 776,
CANAAN, CT 06018
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Clerk
11-19-26

Our Towns

Medicaid work and reporting rules threaten coverage for 350 Northwest Corner adults: report

By Christian Murray

NORTHWEST CORNER — An estimated 350 adults across six Northwest Corner towns could lose Medicaid coverage under new federal work and reporting requirements, according to a Nov. 8 report by DataHaven and Health Equity Solutions.

The requirements, enacted as part of President Donald Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act, take effect Jan. 1, 2027.

Connecticut provides Medicaid coverage through several HUSKY programs that serve eligible children, parents and caregivers, older adults and people with disabilities.

The new work rules apply to certain adults ages 19 to 64 enrolled in HUSKY D, the part of Connecticut's Medicaid program that covers low-income adults without children. The program's income limit is $22,025 for a single adult and $29,863 in combined income for a married couple with no dependents.

The six towns have 976 residents enrolled in HUSKY D, according to the report.

HUSKY D members at risk

Estimated members who could lose coverage under new federal Medicaid work requirements

Town	HUSKY D members	At risk
North Canaan*	253	87
Salisbury	198	74
Kent	192	68
Sharon	147	53
Cornwall	94	36
Falls Village*	92	32
Total	**976**	**350**

*State enrollment data does not cleanly separate the two towns, so DataHaven estimated them as one area and divided the result by population.

Source: DataHaven, "Declining Coverage and Rising Premiums" (2026), using CT DSS enrollment data (Feb. 2026).

SOURCE: DATAHAVEN, "DECLINING COVERAGE AND RISING PREMIUMS" (2026)

The state can use information it already has, such as wage records, to confirm that some HUSKY D recipients meet the work rules or qualify for an exemption.

DataHaven estimates that about 350 of the 976 members, or 36%, are at risk of losing coverage because the state may need more information to verify that they meet the work requirement or qualify for an exemption.

Adults subject to the work rules can meet them by earning at least $580 per month, attending school at least half time, or completing 80 hours in a month of work, community service or job training. They can also combine qualifying activities to reach 80 hours.

Some HUSKY D recipients are excused from the work requirement, including pregnant women, caregivers of children under 14, certain caregivers of people with disabilities and people with qualifying medical conditions.

The reporting requirement comes into play when the state needs proof.

The state could ask for a pay stub or an employer's letter. It may also ask for proof of an exemption. Members who already meet the rules or qualify for an exemption could still lose coverage if they fail to provide the documents the state requests.

For current members, the first renewals subject to the work rules are due in February, for coverage beginning March 1. At their first renewal under the new rules, members generally must show that they met the work requirement or qualified for an exemption in at least one of the previous 12 months.

All HUSKY D members will move from annual renewals to renewals every six months.

Connecticut, according to the report, estimates that about 108,000 HUSKY D members statewide are at risk under the new requirements.

DataHaven used state enrollment figures and a statistical model to estimate how that risk is distributed across towns.

North Canaan and Falls Village together account for an estimated 119 members at risk, about a third of the six-town total.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Wendy Miller of Sharon Audubon gives a student a closer look at a Madagascar hissing cockroach.

Hissing cockroaches steal the show at Kellogg School

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Two thumb-sized Madagascar hissing cockroaches clung to Wendy Miller's apron and let out a loud hiss as students at Lee H. Kellogg School got a close look Friday, Nov. 13.

Miller, of Sharon Audubon, brought a turtle, a snake and a turtledove to the school, but she started with the cockroaches. Their hiss, she told students, helps ward off predators.

After the children inspected the roaches, Miller explained how insects see. Compound eyes give them a mosaic view of their surroundings, while simpler eyes help them detect light and dark.

Miller also told students about the animals at Sharon Audubon.

"We've got snakes and turtles and an owl named Atticus and eagles and turkey vultures and a raven."

She explained how the health of wildlife can tell us something about the places people live.

"We believe what is good for birds is also good for people. If all of a sudden the birds are sick, we have to look at what is wrong."

As for the cockroaches on her apron, Miller assured students that the species isn't native to northwestern Connecticut and is unlikely to turn up outside captivity.

"You won't find them at home or in school."

North Canaan, Cornwall advance data center, battery storage moratoriums

By Patrick Stachniak

NORTH CANAAN AND CORNWALL — North Canaan's Planning and Zoning Commission approved a two-year moratorium on data centers and battery energy storage systems after a Nov. 10 public hearing.

Cornwall's commission scheduled another public hearing for Dec. 8 and plans to vote separately on proposed moratoriums for data centers and battery storage systems.

Several attendees at the North Canaan hearing sought an outright ban on hyperscale data centers, citing concerns about pollution, electricity demand and water use.

"[A data center] is not a long-term investment, whether you get tax breaks and whether it helps our tax situation here… it sucks dry our water," said Bernie Re of North Canaan, who read from a prepared statement at the hearing.

"I think this is a bigger issue than [North] Canaan, and that we have a good opportunity to actually make a statement that this town and other towns in Connecticut… do not want something like this," Re said.

Another resident, in a written statement read at the hearing, cited past droughts and warned that a large data center could strain local water supplies.

"I see absolutely no benefit to us in the town of [North] Canaan or any of our surrounding towns to install one of these facilities. We gain nothing," the resident said.

Residents in both towns raised concerns about Connecticut's tax incentives for data center developers. Those incentives include exemptions from sales tax on qualifying purchases and from certain property taxes.

The towns can lift the moratoriums before the two years are up.

Cornwall's commission raised questions about how much land the facilities might need, how they could affect the town's scenic character and what effects they could have on public safety, electricity costs and water use.

Data Centers

Large data centers can consume substantial amounts of electricity and use large volumes of water to cool their equipment. Their need for land has led developers to build in small towns across the country.

In an August statement, Allie Finn, director of community partnerships at the AI Now Institute, said the industry's rapid growth has disproportionately affected rural communities.

The institute, a research and advocacy group that opposes the spread of data centers, supports local moratoriums.

Battery Storage

Battery energy storage systems use banks of batteries connected to the electric grid.

They can charge when demand is low or store electricity generated by wind turbines and solar panels.

When demand peaks, the batteries can feed that power back into the grid, easing strain on the system during heat waves and cold snaps.

Send news tips to editor@lakevillejournal.com

Canaan Cafe and Kitchen to Open



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

The Canaan Cafe and Kitchen on East Main St. in North Canaan is set to open on Nov. 19.

A new restaurant is set to open at 18 East Main St. in North Canaan following the abrupt closure of Cafe Gourmet earlier this year.

Canaan Cafe and Kitchen has announced an American and Spanish-inspired breakfast menu featuring pancakes, French toast, burritos and more.

Prices will range from $8.95 for a breakfast sandwich to $17.95 for a French toast breakfast sandwich, which is filled with Canadian bacon, crispy bacon, sausage and melted cheese.

The restaurant will celebrate its grand opening Thursday, Nov. 19, from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.



The Salisbury Affordable Housing Trust

The Salisbury Affordable Housing Trust is accepting applications for affordable new homes.

The Salisbury Affordable Housing Trust works to create affordable homeownership options for households with incomes in the 60% to 100% of area median income range. For a household of 3, this ranges between a total gross income of $66,312 and $110,520. Applicants must be first-time homebuyers with some exceptions.

If you or someone you know might be interested, go to www.salisburycthousing.org/housing-trust-application to obtain an application. For any questions, contact karens@salisburyhousingtrust.org.

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Our Towns

Jill Johnson settles in as Kellogg principal

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Jill Johnson, principal at Lee H. Kellogg School, said the biggest change for her has been getting used to the dynamic of a K–8 school after 20 years working at a high school.

Johnson, who started at Kellogg Aug. 10, replaced Andrew Deacon, who was principal for one year before accepting the assistant superintendent position for Region One.

Johnson, a Litchfield resident who sat down for an interview Nov. 13, spent 20 years at Explorations Charter School in Winsted, where she taught math for eight years and served 12 years as principal and executive director.

Working with younger children is different, she said. "Sometimes it's like herding kittens, but the energy is so infectious.

"I see the joy in the kids' faces, especially the younger ones on the way in."

Johnson greets students as they arrive in the morning and as they board the buses in the afternoon.

"We have hugs and high fives," she said. "And if someone had a rough day the day before, I tell them I'm glad to see them."

Kellogg has 82 students, including 19 in a combined first- and second-grade class.

The Board of Education approved hiring a new second-grade teacher on Nov. 10.

Three board members — Adam Sher, Scott Miller and Dathalinn O'Dea — voted in favor. Two members — Chair Pat Mechare and Maria Bulson, a former Kellogg principal — abstained, citing concerns about the timing of the hire and the decision to forgo a long-term substitute.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Jill Johnson, the new principal at the Lee H. Kellogg School, praised the faculty and staff for working collaboratively. Johnson started the job in August.

Johnson said the situation was unusual. The combined first and second grade class had been staffed by a certified teacher and a full-time paraprofessional.

The paraprofessional left, and Johnson said the staffing gap presented a "unique opportunity."

"I was going to propose a new second grade position" in the upcoming budget discussions, she said.

She said she had hoped for stronger applicants for the paraprofessional job and that, with mandated curriculum changes coming, having a full-time second-grade teacher made sense.

Asked about hiring a long-term substitute, Johnson said, "the problem is candidate quality.

"I'm looking for stability."

Johnson had nothing but good things to say about the Kellogg faculty and staff. She said collaboration among the school's approximately 10 teachers and with her office is excellent.

"The teachers are comfortable coming to me for help or support."

Johnson said she and her husband, Charles Beaudoin, who was on hand for the school's Veterans Day event, have spent time in Falls Village to get a feel for the community.

"We've made a point of being part of the town — going on walks, visiting restaurants, going to the library.

"This is where I was meant to be."

Photo exhibit raises funds for Sharon Hospital expansion

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON — A photography exhibit at Sharon Hospital is helping raise money for the hospital's $12.5 million capital campaign to build a new primary and multispecialty care center.

The planned addition will house a center for healthy aging, space for rotating specialists, a laboratory, a nurses' station and a larger waiting area. It will have up to 18 exam rooms and provide more space for the hospital's growing staff.

The photography exhibit, organized by Northwell's Institute for Community Health and Wellness, features fine art photography by members of the Housatonic Camera Club, including Dr. Mark Marshall.

The exhibit, the club's second annual show at Sharon Hospital, runs through the end of January. Club members will donate half the proceeds from photo sales during the exhibit to the hospital's capital project.

The Housatonic Camera Club is a Northwest Corner group founded in 1956 and its members exhibit their work locally and enter competitions.

"Sharon Hospital is honored to host this extraordinary exhibit by the Housatonic Camera Club, whose generosity extends beyond the artwork on our walls," Sharon Hospital President Christina McCulloch said in a statement.

"This initiative directly supports our primary care expansion project, enabling us to recruit top clinicians, broaden access to specialists and integrated care and establish a dedicated center for healthy aging right here in our community."

Marshall, a physician specializing in internal medicine and hospice and palliative medicine, serves as the hospital's vice president and chief medical officer. He was Sharon Hospital's first hospitalist and has worked there for nearly 30 years. He has helped expand the hospitalist program from a single provider to several groups that admit, care for and discharge patients around the clock.

Marshall said his interest in photography began at 13, when his parents bought him his first camera, a Rolleiflex SL35 film camera. His fascination with photographing people and street scenes took off after he discovered Leonard Freed's photobook "Police Work," he said.

"I love taking pictures of people and street scenes," Marshall said. "I focus on color, composition and perspective changes mostly. As a physician, my interest in people and documenting them now has sort of come full circle. I was always interested in the lives that people lead, and I consider pictures a snippet of their actions. These are snapshots of people now. My life is intimately related to the care of people."

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Salisbury Democrats celebrate midterm wins at annual auction

By Ruth Epstein

The mood was gleeful at the Salisbury Democratic Auction on Sunday as guests celebrated Democratic victories in the midterm elections.

Party supporters filled the Town Grove to mingle, enjoy refreshments and bid on auction items. Several said they were pleased with how Democrats had fared in local and national races.

"I'm still on a high," said Joe Woodard, chair of the Salisbury Democratic Town Committee. "It was an incredible victory. I wasn't too surprised about Connecticut, but the breadth of victories was incredible."

Asked what he thought of the results, Salisbury First Selectman Curtis G. Rand said, "Oh my god. Isn't that great?"

Most attendees were in good spirits.

"It's great to have this mood after the election and a party to celebrate," said Tom Quinn, husband of state Rep. Maria Horn.

Jeanette Weber, a former Republican, said she is now a strong Democrat. "I didn't leave the party; it left me."

She marveled at how many women had won their races.

David Valcin, a Salisbury resident and actor with numerous television and film credits, served as auctioneer.



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

State Rep. Maria Horn chats with former Salisbury Democratic Town Committee Chairman Al Ginouves during Sunday's Democratic Auction.

He opened by paying tribute to the late David Bayersdorfer, who had held the role for many years. The two served together on the Salisbury Board of Education, Valcin said, "and he became my friend and mentor. He made me better at what I do. I miss him as many of us do."

Before taking bids, Valcin drew laughs by reading an imagined note of encouragement from Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, whom he said he knew from his days as a bartender in Los Angeles.

All 19 items sold. The Lime Rock Park experience drew the highest bid at $2,050 after opening at $500. The winner will become a member of the Drivers Club on Club Day. The package includes four hours of on-track coaching with an instructor in the passenger seat and four general admission tickets to a public event at the park in 2027.

Other offerings included original cartoons by Peter Steiner, a Broadway show, a three-night getaway in San Francisco, a state Capitol tour and lunch with state Rep. Maria Horn and a birthday party for 10 at Grassland Dessert Cafe.

The evening also featured a raffle for the first time.

"This is a great event and we hope to keep doing it," Woodard said. "It's a wonderful fundraiser that adds to our bank account."

"The atrium is a beautiful spot to read, enjoy the plants and socialize—there's nearly a party here almost every week."

— Resident Doug D.



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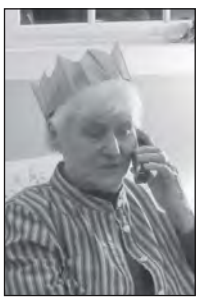
OBITUARIES

Margaret Myra McCarthy Dell

LAKEVILLE — Five days following her 104th birthday, "Mumsie" got her wish. She left us in her sleep in the wee hours of Saturday, Nov. 7, at her home in Lakeville.



Born on the family homestead on Nov. 2, 1922, to Irish Canadian parents, Thomas and Clara Quinn McCarthy in Blackville, New Brunswick, Canada, in the Miramichi River Valley.

In the late 1920s, the family moved west, settling in Toronto, Ontario, where the family of now eleven shared a home. Tragically, in the late 1930s, they lost their Dad to cancer. Myra and her older sister Pat left school as young teenagers to help support the family.

Myra worked throughout the Depression and World War II outside their home and was always there to help her Mum raise her eight siblings. As a young woman, she honed her skills in cooking, cleaning, and sewing.

In her early 20s, she bought and operated her own hairdresser's shop. In the next few years, she met her future husband, an Englishman, Johnny Dell, through a mutual friend over a cup of tea.

They married in Toronto in 1949 and later emigrated in 1955 to Sharon, Connecticut, with three children in tow. City girl Myra adapted well to country life on a pheasant farm on White Hollow Road, where Myra and John raised their seven children.

Throughout her life, Mumsie dedicated her time and energy to her family. She always sacrificed her own needs for everyone else's, whether it was saving S&H Green Stamps for presents, packing seven school lunches with sandwiches and homemade jelly roll, sewing Halloween costumes, filling Christmas stockings with tangerine toes, comic books, and candy canes, knitting, baking, canning, or gardening. She was ahead of her time as the ultimate recycler, reusing plastic bags and ironing wrapping paper.

After 50 years on the farm, Myra and John moved to Salisbury. Myra loved living in town and walking to the library and shops. She was an avid reader of mysteries. She loved Dick Francis, reading and rereading all 42 of his novels. She was kind, smart, and had an Irish wit. She was famous for her one-liners, such as, "Don't dwell on it," "Do what you want," or "It's not about you."

In her 104 years, her family was everything to her, including her very large, extended Irish Canadian family.

In her last weeks, Mumsie would say, "I've had a lot of good innings," or, when her daughters would tuck her in for the night, she'd say, "Am I comfortable?"—always with a smile on her beautiful face.

Myra was predeceased by her husband, John, in 2011; sons Scott in 1995, Richard in 2021, and Stephen in 2025; as well as her "adopted sons," Richard Walsh in 2008, Olivier Benjamin in 2024, and Stephen Brandt in 2026; and grandsons Dana Dunham in 2008 and Philip Dunham in 2021.

She is survived by daughters Catherine Dunham (Phil) of East Canaan, Patricia Walsh and Maureen Dell, both of Lakeville, son Sterling Dell of Salisbury, and grandson Jeremy Dunham of South Carolina.

She also leaves her two remaining siblings, brother Neil McCarthy of Toronto, Canada, and Loretta McCarthy of Ottawa, Canada, as well as several dozen nieces and nephews in Canada and the United States.

The Dell family would like to send heartfelt thanks to Mum's physician of many years, Dr. David Kurish, and to the teams at Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association Home Assistance, SVNA Hospice, and Brian Kenny of Kenny Funeral Home. We would also like to thank the many family friends who came to visit Mumsie.

Contributions may be made in Myra's memory to: Scoville Memorial Library, P.O. Box 455, Salisbury, CT 06068, or Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association, 30A Salmon Kill Road, Salisbury.

A memorial celebration will be held in June of 2027.

The family plans on taking Mumsie home to Blackville, New Brunswick, Canada.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



Local Matters

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Richard J. DiDomenico

SHARON — It is with profound sadness that we share the sudden passing of Richard J. DiDomenico, beloved husband of Carolyn, on Nov. 13, 2026, at the age of 80, in his home, surrounded by family.



Richard will be remembered for his generosity toward all, his loving commitment to his family, his sense of humor, and his dedication to improving educational opportunities for the underserved.

Born in 1946 to the late Louise and Charles DiDomenico of Astoria, New York, the middle child of three siblings. He attended St. John's University where he met Carolyn and earned his bachelor's degree. He then earned two master's degrees in education and speech at Hunter College.

Richard was predeceased by his parents, his brother Robert and his wife Barbara. He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Carolyn (nee Lock) of Sharon, Connecticut; daughter Lauren and husband Dustin Yaworsky, and their sons, Dane and Devin, of Mystic, Connecticut; daughter Amy and husband Christian Arpino and their daughter, Emilia, of Sharon, Connecticut; sister Mary and husband Anthony Strazzeri, of New Jersey; and his beloved cousins, nieces and nephews.

Richard began his long career as an educator in New York City's public schools, where among his achievements, he helped establish and lead the Outreach Program, a groundbreaking initiative designed to bring students who had dropped out of high school back to the classroom. Through this work he impacted thousands of lives and changed the trajectory for generations of students and their families.

After he married Carolyn in 1968, she introduced him to Sharon, where her family had spent summers on the lake since 1938. They decided to move their family full time to Sharon in 1986.

Richard served as Assistant Principal of Poughkeepsie High School until his retirement in 2001. In that role, he achieved his goal of 100% graduation rate for his students for several years.

Richard and Carolyn built their dream house, a barn style post and beam structure on a piece of property with beautiful views which brought him incredible joy. He especially enjoyed hosting friends and family and taking his grandchildren out for rides on the tractor. He would often reflect, in jest, on being an overnight success after 30 years of hard work and couldn't believe how his life changed from growing up in a small apartment house on Newtown Ave in Astoria, Queens.

After growing up as a parishioner and altar boy in Astoria he was an active member of St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Sharon. Richard organized and led the church's an annual giving drive for the students at The Piarist School in a rural community in Appalachian Kentucky. He personally drove a packed trailer of donations over several Christmas seasons and one year raised enough funds to purchase the school a new vehicle.

Richard was a dedicated and loving husband; a beloved father, an involved and respected grandfather and a devout Catholic. Richard went by many names including Dad, Uncle Rich, Mr. D and Pop. He loved to laugh and made others laugh. He was a huge music fan and loved to organize playlists and would often host "name that tune" games. In his free time, he loved to cook, travel with Carolyn, and he never missed a UConn Huskies women's basketball game on TV.

A funeral mass will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2026 at 10:00 am at Saint Bernard Church, Saint Kateri Parish, 52 New St., Sharon, CT.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Sharon Volunteer Ambulance Squad, P.O. Box 357, Sharon, CT, 06069. https://www.sharonambulance.org/support-ambulan

Priscilla Mae Poucher

Millerton — Priscilla Mae Poucher, born Priscilla Mae Newman on Sept. 21, 1937, and formerly known as Priscilla M. Valentine, passed away peacefully at her home on Nov. 1, 2026. She was a resident of Jesup, GA for more than 25 years.



Life presented Priscilla with many challenges, but she faced them with a determination and strength that never seemed to fade. She will be remembered for her resilience and the independence she maintained throughout her life.

She was predeceased by her husband, Claude N. Poucher; her two children, Jean S. Valentine and Richard L. Valentine; and her brothers, Bruce and Palmer Newman.

She is survived by her daughter, Olivia W. Valentine, and son, Bruce T. Valentine, both from Millerton, New York; three granddaughters, Claire L. Markonic, Jane T. Markonic and Caroline M. Markonic; and nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of South Georgia in recognition of the care and compassion they provided.

Roberta Gladys Tanner

MILLERTON — Roberta Gladys Tanner, 86, a sixty-eight-year resident died peacefully on Sunday, Nov. 15, 2026, at her home in Millerton, New York, with family at her bedside. Mrs. Tanner was a homemaker and assisted her husband with running their family business, Tanner's Home Services, LLC in Millerton, which is still in operation today.



Born Dec. 10, 1939, she was the daughter of the late Frank J. and Myrtle M. (French) Twing. She attended school in Massachusetts and Connecticut. On Sept. 24th, she married Arthur Joseph "Junior" Tanner, Jr. Mr. Tanner died on Feb. 26, 2026. Mrs. Tanner enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren and was an avid doll collector. She enjoyed long walks, often several miles at a time, tag sales, gig-saw puzzles, but most of all she enjoyed being a mom to her five children.

Mrs. Tanner is survived by four children, Arthur Tanner III and his wife Dorothy, Sheila Stickles and her husband Thomas, Joanne Sweeney and her husband Donald all of Millerton and Rita Ezersky and her husband Patrick of Lakeville, Connecticut; twelve grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren; seven siblings and several nieces and nephews and many friends. In addition to her parents and husband, Mrs. Tanner was predeceased by her son, James A. Tanner, Sr. and three siblings.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2026 from10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. A funeral service will take place at 11:30 a.m. at the funeral home. Pastor Jan Brooks will officiate. Memorial contributions may be made to Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation, 80 Washington Street, Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Mrs. Tanner's honor, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

Remembrance

Butch Miles

Butch Miles 1944-1996

Dear Dad,

Thirty years of remembering, missing, and carrying the love of you will never be forgotten.

Thirty years may have passed, but time doesn't erase the memories, the lessons, the love, or the emptiness left behind. You hold a special place in our hearts that no one else can ever fill.

Though you're no longer here, your presence lives on in the memories we cherish and the love that remains.

30 years gone, but never forgotten. Always loved, forever missed.

Love, Your children, grandchildren, Great grandchildren and wife.

Worship Services

Week of November 22, 2026

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon
9 South Main, Sharon CT
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.
Growing together in God's love
Rev. John Allison
Priest-In-Charge
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860-364-5260
www.christchurchsharon.org

Trinity Episcopal Church
484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville
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Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Livestream at 10:30 found at
www.trinitylimerock.org
trinity@trinitylimerock.org
(860) 435-2627

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860-824-7232
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30 Granite Ave., Canaan
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www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org

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(Calendar at congbethdavid.org)
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Rabbi Jon Haddon
845-373-8264
info@congbethdavid.org

The Lakeville United Methodist Church
319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039
10 a.m. Worship Service
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-435-9496
Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

Falls Village Congregational Church
16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village
10:00 a.m. Family Worship
Coffee Hour
A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!!
860-824-0194

The Sharon United Methodist Church
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits
9 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-364-5634
sharonumc5634@att.net

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Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Visit our website
sharoncongregationalchurch.org
for Sunday services
Contact us at 860-364-5002 or *info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org*

Millerton United Methodist Church
6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546
Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M.
518-789-3138

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canaanct-umc.com
canaanctumc@gmail.com
We hope you will join us!

The Lakeville Journal
EDITORIAL PAGE A6 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2026

LET'S HEAR IT...

THIS WEEK

Local businesses help give our towns their unique character, but keeping their doors open isn't always easy. As some businesses close and others open, we want to hear from business owners and residents alike. What are the biggest challenges facing local businesses, and how can our communities help them succeed?

What does it take to keep a local business thriving in our communities?

Send your responses to social@lakevillejournal.com by Friday, Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We'll publish a selection in next week's paper.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Do you think this year's midterm results reflect a broader political shift to the left or were unique to this election?

"No, they were unique to this election. Most independents and right wings voted specifically against Trump and his policies, not necessarily for the democrats or their policies."

—lucaswang041

"I believe many people of many different perspectives found themselves unable to support a party that has presided over the current situation. If Democrats can show that they are the adults in the room instead of 5th graders like the current incumbents, they have a chance to shift things in their direction. If not, we are doomed to another debacle down the road when the next Trump comes along."

—Johnny Martin

"It was the Trump effect, people hate him so much they voted against his party."

—John F. Brown



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Congress must tackle meaningful tax reform

While members of our new Congress will face other matters seeming more pressing, they have two years to accomplish a task more fundamental and no less pressing than any: reform of our federal tax system. It is inefficient, unfair and distorted by the Over-represented to the detriment of the Under-represented. We know it is unfair yet can't agree on how to fix it. While we differ on what a "fair tax" means, dispassionate students of our tax system agree on what its ideal characteristics or goals are. It would be

Easily understood;

Easily administered and collected;

Apportioned among taxpayers according to ability to pay;

Applied neutrally to minimize distortion of taxpayer actions, and

Raise sufficient revenue to support government programs

Our current tax system falls short of all. Political leaders and even some tax experts are urging new major tax regimes to replace or reduce the income tax. All are misconceived. Indirect excise taxes on transactions (sales taxes, VAT's, consumption or use taxes, estate taxes on transfers at death and tariffs) fail at least the last three of these characteristics. Direct taxes (wealth, property taxes and poll taxes) fail all five and further, to be Constitutional, must be apportioned among the states according to their share of the national population, a practical impossibility.

Only a simplified, national income tax has the potential to satisfy all five of these goals. This is not rocket science. Why don't we have one? While experts disagree on details, they accept the five goals whether they are on academic faculties, in government or practice, whether they come to study as economists. accountants or lawyers, or working at Brookings or the American Enterprise Institute. But tax experts do not make the law. Under the guise tax "reform," Congress, vulnerable to decades of lobbyists and their powerful masters, has created an impenetrable maze of preferments. This has led frustrated tax reformers to decide that any tax reform must start by reforming of our election laws. When I began my tax career in 1954, the GPO paperback print of the new 1954 Internal Revenue Code was a single volume less than two fingers thick on regular paper. It now takes up multiple volumes of tissue paper. My familiarity with it has declined with its growth, but I know that its inflated pages have not drawn the tax nearer the five goals but bid them goodbye.

Will our new Congress be delivered to us already shackled by the Over-represented from fixing the income tax or have we new hope for genuine tax reform? One test will be the level of support for these two long-recognized basic reforms of individual taxation:

(1) Eliminate employment taxes, including the special Medicare tax on higher incomes, to recognize that the revenue needed for social programs should be borne by all income taxpayers like other programs and to end the double taxation of workers' earnings, and

(2) Eliminate tax-rate distinctions among types of income, ending long-term capital gains rates and taxing equally current income from labor and investment.

Since the revenue raised by the second proposal is only fraction of the revenue lost by eliminating the separate tax on workers' earnings, a higher rate structure across the board would be needed to integrate the two. However, the proposals and their rippling effects throughout the law would be a giant step toward all five goals.

M Carr Ferguson
Retired professor of tax law, Assistant Attorney General (Tax) and Chair, ABA Section of Taxation (writing only for himself.)
Lakeville

Building Trump's legacy through vanity projects

Occasional Observer
Mac Gordon

After the crushing midterm defeat, Trump may be even more preoccupied with creating a suitable legacy to leave behind for posterity. Despite reports to the contrary, President Trump may be reconsidering his negative stance with regard to the newly empowered Democrats and be thinking about a a more peaceful, cooperative relationship with his "enemies". As a "lame duck" his powers are more limited and anything that he can pursue with the Democrats might help him in the future become a more highly regarded former president.

He was not willing to underplay his presidency like so many who served before him and whose names most of us can barely remember (such as Polk, Buchanan, Harrison or Arthur). He has even imagined himself as an additional chiseled portrait atop Mt. Rushmore joining Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt!

He set about trying to win a Nobel Peace Prize but rather than work diligently for peace, he engaged actively as a partisan in seven wars (none of which turned out well).

Trump became interested in the nineteenth century Monroe Doctrine which fitted well with his own America First opinions. Before long he was telling people that he needed to "take" Greenland! While the takeover of Venezuela kept alive Trump's international attempts at becoming historically significant, his unsuccessful war in Iran has caused him to turn his mind to more local accomplishments, specifically several in the nation's capital.

This started with redecorating most of the White House complex and its surrounding landscape and has grown to tearing down the entire East Wing and replacing it with a giant ballroom way out of scale with the White House. The demolished remains of the former East Wing Trump had dumped in a huge pile in the middle of the popular public East Potomac Park that he intends to convert into a championship golf course for professional play.

Several new and renovated monuments are in the works, most recently the repaired Reflecting Pool extending from the Lincoln Memorial to the Washington Monument. A massive "triumphal" arch at least twice the size of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris is planned between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery . A National Garden of American Heroes featuring oversized statues of 250 individuals chosen by Trump himself for special memorialization is to be located in West Potomac Park.

He took over the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, replaced most of the board and made himself Chairman. He is currently fighting three lawsuits challenging his insistence that his name be placed on the front of the building.

Every one of President Trump's "Vanity Projects", as they now are popularly known, has proceeded without legal authorization, a requirement in nearly every case. Despite several pending lawsuits, it seems doubtful that any of these projects will be stopped by the courts.

All of Trump's attempts to increase his legacy have been self-centered, not the sort of efforts that might bring him greater admiration.

Historians (and architects) will probably continue to look disdainfully at Trump's Ballroom and Triumphal Arch as aesthetic eyesores pathologically obsessed with size.

And then there's the money. The original estimate of $1.5 million for the Reflecting Pool is currently expected to cost at least $16 million; the Ballroom budget, originally $200 million (of private money) is now estimated at more than $600 million and likely much more (mostly taxpayer funding). All told, it would not be unreasonable to assume that the final bill for all these nearly thirty vanity projects may total at least $3 billion dollars which most voters see as arrogant follies.

Judging by the election results and his continuing low poll numbers Trump's efforts to improve his standing for posterity have not been successful. Under these circumstances, he might benefit from a different approach.

He might look at how several of the late 19th century Robber barons seemed to become more public-spirited in their later years. John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, Cornelius Vanderbilt and even Henry Ford gave enormous amounts to charitable foundations to do work in the public interest. This definitely put them in a much more favorable place in history.

President Trump's declared Federal income for 2025 was more than $2.2 billion dollars and he continues to rake in much more. Perhaps he might begin a new route towards improving his legacy by putting much of his newfound wealth to benefitting the American people. While it's unlikely he could have a marvelous epiphany like Mr. Scrooge in Dickens' A Christmas Carol, we can hope, can't we?

G. Mackenzie Gordon, architect, A.I. A. lives in Lakeville.

Turning Back The Pages
Norma Bosworth

125 years ago — November 1901

Carl Stoeckel of Norfolk has decided to erect a brick tower near his conservancy for the fire alarm bell. The lower part of the tower will be used for storing a hose truck. Mr. Stoeckel only recently presented the town with this alarm bell and now offers to build a fire house.

SALISBURY — Adam Ostrander has recently purchased a very fast steed.

An eight-year-old youngster was heard to remark that he wished he had a hundred dollars. When asked what he would do with it he replied, "I would take it easy."

Walter Paddock wishes to call attention to the fact that he is ready to supply you with every thing to be found in a first class market. See adv. on first page.

The beauties and the flue air of Lakeville have been extensively advertised by those New York newspaper men who followed Judge Jerome here after election. They evidently know a good thing when they see it and Lakeville is certainly good for New Yorkers.

SHARON — The claim of D.N. Eggleston against the Sharon Casino Co. has been paid in full.

Miss Kathryn Richards has gone to her home in Hartford to take a rest and avert a threatened attack of nervous prostration. Miss Annie Brayton of Hartford will act as kindergarten teacher during her absence.

An unknown man was found dead along the track near the railroad bridge south of Irondale yesterday.

For the full "Turning Back the Pages," go to www.lakevillejournal.com

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CORRESPONDENTS: Debra Aleksinas; Jennifer Almquist; Lans Christensen; Leila Hawken.

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Our Towns

Northwest Corner towns honor veterans



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

About 50 people came to Salisbury Town Hall for a Veterans Day ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

By Patrick Stachniak, Patrick L. Sullivan and Ruth Epstein

Veterans and neighbors gathered at memorials in North Canaan, Salisbury and Kent on Wednesday, Nov. 11, to remember those who died, thank those who served and honor those still in uniform.

Rifle salutes marked the ceremonies in North Canaan and Kent, while in Salisbury the crowd joined in singing "God Bless America."



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Veterans take part in a rifle salute during Kent's Veterans Day ceremony.



PHOTO BY PATRICK STACHNIAK

Veterans take part in a rifle salute at the Doughboy Memorial in North Canaan on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Salisbury

About 50 people gathered at Town Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 11, for Salisbury's annual Veterans Day ceremony.

Chris Williams, a veteran (Marine Corps) and former Salisbury selectman, led the ceremony. He paid tribute to the veterans in attendance, remembered those who had died and recognized the families and friends of those who served.

"We're here today to honor our heroes, to remember their achievements, their courage and dedication, and to say thank you for their sacrifices," Williams said.

Williams said the service members being honored came from all walks of life but shared a sense of duty. He spoke of the courage, determination and selflessness it took to leave home for distant battlefields, a journey many had never volunteered to make.

"They were called to be part of something bigger than themselves," Williams said. "They were ordinary people who responded in extraordinary ways in extreme times."



Chris Williams speaks about veterans' selflessness at Town Hall on Veterans Day.

Tom Key, who served in the Navy and is a member of the Salisbury Congregational Church, gave the invocation and benediction. The crowd joined Lloyd Wallingford in singing "God Bless America."

Kent

Residents gathered at the Veterans Memorial on Maple Street on Nov. 11 to thank veterans for their service. Those represented included veterans who served in Vietnam, Afghanistan, Desert Storm and Panama.

The ceremony, organized by American Legion Hall-Jennings Post 153, included a rifle salute, bagpipe music by Don Hicks and prayers from the Revs. Richard Clark and John Heeckt.

First Selectman Eric Epstein said the town was honoring everyone who had worn the uniform of the U.S. armed forces. He urged residents to listen to veterans and learn from their experiences.

"As a municipal leader, I am incredibly proud of Kent's members of our military. The names on those monuments are more than just names; they are our neighbors, our coworkers and our friends... So today, let us renew our promise to our veterans. Let us listen to your stories, honor your experiences and uphold the values you fought to protect."

Brent Kallstrom of Hall-Jennings Post 153 spoke about the history of Veterans Day. He noted that President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Armistice Day to honor World War I veterans. Congress made Armistice Day a federal holiday in 1938, and it was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

After the ceremony, veterans and their families were invited to a luncheon at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. George-Ann Gowan organized the meal with help from other church members.

North Canaan

Members of Couch-Pipa VFW Post 6851 gathered with residents at the Doughboy Memorial at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, to honor veterans and active-duty service members with a rifle salute.

The ceremony marked the hour when the armistice that ended the fighting in World War I took effect in 1918.

Vietnam War veterans Stanley Ralph and Jim Smith attended to remember fallen friends and pay tribute to those serving today.

Ralph recalled coming home from Vietnam and said he was glad that returning service members are treated better today than he and Smith were.

"[Veterans Day] means a lot to everyone that is serving," Ralph said. "All of them are treated well, with respect when they come home."

More than a dozen people attended, including VFW members, friends and family. VFW member Lou Timolat, a Falls Village resident, asked those gathered to recognize that military service can leave veterans with moral injuries as well as physical ones.

"With all our hearts, we need to convey our sense of honor and gratitude to those of our veterans who have gone to the next world," he said.



A rifle salute at the Doughboy Memorial on Nov. 11.

Selectman Christopher Sorrell, a former Marine, took part in the salute and said the Board of Selectmen works to support the post.

This year, the board funded the $3,300 Hometown Hero Banners project, which displays veterans' names and photographs on street light poles.

Post Commander Kirk Harrington helps organize the project.

Harrington, who has led the post since 2012, said he hopes future generations will carry on the Veterans Day ceremony.

"It's important to keep that legacy and that honor going way after we're gone," he said.

Elementary school students pay tribute to veterans



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Veterans came to the 20th annual Veterans Day ceremony at Salisbury Central School Tuesday, Nov. 10.

By Patrick L. Sullivan and Ruth Epstein

Schools in Lakeville, Falls Village, Cornwall and Sharon marked Veterans Day on Tuesday, Nov. 10, welcoming local veterans for student performances and tributes.

Dozens of veterans attended the observances, which included songs and poetry at Salisbury Central School, breakfast at Lee H. Kellogg School and student readings at Cornwall Consolidated School.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Kindergarteners at the Lee H. Kellogg School sang to veterans at a breakfast on Tuesday, Nov. 10.



PHOTO BY THOMAS BROWN

Several veterans with ties to Cornwall attended a ceremony at Cornwall Consolidated School on Nov. 10.

Salisbury

Eighth-grader Jackson Magyar described what he admires about veterans at Salisbury Central School's Veterans Day assembly Tuesday, Nov. 10: "Service, teamwork, and putting others before themselves."

He then handed the microphone to his grandfather, Marine Corps veteran Peter Oliver.

Oliver was the first of 19 veterans to introduce themselves at the all-school assembly. They told students where and when they served, and several acknowledged family members among the students, faculty and staff.

Principal Stephanie Magyar, Oliver's daughter, welcomed the veterans and said this year marked the 20th anniversary of the school's Veterans Day ceremony.

Students read poems they wrote and sang Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land" and Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA."

The school band played a medley of military branch anthems, and the veterans stood when the band played theirs. A slide show featured Salisbury natives currently serving in the military.

The veterans were also invited to a luncheon at the school on Friday, Nov. 13.

The veterans who attended were Michael Hodgkins (Navy), Kyle Smouse (Coast Guard), Jim Kennedy (Coast Guard), John McGuire (Army), Jason Pennella (Army), Randy Chapell (Navy), Wayne Neville (Navy), Carl Jenter (Army), Peter Oliver (Marine Corps), Chris Ohmen (Army), Jerry Baldwin (Air Force), Andy Bakulski (Army), Randy McKee (Army), Larry Conklin (Navy), Bartlett Tripler (Air Force), Dan Rashkoff (Air Force), Marc Dittmer (Army Reserve), Peter Becket (Marine Corps) and Joe Healy (Marine Corps).

Falls Village

Eleven veterans visited Lee H. Kellogg School on Tuesday, Nov. 10, for breakfast and a performance by the kindergarten class.

Newly appointed principal Jill Johnson, who joined Kellogg in August, welcomed the veterans and thanked them for their service. She said Veterans Day holds special meaning for her because her husband, Charles Beaudoin, is an Army veteran.

"We're maintaining community events we've done year after year," Johnson said.

The veterans arrived around 8:30 a.m. and gathered in the library for coffee and baked goods provided by Off the Trail Cafe.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, kindergarten students sang George M. Cohan's "You're a Grand Old Flag," accompanied on keyboard by music teacher Danielle O'Neil.

The veterans who attended were Eric Carlson (Army), Lou Timolat (Army), William Knutson (Army), David Abbott (Marine Corps), John Seitz (Air Force), William Fox (Navy), John Martel (Army), Peter Pixley (Marine Corps), James Gulyas (Army), Charles Beaudoin (Army) and Michael Walker (Navy).

First Selectman Dave Barger and Selectman Judy Jacobs also attended.

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Deer hunting season is here and it is wise to be aware of increased outdoor safety for both yourself and your animals when hiking or walking. In addition, there have also been some recent changes in CT law that allows some Sunday hunting on both private and public lands. CT DEEP has information on both how to be safe in hunting season and what the various seasons for deer, small game and birds are. For more info, please visit portal.ct.gov/deep/hunting/outdoor-safety-tips



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ADVERTISEMENT

Patriot Front

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"This is messed up and not something that we should respect or keep on a pole in our town. We don't have any room for that," she said.

In its manifesto, Patriot Front says American identity is inherited through ancestry. It advocates for the preservation of white European culture.

On Saturday, Nov. 7, Ted Perotti, a North Canaan resident, noticed a sign by Bunny Maguire Park. It read, "Defend American Labor Patriot Front US."

Perotti returned with Max Vadakin, his co-director at CanaanTV, and filmed as they removed, tore up and discarded the sign.

"When you see something like a hate group starting to put their messaging up, it's really worrisome for us when we care so much about this town and what people think about this town too," Perotti said.

"It haunts me to think of somebody from out of town driving through and seeing these signs and not feeling welcomed in Canaan," he added.

State police said two more signs referring to Patriot Front were discovered on Nov. 12 near Route 126 and Main Street in Falls Village. They have been taken down.

Police said they referred that incident to hate crimes investigators.

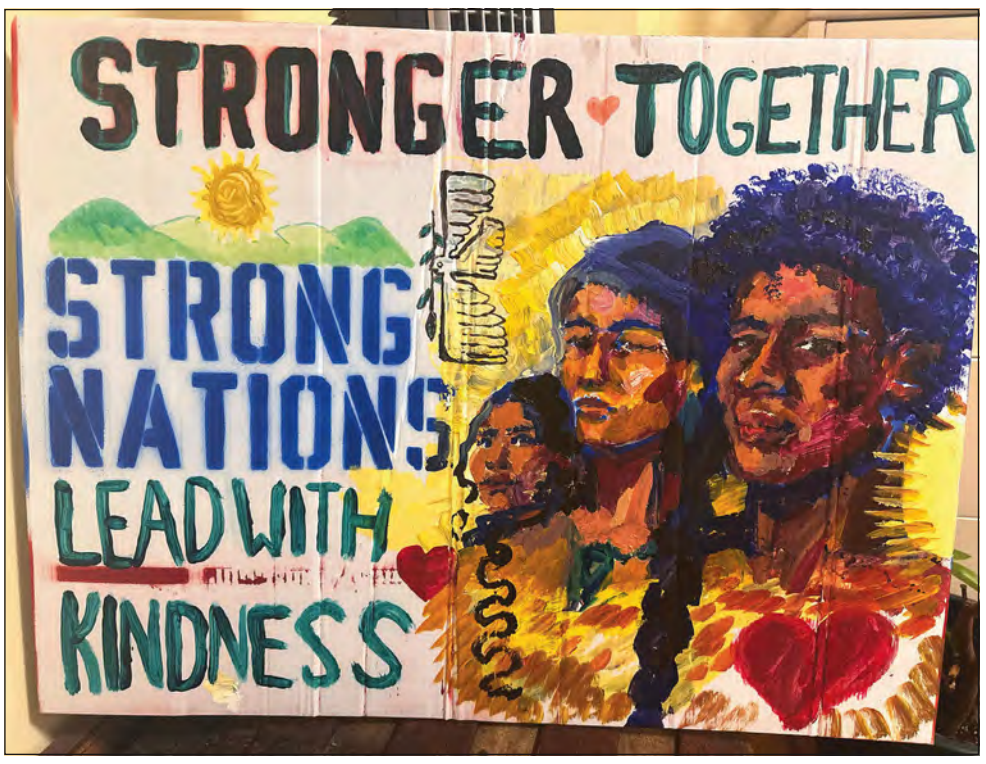

PHOTO PROVIDED

Some residents painted over a Patriot Front sign that had been removed and plan to hang it back up to spread a message of positivity and community.

Dave Barger, the Falls Village first selectman and a retired state police master sergeant, said about half a dozen signs had been taken down around the town.

Barger said he stood by the statement on the town's website that reads, "Falls Village is committed to nurturing a welcoming community that respects the dignity and humanity of all of its neighbors and residents – regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, age, economic status, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, or differing abilities."

State police said Troop B received no reports of similar signs in other towns in the Northwest Corner.

Other news outlets reported Patriot Front signs in Tolland earlier this year and have previously reported signs in Winsted, Naugatuck, Westport and Greenwich.

In North Canaan, Democratic Town Committee Chair Chris Jacques alerted First Selectman Jesse Bunce to the signs.

The following day, Bunce asked town crews to check all local roads and remove any similar signs they found. Crews found another sign in front of the Canfield Building on Main Street.

"We don't support anything like this," Bunce said. "Equal rights to everybody is how I feel."

Veteran Care

Continued from Page A1

more acute as winter and the holidays approach, said Keith Appleton, an Army veteran and licensed master social worker at Mountainside Treatment Center.

For veterans who live far from major VA facilities, it can be harder to find out which benefits they qualify for and how to get care, he said. The VA clinic in Winsted offers mental health care and telehealth services.

In North Canaan, members of Couch-Pipa VFW Post 6851 help fellow veterans make, keep and attend VA appointments. At Mountainside, a weekly online support group gives veterans a place to talk about trauma, addiction and life after service.

"When I took command of the Post in 2012, a lot of veterans from the Vietnam War era were still suffering from bad experiences," said Kirk Harrington, the post's commander. "I made it my mission to get our membership actively involved in the VA's post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and mental health initiatives. And not just the veterans, but the entire family."

The 172-member post sits off Route 7, with a historic military tank out front. The building had deteriorated by the time Harrington took command. He rallied members to renovate the dining hall and tap room, create an all-wars museum and add a bandstand for community events.

"The goal was to dress it up and make it a welcoming place for veterans and their families to visit," Harrington said.

The post built relationships with VA providers in Winsted, Newington and West Haven, he said. "We became proud of the fact that we help veterans with making, keeping and attending appointments. And we do it at no cost to them."

Harrington said that over time, seeing fellow veterans go to counseling encouraged some post members to try it themselves. "They said, 'If he's going to counseling, then I should go, too.'"



PHOTO BY PATRICK STACHNIAK

Couch-Pipa VFW Post 6851

Nationwide, 6,488 veterans died by suicide in 2024, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. About 62% of those veterans received no VA health care in the year they died or the year prior. The figure leaves open whether veterans in that group had health insurance or received care outside the VA.

At the post on Nov. 7, Army veteran Stanley Ralph recalled how much he relied on fellow Vietnam veterans after coming home.

"When we came home, we didn't get the respect for serving our country," he said. "So we never talked about the war with anyone outside of fellow veterans. We were our own [support] group."

Marine veteran David Dodge recalled feeling unwelcome even when he first joined the VFW, where most members at the time had served in World War II or Korea. "I didn't want to wear my uniform coming home because of how bad it was [viewed] in 1967 when I was discharged," he said.

Dodge later sought counseling in Winsted. At the post, his service dog, Maya, napped at his feet. "She is always with me," he said.

Army veteran Rob Derwitsch, who served in Afghanistan from 2010 to 2011, said he has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. He recalled working for the Connecticut Department of Transportation during Hurricane Sandy, backing up a truck to dump rocks along the Housatonic River. When someone approached with a camera, he said, the encounter brought back memories of the Taliban filming troops in Afghanistan. He told his boss what had happened and sought counseling.

Appleton said some veterans also struggle with what he calls moral injury. He described it as the guilt, shame or sense of betrayal that can follow experiences that violate a person's deeply held beliefs. It can accompany PTSD, he said, and may need to be addressed in its own right.

Appleton called on civilian health care providers to ask patients routinely about military service. He said female veterans can be overlooked when providers fail to ask.

Both of Appleton's grandfathers served, and he recalled how difficult it was to ask them about their experiences.

"It's entirely about breaking the ice and starting to have those tough conversations," he said.

For Harrington, the work of reaching veterans and their families continues after the Veterans Day applause ends. Some veterans skip the ceremonies because they bring back painful memories, he said. "But it is so important for them to share their feelings."

"We are trying to reach those veterans in the nosebleed seats of the Northwest Corner, stretching into the borders of Massachusetts and New York State."

Veterans support group

Mountainside Treatment Center offers a free, confidential online support group for veterans on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The group offers peer support around trauma, addiction and life after military service. For more information, visit mountainside.com/veterans/.

Speed Cameras

Continued from Page A1

ing would be scheduled to discuss the proposed speed humps on Jewett Hill Road and that the Sharon Fire Department and Highway Department would assess how they could affect their operations.

Selectman Lynn Kearcher said she opposed installing speed humps on Jewett Hill Road and noted in a prepared statement that they were ill-suited to Sharon's rural roads.

"Speed humps are intrusive and historically inappropriate for our rural roads," Kearcher said.

She noted that farmers use the roads to move equipment and that cyclists and walkers use them for recreation. She said the board must weigh its responsibility for road safety alongside the town's "character, heritage, and history."

"We need to be mindful of what we alter and what we risk losing in the process," Kearcher said.

Resident Diane Monroe also raised similar concerns about how speed humps would affect local farmers.

She also said the recently installed speed feedback sign on Sharon Mountain Road had done little to slow drivers.

"I'm very grateful that you did that … However, it's not really deterring anything," Monroe said.

"We all [speed]. I know we all do it. However, there has to be some kind of way that we can stop the speeding on these roads."

Flanagan agreed and suggested using cameras to ticket drivers who speed. A 2023 state law allows municipalities to use the cameras.

"The next step is essentially taking that question to the town for adoption as an ordinance," Flanagan said. "It's a heavy lift to start a program like that in a small town."

In 2025, Kent residents overwhelmingly rejected a proposed camera ordinance when it was put up for a vote.

Flanagan said the board explored speed cameras earlier this year before setting the proposal aside because of time constraints.



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

A speed camera in Washington, Conn. Sharon selectmen have discussed installing similar cameras.

He said he plans to resume talks with Illinois-based Dacra Tech to see whether a program is feasible.

Kearcher said a camera program would require the town to hire someone to monitor citations, which Flanagan would review and approve.

"We talked to the first selectman in the town of Washington, where this has been very successful. And he said the first six months, it's a nightmare, because you have to hire somebody," Kearcher said.

"That's not only a huge expense to the town if we hire someone … it's also a huge time element in terms of a burden."

The board gave no timeline for next steps or for when the proposed cameras might be installed.

"If we're going to pursue something as a town, I'd rather see us put our energy into that as opposed to physical barriers," Flanagan said.

Nathan Miller contributed to this story.

Fees

Continued from Page A1

Bunce said the town is considering using the recovered money to build a roof over its bulky waste bin. A tarp now covers the bin to keep rain from soaking discarded couches and other items. Wet upholstery adds weight and can increase disposal costs.

Bunce also credited Neely with moving several town accounts to earn higher interest rates, a change he said brings in roughly $60,000 a year in interest.

"It was something that we always wanted to do for the town," Bunce said. "When she got in, she implemented that right away."

Neely, who retired after more than 30 years in banking, said she was glad to recover the money and is looking for other ways to streamline the town's finances.

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our community



PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO

Miriam Goler and Mark Stonehill with their Haflinger horses, Sunshine and Sandy, at Full Circus Farm in Pine Plains.

Under the big top at Full Circus Farm

By Robin Roraback

For Mark Stonehill and Miriam Stonehill Goler, the founder of Full Circus Farm in Pine Plains, farming has always been about more than what comes out of the ground.

"From the very beginning, we've envisioned the farm as a place not only for food production, but also merriment and community," they said.

That spirit is reflected in the farm's logo as well, designed and drawn by Goler, which depicts Stonehill as a juggler standing on the back of a horse and Goler as a jester.

They grew up in New York City and met when they were in high school. Stonehill said, "If you'd asked me in high school, I'd never have said I'd be a farm-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

COMMUNITY

Farm & Friends: a holiday market that gives back

By D.H. Callahan



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Farm & Friends holiday market returns Nov. 21 and 22, featuring local makers, food producers and seasonal gifts.

According to PBS, "More than 5 million people have lost their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits since President Trump's so-called One Big Beautiful Bill passed last year." Combined with rising costs and new eligibility requirements, these cuts have placed additional pressure on families struggling to make ends meet. As more people turn to food banks and pantries for assistance, local farms are playing an increasingly important role in meeting that need. Hungry Reaper Farm in Morris, for example, supplies food and CSA shares to a variety of nonprofit organizations and schools.

In Dutchess County, The Webatuck Valley Farm Collaborative is working to strengthen the pipeline from farms to foodbanks. Led by Rock Steady Farm, Sweet Freedom Farm and Wildseed Community Farm and Healing Village, the collaborative hopes to double the infrastructure capacity for at least 15 local farms. This will allow them to increase supplies for food pantries and regional schools while expanding the farms' reach to industrial buyers and distributors. By their estimation, the food hub "will supply and impact 9 school districts, 13 food pantries, and partner with 6 institutional buyers and 8 aggregators and distributors."

ICE raids at large-scale farms across the country have brought renewed attention to the agricultural industry's reliance on marginalized workers, many of whom work with no protections for pitiable wages. The Collaborative also seeks to level that playing field by providing safe, fairly paid jobs to workers. According to The Collaborative's website, "shared infrastructure will ultimately increase QTBIPOC produce grown, stored and distributed by 300%."

Right now, the Collaborative is working to raise the funds needed to make this vision a reality. It is one-third of the way to its $15 million goal. To help it get there, Stanfordville-based community hub and regenerative flower farm Foxtrot Farm & Flowers will hold a raffle during its second annual Farm & Friends pre-holiday market on Nov. 21 and 22.

Farm & Friends is a hybrid pop-up market that breaks the traditional pay-to-play holiday market formula, run by Foxtrot's owner Kate Farrer and Katie Cariello, food programs coordinator at the North East Community Center. Instead, all vendors share in the work and cost of the event. Beyond the structural side of things, the market sets itself apart by collaborating exclusively with small, local businesses.

The variety of vendors is wonderfully impressive, with over 25 businesses bringing prepared foods, farm-fresh ingredients, vintage treasures and unique art. Some unusual contributors include The Sardine Hotline, a mobile tinned fish store and fish therapy hotline; Fat of the Land, a seasonally based botanicals brand that offers an intriguing variety of syrups and serums; From Below Farm, which raises chickens on fresh grass and soy-free feed; and JosangPacha, which blends Peruvian and Korean cultural practices to make kimchi and screen-printed art. Local artist

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

THEATER

At Ancram Center, community takes center stage

By Natalia Zukerman

At the Ancram Center for the Arts, the stage has been host to numerous award winning professional actors, but it also often belongs to a neighbor with a story to tell. Other times, the performance moves out of the theater altogether, transforming a pond, a field or a corner of town into a stage.

That commitment to bringing theater into the community — and the community into the theater — has earned the Ancram Center the Larry Murray Award for Community Outreach and Support through Theater, one of the Berkshire Theatre Critics Association's annual Berkie Awards.

"We feel like we are contributing a lot to the community, so it's nice to have that work recognized," said Ancram Center

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BUSINESS

The Cornwall Whale resurfaces in West Cornwall

By D.H. Callahan

There's something oddly familiar yet intangibly foreign about the Cornwall Whale. It's not an interiors store, even though there are chairs and furnishings for sale. It's not an art gallery, though there are paintings and sculptures occupying every corner of the space. It's not a boutique, even with locally handmade shoes and carefully selected garments. No, The Cornwall Whale is something truly unique in the world of the truly unique.

The enigmatic shop popped up in the early winter of 2025 at the Hughes Memorial Library, right on the bank of the Housatonic River in West Cornwall. It is the brain-child of visual and experiential designer Lindsay Stadig.

Stadig has a cultivated taste for the beautiful and macabre. Her home in West Cornwall is filled with curious objects that beg you to think deeper about what they are, who they were originally made for and how they've ended up in her collection. In one corner of her living room hangs a small assortment of black-and-white paintings, almost silhouettes of landscapes. Upon closer inspection, they reveal themselves to be century-old sandpaper drawings made by young girls in finishing schools. In another corner stands a sizable menagerie of sculptural hands — some antiques, some old advertising displays, glove molds, trinkets and ceramic fine art. All of it, no matter how old it actually is, seems to have been snatched from the clutches of an ancient deity whom Stadig must have charmed or tricked for access to their treasures.

To spend a day with Stadig at a flea market like Brimfield in Massachusetts or the Elephant's Trunk in New Milford is to get a lesson on finding diamonds in the rough. Items cast to the backs of tents that rarely garner a second glance seem to call to her with unmistakable clarity. For years, she's developed relationships with an impressive number of vendors and cultivated a collection of curiosities for her role of displaying new and fashionable items in alluringly different ways. Having worked for brands like Barney's New York, Calvin Klein, Tory Burch and Tuckernuck, designing retail window displays and interior environments, she

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INSIDE

OUR TOWNS
Knitter turns wool hats into funds for local affordable housing

CALENDAR
A list of upcoming events



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I PLAY ROCKY	Opening for Thanksgiving 11/25	Sat. 11/21, 7PM UNION COUNTY + Q&A
Closing 11/24 FJORD	FOCKER IN LAW	
WILD HORSE NINE	HEXED	Sun. 11/22, 1PM John Lithgow in GIANT
YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING	WICKER	Fri. 11/27, 10 AM FREE COMMUNITY MOVIE ELF

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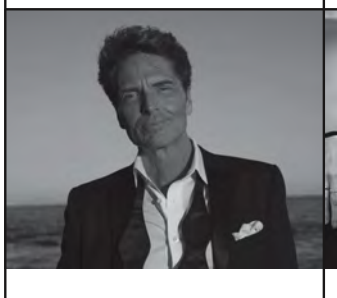

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... Full Circus Farm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

er." And yet he and Goler have been farming at Full Circus Farm in Pine Plains since 2014.

Stonehill went to Macalester College for urban geography and environmental studies. Goler went to Cornell University planning to study biological and environmental engineering, but she took classes at the Cornell School of Agriculture and Life Sciences where and realized she could be a farmer. It soon became clear she had a passion for agriculture.

After graduation, they both apprenticed at organic farms: Quail Hill Farm in Amagansett, Long Island, then two along the coast of Maine.

They returned to New York State and searched for land to lease. "When we found this land and met the land owners, we knew it was the right place for us," said Stonehill.

"Our farm is a primarily horse-powered farm. That means that we use our draft horses to plow, prep our field for planting, and knock out weeds, among other tasks," explained Stonehill.

They use a tractor for things the horses can't do, such as lifting 700 pound bales of hay.

Sandy and Sunshine, their Haflinger horses, are "a wonderful team," said Goler. She explained why they prefer horses. "They are lighter on the soil, they provide fertilizer, and they eat down the grass." She added, "And I just like horses. A tractor doesn't talk to me and greet me in the morning."

Full Circus Farm is certified organic. Stonehill explained, "There are so many reasons we choose to farm this way, but the simplest is that we share this farm with such amazing human and nonhuman neighbors."



PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO

Mark Stonehill and Miriam Goler with their winter greens at Full Circus Farm in Pine Plains.

> "We share this farm with such amazing human and nonhuman neighbors."
>
> MARK STONEHILL

For their first decade of farming, they concentrated on growing vegetables. They were a community-supported agriculture (CSA) farm, growing enough to feed 40 families. The families invested in a share of the farm's harvest, which gave them organic produce throughout the year.

A flood in 2023 caused Stonehill and Goler to rethink what they grew.

"The flood was a big wake-up call to do things differently and make the farm more adaptable to climate change and flash flooding," said Stonehill. "We knew if we could make the nursery work, we'd have a chance to build a business that lasts for many years."

"The heart of our business is pears, apples and figs," said Stonehill. "We've expanded the nursery to include native trees and ornamental and fruiting bushes." Among the trees and bushes they propagate are raspberry canes, several varieties of figs, currants, elderberry, pawpaw, strawberry, northern red oak, willow, lilac and oakleaf hydrangea.

Stonehill hopes to expand further. "In 10 years' time, I'd like to see our nursery offering a much wider variety of plants."

Goler developed an online store where plants from the nursery can be ordered for pickup in the spring and fall. Their nursery products are also available through Hudson Valley Seed Co. "We are now available in all 50 states," said Stonehill.

Of vegetables, Stonehill said, "Tomatoes and kale make sense for us. Our greenhouse is trellised floor to ceiling with tomatoes in the summer." They sell kale and tomatoes to Tri Corner F.E.E.D. Market in Millerton and Big Rock Market in Stanfordville.

"We'd love to find other outlets to sell to and get another hoop house to grow more tomatoes," commented Stonehill.

In Pine Plains, local restaurants are putting the farm's harvest to creative use: Stissing House makes ice cream with Full Circus Farm's mint, while Champêtre incorporates fig leaves from the farm's trees into its own ice cream.

Stonehill and Goler do most of the work themselves, with help from their two young sons, Ezra and Luca, who recently helped dig out young trees.

A special offering at Full Circus Farm is custom grafting. Stonehill explained, "We can graft from an apple tree you loved, your grandparent's tree, a tree that is on its last legs that you want to preserve. Take a cutting and bring it to us. Miriam will graft it and make another tree."

In addition, Stonehill offers classes at the farm or at homes on pruning. "I love education and working with people of all ages. It's fun to teach pruning." He will go to homes and prune trees from January through March.

Stonehill will also travel to homes to consult on the best spots for their plants and trees to grow.

Full Circus Farm grafts and propagates all its own trees and nursery plants at the farm.

To learn more and browse the online store, visit fullcircusfarm.com

... Farm and Friends

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Farm & Friends 2025.

Meg Musgrove will lead a printmaking course on Saturday, and Noah Matthew Goodman will provide live music both days.

Much like the Webatuck Valley Farm Collaborative, the overall goal of the Farm & Friends market is to give local growers, makers and creators a place to share their efforts with the community before the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Many of the farms involved with Farm & Friends could also contribute to and benefit from the finalized food hub.

The raffle in support of the Collaborative will feature coveted goods donated by participating vendors, including JNR Pottery, as well as a mushroom grow kit from Sugarshack Mushrooms. Due to popular demand, parking is timed and ticketed. Parking fees will also help support the vendors and farmers who made the event possible.

To book your time at the market, visit foxtrotfarmflowers.com



A vendor at last year's market.

MUSIC

Social justice songwriting fall retreat

By Natalia Zukerman

Music has long been a powerful tool for protest, solidarity and social change. From civil rights anthems to contemporary songs of resistance, songwriting has helped give voice to movements and inspire collective action. Singer, composer and activist Taína Asili will explore that tradition during a four-day Social Justice Songwriting Retreat, Nov. 20 to 23, at Soul Fire Farm in Petersburgh, New York.

The retreat comes amid a renewed interest in collective singing as a form of activism. Organizations such as Singing Resistance are bringing people together across the country to use songs as tools for solidarity, nonviolent resistance and community building. The movement draws on the long history of music in social justice struggles, emphasizing the power of singing together to overcome fear, strengthen connections and inspire collective action.

Joined by co-facilitators Martín Urbach and Gaetano Vaccaro, Asili will guide participants in transforming personal stories and visions for a more just world into songs that can inspire action. The retreat combines songwriting workshops, collaboration, vocal and instrumental exploration and evening open mics, with time for reflection and community building.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Singer, songwriter and activist Taína Asili leads a social justice songwriting retreat Nov. 20-23 at Soul Fire Farm in Petersburgh, N.Y.

A longtime activist whose music addresses issues of liberation, racial justice and climate change, Asili brings more than 25 years of experience connecting art with social movements. The intimate retreat, limited to 14 to 16 participants, includes accommodations and meals.

For registration and more information, visit tainaasili.com/fallretreat.

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ART

Where Calvin, Hobbes and Rockwell meet

By D.H. Callahan

Two distinctive approaches to American life and storytelling come together in a new exhibition at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Opening Saturday, Nov. 14, the exhibition brings the imaginative world of Bill Watterson's "Calvin and Hobbes" into conversation with the familiar scenes of everyday life captured by Norman Rockwell. Though separated by generations and working in different mediums, both artists found humor, humanity and complexity in the seemingly ordinary.

Norman Rockwell skyrocketed to popularity when he started painting the covers for the Saturday Evening Post, a magazine with a history spanning more than two centuries. Its last print edition ran this past September, transitioning the publication to an online-only format. From 1897 until 1963, it published a new issue every week. Over that time, it published writings by literary legends like F. Scott Fitzgerald, Kurt Vonnegut, Agatha Christie, William Faulkner, Edgar Allan Poe, Louis L'Amour, John Steinbeck and Lenox, Massachusetts resident Edith Wharton, and featured comics by "Peanuts" creator Charles M. Schultz. In 1916, the magazine first featured one of Rockwell's illustrations. He was just 22 years old.

Through his work illustrating covers for the Post, as well as a prolific, nearly omnipresent advertising illustrations, Rockwell found his way into virtually every home in America. Known for his idealization of American life, Rockwell used the quaint life of rural New England as the center of the world he depicted and made his later-years home of Stockbridge famous as a beacon of idealized, wholesome living.

It wasn't until later in his career, during his third marriage, that Rochwell began tackling larger social issues, famously releasing "The Problem We All Live With," which depicted a young black girl being escorted to school by federal marshals. The painting, based on the story of Ruby Bridges, originally appeared in Look magazine in 1964 and is part of the collection of the Normal Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge.

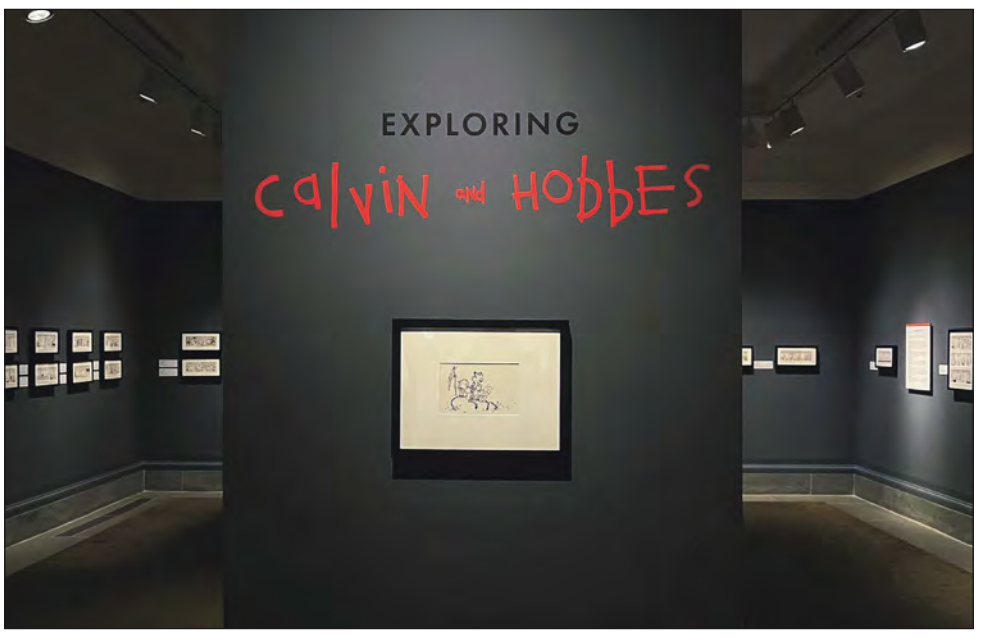

PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN

Original "Calvin and Hobbes" comic strips by Bill Watterson are on view alongside works by Norman Rockwell in "Exploring Calvin and Hobbes" at the Norman Rockwell Museum. Stockbridge. The exhibition runs through May 31, 2027.

For the next six months, many of Rockwells paintings will be joined by original "Calvin and Hobbes" comic strips by Bill Watterson. "Calvin and Hobbes" dealt with another kind of idealized American lifestyle — that of a mischievous youth. Though Rockwell would hint at the naughty notions of children, Watterson explored them to the fullest.

The comic strip focuses on an imaginative 6-year-old boy named Calvin and his best friend, Hobbes. To everyone else in the strip's world, Hobbes was an inanimate stuffed tiger, but to Calvin, an only child, he was a very sentient accomplice, friend, confidant and voice of reason. Together, the friends battled monsters and aliens through Calvin's imagination, dealt with the dregs of boredom in the middle of rural winters and even grappled with philosophy, existentialism, climate change, consumerism, political theater, and even, improbably, artificial intelligence.

Watterson and Rockwell have more in common than just their success. Though both artists were known for their unmistakable styles, neither was recognized as a fine artist, often relegated to the periphery as simply illustrators. Watterson confronted this notion in his work, but Rockwell struggled with it more privately. Both used their art to tell vivid stories that rewarded the curious observer for looking a little closer. Both created art intended for broad publication rather than primarily for sale as individual works.

Where they differ most dramatically is in their relationships with celebrity and the intersection of art and commerce. Rockwell became a rock star artist, even before rock stars existed. He relished in the nation's fixation on his disarming demeanor, which seemed ripped right out of one of his illustrations. Watterson, on the other hand, eschewed the spotlight at all costs.

Rockwell was known to be a client pleaser, accommodating publications and advertisers with little, if any, pushback. With him, corporations knew what they were getting, and he was happy to provide it. The Saturday Evening Post told him to only paint white people. He wasn't known to have pushed back.

Watterson, on the other hand, was disgusted by the rampant commercialization of beloved cartoon and comic characters for the profits of corporate America. His was a pure art, not intended to be meddled with by stakeholders or turned into commodities to help sell unrelated products.

"Calvin and Hobbes," Watterson once said, "was designed to be a comic strip and that's all I want it to be."

At the height of "Calvin and Hobbes's" success, Watterson was under immense pressure to further monetize his art. Instead of acquiescing, just 10 years into the comic's run, he quit, retreating into private life indefinitely.

In addition to Watterson's strips, the exhibition will feature works by some of his inspirations, including George Herriman, creator of "Krazy Kat," and the father of the "Peanuts," Charles M. Schulz, once known for his contributions to the Saturday Evening Post. On loan from the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum at Ohio State, the works mark the first touring exhibition of Watterson's original drawings. A rare exhibition poster and catalog, featuring an interview with the reclusive artist, are available for purchase, with proceeds benefiting the museums.

"Exploring Calvin and Hobbes" runs through May 31, 2027. For more information, visit nrm.org.

... *Ancram Center*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

co-director Jeff Mousseau.

For Mousseau, the award recognizes something fundamental to the theater's identity.

"From the get-go, from when we first started running the joint here, the connection of community with theater is sort of central to our DNA," he said. "It's core."

The award honors three of the center's signature initiatives: "Real People Real Stories," which helps local residents develop and perform personal narratives; "Writing on Your Feet," which brings storytelling into area schools; and the biennial "Plein Air Plays," which take theater into locations in and around Ancram.

The latter, Mousseau explained, was of particular interest to the Berkshire theater critics.

For each Plein Air Plays production, the center selects three locations and commissions site-specific performances. Audiences travel from one location to the next, experiencing what Mousseau describes as "a theater road trip or triptych."

"Sometimes it's the location that sort of drives what happens there. Sometimes it's a particular artist that we approach to create a performance for that location," he said.

The settings have ranged from idyllic ponds to the ball field beside the fire station.

"It's very much celebrating performance in alternative locations, in that performance can happen anywhere," Mousseau said. "But it's also celebrating the town and what we love about Ancram."

The performances also introduce new audiences to the theater. Some people who first encountered Ancram Center through the outdoor productions have since become regular patrons, Mousseau said.

Through "Writing on Your Feet," the Ancram Center also works with hundreds of elementary school students at Taconic Hills and Webutuck, helping them identify, shape and share their own stories.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Ancram Center staff and teaching artists after the ceremony. From left to right, Simone Stevens, Sarah Katan, Jeffrey Mousseau, Erin Krom and Chris McCoy.

Mousseau said the school program grew naturally from the work with adults.

"We realized that the approach that we're using with adults could be applicable in a school setting," he said.

The program now reaches more than 300 students each fall, with some eventually coming to the Ancram Center to tell their stories publicly.

But perhaps the most intimate expression of the center's community mission is "Real People Real Stories," which returns to the mainstage Saturday, Nov. 21, at 3 p.m.

Developed by co-director Paul Ricciardi, the twice-yearly program has spent more than a decade inviting ordinary people to share extraordinary — or sometimes deceptively ordinary — moments from their lives. The stories are true, told live and without notes.

Participants don't necessarily arrive with polished narratives. In fact, Mousseau said, they rarely do.

"Most of the time people are coming in with sort of an idea for a story, but they haven't really ever told the story, nor have they shaped it or given it a structure."

Ricciardi and lead teaching artist Sarah Katan work closely with each storyteller through a series of free workshops and individual sessions, helping participants discover what their stories are really about.

"A lot of times what happens is the story that they think they're gonna be telling isn't actually the story," Mousseau explained. "Paul and Sarah are working with the storyteller to actually get to the core of the story."

That process can involve five or six meetings before a storyteller takes the stage. Participation is free, and the center also offers storytelling workshops throughout the year, including at The Spark of Hudson, a nonprofit community learning hub in Hudson.

The Nov. 21 program features three area residents whose stories span different decades and experiences.

Ancram resident Frédérique Abramovici will recount unexpected moments of connection while swimming at Jacob Riis Park Beach on a sweltering July day in 1972.

Carol Morley of Castleton-on-Hudson will tell how a newspaper notice for a photography exhibition, first encountered in 2007, resurfaced in her memory during the COVID-19 lockdown of 2020, opening unexpected possibilities for happiness and changing her plans for the future.

And Ancramdale resident Marty Schwartz will share an unusual challenge he faced while growing his business.

The stories aren't organized around a particular theme, and that's part of their appeal.

"Their experience could be totally different life experience than mine, but you find yourself in these other stories," said Mousseau. "And that's the really cool part."

The Ancram Center has become an integral part of the community, and its recognition by the Berkie Awards reflects the connections it has helped foster. For Mousseau, those connections begin with recognizing the complex lives behind familiar faces. "I think we all sort of know this privately, that we all carry a lot. And we often forget that about one another," he said. "My hope is that we just grow a little bit more empathetic for one another."

"Real People Real Stories" takes place Saturday, Nov. 21, at 3 p.m. at the Ancram Center for the Arts. Tickets and more information are available at ancramcenter.org.

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FILM

Chim Chim Cher-ee! A local sweep makes movie magic

By D.H. Callahan

There are few films in the history of Hollywood that have endeared themselves to kids of all ages like "Mary Poppins." On Sunday, Nov. 22 at 2 p.m., the classic story of a magical nanny, a couple precocious children, some cartoon penguins and a chimney sweep will screen at the Colonial Theatre in North Canaan. For the third year in a row, the event will be free of charge, thanks to Salisbury-based chimney sweep Rob Keller of Sultans of Soot.

Keller has been cleaning, relining and tending to area chimneys for over 30 years while raising a family in the community. He credits the Colonial for making its theater available for sponsored events like this one. Of course, Keller doesn't need to drum up any more business this time of year. His motivation for the sponsorship is simply to give back to the community and create opportunities for togetherness. Seeing the joy and excitement of the kids and families who are making this a yearly tradition is more than enough for him.

This year, the evening will open with a select song or two from the film's stage adaptation, performed by the Falls Village Children's Theater. Keller was also a sponsor of the theater's production of "Mary Poppins" this past summer after being asked if he had any spare brooms they could borrow. There's not a lot of representation of chimney sweeps in popular culture, so this sponsorship seems like a match made in Magic Kingdom heaven.

Walt Disney first fell for "Mary Poppins" through the books by British-Australian writer P.L. Travers in the 1930s after reading them to his daughters. Travers had a notoriously bristly personality and brazenly rejected multiple offers from Disney to bring her character to life on the silver screen. In the early 1960s, she finally struck a deal that included script approval and a level of creative oversight, something Disney had held out on for over 20 years. The conflict was made into a successful movie itself. "Saving Mr. Banks" starred Tom Hanks as Walt Disney and Emma Thompson as Travers. The duo was supported by an impressively star-studded cast.

"Mary Poppins" was an instant smash hit upon its release in 1964. Julie Andrews won the lead as the titular Mary Poppins over a series of A-List stars, including Angela Lansbury, Bette Davis, Judy Garland, Elizabeth Taylor and Jayne Mansfield. She was discovered by Disney himself, who saw her originate the role of Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady" on Broadway.

Moviegoers fell in love with her pitch-perfect voice and intangible charisma as Poppins, her first role on the big screen.

Disney also personally cast Dick Van Dyke as Bert, the jack-of-all-trades and ever-jolly chimney sweep. Despite delivering a famously terrible Cockney accent, audiences loved him and his exuberant dances with animated penguins and fellow chimney sweeps.

The real star of the production were the songs. Brothers Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman were also brought in personally by Walt Disney and started writing the songs before there was even a script. "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious," "A Spoonful of Sugar," "Feed the Birds" and "Let's Go Fly a Kite" have all stood the test of time as true musical classics, alongside the chimney sweep anthem, "Chim Chim Cher-ee."

Keller says that surprisingly little has changed in the world of chimney sweeping since the Edwardian days depicted in the film. Modern chimney sweeps wear respirators and protect their hands, eyes, ears and heads. Thanks to the modern convenience of vacuum technology, they're not up on roofs nearly as much as sweeps of olden times. Regrettably, that's led to very few opportunities for spontaneous jaunty dances with his colleagues.

To get your tickets to the screening, visit canaancolonial.com.

To learn more about the Sultans of Soot, visit sultansofsoot.com.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Dick Van Dyke, Julie Andrews and the Banks children in Disney's 1964 classic, "Mary Poppins."



PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN

The Erinys Quartet with Oskar Espina Ruiz and Alfonso Fuentes at Music Mountain in August 2026.

MUSIC

Erinys Quartet brings its furious energy to Wethersfield

By D.H. Callahan

This past summer, the Erinys Quartet, a chamber music ensemble, premiered a new composition by Puerto Rican composer Alfonso Fuentes at Music Mountain in Falls Village, Connecticut, accompanied by clarinetist Oskar Espina Ruiz. On Nov. 21 and 22, the same group will take the mountain's programming on the road, performing together again at the Carriage House at the Wethersfield Estate & Garden in Amenia, New York.

The Erinys Quartet originated at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki in 2018, when its members were all students. The musicians are from across the globe, with roots in Finland, Lithuania, Estonia, Rochester, New York, and Greece. The quartet's name is taken from Greek mythology, in which the Erinyes were chthonic goddesses of vengeance. Homer referred to them in his epic "The Iliad," writing, "the Erinyes, that under earth take vengeance on men, whosoever hath sworn a false oath." Their Roman counterparts are the Furies. And indeed, the quartet can harness some rather furious energy..

Having come together in school, the members of the quartet are notably young for an ensemble that's garnered so much praise and academic recognition. In the eight years since its founding, the quartet has performed around the world, received numerous awards and been selected as the graduate string quartet-in-residence at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.

Not every string quartet is open to collaboration, but in the last few years, Erinys has performed with the Dover Quartet, which has served as a mentor to the group, the Formosa and Pacifica Quartets, violists Roberto Díaz and Alexander Gordon and clarinetist Harri Mäki. In addition to the premier of Fuentes' piece at Music Mountain this past summer, the quartet was selected to premier new works by composers Andrea Clearfield and Lembit Beecher.

Oskar Espina Ruiz has been the artistic director of Music Mountain for 10 years and a member of the clarinet faculty at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts for 15. He, too, is enthusiastic about collaboration, having performed with countless ensembles over the course of his storied career. This year, he toured Spain with the Terra String Quartet, performing to sold-out audiences. He also served as a soloist for the premier of another work by Alfonso Fuentes, a Clarinet Concerto with the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra.

Last year, Espina Ruiz performed in a similar Music Mountain partnership at the Wethersfield Estate & Garden with the Ulysses Quartet. Due to popular demand, this year there will be two opportunities to catch the performance.

For tickets, visit wethersfield.org

Welcoming new voices

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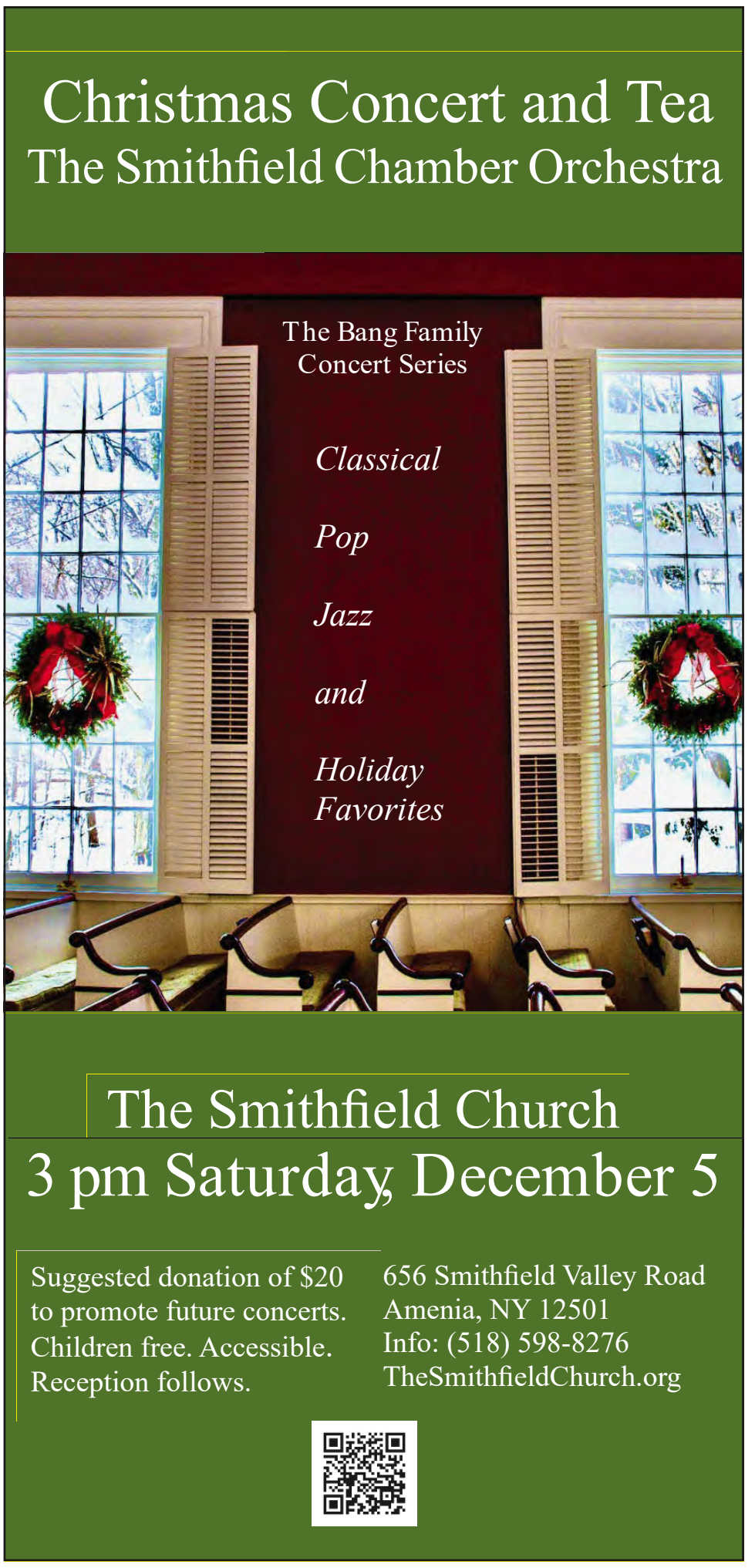

Tangled gift guide 2026



Tangled Lines
Patrick L. Sullivan

Anyone with the misfortune — er, the unbridled joy — of having a fly-fisherperson on the Christmas list knows the problem. In a sport where idiosyncrasy is an art form, how does the gift giver find something the giftee will use?

Also, how can this be accomplished without spending vast sums?

So we'll keep this as generic and inexpensive as possible.

Over a half-century of flinging the baited hook, I have cycled through a bewildering assortment of packs and vests.

Here's what I have settled on for 90% of my stream and river fishing: a Umpqua Northfork waist pack ($99.95). It's big enough to hold several fly boxes (more on this below). It can be worn around the waist or, with the deployment of the included neck strap, it can be cinched up higher on the torso and function as a chest pack.

The best thing about this pack is it is big enough for what I need and not big enough to bring every darn thing I might possibly use. The latter is my default setting, and I've been fighting it for 50-plus years.

Fly boxes

I debated taking a photo of my fly boxes, which are in a big cardboard box that rides around in the back of the car. I decided against it. It's too depressing.

Here's what I have used a lot in recent seasons: a Tacky Pescador Mag-Pad box, size small ($29.95). It fits in a shirt pocket, holds plenty of flies and has a magnetic thingy for specks (tiny flies). Two of these is usually enough for 90% of my kind of trout fishing. Obviously, you're not going to get a bunch of streamers into one of these, but dries, nymphs, wets and specks fit just fine.

Rods

Let's say your angler has expressed frustration with whatever was inherited from Uncle Ralph. Let's also concede that a 9-foot, 5-weight rod is the standard trout rod for good reason — you can use everything from specks to small streamers with this configuration.

Mindful of our rapidly dwindling bank account, we alight on the entry-level rod from Echo, the Lift ($175). It's a rod with a forgiving action and enough juice to punch a cast through the wind.

For about $250, you can find this rod in a kit with a reel, line and a case that holds it all. Tempting, but I don't think much of the reels.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The Tacky Pescador Mag-Pad box fits in a shirt pocket, holds plenty of flies and has a spot for the tiny ones.

You're better off with the Redington Crosswater 4/5/6 reel, a great deal at $89.99. Lightweight, sturdy enough and easy to switch spools or go from left- to right-hand retrieve. Extra spools are $39.95.

Bleak midwinter department

Let's face it. Your giftee isn't going fishing on Dec. 26. So how do we while away the endless weeks waiting for winter to cheese it?

John Gierach, who died in 2024, was the best fly-fishing writer since I don't know who. Simon & Schuster has brought out a handsome 40th anniversary hardcover edition of Gierach's best-known book, "Trout Bum" ($29.95).

And let's not forget Steve Culton's new "Fly Fishing Guide to the Farmington River" ($39.95). This is the single best guide to any river I have ever read. Ten minutes with this book, and I about doubled my knowledge of Connecticut's most famous and frustrating trout fishery.

... Cornwall Whale

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

seems to have found the perfect space between beauty and curiosity. The Cornwall Whale is her invitation to come experience that space.

The name of The Cornwall Whale comes from an old British broadside that Stadig found while visiting Cornwall, England, about a real, live whale that swam upstream in the 1600s, stranding itself in the river. The logo for the store is taken directly from the centuries-old print.

The shop is packed to the ceiling with strange treasures from her years of selective flea market and antique picking, but what really sets the Whale apart is her collaboration with the art world. Before entering the corporate fashion world, Stadig studied art at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, where she got to experiment in many mediums, from printmaking to welding. Artists are her people, and her people are happy to share their wares.

This year, she's featuring chaotic ceramics from Barbara Ensor, handmade leather boxes and bags by Will Griffin, sculptures by Kale Prentice, miniature copper-mounted "Lover's Parts" paintings by Lane Arthur Callahan and even an assortment of scagliola, a form of composite plaster that mimics stone and marble in nearly psychedelic executions by Amy Mellen. There are handmade leather crossbody bags by Lauren Brinkers, pillows and dried florals from local design maven John Haven, cards from calligrapher Melissa Gamwell and a collection of folk art from art critic couple Jerry Saltz and Roberta Smith.

You'd think the items she's collected would be for the particularly weird or eccentric, but they all speak to a surprisingly universal clientele. Latent leafers and longtime locals alike seem to be inexplicably magnetized to items they never even knew existed. It's true that you might see some of the same styles of vintage paintings in any antique mall or thrift store, but when you see it on the wall of the Whale, it speaks to you in a different voice.



PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN

The Cornwall Whale is the brain-child of visual and experiential designer Lindsay Stadig.

In addition to the objects in the store, the Whale will be offering a series of workshops over the course of the season. The first of the workshops will be led by artisan bag maker Dana Simpson on Sunday, Nov. 22. Simpson will teach participants the maritime art of ropework, guiding them to make their own dog leashes, purse charms and wreaths out of rope.

There will also be a paper marbling class on Dec. 6 and drop-in figure drawing nights.

Much like its namesake, the Whale only surfaces sporadically to inhale and exhale creative objects to and from the community. Stadig opens the shop on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 6 p.m.,, though there are chances to catch her on the occasional Friday.

To learn more about the Cornwall Whale, follow @future.hermit on Instagram.



PHOTO BY BOBBY GRAHAM

Curried butternut squash soup with apple brings autumn sweetness and a touch of spice to the holiday table.

Curried butternut squash soup with apple

What's cooking...
Bobby Graham & Matthew Marden

We've just returned from Ireland, where we spent our days exploring, shopping for Dugazon and enjoying a country we were very happy to get to know. From Ashford Castle to Dublin and the coast at Howth, there was plenty of inspiration — and, yes, plenty of fish and chips and Guinness.

Back in Connecticut, November calls for something warm on the stove. With the holidays approaching and life in the shop getting busier, a pot of soup feels like a very good place to start.

This month, we're taking a little inspiration from our travels with curried butternut squash soup. Squash brings that lovely autumn sweetness, a tart apple adds balance and mild curry powder gives it warmth without too much heat. A splash of cream rounds it all out.

It's also a useful dish for entertaining. Serve small portions before Thanksgiving dinner, or make it lunch with crusty bread, good butter and a green salad. Prepare it ahead, warm it gently and you have more time to spend with whoever is sitting at your table.

At Dugazon, we spend plenty of time thinking about what goes on a table. What matters most, of course, is making people feel welcome around it. A few favorite bowls, linen napkins and something homemade to share can be more than enough.

Curried Butternut Squash Soup With Apple
Serves 6

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 large yellow onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 2 teaspoons mild curry powder
- 2 pounds butternut squash, weighed after peeling and seeding, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 medium tart apple, such as Granny Smith, peeled, cored and chopped
- 4 cups low-sodium vegetable stock, plus more as needed
- ½ cup heavy cream, plus a little for serving
- ½ teaspoon fine salt, plus more to taste
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 to 2 teaspoons apple cider vinegar, to taste

Preparation:

Melt the butter in a large, heavy pot over medium-low heat. Add the onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 8 to 10 minutes. Add the garlic and curry powder and stir for 30 seconds, until fragrant.

Add the squash, apple, stock, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat and simmer, partially covered, for 20 to 30 minutes, until the squash is very tender.

Remove from the heat and blend until smooth with an immersion blender or high-speed blender. Stir in the cream, adding more stock if you prefer a thinner soup. Return to low heat and warm gently.

Taste before adding the vinegar, a teaspoon at a time, for a little brightness. Adjust the salt and pepper.

Ladle into bowls and finish with a small swirl of cream. Pass the bread. Pour a Guinness.

Each month, Bobby Graham and Matthew Marden, owners of Dugazon in Sharon, share a recipe inspired by traditions, stories and a sense of welcome.







PHOTO BY STEVEN FOXBURY

Jenna Nicholls and Peter Mulvey perform as Floyd Mercantile.

Veteran folk troubadour Peter Mulvey and jazz-influenced Americana singer-songwriter Jenna Nicholls bring their collaborative project, Floyd Mercantile, to The Grace Note at Stissing Center in Pine Plains on Friday, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

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Tri-Corner Calendar

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NOVEMBER 19

Sergei Fedorjaczenko – "The Engineering of Art"
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn.
huntlibrary.org
Nov. 7 to 27

Falls Village artist Sergei Fedorjaczenko presents paintings and sculptures inspired by Bauhaus principles and constructed around three elemental shapes: the circle, square and triangle. There will be an artist talk Nov. 19 at 5:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit the library. huntlibrary.org.

NOVEMBER 20

2026 Small Works Juried Exhibition
Five Points Gallery, 7 Water St., Torrington, Conn.
Nov. 20 through Jan. 9

The annual juried exhibition features works by regional artists. An opening reception takes place Friday, Nov. 20, from 6 to 8 p.m., with an award announcement at 7 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. More information at fivepointsarts.org

Indigo Comedy Night with Meghan Hanley
Indigo Room at the Mahaiwe, 20 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass.
At 8 p.m., Brooklyn-based stand-up comedian Meghan Hanley brings her quick wit and upbeat humor to the Indigo Room, tackling everything from online dating to family anxiety. Featured on "Gotham Comedy Live" and Dry Bar Comedy, Hanley is joined by host Thomas Attila Lewis. Café table seating. Ages 18 and older. Tickets at mahaiwe.org.

Poetry Workshop with Sally Van Doren
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn.
scovillelibrary.org
Poet Sally Van Doren leads an immersive workshop featuring creative prompts, writing exercises and supportive group discussion. No previous poetry experience necessary. 2 to 4 p.m. Registration required. scovillelibrary.org

NOVEMBER 20-22

Paper Marbling Workshops
Dewey Hall, 91 Main St., Sheffield, Mass.
From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., explore the centuries-old art of paper marbling with artist Susan Schneider of Shandell's. Introductory workshops Nov. 20 and 21 cover traditional and contemporary techniques, while the Nov. 22 beginner workshop is designed for those with some experience. More information at shandells.com.

"Peter and the Starcatcher"
Northwestern Regional 7 High School, 100 Battistoni Drive, Winsted, Conn.
Northwestern Regional 7 High School, 100 Battistoni Drive, Winsted

Performances Friday, Nov. 20, and Saturday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 22, at 2 p.m. Northwestern Regional 7 Theatre presents the five-time Tony Award-winning play by Rick Elice, a swashbuckling prequel to "Peter Pan" that tells the story of how a nameless orphan becomes the boy who never grows up. Featuring a cast of more than 30 studentsTickets available at the door or events.ticketleap.com/tickets/nwrtheater/peter.

NOVEMBER 21

CeCe Freade Pop-Up at DUGAZON
DUGAZON, 19 W. Main St., Sharon, Conn.
From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., DUGAZON welcomes CeCe Freade founders Casey and Caroline for a special pop-up featuring their French- and Korean-inspired skincare collection. Meet the women behind the brand and enjoy drinks and light bites from 3 to 6 p.m. No RSVP required. More information at dugazonshop.com.

Paul Laffoley: "The Luminous Mind"
Kent Fine Art, 2854 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.
Nov. 21 through Jan. 31

An exhibition of seven significant paintings by visionary artist Paul Laffoley (1935–2015) explores cosmology, consciousness, time travel and the intersection of art, science and philosophy. Opening reception Saturday, Nov. 21, from 2 to 5 p.m. The exhibition continues through Jan. 31, with gallery hours Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. More information at kentfineart.net

Opening Reception: "Dreamscapes" by Francie Lyshak
Mad Rose Gallery, 3 Main St., Millerton, N.Y.
Gallery reception from 3 to 5 p.m. for an exhibition of large-scale paintings exploring allegorical narratives through surrealism and symbolism. At 4 p.m., the artist joins Neal Rosenthal for a conversation about her work.

Holiday Art Opening
Gallery of Dreams, 156 Gay St., Sharon, Conn.
Featuring 18 local artists, works include painting, photography, assemblage, handcrafted furniture, sculpture, textiles and jewelry. A potluck, bonfire, music and poetry begin at 5 p.m. The exhibition runs through Jan. 17, 2027. Gallery hours are Friday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

Susan Jennings' "Echo Loop" and Claudia Tienan's "Pecking Order of Bullshit"
LABspace, 2642 Route 23, Hillsdale, N.Y.
LABspace's final exhibitions in Hillsdale are two concurrent solo shows. Susan Jennings' "Echo Loop" features an immersive installation of hanging crystal sculptures that visitors can gently activate to create sound, while Claudia Tienan presents her first solo exhibition of paintings. The shows mark the culmination of 12 years of programming at the artist-run gallery. Both exhibitions run through Dec. 19. Special events include a performance by Faye Ross on Nov. 21 at 2 p.m. and a closing celebration Dec. 19.

Erinys Quartet and Oskar Espina Ruiz
Wethersfield Estate & Garden, 257 Pugsley Hill Road, Amenia, N.Y.
Nov. 21 and 22

At 3 p.m., Music Mountain presents two afternoons of chamber music featuring the internationally acclaimed Erinys Quartet and clarinetist Oskar Espina Ruiz, Music Mountain's artistic director. The program includes works by Mozart, Glazunov and Richard Danielpour. Doors open at 2:30 p.m., with a reception with the artists at 4 p.m. Tickets at wethersfield.org.

Celebrating Our Conservation Projects in 2026
Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn.
Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon. Get a behind-the-scenes look at the center's conservation efforts to protect chimney swifts, American kestrels and purple martins. Light refreshments provided. $10 adults, $5 ages 10-17. Online registration required. sharon.audubon.org

Farm & Friends Market
Foxtrot Farm & Flowers, 6862 Route 82, Stanfordville, N.Y.
Nov. 21 and 22

A collaborative pre-holiday season market highlighting quality, local products that are both special and useful. Saturday: 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year's vendors include Ten Mile Table, Alysia Mazzella, Thistlepass Farm, Mudge Town Chocolate, Ilse Coffee, Chaseholm Farm and more. Parking reservations at foxtrotfarmandflowers.com

Laura Anglade
Spencertown Academy Arts Center, 790 State Route 203, Spencertown, N.Y.
Jazz vocalist Laura Anglade celebrates her new album, "Something's Coming," with interpretations of songs from "West Side Story," "On the Town," "Cabaret" and more. She is joined by Greg Ruggiero on guitar, Jonathan Chapman on bass and Ben Zweig on drums. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at spencertownacademy.org.

NOVEMBER 22

Catherine Cliff – "Miss Bates"
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn.
scovillelibrary.org
Author Catherine Cliff discusses her critically acclaimed debut novel, "Miss Bates: Emma Revisited," a funny and daring reimagining of the world of Jane Austen's "Emma." 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Registration required at scovillelibrary.org.

NOVEMBER 23

Medicare One-to-One Counseling
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn.
scovillelibrary.org
Get expert guidance navigating Medicare open enrollment during individual counseling sessions with a representative from Connecticut's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) CHOICES. Registration required. Sign up at scovillelibrary.org.

NOVEMBER 26

Community Thanksgiving Dinner
Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., North Canaan, Conn.
Thursday, noon to 2 p.m. All are welcome to enjoy a community Thanksgiving meal prepared by volunteers, with live accordion music by Paul Ramunni. Takeout meals and deliveries to homebound residents will also be available. Volunteers are needed to help with food preparation on Wednesday, Nov. 25, at 2 p.m., and with setup, serving and cleanup on Thanksgiving Day, beginning at 8 a.m. Contact Beverly Becker beverlybecker4@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer.

Stissing Mountain 5k Turkey Trot
The Lions Club Pavilion, Pine Plains, N.Y.
Race starts at 8:30 a.m. All proceeds go to the Pine Plains Recreation Department. To register, contact Danielle Boyles at (631)742-6127.

NOVEMBER 27

Merwinsville Hotel Holiday Show
Merwinsville Hotel, 1 Brown's Forge Road, Gaylordsville, Conn.
Nov. 27 to 29 and Dec. 4 to 6

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., explore two weekends of holiday shopping and festivities at the historic Merwinsville Hotel. The show features artwork, pottery, jewelry, ornaments and handmade gifts by local artists and artisans, along with decorated Christmas trees, nutcracker displays, a miniature Dickens Village with a model train and a moving World's Fair display. Fresh-cut trees and wreaths will be available for purchase. More information at merwinsvillehotel.org.

"Now and Then"
Ghent Playhouse, 6 Town Hall Place, Ghent, N.Y.
Nov. 27 to 29 and Dec. 4 to 6

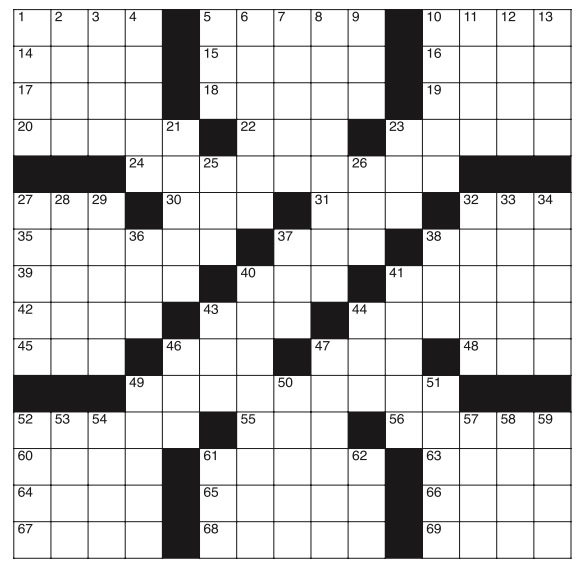
Sean Grennan's thought-provoking comedy-drama explores love, destiny and the choices that shape our lives. Set in an Irish bar in 1981, the story follows a young bartender whose encounter with a mysterious stranger takes an unexpected turn, raising questions about what might happen if we could change the past. Directed by Dianne Hobden. Tickets at ghentplayhouse.org.

Millerton Fire Co. Parade of Lights
Arnoff Moving & Storage, 5979 N. Elm Ave., Millerton, N.Y.
Celebrate the holiday season with the Millerton Fire Co.'s annual Parade of Lights. Festively decorated fire trucks and other vehicles will light up the streets of Millerton. Lineup begins at 4:30 p.m. at Arnoff Moving & Storage on Route 22, with the parade stepping off around 5 p.m.

NOVEMBER 28

Small Business Saturday in North Canaan
North Canaan, Conn.
Celebrate Small Business Saturday with special offers at local shops and restaurants. Flea at 99 (99 Railroad St.) will feature vendor booth sales and mystery boxes from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Homegrown Cafe (5 Railroad St.) will offer 10% off orders from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Half Shell Vintage (11 Railroad St.) will offer 15% off homeware and décor from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Whistle Pig Books (62 Main St.) will offer 10% off purchases from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Brain Teasers



CLUES ACROSS

1. Perceive a sound
5. Pretends to be
10. Type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Creative
17. Keep under control
18. Weight unit for precious stones
19. You better call him
20. Fanatical
22. Male cat
23. Jewish spiritual leader
24. One who takes risks
27. A way to nail
30. Cool!
31. Progressive policy supporter
32. "Losing My Religion" rockers
35. Step-shaped recess
37. Round globular seed
38. Somewhat
39. Butterhead lettuces
40. Color at the end of the spectrum
41. Lines where fabrics are sewn together
42. Dodgers great Hershiser
43. Floor covering
44. Traveled aimlessly
45. Rocker Stewart
46. Body art
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. No seats available
49. Categorizes
52. Iraq-Syria border town
55. Ballplayer's tool
56. Type of sword
60. Baseball team
61. Upper bracts of grass
63. Italian seaport
64. Ancient city in Syria
65. Shoelace tube
66. U. of Miami mascot is one
67. South American nation
68. "Nebraska" director Alexander
69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Skin care manufacturer
4. A long-legged frog
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech
7. Lute in northern Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Take a seat
10. Bottom layer
11. Type of horse
12. Ticket part
13. Defunct currency of Guinea
21. Challenges
23. Popular BBQ food
25. Subway rodent
26. By way of
27. Shady garden alcove
28. City in Egypt
29. __ and flowed
32. Large quantities of paper
33. Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. Layer of water right above sediment (abbr.)
37. Al Bundy's wife
38. Ocean
40. Large, round root
41. Sound units
43. Knock
44. Soak in water
46. Hot drink
47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
49. Rumanian city
50. Come back from being down
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. "Perry Mason" actor Raymond
57. Small fry
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Gamble
61. Semi-liquid food
62. Consumed food

November 12 Solution

	P	S	I		A	S	K		E	S	P			
	I	A	N		M	A	N		T	Y	R			
P	A	L	L	S		A	C	E		E	L	O	P	S
B	R	E	A	T	H	S		E	A	R	L	D	O	M
S	E	A	B	E	E	S		C	A	N	A	S	T	A
			L	A	M	E		A	R	A	B			
S	E	C	E	D	E	D		P	E	L	I	S	S	E
O	C	A										B	A	N
U	M	B	R	A	G	E		C	A	S	C	A	D	E
			A	G	A	S		E	L	E	A			
S	A	D	D	E	N	S		R	E	A	R	G	U	E
S	Y	R	I	N	G	E		E	S	P	O	U	S	E
B	R	E	A	D		N	A	B		O	L	M	E	C
		G	N	U		C	A	R		R	E	M		
		S	T	M		E	R	A		T	R	Y		

Sudoku

	8	5	3					6
					6			
2		9						
	1	2		9				
			2				4	9
			6		8			
6			8	2				
3				7				
	4	8				1		2

Level: Intermediate

November 12 Solution

5	4	7	9	2	1	8	3	6
3	1	2	4	8	6	9	7	5
8	9	6	5	3	7	4	1	2
2	3	4	6	7	9	1	5	8
9	7	5	1	4	8	6	2	3
1	6	8	3	5	2	7	4	9
4	8	9	2	1	5	3	6	7
6	5	3	7	9	4	2	8	1
7	2	1	8	6	3	5	9	4

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Our Towns

Kent knitter turns handmade wool hats into funds for local affordable housing

By Ruth Epstein

KENT — Virginia Bush Suttman's fingers work to keep people warm.

The Kent resident knits wool hats to help fight off the cold, while the proceeds from their sales go toward increasing the affordable housing stock in town.

Calling her project "Hats for Homes," Suttman has knitted thousands of hats over the years to raise money for Kent Affordable Housing.

She said each hat is unique based on what yarns she has on hand. She uses leftover or discounted yarn, including donations, scraps from abandoned projects and even yarn "found in the box your grandmother had in her attic."

Growing up in a town with a strong Quaker population, she lives by their adage of "Use it up. Wear it out. Make it do. Or do without."

Her inventory is filled with brightly colored hats that mainly sell for between $20 and $30.

She said the colors and lengths of the yarn determine the patterns. She knits while watching programs on Netflix; primarily documentaries.



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Virginia Bush Suttman displays hats she knits to raise money for Kent Affordable Housing.

In college, the choice for relaxation was either playing bridge or knitting, she said. She chose knitting. At one point she was making them to sell, but realized the time spent and what she could get for selling them wasn't very sensible. "So I just decided to give them away to KAH."

Affordable housing has been a passion of hers for many years, and she has left her mark on several projects.

She smiles when speaking of Stuart Farm, in which three separate buildings on Maple Street Extension contain 13 units. She originally purchased the property, and oversaw the conversion and construction of the buildings, eventually turning them over to Kent Affordable Housing.

"That's my pride and joy," she said.

Suttman, a retired college professor of art history, said she likes to renovate structures.

She estimates she's probably done eight or nine over the years. So becoming part of KAH, which oversees Stuart Farm and South Commons apartment complex, was a perfect fit. She served on the nonprofit for 20 years; 15 as president.

"Everyone needs a good home," she said. "It's satisfying to know you're doing something people can use."

Last year she raised $1,000 through the sale of her hats and she hopes to meet that total again this year.

She was at the Salisbury Fall Festival's craft fair where she sold 33 hats, and will be at the Holiday Artisan Markets at the White Hart Inn on Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The response to her creations has been very positive and she plans to keep on doing it. When she posted on social media that she'd been successful at the fall festival, she received many comments.

Justin Potter, who is now KAH president, thanked her for her efforts and brought some of his honey to pair with her hats.

"A cozy hat and some honey for tea could be a nice combination."

Hal Kamm wrote, "You are our hero," while Ann Marie Ovitt said, "I love your hats and own a few of my own. Highly recommend."

Joseph Baxer and Barbara Bacewicz noted, "Your creativity and commitment to affordable housing and affirming human dignity for all … is indeed an invitation to each of us … we are so privileged and called to be creative as we live out the gifts we have. Thank you."

Those wishing further information or to purchase hats may email vbushsuttman@aol.com, text 203-736-7472 or call 860-927-3684.

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REAL ESTATE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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