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



Wet start to lax season

Salisbury School's lacrosse season began with a scrimmage against Albany Academy on Saturday, March 25. See story on page A7.

PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

'Community character' tops town's planning priorities

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — About 70 people turned out for a Planning and Zoning discussion involving the town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) at the Lee H. Kellogg School Saturday morning, March 25.

Upon entering, residents were given a sheet with the results from an online survey from January and

five slips of paper that resembled coupons in denominations of points: one 20 point, two 10 point and two five point "coupons" for a total of 50 "planning points."

These were to be deposited in the resident's choice of 12 boxes, labeled with different areas of concern, such as economic development, natural resources and housing.

Planning consultant Glenn Chalder of Planimetrics, who ran the meeting, said the fact that the boxes outnumbered the coupons was deliberate.

"I apologize for putting you in a conundrum," he said. "You expressed your choices — what's important to you."

The top four areas of interest

identified in the exercise were: "Community Character," "Housing Affordability and Needs," "Economic Development," and "Village Center."

This generally reflected the priorities identified by some 231 residents who responded to the January online survey.

Andrea Downs said that the small size of the town's population is an asset and promotes a tightly-knit community that is also welcoming to newcomers.

Pat Mechare, former first selectman and current chair of both the town and Region One school boards, commented on the "commitment of the few to the benefit

See POCD, Page A10

Stissing Center renovation in the works

By Elias Sorich

PINE PLAINS — For the Stissing Center (TSC) to move forward as a premier music, arts and cultural center, it's going to have to get ugly for a few months. Describing a host of renovations currently scheduled to kick off in September, Executive Director Brett Bernardini estimated that the work will take between nine and 12 months, and will include largely fundamental, structural fixes.

TSC's operational capacity will indeed change significantly

See TSC, Page A10



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

A magical moment

Lev Sadeh (left) as Frog and Jackson Magyar as Toad led the cast of "A Year with Frog and Toad" at the Center on Main last weekend. See story on page A8.

Wine sales bill fails in committee

By Debra A. Aleksinas

CORNWALL — A renewed push to have wine sales allowed in Connecticut grocery stores has failed.

Last week's deadline on House Bill 5918 pending before the Connecticut General Assembly's General Law Committee passed without voting, signaling its defeat.

"It was a hard-fought battle," said Jean Cronin, executive director of the Connecticut Package Stores Association (CPSA), the largest association protecting the rights of package store owners in the state.

"But was I surprised? No. We put a lot of effort into it, and have literally been meeting with legislators for months," said the CPSA official.

"We also put in a lot of grassroots effort so that lawmakers understand the ramifications of the proposal and realize it was not an access issue at all." Rather, said Cronin, "it was all about grocery

A recent poll commissioned by the Connecticut Food Association revealed that 84 percent of respondents support the sale of wine in grocery stores.

stores looking for something else profitable to sell."

The proposal, known as House Bill 5918, pitted the state's small package stores against supermarkets in a David and Goliath-type clash. The proposal has resurfaced in various forms for decades.

Last month advocates on both sides of the issue uncorked their most recent arguments during one of this session's most hotly contested battles at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, during which more than 350 people on both sides of the issue submitted testimony to the General Law Committee, and

See WINE, Page A10



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

AFS representatives thanked Housatonic Valley Regional High School for 72 years of successful partnership on March 26. From left: Gugu Mpungose, Pat Mechare, Patricia Chery and Lisa Carter.

An international event in Falls Village

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The the home of Andrea and Tim Downs was crowded Sunday afternoon, March 26.

Gugu Mpungose from South Africa was there, chatting with Patricia Chery from Portugal.

Meanwhile, Mumyn Aiuba from Mozambique tended to the fireplace, a smart move as it allowed him to be next to it.

The international contingent was from AFS Intercultural Programs, an international organization that sponsors youth exchange programs.

The Downs family has been

involved since 2009, and has sponsored 29 students.

So when AFS wanted to officially thank Region One and Housatonic Valley Regional High School for 72 years of successful cooperation, the Downs home was a logical place to meet.

Mpungose is in charge of students from South Africa and Mozambique who come to the U.S., and Chery lives in the U.S. and supervises AFS programs in the eastern half of the country.

The two AFS representatives posed with Region One Superinten-

See AFS, Page A10



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Regional

In The Journal this week

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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.

Disorderly conduct, assault charge

On Wednesday, March 22, Troop B served an active arrest warrant to Benjamin Sumner, 26, of Canaan on charges of disorderly conduct and assault in the third degree related to an incident that occurred on March 10 at approximately 7:50 p.m. Sumner was transported to Troop B and was released after posting a \$20,000 cash-surety bond.

Failing to grant right of way

On Thursday, March 23 at approximately 6:30 p.m. a 2015 Ford Taurus driven by Michael Sherwood, 27, of Lakeville was traveling westbound on Route 44 west of Allyndale Road in North Canaan. Another vehicle, a 2013 Honda CR-V, driven by S. N. Guamanasqui, 22, of Corona, New York, was traveling eastbound and was attempting a left turn into a private driveway, causing

Corrections

The Police Blotter in the March 23 edition incorrectly stated that Patricia Jordan and Grace Ahearn were passengers in a Chevrolet C7500 truck involved in a head-on collision on March 13 on Route 7 near Undermountain Road in Canaan. They were passengers in a Toyota Sienna involved in the accident, which resulted in the death of Jordan. The Lakeville Journal regrets the error.

In a letter to the editor in the March 16 edition thanking the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance, the name of Sally Swanson was misspelled. The Lakeville Journal regrets the error.

the Ford to strike the Honda. Guamanasqui was issued a written warning for failure to grant right of way when making a turn into oncoming traffic.

Strikes bridge abutment

On Saturday, March 25, at approximately 5 p.m., Steven Bosworth, 27, of Ansonia, was traveling westbound on Route 44 in Norfolk in a 2012 Chevrolet Malibu that veered off the road, striking a bridge abutment. Bosworth was transported to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital for further evaluation. The vehicle was towed from the scene. The accident is under investigation.

The Lakeville Journal will publish the outcome of police charges. Contact us by mail at P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039, Attn: Police Blotter, or send an email, with "police blotter" in the subject line, to johnc@lakevillejournal



PHOTO BY EMILY EDELMAN

Breakfast for dinner

Cookie Selfridge, support member of the Millerton Fire Company, served pancakes at the fire company's Breakfast for Dinner event on Saturday, March 25, where 108 people enjoyed pancakes, bacon, eggs, sausage, home fries and other treats at the firehouse.

Join 'In the News' discussion at Kent Memorial Library

KENT — Hungry for intelligent dialog about events of the day? Join the discourse at the Kent Memorial Library for "In the News."

The group meets the first and third Thursday each month from 10-11:30 a.m.

Participants set the agenda. Rick Levy is the moderator.

"In the News" is free and open to the public. Please register at kla-bmcallister@biblio.org or call 860-927-3761.

Northwestern Connecticut YMCA to purchase Camp MOE

TORRINGTON — The Arc of Litchfield County (LARC) and the Northwestern Connecticut YMCA announced that Camp MOE will continue to be a summer camp thanks to the agreement recently reached by the two organizations.

The Y is purchasing the Tall Timbers, a 174-acre property, located on Brandy Hill Road in Torrington, from LARC.

The Y's staff, including returning Camp MOE Di-

rector, Julie Deile, have been planning camp for this summer in the hopes it would be possible.

The Y has plans to add a sports camp and various specialty camps to the options for families. A few new camp features for 2023 are also being developed.

To find out more information or to register go to www.campmoe.org or email campmoe@nwcty.org or call 860-618-2800 or 860-489-3133 x128.

Dog adoption basics on April 11

FALLS VILLAGE — The David M. Hunt Library hosts Alex Echevarria, the Little Guild's Animal Behaviorist, on Tuesday April 11 at 2 p.m.. Participants will learn about the process of adopting an

animal from the Little Guild and to how to meet the needs of a rescue dog. This is a free event.

For more information call 860-824-7424 or go to www.huntlibrary.org.

Online This Week

Pine Plains celebrates 200 years

How Pine Plains split from the Town of North East on March 26, 1823. Go to: www.tricornernews.com

Millbrook's Cary Institute turns 40

The Institute's significant role in the scientific world celebrated. Go to www.tricornernews.com

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice LEGAL NOTICE SALISBURY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

The Salisbury Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 9:05am to act on an Application (#2023-003) for a Certificate of Appropriateness to add signage and exterior light fixtures at 9 Academy Street, Salisbury, CT 06068. This will be a Remote Meeting by Live Internet Video Stream and Telephone. The MeetingLink will be posted on the Town of Salisbury website: www.salisburyct.us/agendas/. The Application will be posted on the Town website and is available for review by contacting the Salisbury Town Clerk's office: www.salisburyct.us.

03-23-23
03-30-23

Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following actions were taken by the Planning & Zoning Commission

of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on March 20, 2023:

Approved - Application #2020-0188 by owner Darlene P. Lassy Revocable Trust, for site plan modification for driveway in the LOPD in accordance with Section 404 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 60 as Lot 14 and is located at 140 South Shore Road, Salisbury.

Approved—Site Plan Application #2023-0212 by owners John & Amy Saar, to demolish and construct a new single-family dwelling and associated site improvements in the LOPD in accordance with section 404 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 64 as Lot 8 and is located at 91 Preston Lane, Salisbury.

Any aggrieved person may appeal these decisions to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §8-8.

Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
Martin Whalen, Secretary
03-30-23

Don't Miss This Week's Special Inserts! Sales and more!
Check them out inside.
• AARP

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Hearing on former restaurant postponed

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — A March 20 Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing on William Colgan's application to turn the former Chinese restaurant at 343 Main Street in Lakeville into a dessert restaurant and apartment building never got going because of a last-moment filing from the commission's consulting engineer.

Colgan's plan includes using the restaurant space for a high-turnover dessert restaurant. The existing two apartments are to be converted to four units, and the old barns in the rear removed and a new multi use building erected.

The problem was a letter from consulting engineer Thomas Grimaldi that was received a little before the 4 p.m. deadline on March 20. The five-page letter contained multiple questions and concerns in five areas: erosion and sedimentation control, the demolition plan, stormwater management and grading, the drainage plan, and a utilities plan.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Plans for redevelopment of the former Chinese restaurant on Main Street are on hold.

Colgan expressed frustration, saying he believed he had addressed issues after a previous appearance before the commission.

P&Z chair Michael Klemens apologized for the last-minute submission. "I'm

not happy either," he said.

"This is not fair to the applicant," he continued. He asked Colgan to "stay the course."

Klemens also said the first order of business is to get Grimaldi and Colgan's

engineer together to work out the problems with the application.

And Klemens asked the commissioners if they agreed with continuing the public hearing to Monday, April 3 (online), adding it to the agen-

da of what was supposed to be a planning-only meeting.

The commissioners agreed.

In an email Friday, March 24, Klemens said efforts are underway to get the two engineers together.

Salisbury's 6% budget plan hike set for April hearing

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Board of Finance has sent the municipal and education spending plans for 2023-24 to a public hearing Monday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.

The Board of Selectmen's budget proposal has a bottom line of \$8,217,830, an increase of \$466,583 (6%).

The budget proposal for Salisbury Central School is \$6,340,274, an increase of \$171,877 (2.79%).

The 2023-24 Region One assessment for Salisbury is \$4,176,112, an increase of \$179,664 (4.5%).

Total education spending, if approved, will be \$10,516,386, an increase of \$351,541 (3.46%).

New Pine Plains Herald hires Daisy Sindelar as managing editor

By Elias Sorich

PINE PLAINS — Getting its start in 2022 with the goal of providing the town with "a reliable local source of news and events listings," the New Pine Plains Herald has recently taken a big step forward in hiring Daisy Sindelar as its managing editor.

Sindelar is a seasoned journalist with over 30 years of experience, having spent over 20 of those years at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), first as a reporter and editor, and then rising in the ranks to vice president and editor-in-chief, in addition to serving as acting president a number of times.

Stepping into the primary leadership role at the Herald, Sindelar has a number of objectives, hopes and approaches in mind to help the newspaper grow out of its nascency. One, however, remains intensely personal: Sindelar's grandmother, Christine Crouch, lived on South Main Street, and Sindelar grew up coming to Pine Plains nearly every year of her life.

That connection to the community and the desire to play a role in contributing to its vitality are part of what drew her in. But an equal driver is her belief in the importance and legitimacy of the work of community journalism, and the way in which her international experience could provide useful perspectives on it.

"I've had an extraordinarily lucky life as a journalist, working in some of the most interesting places in the world where journalism and the right to free speech are perpetually under threat. That has been a life-changing experience . . . I wanted to take what I had learned and apply it to my own country, which I think also has those needs. That work has always been personal."

Describing a landscape of local journalism that has changed rapidly over the last 10 years, Sindelar spoke to

the degree to which she believes the role of information partner within a community is one that, in large part, must be defined by that community rather than from the top down.

"If, in the past, an editorial board or a journalist sat back and thought, 'What am I going to do for this week's issue?,' it very often was their decision alone. I think what's changed is that there's an understanding that journalism really has to be a two-way communication between the journalist and between the community. I can't decide in isolation what is important for the people of Pine Plains. I really need to hear from them what's important to them, what's relevant to them."

Accordingly, the beginning weeks and months of Sindelar's time as managing editor will focus primarily on listening to the community and trying to get a deeper sense for how best to position the Herald in that contributing role. However, some topics have already emerged as clear focal points for the community, including wastewater infrastructure, changes to the school district, and the proposed solar project installation near Pulvers Corners.

To Sindelar, coverage of such issues represents a fundamental objective for a newspaper: helping to chart and assist in understanding the course of change in the region.

"Like all small towns, Pine Plains is changing, and there are different opinions about whether that change is necessary, how quickly it should come, what the impact of the change is going to be. Creating a platform for conversation about those issues is what's really exciting for me.

"I think there are fascinating, remarkable people who make up this community who perhaps haven't quite found the best way for coming together and discussing some of those issues. I think a newspaper, or news product, really has to be an essential

part of that conversation."

As for where the Herald is headed next in physical terms, it recently produced a special print edition for the Pine Plains bicentennial, its first foray into print. But reflecting a mindset that strives to also look beyond the logistics of how best to deliver news, Sindelar expressed a primary goal to build the Herald into an organization where its role within the community is known and defined both by the people

of the town and the newspaper itself.

"When someone in Pine Plains comes up to me and says, 'I really enjoyed that article, it really answered questions for me,' that will be the moment when I think the Herald is really a success. I don't know how long that will take; it does take a while for new news ventures to find their footing and to really connect with the audience, but that's what I'm looking for."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Daisy Sindelar, managing editor of the New Pine Plains Herald



Free Library Programs

April 2023

Programs for Adults

Saturday, April 8, 4:00-5:00 pm

CURRENT FICTION BOOK GROUP

This month's reading selection is "What Storm, What Thunder" by award-winning author Myriam J. A. Chancy. Discussion held in the Oak Room and virtually. Register for the Zoom link on the library's website.

Friday, April 14, 5:30-6:30 pm

POETRY READING

Join us in the Reading Room to enjoy poetry read by Cornwall artist and poet Sally Van Doren, reading from her fourth published book of poetry, "Sibilance," and Hotchkiss School history professor Emma Wynn, reading from their debut full-length book of poetry, "The World Is Our Anchor."

Sunday, April 16, 2:00-4:00 pm

POETRY WRITERS WORKSHOP

Sally Van Doren will lead a small group of aspiring poets in a writer's workshop in the Oak Room. Registration required.

For more information, sign up for our weekly newsletter and check our calendar at www.scovillelibrary.org.

Families @ Scoville

Saturday, April 2, 11:00 am

S'MORES AND STORIES

Gather with us around the fire pits in the Buttons Garden to savor stories and share sweet treats!

Saturday, April 15, 11:00 am

ANNUAL EGG HUNT

Hop on down to the library to pick up your wooden eggs to decorate between 4/7 and 4/14. Bring them back by the end of day on the 14th, then join us on the library lawn on the 15th to see where the fairies and bunnies have hidden them!

Saturday, April 15, 2:00-3:00 pm

MIDDLE GRADE BOOK CLUB

Designed for ages 11-14. This month's title is "Esperanza Rising" by Pam Muñoz Ryan. Registration required.

TEEN SPINE POETRY CHALLENGE

Stack the spines of books to create a poem, snap a pic and submit to sc-kperc@biblio.org or tag SML on Instagram. The prize winner will be announced on April 15th at 3:45 pm.

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OBITUARIES

Donna L. Spickler

SALISBURY — Donna L. Spickler, age 77, of Dagsboro, Delaware died Sunday, March 12, 2023, at Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin, Maryland. She was born in Wheeling, West Virginia and was the daughter of the late George Evans and Ada (Bonar) Evans.



She had a strong devotion to her family, friends and social causes. Some of these social causes included equality for all, women's rights, climate change and helping anyone who needed it. Her extraordinary love and faith created relationships that made this world a better place.

There will be three celebrations of Donna's life at later dates in Delaware, West Virginia and Connecticut.

Donations in Donna's memory may be made to the South Coastal DE AARP Chapter #5226, c/o Dottie Rieck, P.O. Box 286, Bethany Beach, DE 19930. Another option that was dear to her heart is the Oglebay Good Zoo. Donations can be made to the Oglebay Foundation with a designation to the Good Zoo.

Condolences may be sent by visiting www.bishophastingsfh.com

Donna had been a director at the Convention and Visitor's Bureau in Wheeling, West Virginia and Belmont County, Ohio. She also worked as the Office Manager of Oglebay Park and the Good Zoo. She was a member of South Coastal DE AARP, AARP Choir, AARP Artisan Fair, Shore Dems and the 41st RD Democratic Club.

She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Theodore R. Spickler; her children, Tracy Cooper, Dena Timper, Rebecca Fiest, Adrian Spickler and wife Christina Spickler; eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Lewis R. Norton

KENT — Lewis R. Norton of Kent passed away peacefully on March 21, 2023, at the Candlewood Valley Health and Rehabilitation facility in New Milford. He was 81.

Lewis was born Feb. 7, 1942, in Nashville, Tennessee, and was the son of the late Charles and Elizabeth Norton. He spent his childhood in Plymouth, Connecticut, before moving to Meridian where he spent most of his adult life, before retiring in Kent.

Lewis was an active member of the Kent Congregational Church where he sang in the choir.

Lewis was predeceased by his son Matthew, three nieces, and several grand nephews and nieces, two great-grandnephews.

A memorial service will be held at the Kent Congregational Church on Saturday, April 1 at 11:00 a.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Kent Congregational Church, PO Box 306, Kent, CT 06757.

'Empathic organizing' discussion set at Hunt Library on April 28

FALLS VILLAGE — The David M. Hunt Library will host Nancy Deutsch, "The Empathic Organizer," on Friday, April 28 at 4 p.m.

Organizing became Deutsch's passion ten years ago when she had to go through and clear out her parent's homes as an only child. Deutsch will share how to gently approach, and even enjoy, decluttering our

homes and the homes of our loved ones, as well as respecting and acknowledging the emotional challenges that come up in the process.

More information about Deutsch and her work can be found at empathicorganizer.com.

For more information call the library at 860-824-7424 or go to www.huntlibrary.org

Black bear talk planned April 15

FALLS VILLAGE — The David M. Hunt Library will host Master Wildlife Conservationist Ginny Apple on Saturday April 15, 1 p.m. for a talk on Black bears. Apple will focus on the natural history of black bears in Connecticut, an overview of black bear habitat, diet, behavior, reproduction, and

current research efforts. She also provides practical recommendations for optimal co-existence with our black bear neighbors. Black bear artifacts will be shared with the audience. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call 860-824-7424 or go to www.huntlibrary.org.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The Salisbury Band Hot Shots playing at a Salisbury Fall Festival in front of the Scoville Memorial Library.

Salisbury Band seeks players

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Band is beginning its 95th consecutive season. Rehearsals are on Monday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. at Scoville Memorial Library.

Players of all brass, reed, and percussion instruments are needed and invited.

There are some instruments available for lending to members.

Anyone interested in playing in the Salisbury Band may call Brian Viets at 860-307-2101, Catie Aakjer at 860-294-1548, or Lee Collins at 860-435-0051.

Artist brings studio, gallery back to Millerton

By Emily Edelman

MILLERTON — Formerly an Oddfellows Hall and Masonic Lodge among other incarnations, the building at 5 Main Street in which artist Harper Blanchet has just opened his Twilight Studios and the Blue Star Gallery represents a literal homecoming for Blanchet, as he lived and worked in the very same spot from 2002 to 2008.

Blanchet's first artistic medium was photography, and he was heavily influenced by his amateur photographer father, whose job as a chemical engineer and subsequent interest in the chemistry aspect of and science behind photographic film development caused Blanchet to pick up his first camera at the age of 7.

He started painting in 1970, though, at the time, he was painting houses. He began to paint on canvas in 1980.

Blanchet's art and love of nature have taken him to varied locations in the Northeast, with former studios in the Catskills and Northern Vermont as well as the more local environs of Copake and Ancram, and West Cornwall and Falls Village in Connecticut.

"Whatever my space is, [there are] two things I want to do," said Blanchet. "I want to make it very functional, and I want to make it very visual." This is evident right away upon walking into his workroom at the entrance to the space: Everything is tidy and neat, with all tools and ephemera laid out in a way that is both eye-catching and organized.

"All my negatives and slides, they're all catalogued. Everything is ID'd and organized; otherwise, it gets to be chaos."

He specializes in active abstracts and color field paintings. He has a background in carpentry and makes his own canvas stretchers.

Blanchet described what he does as "building" rather than painting a piece.

"What's going on in the corners, what's included on the inside of the edge, what's negated on the outside of the edge, what's going on in the interior . . . it's very engaging. So I'm building up, and I'm erasing, and the idea is that you're always trying to make the painting stronger."

When asked how he decides what to paint, Blanchet answered, "Sometimes I have an idea of what I'm going to do with the paint, other times I just get a lot of paint on the canvas and then I start my adding and subtracting."



PHOTO BY EMILY EDELMAN

Artist Harper Blanchet with his painting No. 407 in his newly opened Twilight Studios and the Blue Star Gallery.

"So it just starts. You put the canvas up, it's a white canvas, and then you start. It's very creative — I can do anything. Let's put a yellow ground on it, or maybe I'll break it up into 10 areas and do 10 different colors, or the middle on both sides will be the same color."

Blanchet said there is no hidden meaning in any of his paintings. "My paintings don't represent anything . . . [they're] just form, color, edge — things like that. There's no message . . . there's no verbal at all, it's just totally visual."

How long does a painting take? "I don't time it. I'm working on maybe 12 paintings at the same time . . . It could add up to a week, two weeks. I work on one for a while, put it down, pick up another one."

"I never consider my paintings finished," said Blanchet. "I could always work on them."

Blanchet gives his paintings numbers in lieu of titles, and he's now up to No. 618. When he moved back to 5 Main Street in September 2022, he was at No. 600.

The gallery features only paintings at the moment, though Blanchet remains steadfast in his search for a "dream patron" to offset the monetary expense of film development. "I used to have a darkroom and I was a master printer, but I would just rather take the photographs," he said.

Twilight Studios and the Blue Star Gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. and by appointment.

Worship Services

Week of April 2, 2023

Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.
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9 South Main, Sharon CT
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www.christchurchsharon.org

St. John's Episcopal Church
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
Rev. Paul Christopherson
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10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)
In-Person and on You-Tube
www.stjohnssalisbury.org
860-435-9290

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
40 Leedsville Road
Amenia Union, NY
SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30
IN-PERSON AND ONLINE
Visit our website for links
Rev. AJ Stack
845-373-9161
www.stthomasamenia.com
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Sunday School at 9 a.m.
Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org
Misa en español a las 4 de la tarde el último domingo de mes
The Revs. Heidi Truax & Felix Rivera
trinity@trinitylimerock.org
(860) 435-2627

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Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm
www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org

Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT
Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons
The next meeting will be Sunday, April 9 at 10:30 a.m.
For information, contact Jo Loi at jokiauioi@gmail.com
All are Welcome

The Lakeville United Methodist Church
319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"
Pastor Joy Veronesi
860-435-9496
Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

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St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan
St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville
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Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church
Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary
Sunday 11 a.m.,
Immaculate Conception Church
DAILY MASS SCHEDULE
Wednesday 6pm
St. Joseph Chapel or Church
Thursday 8am
Immaculate Conception Church
Friday 8am
Church of St. Mary
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For information,
please call 860-824-7078

The Sharon United Methodist Church
112 Upper Main Street,
North End of Sharon Green
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No Sunday School in Summer
Pastor Sun Yong Lee
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sharonumc5634@att.net

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and Sunday services
Contact us at 860-364-5002 or
info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

Safe driving class for seniors

SALISBURY — Salisbury Senior Services will be hosting an AARP Safe Drivers Course on Monday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lakeville Town Grove Senior Center 42, Ethan Allen Street.

The cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. Space is limited to 20 participants. To enroll, please contact Lisa McAuliffe at 860 435-5186 or email lmcauliffe@salisburyct.us.

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8 AM - St. Bernard
10 AM - Sacred Heart
WEEKDAY MASSES
Monday & Friday
9 AM - Sacred Heart
Tuesday
9 AM - St. Bernard

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Rev. Lee Gangaware
860-824-5534
canaanct-umc.com
canaanctumc@gmail.com
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Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
Lenten Services on Website
Rev. John Kreta
860-824-1340 | allsaintsofamerica.us

Millerton United Methodist Church
6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812
Millerton, NY 12546
Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 A.M.
518-789-3138

The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall
Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
Email Rev. Mary Gates at:
mrgates125@gmail.com
for an invitation to the Zoom service
If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.

Our Towns

Town composting plans hit snag

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — The Board of Selectmen's goal of creating a local composting service at the Cornwall Transfer Station has hit a snag. After meeting with representatives from the state to discuss Cornwall's proposal, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reviewed the status of the application during the regular selectmen's meeting on March 21.

"The process of getting this approved is more complicated than I had anticipated," said Ridgway.

Cornwall's proposed composting plan involved the collection of fallen leaves from around town to create working piles for the leaves to break down at the town's transfer station. Residents could then bring food scraps to add to the pile. The final product would yield locally sourced compost that residents could take home to use in their gardens.

Ridgway was told by the state that four towns have similar composting programs across Connecticut. Each of these towns already had leaf composting permits in place before applying for a permit to compost food scraps.

"We have to apply first for a leaf composting permit," said Ridgway.

The state also requested additional mapping of the site to ensure that the leaf piles are at least 100 feet away from any brooks. Despite a brook near the transfer station, Ridgway said he believes they can still find a place for the composting piles.

The goal of having an operational composting service by Earth Day (April 22) may be out of the picture, but the board planned to move forward with the process of getting its proposal approved by

"The process of getting this approved is more complicated than I had anticipated."

Gordon Ridgway, First Selectman

the state.

"We have a path forward," said Ridgway. "We'll be busy filing permits and things, which is why it's going to take three months."

The selectmen also reviewed the aftermath of a recent winter storm that caused road closures and power outages across Cornwall. Ridgway said that at the peak of the storm about 95% of the town was without power.

"Cornwall and Goshen apparently were hit the hardest of all the towns in Connecticut," said Ridgway.

Severe wind and up to two feet of snow at the higher elevations in town blocked roads and caused trees and branches to fall. Ridgway said local emergency crews were prepared for the storm and responded quickly to the damage.

"It made me appreciate the few people on our crew behind the wheel that put in long hours and kept everything open," said Ridgway.

The board thanked Emergency Management Director Diane Beebe as well as Jim Vanicky of the highway department and his team for their efforts to clear roads of trees, which enabled Eversource to restore power

across town.

"Eversource put on a very good effort with their contractors that they called in ahead of time from the South and Midwest," said Ridgway.

Ridgway said he got a check-in call from Gov. Ned Lamont on Tuesday morning.

"He wanted to make sure we were all right and I assured him we were all well," said Ridgway. "He was glad to hear that things had improved as far as emergency response with the power company."

To thank the highway department for their efforts, the board approved a motion to give the highway crew an honorarium of \$500 each and \$750 for Vanicky.

Ridgway said the board wanted to "give credit to the

few who really keep the town going when things are in bad shape."

Moving on, long-time Cornwall resident John Calhoun offered to donate a portrait of his ancestor, also named John Calhoun, to mount in town hall. The elder Calhoun donated the town hall building to Cornwall in 1908.

"I think it would be appropriate to put this on the mantle at the town hall," said Ridgway. "We have a collection of uniquely Cornwall art and this portrait would be in good company."

Cornwall's town hall was built with local stones quarried from the Calhoun's quarry on Todd Hill. In addition to operating as town hall, over the years the building has been used for plays, performances, music, voting, a library and more.

The board accepted the donation and planned to hold a ceremony once the portrait has been received.



PHOTO FROM @ROBERTADZEMA INSTAGRAM

Microgrant winner Robert Adzema is a painter and sculptor. Above is one of his geometric sundials titled Sheng Sundial.

Grants announced for Cornwall artists

CORNWALL — In an effort to vitalize the community through the arts, the Economic Development Commission of Cornwall awarded seven microgrants to area creators on March 22.

All seven winners of the \$500 microgrants were selected at random and were made eligible by proving full-time residency in Cornwall and demonstrating an established artistic practice. Each artist has committed to sharing the creations that are produced as a result of these grants with the community.

The recipients were David Colbert (sculptor), Kathleen Hulser (writer/historian), Richard Griggs (sculptor), Robert Adzema (sculptor/painter), Don Bracken (painter), Leslie Elias (playwright/storyteller), and Nicholas Jacobs (photographer).

Robert Adzema is a long-time watercolor painter and geometric sundials sculptor. He said he plans to use the grant money to purchase supplies to continue his pas-

sion for plein air watercolor painting.

To give back to the community, Adzema is considering holding a painting event.

"Maybe what I will do is try to organize a plein air watercolor event," said Adzema. "I would pick a date or a weekend and invite people in town to come out and paint and maybe have a small show after at the Parish House or the library."

Fellow microgrant winner and sculptor Richard Griggs' work is currently on display at David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village. The group show SHAPE + COLOR + MOVEMENT will be up through March 31.

All seven microgrants were administered through the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council (NCAC). Katherine Pelletier, development and outreach coordinator at NCAC, said, "it's so nice to see a town and community who value artists and their creative contributions."

— Riley Klein

North Canaan eyes budget proposals for coming year

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — Municipal and school officials gathered at North Canaan's town hall on Wednesday, March 22, to present their spending plans to the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2023-24. The board heard budget proposals from North Canaan Elementary School Principal Alicia Roy, First Selectman Charles Perotti, and Region One Business Director Sam Herrick.

Roy opened the meeting with a rundown of the elementary school's budget request for the coming year. Despite inflationary pressures, the proposed spending for the school came in \$25,597.17 less than last year.

"I'm really proud to say that our budget is a negative increase, or a decrease of 0.58%," said Roy.

The savings were primarily from a reduction in transportation and utility costs. Electricity expenses dropped \$30,185.17 and bus transportation costs fell \$68,000 thanks to the elimination of a fourth bus.

Savings in these areas helped offset a sharp increase in health insurance of \$82,745.83 and allowed the school to hold the line on spending for the coming year.

First Selectman Charles Perotti then presented the town spending plan to the board. The requested increase from the selectmen totaled \$232,559, which would be 7.66% higher than the prior

fiscal year.

Perotti said costs went up due to a 4% wage increase for all hourly employees and an expected health insurance hike of 7.5%. Other notable increases were a \$50,000 increase to the fire department (plus another \$10,000 for fire equipment), a \$30,000 increase to the ambulance corp (plus another \$10,000 for ambulance equipment), and a \$30,000 increase to the resident state trooper.

"We have a new resident trooper who gets more money," said Perotti on why the trooper salary increased from \$128,000 per year to \$158,000 per year. "The resident trooper we had before was like three months on the job and now we have one that is a nine-year veteran."

The selectmen also added a \$25,000 increase for road paving and improvement this year.

"We're going to try to finish Canaan Valley," said Perotti on the town's plans for road paving. "The water company is going to be doing Patty Lane because they're putting a water main down Patty Lane and they're going to be doing part of Lower Road."

Sam Herrick from Region One closed the meeting with a presentation of the proposed high school budget for the coming year. Herrick said that overall expenses increased 2.2%, or \$366,358, in the proposed Region One spending plan. For North Canaan, that would mean a \$194,761 hike. "The moral of the story is

you're about 3.5% positive," said Herrick. "We do see some relief at the high school level for next year," he added while explaining that North Canaan is expected to reduce high school enrollment from 116 students to 102 students for 2024-25.

Herrick's presentation showed that net per-pupil cost at Housatonic Valley Regional High School has risen from \$32,293 in 2022-23 to \$35,206 in 2023-24.

After hearing each spending proposal, Board of Finance Chair Nancy O'Connor thanked the presenters and said, "we have a lot to think about." A budget workshop is planned for further discussion on Wednesday, April 5, 7:30 pm at Town Hall.

Right now, the selectmen's proposed municipal budget for 2023-24 is \$3,267,102. This is an increase of \$232,559 (7.66%) over the 2022-23 budget of \$3,034,543.

North Canaan Elementary School's total proposed budget amount for 2023-24 is \$4,426,036.83, which is \$25,597.17 (-0.58%) less than the 2022-23 budget of \$4,451,634.

North Canaan's 2023-24 Region One assessment is \$5,702,883, up \$194,761 (3.54%) over the 2022-23 budget of \$5,508,122.

Total proposed educational spending for North Canaan in 2023-24 is \$10,128,919.83. This is an increase of \$169,163.83 (1.7%) over the 2022-23 budget of \$9,959,756.

North Canaan Selectman Perotti won't seek re-election

NORTH CANAAN — During North Canaan's Board of Finance meeting on March 22, First Selectman Charles Perotti announced he will not seek re-election in the coming cycle.

Perotti was first elected to the position in 2017 and has since served three terms as first selectman. "It's been a good run," said Perotti.

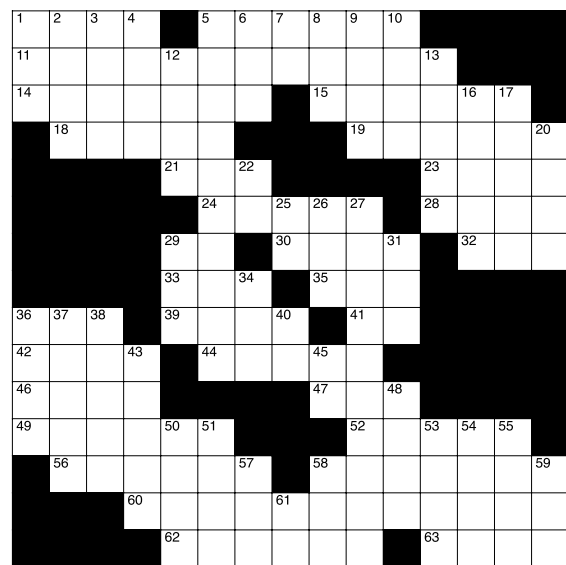
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Millisecond
5. Narcotic drug
11. Accident
14. Formal submissions
15. Popular 70s rock band
18. Discourage from doing
19. More socially elite
21. Arid
23. A way to look
24. Heroes
28. A surfer rides it
29. Potato state
30. Insect repellent
32. Cool!
33. Have already done
35. Collegiate women's fraternity
36. To the ___ degree
39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
41. Blood type
42. Looked over
44. Language of Cameroon and Chad
46. Species of armadillo
47. Touch softly
49. Part of your upper body
52. Large, stocky lizards
56. Lack of social or ethical standards
58. Congressman
60. Unofficial force
62. As a result of this utterance
63. A main branch of Islam

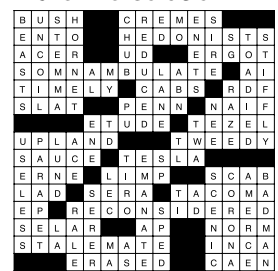
CLUES DOWN

1. Woman (French)
2. Province of Pakistan
3. This (Spanish)
4. Transportation device
5. Greater in importance or priority
6. The human foot
7. Within
8. Consumed
9. Respectful Malaysian term
10. Therefore
12. Ceased to exist
13. Type of macaroni

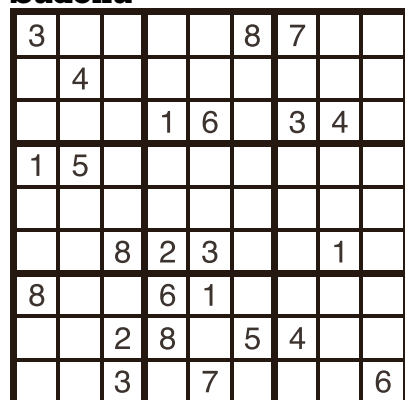


16. English composer
17. Wooded tract
20. Tall, slender-leaved plant
22. 36 inches
25. Take too much (abbr.)
26. Allow
27. Individually
29. Journalist Tarbell
31. Bar bill
34. Hong Kong food stall: ___ pai dong
36. Not messy
37. Species that includes reedmae
38. Former MLB catcher Ed
40. Northern U.S. state
43. Wilt
45. Commercial
48. Bolivian river
50. Nursemaid
51. A car needs four
53. Guns (slang)
54. American state
55. Clusters of fern fronds
57. Body part
58. A person's brother or sister
59. Breed of sheep native to Sweden
61. Of I

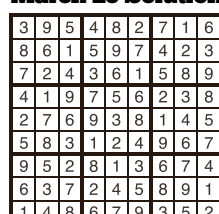
March 23 Solution



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Sports



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN
Salisbury got the job done on both ends of the field in their lacrosse season opener against Albany Academy on Saturday, March 25. The Knight's defense became an impenetrable front and their attackmen cut to the crease with ease, scoring 25 goals.

Salisbury School lacrosse buries Albany Academy

By Riley Klein

SALISBURY — On Saturday, March 25, the Salisbury School Crimson Knights hosted a scrimmage against the Albany Academy Cadets to start lacrosse season. Salisbury put down a decisive performance with a 25-6 victory.

Temperatures on Wachtmeister Field stayed in the mid-30s with strong wind and light rain throughout the game. Despite the dreary weather, action on the field was red hot as the teams' season opener got under way.

Before fans could even dry off their seats Salisbury found the back of the net

with a quick first-minute goal. By the end of the first quarter, they had opened up a 6-2 lead. Senior attacks Brock Behrman and Trey Deere put on a show as they whizzed rockets past Albany's goalie and into the webbing.

Salisbury's defense started to gel in the second quarter.

The Knights stifled the Cadets' offense by locking down the inside and forcing turnovers in the alley. With the Knights firing on all cylinders, their lead grew to 14-3 by halftime.

Salisbury continued to push the tempo into the second half and scored another eight goals in the third quarter.

The scoreboard stopped keeping track at 19, but Salisbury kept the goals coming.

With the game all but over and the weather not letting up, fans headed to their vehicles to watch the rest with a heated seat.

"These guys are just too good," said a disgruntled Albany parent as he left for the

parking lot.

Salisbury finished with 25 points to Albany's six. It was a decisive start to the Knights' lacrosse season as they prepare to begin conference play. Next on the schedule for Salisbury is a home game against Noble and Greenough School on March 29 at 5:30 p.m.

Is it spring yet? Tangled Lines has jangled nerves

The transition between winter and spring is a tough time for this pescador.

Every time it looks like the planets will align, there's some weather, like the recent foot or so of snow.

I did take a whack at Housatonic in the no man's land between the power station in Falls Village and the falls the day after the snow-storm.

In previous years, under similar circumstances, I was able to coax some decent smallies into action on big Woolly Buggers, fished deep and slow. One year I was testing out a new 4 weight switch rod and lo! I caught a pike.

A somewhat languorous and unenthusiastic pike, to be sure. I could see its point of view.

There it was, minding its own business and thinking about maybe eating something to shake off the winter blahs.

Next thing it knows, it's being hauled out, placed in an entirely inadequate net and goggled at by some idiot.

The only time it showed any spunk was when I gingerly approached it with my fingers, to remove the fly.

It snarled, revealing its extremely impressive teeth. Also the slowly working jaw muscles.

I decided to sacrifice the



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The rods that don't fit in the Fish Closet make it difficult to access the fishing books.

fly, which, being debarbed, would be easy for the pike to work out of its mouth at some point.

I also took a recent flyer on one of the little blue lines

to see if the brookies were awake.

This was an exercise in futility.

Waders and boots are always cumbersome.

TANGLED LINES

PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

But wearing waders and boots, in the woods, with a foot or more of snow concealing the terrain and generally making life difficult, isn't fishing.

It's floundering.

And no, the brookies were not awake.

This is also a bad time of year for the wallet.

It's tax time, of course.

It's also fishing gear clearance time.

At last count I own 80-something fly rods and 30 or so reels.

I have also acquired numerous packs and vests, in the quest for the perfect system.

Every year I resolve to do something about this. Every year I wind up adding to the collection.

It makes a trip to the Fish Closet just that much more complicated.

Not that's it confined to the closet. There are rod tubes behind the so-called dining table, and obscuring the book shelf, which

is largely devoted to fishing books.

I could try to sell surplus rods on eBay, but experience tells me I will be inundated with low-ball offers and impossible questions, such as:

"Hi! I'm 5'10" and speak five languages if you include gibberish. When was this rod made, and how does it compare to the Acme Rod Company's similar offering from the Oct. 1928 catalog? Also may I have it for one dollar and will you pick up

the shipping?"

I am only exaggerating a little.

So as I wait for fishing to start in earnest, making do with fishing books, fishing videos, fishing conversations and lucid fishing dreams, I must resist the urge to pick up last season's Greatest Rod Ever at a bargain price.

Although there's one rod...

No. Get a grip. Look at the Fish Closet. You really think you can cram something else in there?

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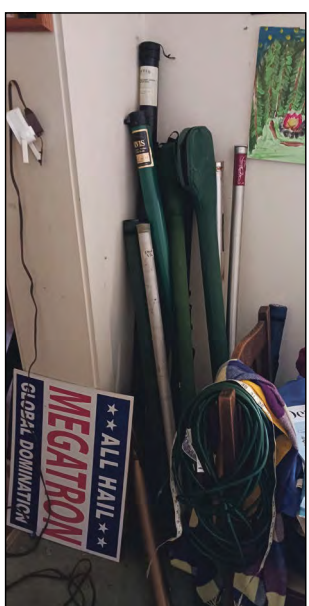
Wrestling with the Bible, 9 AM

Worship, 10 AM

Fellowship Lunch, 11:15 AM

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Our Towns



Evelyn Adkins as Turtle (at left) confers with Leah Finberg as Mouse.

“Frog and Toad” bring down the house

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Falls Village Children’s Theater production of “A Year with Frog and Toad” played to packed houses March 24-25 at the Center on Main. The show was directed and choreographed by Amber Cameron, with musical direction by Luna Manela. The audience was entranced by the show’s energy and by the strong performances from the children singing and dancing to recorded music, which isn’t easy to do.



The Snails were a particular crowd favorite. From left, Lois Musgrove, Autumn Lynch, Kassell Miller.

PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The Birds were played by (from left): Dyani Nirschel, Meadow Reeve, Piper Peterson, Nicole Lucas



Second hearing on fiber optic on April 3

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Board of Finance will hold a second public hearing on Frontier Communications proposal to extend fiber optic service to the entire town on Monday, April 3, at 7 p.m. at the Emergency Services Center.

At the finance board’s special meeting March 20, the

board discussed the latest proposal, for \$350,000, to extend fiber optic to 68 homes, roughly 11% of the town, that are not scheduled to be covered in Frontier’s ongoing buildout of fiber optic lines.

A motion to send the proposal to town meeting did not pass, but a motion to hold a second public hearing did pass.

The first hearing was

on Jan. 27. First Selectman Henry Todd said then that the town has 618 homes, and Frontier is in the process of running the fiber optic lines to 502 of them, leaving 116 homes (or 20% of the town) without access.

Todd said on Jan. 27 that Frontier was willing to extend access to those areas if the town kicked in \$350,000, down from an initial propos-

al of \$750,000.

Todd suggested that the town use \$150,000 from the general fund and borrow \$200,000 from a local bank for five or 10 years. He said it would have a “minimal effect on property taxes.”

The Board of Finance subsequently concluded on Monday, Feb. 6 that it did not have enough information to recommend the offer.

Town meeting approves school mural project

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — At a special town meeting held on Thursday, March 16, voters discussed and approved three items. About 17 residents were in attendance.

Residents voted to approve support of the Sha-

ron Center School mural project that is part of an arts enhancement program. Discussion focused on the planned use of \$15,000 from the town’s Silly Putty account in support of the arts mural project. The Silly Putty Fund, created in 2021, is used for cultural, historical,

recreational or educational purposes.

Stipulations on the use of the funds included formation of a project committee in advance of the release of the funds. The Board of Selectmen will also need to receive a written explanation of the mural project’s scope and vision. A further stipulation holds that if grants are applied for and received in support of the project, that the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen be notified.

The expense from the Silly Putty Fund had previously been approved by the Board of Finance.

During discussion that

was largely favorable toward the project, residents discussed the availability of state and federal creative arts grant programs and they urged that children be included in the creative process for the outdoor mural. Others asked about maintenance of the mural once its installed.

Voters also approved expansion of the Sharon Energy and Environment Commission from its present size of seven members to a new total membership of nine.

In a third action, voters accepted the town’s financial statements for the year that ended on June 30, 2022. Copies of the new town report are available at the Town Hall.

Lefferts returns to library with two events in April

FALLS VILLAGE — In April, the David M. Hunt Library will welcome back artist and author Pieter Lefferts, who inaugurated the library’s ArtWall exhibit space in 2011.

Lefferts’ new exhibition features pastel paintings inspired by his recent book, “What the Kek Kek Saw,” an animist fable of braided plot twists that grew out of Lefferts’ many years of immersion in the Adirondack Park. There is a reception for

the artist on Saturday, April 8, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

On Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, 2 p.m. at the library, Lefferts will read from his book and copies will be available for purchase.

The exhibition will remain on display through Friday, April 28. Sales proceeds benefit the artist and Hunt Library.

For more information, call the library at 860-824-7424 or visit huntlibrary.org/art-wall.

Budget hearing on March 31

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The proposed 2023-24 spending plans from the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education get a public hearing Friday, March 31, 7 p.m. at the Emergency Services Center and on Zoom.

The proposed budget for municipal spending has a total of \$2,247,689, an increase of \$110,455 (5.17%).

The proposed spending for all education is \$3,639,209, an increase of \$17,669 (.49%).

The Region One assessment for Falls Village is \$1,402,578, a decrease of \$94,678 (6.32%).

The spending plan for Lee H. Kellogg School has a bottom line of \$2,236,631, an increase of \$112,347 (5.29%).

The proposed spending plans are available on the town website.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 2

The Passion Story, in Word and Music

10 am Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 6

Communion & Tenebrae

7 pm Worship

Good Friday, April 7

Music & Meditation

12 noon



Sunday, April 9

Easter Day

6:30 am Ecumenical Sunrise Service

Town Grove, Lakeville

9:45 am Hand Bell Prelude

10 am Easter Worship



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Our Towns

Cornwall looks at sidewalk options

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — As the deadline to submit a proposal for the Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP) grant approaches, Cornwall's Board of Selectmen took a field trip on March 21 to look at possible sites and discuss their plans.

The selectmen looked at two sites in town with the hope of using the grant as an opportunity to create more walkable and bike-able pedestrian zones. The first location was in West Cornwall and the second was in Cornwall Bridge.

In West Cornwall the proposals included a beaoned crosswalk to connect the two sidewalks on opposite sides of the street to create continuous walking path, adding a speed table to reduce the speed of traffic, adding street parking in front of the "Pink House," and reconfiguring the parking lot at the post office to add spaces and make it safer to exit. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said the changes would help with pedestrian safety in the village.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Cornwall's Board of Selectmen gathered in Cornwall Bridge to plan how to best improve walkability. Left to right, Selectwoman Janet Carlson, Selectwoman Priscilla Pavel, Project Engineer Steve McDonnell, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway.

"We've had more housing and less businesses in West Cornwall but as businesses return we want to look into making this more walkable," said Ridgway. "The whole goal is to make this more pedestrian safe."

The board then traveled to Cornwall Bridge outside the Cornwall Country Market. Plans in this part of town included the addition of a sidewalk from the fire house to the market, putting in a speed table to slow

traffic, adding a beaoned crosswalk with ADA compliant landings on each side of the road, and improving wireless internet connectivity in the area.

"The thought is to get a proper crosswalk there in that approximate location between the market and the lumber yard and have some beacons there," said Ridgway.

When discussing the sidewalk to the firehouse, he added, "we would allow people to use firehouse parking, es-

pecially those who work at the market."

The changes were identified as options that make the area safer for pedestrians and allow Cornwall Bridge to serve as a welcome area for visitors and cyclists traveling on the Western New England Greenway.

"We would look at helping to pave the lot in front of the market and help them establish a tourist welcome center there with some picnic tables and put a bike rack there," said Ridgway.

Project Engineer Steve McDonnell was in attendance for the tour and was provided survey plans of the locations. He will draft up designs to be used in the grant proposal, which must be submitted to the Northwest Hills Council of Governments by the end of March.

"If we're successful, we'd have to go back to a town meeting to get approval for all this work," said Ridgway. "I think it will really help visitors, residents, and businesses in both our village centers, which we'd like to see both become increasingly busy."

Kent selectmen reaffirm ban on food trucks

By Leila Hawken

KENT — Responding to a request from the Kent Falls Brewing Company to allow a food truck to operate on their Camps Road premises, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously at a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 22, to affirm the town's current prohibition of commercial food trucks.

"We made a firm decision against food trucks in the past. I don't believe we need to do anything," said Selectman Glenn Sanchez.

First Selectman Jean Speck noted that the brewing company's request was for the town to create an ordinance to allow some businesses to have food trucks.

"I have no inclination to create a new ordinance," Sanchez said, and Selectman Rufus de Rham agreed, adding that the brewery is a business operating in a residential zone.

Speck indicated that at present, food trucks are only permitted on private property in connection with a social event when they are serving food at no cost to guests.

Land Acquisition Fund

The possibility of an ordinance to allow the creation of a Land Acquisition Fund was discussed with the selectmen by Connie Manes, chair of the Conservation Commission. She noted that the town has been studying and discussing the issue since 2004, adding that 37 towns are currently putting funds aside for land acquisition.

Of area towns, Manes advised that Goshen's ordinance would most closely align with Kent's interests.

"There is no one way to provide resources for such a fund," Manes said.

Sanchez asked why the

momentum was lost over the years and Manes replied that it seems to have been a failure to "carry the ball forward."

Right to farm friction

While recognizing and supporting their neighbor's right to farm as protected by local ordinance, 18-year residents William and Melissa Braislin took issue with the cluttered appearance of the farm next door. They asked the selectmen to help in resolving the matter.

Speck noted that Braislin saw a distinction between zoning issues and protected farming issues.

Manes indicated that the right to farm ordinance is an anti-nuisance measure, protecting farmers from residents' complaints.

Braislin said that the ordinance covers normal agricultural practices, but he was focusing on what he termed "clutter" and an unfinished driveway that he felt negatively affected property values and quality of life. He asked that a town official visit the site.

"I respect farming," Braislin said, noting that he had planted a vegetative buffer of arbor vitae on the farm property adjacent to his yard at his expense with the farmer's permission. The trees, however, are slow to grow to a size that will be helpful, he added.

Speck said that she would compose a procedure to be followed for similar issues, coordinating with the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Conservation Commission. She also reported that she has visited the site and received assurances that the farmer will improve the situation.

Speck noted, however, that on a farm, sometimes materials are delivered for future use and must be accommodated.

Sharon to join Housatonic health district

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Finding the time to be right to move toward joining a regional health district, the Board of Selectmen voted to begin the process at its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 21.

"We've had strong in-house endorsement and the staff at the Housatonic Valley Health District (HVHD) have experience with us," Selectman Dale Jones said, recognizing the approaching dates when the current staff within the town's health district office plan to step down from their positions.

"We need to get something in place," Jones said. Both Michael Crespan, the town's Director of Health, and Jamie Casey, Sanitarian, will be vacating the town's office within weeks. Crespan plans to continue to serve at the offices of the HVHD, ensuring continuity.

Selectman Casey Flanagan asked for assurance that the health district will have adequate office space to maintain the local records at the Town Hall.

Flanagan indicated that the space exists now within that office. "We've stood alone for decades," she said. "It's time," she added.

Jones displayed a map showing that nearly all of the state's 169 towns have joined health districts. "It's time for us to be part of a district," he said.

The selectmen agreed that the next step will be to schedule a public hearing to inform townspeople about the change.

A project to replace sections of the town's water lines was reviewed for the selectmen by Stephen Szalewicz, chairman of the Sewer and Water Commission.

Some of the water lines were installed nearly a 100 years ago, Szalewicz said, fearing that the scheduled state road paving work might cause damage to the old lines. In advance of the paving work, plans call for replacement of some lines and consolidation of places where lines cross each other in advance of the paving.

The commission has ap-

plied for a federal USDA grant to assist with the project's costs, estimated at \$1.3 million. The grant would cover 35% of the costs and the town would borrow the balance, Szalewicz said, noting that Sharon is the first and so far, the sole applicant for the nearly \$10 million in funding made available to the state through the USDA.

He said that the engineering design work is done for the project. All that is needed is a contractor and then "we are ready to go."

Flanagan agreed, "This is a critical infrastructure

project."

The project would not affect water customers' rates, Szalewicz said. "We have the cash we need, without changing rates."

"If we do the work before the paving project, it is less costly," he explained.

The next step, according to Szalewicz's report, is to present the proposal to the Board of Finance and then the project would be considered at a town meeting.

In other action, the selectmen approved an application for a food truck to be located at the Sharon Valley Tavern.

Kent budget proposals get initial look

By Leila Hawken

KENT — On schedule with the annual budget process, the Board of Finance received the drafted 2023-24 town expenditure budget from the Board of Selectmen at the finance board's regular meeting on Wednesday, March 22. Residents attending in person at the Kent Town Hall numbered 25, with more looking in on Zoom.

Weeks of scrutiny of the town's projected expenses for the coming year went into preparing the budget proposal that totals \$14,810,424, including the \$7,248,000 requested by the Board of Education (48% of the total).

As proposed, the expense budget submitted by the Board of Selectmen totals \$4,947,668, up from the current year level of \$4,573,675, or a rise of \$373,994 (8.15%).

First Selectman Jean Speck reviewed the details of the town's budget, highlighting what she termed "drivers." Salary increases for town employees the coming year are firm at 4% across the board, there having been no approval of individual requests for higher increase.

Areas seeing increase include the Registrar of Voters office, requesting \$9,000 to purchase a fireproof file, a postage meter in the assessor's office to be shared among other town offices, and new permitting software within the Planning and Zoning office, sharing that expense with the office of the Building Official.

Increased usage and programming within the Senior Center brought an increase in operating costs.

Grants to various local organizations were assisted for the coming year by federal

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, according to the budget documents, resulting in some savings for the selectmen's budget proposal.

The proposed town budget for 2023-24 can be viewed on the town website at www.townofkentct.org.

The finance board discussed but did not set a date for another workshop meeting. The public hearing date is Friday, May 5.

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WINE

Continued from Page A1

hundreds of store owners, managers, employees and customers filled the atrium.

The grocery stores maintained that the proposal would provide convenient, one-stop customer shopping. Package stores argued that the proposal represented a major threat to their livelihoods, and that there is no lack of wine availability.

Although H.B. 5918 appears to be dead for the 2023 Legislative Session, the issue is certain to return year after year, said Cronin.

Until then, "We're not letting our guard down. It's returned before."

In the face of this most current defeat, lobbyists for grocery stores and supermarkets said they are confident that once the bill makes it before the full legislature, that it will succeed.

A recent poll commissioned by the Connecticut Food Association revealed that 84 percent of respondents support the sale of wine in grocery stores.

Connecticut is one of only a handful of states that prohibit wine sales in super-



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Richard Bramley, owner of the Cornwall Package Store for the past 45 years, said while he is relieved to hear that a renewed push to allow wine sales in the state's supermarkets has failed, he is concerned that it will become an annual battle and threat to his long-established business, which has been serving the community since 1938.

markets. Forty-two states, and Washington, D.C., allow the sale of wine on their shelves.

For now, the owner of one venerable package store in the Northwest Corner is breathing a sigh of relief.

"It is a good feeling, and it seems to have passed for this year," said Richard Bramley, owner of the Cornwall Package Store.

That said, he noted that there is always a chance that the proposal can resurface via

an amendment before the current legislative session ends in early June, and he predicted the fight to stave off wine sales in grocery stores will continue to be an annual threat to his, and other package store owners, livelihoods.

"There are other priorities the legislature should be looking at," said Bramley. "I think, in general, people are quite satisfied with the delivery system that is available in most towns, and the widespread availability" of wine.

POCD

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Amy Wynn (left) and Jandi Hanna considered their priorities during an exercise at the start of the Plan of Conservation and Development meeting March 25.

of all," in particular the volunteer fire and ambulance squads.

Judy Jacobs, speaking for the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society, said visitors to her business, Jacobs Garage, often comment on the beauty of the historic buildings in the village center. She added a plug for establishing a historic district commission.

One individual got a laugh when he observed that the community's characters were as important as the character of the community.

On affordable housing, Amy Wynn said housing supports all the other elements of the successful town.

Dan Silverman, chair of the Board of Finance, said the town needs to expand its tax base and one way to do that is to create affordable housing that attracts more people to town.

Denise Cohn said that affordable housing efforts should not neglect the "dozens of programs" aimed at first-time home buyers.

Chalders, mindful of the stated two-hour limit, kept the meeting moving.

On economic development, Mechare said the trick is figuring out how to "keep what we have," and to encourage economic devel-

opment while retaining the town's traditional look.

Daly Reville said the town needs a septic system in the downtown area to attract businesses, and Jandi Hanna of the Falls Village Housing Trust said while there are jobs in the area, they are not particularly well-paid jobs, and more affordable housing rentals would allow those workers to live in town instead of commuting much longer distances.

Greg Marlowe said it is not realistic to expect a large number of new businesses in Falls Village. "Let's focus on quality."

On the village center, Jacobs said that well over half of the garage's customers are from out of town and they book appointments based on when the Falls Village Cafe is open. She also noted that not being directly on a state road (Route 7) is a positive, as it allows the town to accommodate major events like the summertime car and motorcycle show without getting tangled up in state regulations.

Chalders started the meeting off by reminding everyone that POCDs are advisory documents and are required from all of Connecticut's towns and must be updated every 10 years.

TSC

Continued from Page A1

during these renovations, but Bernardini described plans already in the works to continue its programming, from hosting offsite events to keeping the laundromat running, and even a faint hope that the building itself will remain usable during portions of the renovations, pending necessary approvals.

While most of those details have been fully outlined, Bernardini emphasized that the exact contours of the renovations, particularly its timeline, are subject to change, owed in part to supply chain difficulties, COVID-19-related industry challenges, and the sorts of delays that can come with any renovation or building project.

As for next steps, Bernardini will go before the Pine Plains Planning Board in May with a comprehensive update. At that point, the board will have a few months to review the plans and make recommendations before the Stissing Center moves forward in September, the kind of collaboration Bernardini portrayed as critical to the organization's approach to its role within the town.

Bernardini was simultaneously excited by the possibilities opened up by the renovations, and accepting of the degree to which pulling off the Band-Aid is a challenging and somewhat unglamorous

necessity.

"The building is going to look terrible, because it will be entirely wrapped ground to roof with scaffolding. But the entire roof has to come off. It cannot be repaired. It's in such bad shape that we can't even put gutters up because nails will not stick in what might normally be called wood."

Once the work is done, Bernardini believes the Stissing Center will have set itself up for years to come. Though the building has three floors and ample space, the organization is currently only able to make use of the main floor in its programming, which, from the perspective of an executive director's responsibilities, "is like trying to run a business at a third of your capacity."

In addition to making office space available on-site for a staff that currently works elsewhere, paving a small area for handicap parking, completing the Cellar at the Center (a community space on the ground level with kitchen capacity), and building an add-on that will host an elevator and additional stairs, the fully renovated Stissing Center will include a gallery space, room for more varied event hosting, and a projectionist's booth to screen films and documentaries.

An intervening step,



PHOTO BY BRETT BERNARDINI

A scale model of the proposed renovations to the Stissing Center, subject to change.

however, involves funding the overhaul, which comes with a price tag of \$3 million, \$1 million of which will be allocated to replacing the mansard roof. Previous to Bernardini's tenure, the Stissing Center had already developed plans and fundraised for many of the renovations that will take place. From that effort three years back, the organization has \$1.8 million saved away.

However, in the ensuing years, COVID-19 stymied the organization's ability to begin work, and the costs associated subsequently ballooned. So, Bernardini has two plans to fill in the gap and raise the necessary funds, the first of which involves a New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) capital grant for \$1.2 million that TSC has already applied for and will hear back on in May. Bernardini's failsafe is that

he plans to raise \$1 million this year regardless of the NYSCA grant, and that money that will go to renovations if necessary, and be allocated to other operational and programming needs if not.

"We're gonna get to the other side, and we will have what we will have the capacity to deliver on what everybody has invested in through their generosity. Then we will be able to bring that to life, and we won't be fundraising sort of ad nauseam for the next four years. People have been generous, they want results, and we need to deliver those results.... It's like running a road race. It feels great at the beginning, and as you get closer to the end, you're like 'Are we done? Are we done?' I'm excited to finish because frankly, for us, the finishing of the building really represents the beginning. So I'm excited to get there."

AFS

Continued from Page A1

dent Lisa Carter and Region One Board of Education chair Pat Mechare with a plaque from AFS recognizing the high school.

Mpungose said she spent a day shadowing Aiuba around the high school. Aiuba is currently staying with the Downs.

She said she was particularly impressed with the HVRHS cafeteria, which is adorned with the flags of all the countries represented by exchange students who have spent a year at the school.

Andrea Downs said her family has hosted 29 students since 2009, and she keeps in touch with all of them.

She also noted that for much of that time, the Downs home only had one bathroom.

The bathroom schedule was arranged according to who was slowest, and was ruthlessly enforced by her daughter Lydia.

"She'd say 'If you're not out in five minutes I'm coming in,'" said Andrea Downs.

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

We Are Now in Susan Rand's Blue Period

Susan Rand has taken to the water. In a new show, "Sink or Swim," at Standard Space in Sharon, Conn., that will open to the public on April 1, Rand explores a radical departure from her previous country scenics. The quintessential local Litchfield County artist has been showing work in the area for nearly four years, with exhibitions at the library in Salisbury School in Salisbury, Conn., The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, and the former White Gallery in Lakeville, Conn. A Connecticut native, her husband is Salisbury's longtime First Selectman Curtis Rand, whose family tree includes his grandmother, the late Ellen Emmett Rand, a Salisbury painter herself whose portraiture subjects included Franklin D. Roosevelt. (Susan Rand, the niece of Ethel Kennedy, has her own New England Democrat ties.)

Up until now, Rand has been known for her stark scenes of uninhabited rural architecture — open barn doors with interiors obscured in shadow, the aging wood painted in greens that ranged from acidic lime to olive brine, with heavy snow blanketing her landscapes in an unsettling quiet chill. Rand captured the historic quality of the Connecticut landscape,

but also its eerie, private residents who claim multiple acres so as to live out of sight. That quality of unease, or at least, the subtext of voyeurism, is intentional on Rand's part. "To me, it always looks like somebody's watching. There's someone behind the door and you just can't see them," she said of her work during a phone interview.

Her new series takes inspiration from her time away from Connecticut — her yearly trips to a friend's house in the Bahamas and more recently during the pandemic, a studio she rented on the cheap from a vacant artist's residency on Fishers Island, N.Y. Leaving behind painting from life *en plein air*, Rand has let her imagination, and the water, take hold.

"I started working from memory, which was something I've never done before," Rand said. "I'm so used to trying so hard to get the perspective right on buildings, and suddenly I was painting figures from my imagination. I decided to suspend the inner critic and just let myself paint."

Unlike David Hockney, who has continuously returned to a signature blue palette for his California swimming pool

aquamarines, Rand's coastline series deploys a unique shade of blue for each piece. Her exploration of the color never settles, hinting at an artist testing the waters, as it were. With broad, kinetic strokes, Rand's beach scenes largely feature impressions of lonely, moody swimmers, lounging, bathing, even sinking under the surf, but turned away, unaware of Rand's prying gaze.

"I think I had a voice in my architectural paintings — emptiness, isolation — and I think that voice has carried into these new paintings. They're completely different, but that same voice is front and center."

An artist's reception will be held for Rand's "Sink or Swim" at Standard Space on Saturday, April 1 at 4:30 p.m. For more go to www.standardsspace.net



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Night Swim by Susan Rand



Swimmers Number 3 by Susan Rand

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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Falstaff

The Met: Live will present Giuseppe Verdi's "Falstaff" on Saturday, April 1 at 12:30 p.m. Bari-

tone Michael Volle stars as Shakespeare's buffoon. Screenings will be held at both the Warner Theatre in Torrington, Conn., and at The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y.

Bad Grass Series at The White Hart

Toshi Yano, managing director of equity at The Perfect Earth Project, a nonprofit dedicated to improving land care practices, will host the third installment of The Bad Grass Speaker Series on Friday, March 31, at 5:30 p.m. at The White Hart Inn in Salisbury, Conn. Yano has also served as the director of horticulture at Wethersfield Estate and Garden, a 1930s manor open to visitors in Amenia, N.Y. Tickets for this talk can be purchased at www.silvaetpratun.net. Proceeds will benefit The Perfect Earth Project.

Calendar continued on next page

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DANCE: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Nutmeg Ballet Brings 'Beauty' To The Warner Stage

The Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory held its annual spring performances last weekend, just next door to their studio at the neighboring Warner Theatre in Torrington, Conn. Though the city's downtown has seen a recent revitalization of the arts, particularly with the creation of Five Points Gallery and its outposts, Nutmeg Ballet has trained students for over five decades since its founding by Sharon Dante in 1969. Considering its origin as a one-room studio, the ballet conservatory, now under the artistic director of Victoria Mazzarelli, currently takes up an impressive stretch of Main Street.

Nutmeg Ballet's December production of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" has become a regular holiday draw, but the spring performance offered a varied showcase for the conservatory's students to flash their skills in both classic and contemporary choreography. The first act included musical selections that ranged from Joseph Haydn's "Divertimento" composition, Dean Martin's 1960s pop, and a modern score by film and television composer Max Richter. The real treat, however, came in the second act, with beautifully costumed excerpts from Tchaikovsky's "The Sleeping Beauty."

Composed at the end of the 19th century, the

Russian ballet follows the calamitous christening of the cursed princess who falls into a 100-year slumber until awakened by a traveling prince. Nutmeg's production opened with the delightful "Grande Valse Villageoise" known commonly as "The Garland Waltz" with the kingdom's townsfolk performing a jubilant dance of flowers in honor of the princess's 16th birthday. This is the ballet's most famous tune, reworked by Walt Disney as "Once Upon A Dream" for the 1959 animated film.

The celebration then jumped to the ballet's conclusion — the nuptials of Princess Aurora and Prince Désiré, attended by a host of fairy tale characters who perform in succession, granting ensemble members each a turn under the spotlight. Molly Grealis and Andrew Roberts found good comedy as Little Red Riding Hood and The Wolf, while Cameron Sedlack and Nathaniel Penland shone as they maneuvered the challenging wedding pas de deux. The pair that proved to be the particular standout, clad in cerulean feathers, was Julianne Arduino as Princess Florine with the role of The Blue Bird performed by Eli Petraccia, who is, in any age group, a magnificent leaper on the stage.

For more on Nutmeg Ballet and future performances go to www.nutmegconservatory.org



PHOTOS BY LUKE HAUGHWOUT



COURTESY OF CAROL COREY FINE ART

Iris and Poppies IX by Elise Ansel

Now on View At Kent Barnes

Carol Corey Fine Art in Kent, Conn., presents a mix-media group show titled "At Bloom." At Craven Contemporary, "In Conversation with Bruno Leydet" features David Hockney, Nan Goldin and Elizabeth Peyton. An artist's reception for "The Presence of Absence" featuring work by Brett Eberhardt and Gregory Hennen will be held at Kenise Barnes Fine Art on Saturday, April 1 at 4 p.m.

Call For Juried Printmaking Show

Five Points Arts in Torrington, Conn., is now accepting submissions for a juried print exhibition. Artists 18 and older may submit any style of printmaking through Sunday, April 9 at midnight. To apply go to www.fivepointsarts.org

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Charles Busch at The Sharon Playhouse

Tony-nominated actor/director Charles Busch ("Die Mommie Die," "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife") will perform his latest cabaret show, "My Foolish Heart," at The Bok Theater at The Sharon Playhouse in Sharon, Conn., on Saturday, April 15 at 7 p.m. His eclectic songbook includes the best of Michel Legrand, Stephen Sondheim, Henry Mancini and Joni Mitchell. For tickets go to www.sharonplayhouse.org

Kyra Sedgwick and Kevin Bacon at The Moviehouse

Director Kyra Sedgwick and actor Kevin Bacon will present their new film "Space Oddity" with a post-show Q&A at The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y., on Saturday, April 1 at 6: 30 p.m. Sedgwick and Bacon will be joined in conversation on the making of the film by noted producer, director and actor Griffin Dunne. For tickets go to www.themoviehouse.net

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EDITORIAL

Summer internships

It's that time of year when March Madness descends on all of us and when we begin to make big plans for what we'll do outdoors as the landscape warms up and the days get longer. It's also the time when college students begin to think about their summer plans, and start to consider an internship. Emerging from its own pandemic-pinned state, The Lakeville Journal is actively recruiting interns for a summer experience working on a weekly newspaper that serves its distinct community.

Last Saturday, The Journal crossed the state to attend UConn's News Job and Internship Fair. News organizations from Connecticut and Massachusetts were represented in a room on the fourth floor of Oak Hall that became filled with the chatter of rising senior and soon-to-be grads looking for summer employment. The event was sponsored by UConn's Department of Journalism and its Society of Professional Journalists.

It was cold and rainy outside, but there was coffee, bagels and doughnuts for the 50-plus students who showed up, moving from table to table to ask questions and hand over a resume or send a link to their bio on an iPhone to newsroom editors, who described their summer programs. Other news organizations represented included News 8 WTNH-TV, Fox 61 News, WFSB News, The Connecticut Mirror, The Journal Inquirer, The New London Day, The Meriden Record-Journal, The Connecticut Examiner, Western Mass News WGGW-TV and a few others.

The big majority of the student journalists already had acquired substantial experience either at The Daily Campus newspaper in Storrs or by working at other news organizations or in state legislatures or for political campaigns or on government research projects, among many other venues. They were an impressive group.

It was encouraging to see so much journalism crammed into the room at Oak Hall and out into the corridor. Journalism seemed alive and well — although it is on the move. The experience and interests among tomorrow's journalists includes but has reached past the print world to social media, video, television and radio news programming, and blogging, and whatever is coming.

The definition of a news desert, provided by the University of North Carolina's Hussman School of Journalism is: a community, either rural or urban, with limited access to the sort of credible and comprehensive news and information that feeds democracy at the grassroots level. In an ironic note, the Hussman School at UNC, which reports that 225 counties in the United States do not have a local newspaper, also points to Tolland County, the home of Storrs, as a county without a newspaper.

As we have noted here before, The Lakeville Journal, now a 501 (C)(3) organization, owes gratitude to the Northwest Corner community for stepping up with support to keep the presses rolling for its readers. This summer, we look forward to sponsoring our own group of paid summer interns, and we will introduce them to you when they arrive in town.

If you or someone you know would like to be considered for our intern program, please send an email to Susan Hassler, Publisher, The Lakeville Journal Company, susanh@lakevillejournal.com.



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

Springing forth

Deadline for letters is Monday at 10 a.m. Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com.

The views expressed here are not those of The Lakeville Journal and the Journal does not support or oppose candidates for public office.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to Wolcott Hall Nursing

I have recently spent several weeks at Wolcott Hall Nursing Center in Torrington taking part in a short term rehab program. I had never known about this facility

which has been operating on Migeon Avenue for many years.

It was a good experience and I recommend this place for short term rehabilitation.

The staff was very experienced and helpful. The food was good, too.

Sincerely,
Carolyn A McDonough
Canaan

Appeal to stay on point with affordable housing

Recent housing-related letters in these pages seem to reflect more on their authors' need to screech than on the topic of affordability—which is the point of making it possible to balance an aging, often wealthy local population with younger families and workers who can fill gaping job vacancies and inject new life into our communities. Judging by the tone and content of these letters, I fear we often overlook the bigger picture. Affordability is more than just a low rent that a single-income blue-collar family can meet. It's also child care near home or work that enables single parents to earn a living. (In

many communities, often those most challenged to find housing are single moms escaping abuse.) Affordability is easy access to nutritious food, and walkability to stores and services that can free people from dependence on cars whose gas, insurance, maintenance, and tax costs break many budgets. Affordability is a working domestic appliance that reduces reliance on expensive laundromats. It's energy-efficient heating in frosty winters. It's having a quiet, dedicated space in the home where kids can study.

As we think about where to place homes that people can afford, let's not neglect

these and other contextual factors. Let's encourage our few larger employers to invest in the modern equivalent of 'worker's cottages' adjacent to their sites, and to provide transportation to employees who lack it. Let's look into housing sites that could combine commerce with housing and public transport, so we can worry less about cars and their parking spaces. Let's repurpose existing structures to support multi-generational family living. Above all, let's think outside of the ordinary and set our sights high. Imagine how wonderful it would be if our towns could become shining models of thoughtful affordability planning that the rest of the country would emulate. And let's stop bickering—please.

Rob Buccino
Salisbury

Acknowledging 'Doctor's Day'

In recognition of National Doctor's Day, I want to acknowledge the tireless work of our Sharon Hospital doctors, as well as the community physicians who care for patients across our service area.

Here at Sharon Hospital, our physicians are integral to the five-star quality care we provide our patients. Our doctors lead our teams of caregivers as we serve patients in their times of need and guide them to good health. Our medical staff's commitment to the health and wellness of our community is unmatched, and I feel incredibly lucky to be part of this team.

Over the past three years, we've seen this commitment in action as our healthcare providers have navigated a seemingly endless stream

of challenges, stepping up to meet the moment and serve our community at every stage. There is nothing more powerful or inspiring than seeing the impact of our physicians on our tight-knit community.

I have been a physician practicing internal medicine, hospital medicine, and hospice and palliative medicine at Sharon Hospital for nearly 24 years. This National Doctors' Day and every other day, I'm proud to call Sharon Hospital my home and to work alongside some of the most dedicated and caring professionals I know.

So on March 30, I ask that you join Sharon Hospital and Nuvance Health's leadership team, Board of Directors, and staff in wishing our physicians a happy National Doctors' Day and saying, "thank you for all that you do."

Mark J. Marshall, DO, MA, FACP, FHM, FAAHPM
Sharon Hospital Vice President of Medical Affairs

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — March 1923

Louis Goderis is remodeling the cottage he recently purchased next to Best Theater and will move his meat market business there later on.

The community was greatly saddened and shocked when two of our most beloved citizens, Mr. and Mrs. James Winterbottom, passed away. Mr. Winterbottom died Sunday morning March 11th, and Mrs. Winterbottom died on Friday, March 16th. The floral tributes for both at their funeral services were numerous and beautiful, showing the high esteem in which they were held.

Daniel Hanlon of Twin Lakes has purchased a farm near Falls Village and will move there soon. He is going to sell his live stock and farm machinery at public auction April 2nd.

50 years ago — March 1973

A good-sized black bear made an appearance on Beaver Dam Road in Salisbury on Sunday morning, providing a bit of excitement for a family out for a drive. Bill and Jeanne Walsh and their small son Billy spotted the animal in the middle of the road between the Ralph Schwaikert and Alfred E. Brewer homes.

Neil Smith of Canaan found an antique coin last week while searching for arrow heads in Ashley Falls. The coin has been identified as a 1783 Spanish coin. It bears the image of Charles III and the inscription of Carolus III, 1783.

Parents should be aware that their offspring may unknowingly be running up huge telephone bills, calling in music requests to a Hartford radio station. Richard Shanley, local manager for the Southern New England Telephone Co., said that when a teenager dials the station's number to request a song, and all the lines are busy, calls are answered by machines, with recordings telling the callers to redial. Not realizing that each call is a long-distance call completed, the young people keep

Continues next page.

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Mission Statement

The Lakeville Journal Company, Publishers of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News
Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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Viewpoint

Revisiting how and why on anniversary of the Iraq War

Just about twenty years ago (March 20, 2003) the United States and its coalition partners invaded Iraq and began one of America's worst wars in terms of furthering the goal of making the world a safer place. Since then, our natural tendency to forget, aided by the wish of some people who want us not to remember the reality of a war that lasted too long and was quite disastrous, have numbed us to how and why it began.

A refresher is in order. George W. Bush, in his state-of-the-union speech in 2002, his first after the awful events of September 11, 2001, stated, "Terrorists who once occupied Afghanistan now occupy cells at Guantanamo Bay. And terrorist leaders who urged followers to sacrifice their lives are running for their own." He then set new goals, to counter

THE LONG VIEW TOM SHACHTMAN

the activities of the "axis of evil," North Korea, Iraq, and Iran — none of which countries had furnished any of the terrorists who had bombed America. Claiming that any of the three could "provide arms to terrorists, giving them the means to match their hatred," specifically "weapons of mass destruction," he left no doubt as to America's next target: Iraq.

By then, invasion plans were being pushed by Vice-President Dick Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and the neo-conservatives who had taken over the direction and execution of American military

and foreign policy. For at least a decade they had been preparing such an invasion on strategic grounds, as detailed in my 2009 book, "The Forty Years War: The Rise and Fall of the Neocons." And George W. Bush wanted to finish the job left undone by his father, George H. W. Bush — to topple Saddam Hussein.

In 2002-2003, when cooler heads such as General Eric Shinseki, the army's chief of staff, and Thomas White, secretary of the army, objected to the proposed invasion, Shinseki was forced to retire early and White to resign. Others who should have known better, such as Secretary of State Colin Powell, a former general, mounted few objections.

Many rationales were put forth for the war: that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction; that Al Qae-

da was operating there in great force; that we would be spreading democracy by means of our invasion; and that Iraq was no longer necessary to the U.S. as a counterweight to the more dangerous Iran. In subsequent years all would be shown to have been false. And the U.S. admitted they were false before the invasion. In July 2002, the head of British Intelligence Service MI6 was told by his American counterparts during meetings in Washington, as recorded in the latterly-famous Downing Street Memo of July 23, 2002: that "Bush wanted to remove Saddam Hussein through military action, justified by the conjunction of terrorism and WMD (weapons of mass destruction). But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy."

On Aug. 15, 2002, Pres-

ident H. W. Bush's former chief military advisor, Brent Scowcroft, published an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal entitled, "Don't Attack Saddam." Scowcroft cited a "virtual consensus in the world" against such an invasion, on the grounds that it "would seriously jeopardize, if not destroy, the global counter-terrorist campaign we have undertaken" in the wake of 9/11.

Internally, an August CIA memo to the president and other top officials upheld its title, "The Perfect Storm: Planning for the Negative Consequences of Invading Iraq" by naming those bad consequences: anarchy in Iraq, a surge in terrorism around the world, deepening Islamic antipathy to the U.S., Al Qaeda exploiting the circumstances to find new safe havens, declining European confidence in U.S.

leadership, a Taliban resurgence in Afghanistan, and chaos in Pakistan. Almost all of these would eventually come to pass. The memo was ignored.

In November of 2002, in the first national election since 9/11, Republicans gained control of the House and the Senate for the first time under a Republican president since Dwight Eisenhower in the 1950s. That effectively sealed the push for invasion, enabling the pro-war clique in the White House to override any Congressional objections to beginning a pre-emptive war without a declaration of war from Congress.

Salisbury resident Tom Shachtman has written more than two dozen books and many television documentaries. His website is www.tomshachtman.com

Another March Madness: College student gambling

The American Gambling Association estimates that during March Madness this year, 68 million adults will wager \$15.5 billion on the NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Tournament. In Connecticut in 2020 there were about 196,000 college students, the majority of whom were under Connecticut's legal gambling age of 21 for sports betting. However, some students bet with friends. The older friends of legal age place the bets.

March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month in the United States, according to The National Council on Problem Gambling. This is the 13th year the council is making gamblers aware of potential problems associated with gambling in March. Many betting establishments, including lotteries, also participate.

For example, the Connecticut Lottery has a banner on its website stating March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month. The Council estimates that two million adults in the U.S. are pathological gamblers and four to six million exhibit

CT VIEWPOINTS from CT MIRROR C. KEVIN SYNNOTT

mild or moderate gambling problems. The Council also assesses that the average problem gambler's gambling negatively affects seven to 20 other individuals including family and community members.

The council conducts an annual national survey on gambling attitudes and gambling experiences. The 2021 survey shows that those under 35 have a higher risk of problem gambling than other demographics. It is suggested that this demographic be targeted for prevention efforts.

The International Center for Responsible Gambling reports that 6 percent of college students in the U.S. have a serious gambling problem. Students may experience failing grades. The report states teenagers and college students are impulsive and at risk for developing gambling problems. Most adult

gamblers begin gambling at younger ages.

Six states have online casino gambling including Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. The American Gaming Association (AGA) states 33 states and Washington D.C. have legal live and retail sportsbooks as of March 16, 2023. Hawaii, Vermont, Texas, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Missouri, South Carolina, and Minnesota have active legislation to legalize sports betting. States that do not intend to legalize sports betting include California, Alaska, Alabama, Minnesota, Idaho, and Utah.

As more states legalize online betting for casinos, more online legal sports gambling will follow. Sports gambling is growing in popularity. For example, The American Gaming Association reported that Americans bet \$92.2 billion on sports in 2022. This was 72.9 percent higher than 2021, from \$4.34 billion in 2021 to \$7.50 billion in 2022. The following AGA quote shows that Connecticut's iGaming is rapidly increasing:

Combined January 2023 revenue generated by iGaming operations in Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia increased by 20.6 percent year-over-year to \$482.0 million, tying the single-month record from December 2022. All six markets reported annual growth for iGaming revenue with half — CT, MI, NJ — setting single-month state records.

Colleges and universities are entering contracts with gambling companies to promote gambling on their campuses in exchange for millions of dollars. Eight universities are partners with online sports-betting companies and more will follow.

For example, in 2021 Caesars Sportsbook agreed to pay Michigan State University \$8.4 million over five years to promote gambling on campus. Also, Louisiana State University signed a contract with Caesars.

Students, including those under the age of 21, received encouraging emails to bet and receive bonuses for doing so. Many are opposed to college and gambling company partnerships.

L.S.U. journalism Professor Robert Mann is an outspoken critic of the partnerships. "It just feels gross and tacky for a university to be encouraging people to engage in behavior that is addictive and very harmful," he told the New York Times. Connecticut Sen. Rich-

ard Blumenthal sent a letter to Caesars Sportsbook & Casino on Nov. 25, 2020. He urged them to "end its practice of targeting colleges and universities, discontinue any existing partnerships with schools, and abide by industry standards that prohibit marketing to college students."

Our students are clearly being targeted to engage or continue to engage in gambling. Colleges and universities are entering partnerships with gambling companies for revenue in exchange for encouraging students to gamble. Students are vulnerable and need to be informed of the problems associated with gambling. Most schools have prevention programs for alcohol

and other health issues. Most do not have specific gambling prevention programs.

It is paramount that schools develop programs or buttress existing programs to provide students with the information they need to make informed decisions regarding gambling.

C. Kevin Synnott, PhD, is a Lecturer of Management and Marketing in the Department of Business Administration at Eastern Connecticut State University.

The Journal occasionally will offer articles from CTMirror.org, a source of nonprofit journalism and a partner with The Lakeville Journal.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES NORMA BOSWORTH

Continued from previous page.

dialing until they can make their requests. In one known case, a teenager ran up his parents' normal \$9 monthly bill to \$303.

A report from John DeCesare indicates that as of Feb. 19 the Housatonic River was running clearer than it has in 20 years.

25 years ago — March 1998

A national effort to restore a Gettysburgh, Pa. statue of Civil War leader and Cornwall native Major General John Sedgwick has called attention to the renowned work of local sculptor Neil Estern, who was instrumental in restoring Cornwall's own Sedgwick monument.

The latest showcase for Mr. Estern's work, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, lies near the edge of the Potomac River's tidal basin amid an idyllic setting of cherry trees in the nation's capitol. The Cornwall sculptor was recently awarded a National Academy medal for his efforts.

Lt. Sarah Kasacek has returned to Troop B for the third time in her 18-year career with the state police. This time she's in charge. Lieutenant Kasacek replaced Lt. Benjamin Pagom who commanded the troop since last September. Lt. Pagom is now the commander of the office of Projects and Research in Middletown.

Correcting Errors

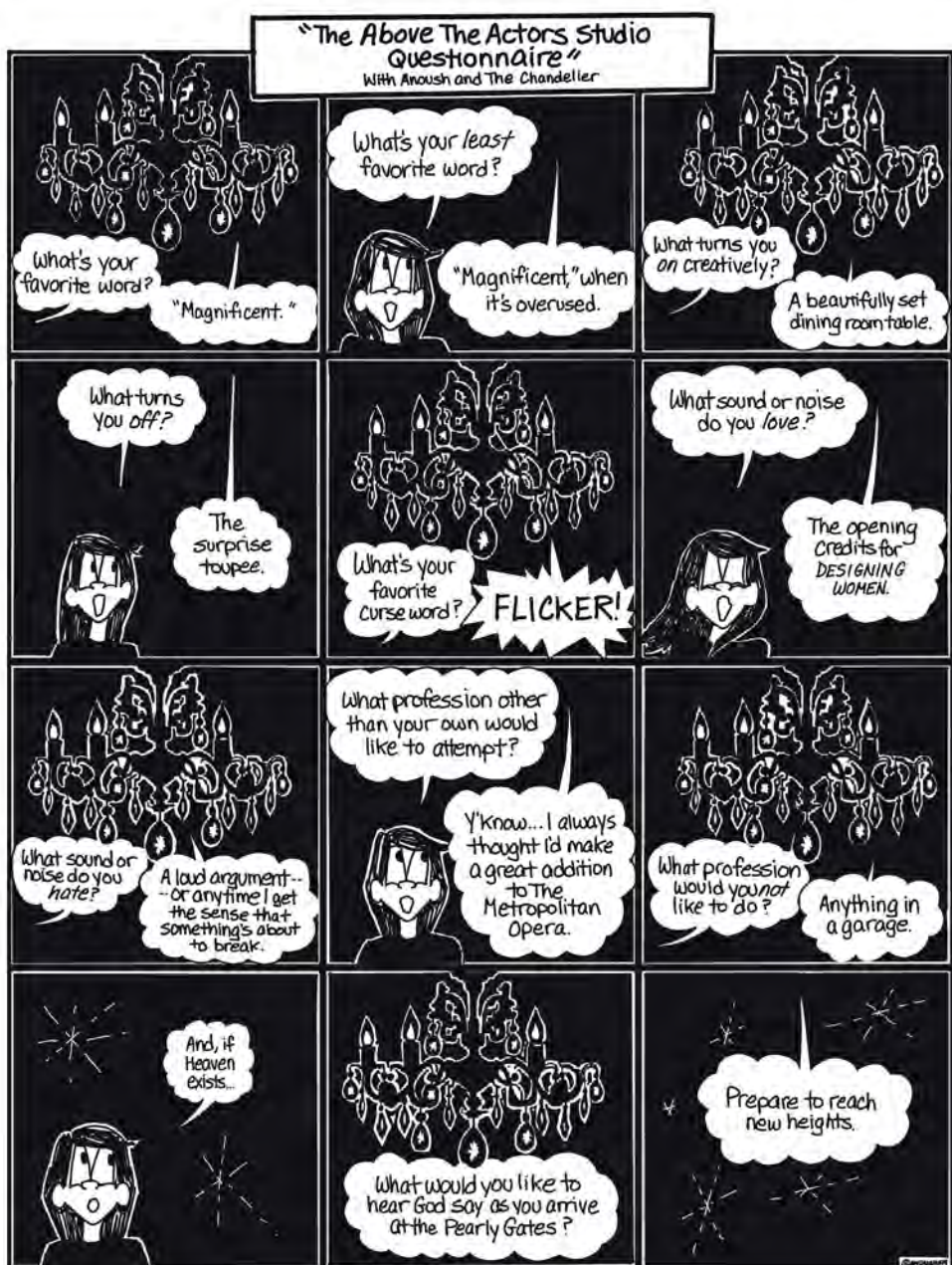
We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.

Do you have a family member or friend in the military who would be interested in the news from home?

Remember

The Lakeville Journal Company offers free online subscriptions to our website, tricornenews.com, for active duty military personnel from the Tri-state region. For more information or to set up a subscription, contact Sandra Lang at circulation@lakevillejournal.com or 860-435-9873, ext. 301.

With thanks to those who serve.



Anoush Talks by Anoush Froundjian

Realtor® at Large

Fishing season is another harbinger of spring and some of the best freshwater fishing can be found here in the Northwest Corner. A fishing license can be purchased either at your Town Hall, sporting shops or on the CTDEEP website under Online Sportsmen Licensing. Both Lakeville Lake and East Twin Lakes have already been stocked with trout by CTDEEP. In addition, the Farmington and Housatonic Rivers offer some of the finest fly fishing experiences available for both brown and rainbow trout. For more information, please visit the Freshwater Fishing Guide found at the CTDEEP website.



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HELP WANTED

ISABELLA FREEDMAN JEWISH RETREAT CENTER: is a year-round 120-person retreat facility that is located in Falls Village, CT. New employees are eligible for a signing bonus of \$1,000. At the time of hire, the new employee will receive \$250. After 45 days, provided they have no active disciplinary issues, the new employee will receive the remaining \$750. Want to work at a beautiful, peaceful location, with great people? This is the place to be! We are currently seeking positions for our kitchen including a full time and part time Cook. For more details please visit our website at <https://adamah.org/careers/> or email a copy of your resume to jobs@adamah.org.

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HELP WANTED

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FINE ART

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The Lakeville Journal Company seeks an administrative assistant/development associate to provide administrative support to the Publisher and development support for its nonprofit fundraising activities.

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For more information and to apply, please contact Susan Hassler at publisher@lakevillejournal.com.

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Contact: Bonney Brook
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Trinity Church Wall Street Retreat Center is seeking housekeepers. The Housekeepers are responsible for cleaning and preparing guest rooms, chapel, meeting rooms, common areas and restrooms at Trinity Retreat Center, including vacuuming, garbage, stripping beds, cleaning dining room, and dusting. Ensure that rooms are ready for visiting guests, including set-up to welcome guests and for programs. The payrate for this position is \$22 an hour.

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Trinity Church Wall Street requires all candidates for employment or contract assignments, regardless of work location, to be fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19, and to show proof of vaccination to Human Resources or Safety and Security prior to meeting with prospective managers. Newly hired staff and contractors must be fully vaccinated by their start date. Applicants unable to comply with this policy due to an underlying medical condition or sincerely held religious belief may be eligible for an accommodation, unless such an accommodation would be unduly burdensome or present a direct threat to Trinity Church's employees, its congregation, or vulnerable members of the communities it serves.

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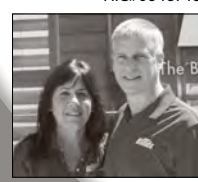
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