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

REGION ONE

Budget rises by 2.2% for 2023-24

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Region One Board of Education finalized the proposed spending plan for 2023-24 at the regular board meeting Monday, March 6. The spending plan's increase is 2.2%, lower than the 2.76% the board was considering in February.

The public hearing is Thursday, April 6 and the referendum is Tuesday, May 2.

The Region One budget has three parts: Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS), Pupil Services (which includes spe-

cial education), and the Regional Schools Services Center (RSSC).

The proposed spending plan budgets \$8,631,818 for HVRHS, an increase of \$200,562 (2.38%).

Pupil Services is \$6,733,362, an increase of \$50,291 (.76%).

RSSC is \$1,667,147, an increase of \$114,875 (7.4%).

The bottom line is \$17,032,327, an increase of \$366,358.

Jenn Duncan, the Kent representative and a member of the budget subcommittee, said the budget proposal includes a 4% sal-

See BUDGET, Page A8

Gaschel-Clark to take reins at Pupil Services

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Rebecca Gaschel-Clark will take over as Director of Pupil Services in Region One on July 1.

The Region One Board of Education made the decision to hire Gaschel-Clark to replace the retiring Martha Schwaikert at the regular board meeting Monday, Feb. 6.

Gaschel-Clark has been with Region One for 29 years spending

the majority of her teaching career at Salisbury Central School and has been the Region's Supervisor of Special Education since October of 2021.

In a statement, Region One Superintendent Lisa Carter wrote "Rebecca is the natural choice for this position given her special education expertise, her leadership skills and her long-standing rela-

See PUPIL SERVICES, Page A8

Legislature could end requirement for legal notices in newspapers

By Ginny Monk
CT Mirror

Connecticut towns have been required for decades to publish legal notices in newspapers, but a bill before the General Assembly — along with a recent Appellate Court decision — could clear the way for legal publication on town websites instead.

State law requires that government agencies publish notifications of certain policy changes and meetings in a local newspaper with "substantial" circulation in the town. Fenwick, a small borough of Old

"It is imperative these notices are published by a credible and independent body."

Mike DeLuca, publisher of Hearst Connecticut Media Group and president of the Connecticut Daily Newspapers Association

Saybrook with about 50 residents, has historically sent these notices to the Middletown Press.

But when the borough's zoning board passed a policy banning certain short-term rentals, residents sued, saying the town hadn't provided sufficient notification.

Last week, the Connecticut appeals court upheld the lower court's decision and ruled that publishing

in the Middletown Press wasn't enough, because the Press has no subscribers in Fenwick. The Hartford Courant has fewer than five subscribers who get the printed paper, officials said.

"We recognize that the newspaper industry has undergone significant changes since the legislature first imposed the obligation on municipalities to publish notice in a newspaper with 'substantial circulation,' in that municipality," the court's opinion says. "We also are mindful, of course, that the widespread availability of access to the Internet may justify, from a public policy perspective, permitting a municipality to publish legal no-

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PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Above, from left, Salisbury Central School students Angelica Rebeca Barrutia, Jackson Magyar, and Kellan Lockton decorated Ukrainian eggs at the Kent School during this year's Fourth Grade Arts Day on March 8. Left, Galo Suby, a fourth grader at the Sharon Center School, created a needle-felted Yankees pouch.

Students back in action at Arts Day

By Riley Klein

KENT — Fourth graders from across Region One gathered at Kent School on March 8 for the 27th annual Fourth Grade Arts Day. The yearly event featured 10 creative workshops and three performances from area artists and entertainers.

After opening remarks from Superintendent Lisa Carter, students were broken into groups to take part in the range of crafts and activities.

"It's so great to be back for our grade four Arts Day," said Carter. "We're back in full force like pre-COVID days."

The workshops aimed to encourage creative expression in the students and shed light on the varying career paths that exist in the arts world. Workshops included both visual and performance-based arts and were led by creators from the community.

Among the visual arts were lessons on narrative photography,

needle felting, and decorating Ukrainian eggs. As for performance arts, fourth graders took part in hip-hop dance lessons, songs and dance of Mexico, and theater fun.

Each group went to one visual workshop and one performance workshop over the course of the day. Brodyn Huang-Stack, a student from Sharon Center School, attended needle felting during his group's morning workshop session.

See ARTS DAY, Page A8

North Canaan joins in calls to discuss railroad spraying

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — The coalition of towns and representatives seeking answers from Housatonic Railroad Company (HRC) has grown larger.

During their monthly meeting on March 6, North Canaan's Selectmen agreed to join concerned parties in Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent and Salisbury in their quest to discuss herbicide spraying

practices with HRC.

Representatives and residents have expressed concern over the types of herbicides used along the track that runs through the towns and the adverse effects it could have on the surrounding environment.

"We are working on developing a regional approach to the problem of herbicide spraying along the Housatonic Railroad," said Selectmen

See RAILROAD, Page A8

Regional

COG hears student conservation report

By Riley Klein

GOSHEN — Conservation efforts have ramped up from coast to coast as the nation works to achieve President Joe Biden's "America the Beautiful" executive order. Looking to expand conservation in the area, the Northwest Hills Council of Governments (COG) reviewed a series of environmental studies during its March 9 meeting.

The report from students at the Conway School in Northampton, Massachusetts, provided the COG with information on the present state of conservancy in the area and suggested ways to further protect the environment.

"22.6% of the region is currently conserved," said Conway student Shayne Geiger while addressing the COG.

Their report offered insight on how the Northwest corner can work toward achieving the federal 30 by 30 conservation goal, which aims to protect 30% of all

lands and waters nationwide by the year 2030. A Conway study found that of the 735 miles of river that traverse the region, 178 (24%) are currently impaired due to high levels of bacteria.

The presentation stated that protection and restoration of riparian zones around impaired rivers could improve water quality and create jobs through local and federal funding programs.

"There's also a need to continue, as land trusts are doing, to prioritize those ecologically important areas," said Conway's Carrie Gotwals.

Gotwals explained that acquiring lands adjacent to protected parcels can increase habitat connectivity and promote climate resilience by facilitating species migration.

Following the presentation, town leaders provided updates on their municipalities during an information sharing round table. Budget requests and inflation were common topics across the board as towns have been preparing spending plans for the fiscal year. Members of the COG pointed to rising education, health care,

"Large sections of rivers do run through unprotected zones."

Shayne Geiger, Conway School

and energy costs among the leading causes of increased expenses this year.

Norfolk First Selectman Matthew Riiska informed the COG that his town was "breaking ground as we speak" on a 5-megawatt solar project at their transfer station. Riiska said the project is expected to be completed by late summer.

Salisbury First Selectman Curtis Rand provided an update on affordable housing in his town. He said there are "over 80 proposed units of affordable housing on acreage that the town owns." Rand

said these projects were made possible through new zoning regulations that allowed for the creation of high-density zones in the village centers.

Falls Village and Cornwall reported that the long-awaited installation of high-speed internet cable has begun in their towns. Falls Village First Selectman Henry Todd said that internet service provider Frontier is "covering about 85% of our town," and First Selectman Gordon Ridgway informed the COG that Optimum has started to install fiber optic cable across Cornwall.

During this meeting, the COG agreed to move forward with acquiring a new office at 355 Goshen Road in Litchfield.

Town plan workshop March 25

FALLS VILLAGE — Falls Village is updating its 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development and, as part of that process, the Planning and Zoning Commission has scheduled a public meeting to get input from residents. The workshop meeting is scheduled for Saturday March 25, 10 a.m. to noon

at the Lee H. Kellogg School.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for residents to identify issues of concern and suggest priorities and strategies for the updated plan. The meeting will also include a summary of the results from the on-line survey conducted in January.

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.

Failure to grant right of way

On Friday, March 3 at approximately 11 p.m. troopers responded to the intersection of Amenia Road and Sharon Valley Road for a report of a two car accident. Marius Deaconesa, 55, of Cliffside Park, New Jersey, was traveling southbound in a tractor trailer on Sharon Valley Road, and failed to grant a right of way at the intersection, causing a collision with a 2021 Toyota Rav4 driven by Armin Allen, 75, of New York City. Deaconesa was found at fault and given a warning for failure to grant

right of way at an intersection.

Sideswiped two vehicles

On Friday, March 10 at approximately 1:30 p.m. Christine Brazeau, 71, of Canaan, was traveling southbound on Route 7 in Canaan and sideswiped two unoccupied vehicles parked on the southbound shoulder. Her 2003 Volkswagen Jetta sustained disabling damage and was towed. The parked vehicles sustained minor damage. Brazeau was issued a verbal warning for failure to maintain lane.

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

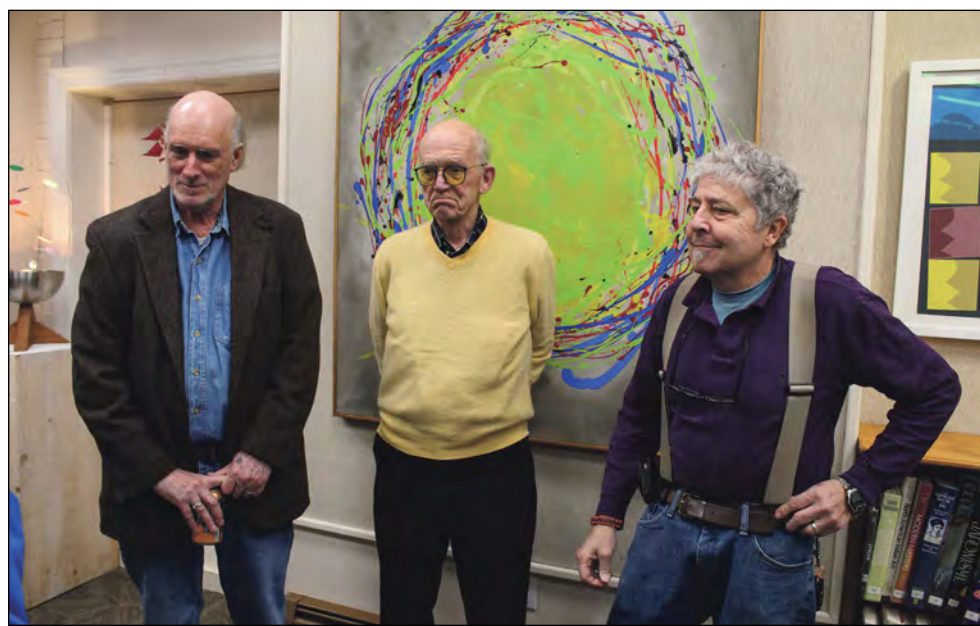


PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

From left, artists Joel Foster of Wassaic, David Crum of Millerton and Richard Griggs of West Cornwall posed for photos at the opening of their show "Shape+Color+Movement" at the David M. Hunt Library Saturday, March 11.

North Canaan Fire Co. receives gift

NORTH CANAAN — Former junior firefighter Ben Wohlfert has provided a \$15,000 donation to the Canaan Fire Company.

The Canaan Fire Company recently launched its yearly appeal, outlining the need to replace equipment that has been in service for over 30 years.

The members of the Canaan Fire Company recognize Wohlfert's commitment to support the organization.

The Canaan Fire Company is made up of all volunteers.

Online This Week

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Board considers Troutbeck expansion.

Planning board hears from hydrogeologist. Go to www.tricornernews.com

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF CAROLINE K. MOLLER Late of Lakeville (23-00069)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated February 28, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is: Kurt L. Moller c/o Charles C Kinglsey Wiggin and Dana LLP One Century Tower PO Box 1832 New Haven, CT 06508 Beth L. McGuire Chief Clerk 03-16-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF DEBRA ANNE FREUND AKA Debra A. Freund (23-00091)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated March 2, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such

claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is: Benjamin J. Freund c/o Michael Dennis Rybak Guion Stevens Rybak LLP 93 West Street P.O. Box 338 Litchfield, CT 06759 Megan M. Foley Clerk 03-16-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF DONALD K. ROSS Late of Lakeville (22-00443)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated March 2, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is: Helen K. Ross c/o Alyson R Aleman Borner Smith Aleman Herzog & Cerrone, LLC 155 Providence Street PO Box 166 Putnam, CT 06260 Megan M. Foley Clerk 03-16-23

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application #2023-0209 by owner 343 MS Restoration LLC for change of use to multifamily/high turnover restaurant/mixed use commercial and a use rendering more than 30% of the lot impervious in the Aquifer Protection Overlay District at 343 Main Street, Lakeville, Map 45, Lot 26 per Sections 209.2, 205.2, and 403.4 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The hearing will be held on Monday, March 20, 2023 at 7:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The application, agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at www.salisburyct.us. Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to aconroy@salisburyct.us. Paper copies may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
Martin Whalen, Secretary
03-09-23
03-16-23

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Our Towns

New faces, strategic plan at Center on Main

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Center on Main held a lively open house Saturday, March 11, to introduce Brook Martinez as the new creative administrator and to promote the Center's new strategic plan.

Martinez' singing group, the Galactic Overtones, performed, as did cast members from the upcoming Falls Village Children's Theater production of "Frog and Toad."

Director Amber Cameron noted that only half the children were available and that they were two weeks from the show's opening on Friday, March 24.

None of that seemed to matter to the young performers, who sang with enthusiasm and precision.

Center on Main board president Adam Sher said that, with the help of grant funds from the Foundation for Community Health, the Center was able to hire Martinez and develop the strategic plan, which includes developing the space as a creative hub and maintaining the elegant but elderly building.



The Galactic Overtones performed at the Center on Main's open house on Saturday, March 11 to promote the center's new strategic plan.

Finance board gets first look at town, school budgets

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Board of Finance received the initial 2023-24 budget proposals from the town Board of Education, the Region One Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen on Thursday, March 9.

The budget proposal for Salisbury Central School is \$6,356,813, increase of 3.05% (\$188,416).

The town's assessment for the proposed Region One budget is \$4,176,112, an increase of \$179,664.

Total education spending for 2023-24 is \$10,532,766, an increase of \$367,921 (3.62%).

The municipal budget proposal is \$8,217,830, an increase of \$466,583 (6%).

First Selectman Curtis Rand said some of the increase is going to two new positions at Town Hall, assistants to Comptroller Joe Cleaveland and Land Use Administrator Abby Conroy.

Rand also said the increase in town spending will probably not require a hike in the mill rate when revenues are factored in.

The Board of Finance will reconvene Tuesday, March 21 (online) to receive the final budget proposals and vote to send them to a public hearing.

Selectmen discuss train station renovations

By Matthew Kreta

SALISBURY — The renovation of the Lakeville train station topped the agenda of the Salisbury Board of Selectmen's held regular meeting held online Monday, Mar. 6.

The selectmen discussed the ongoing renovations and lifting of the Lakeville train station. Firstly, there is an 80 page assessment by Crosskey Architects available on the town website (click on "town documents").

The report states that at a minimum, the building will need to be lifted, but it is also possible the building will be moved slightly back for its protection and receive a new foundation. It may also be spun 180 degrees. If all of these options were done together, the total price of all renovations is \$731,480. It will not be moved from the site entirely. The selectmen are still debating what to do, but are in conversation with the State Historic Pres-

ervation Office and will be pursuing further grants and funding.

First Selectman Curtis Rand reminded residents of Salisbury that as spring approaches, bears are coming out of hibernation. Rand urged citizens to carefully manage their garbage, and take in bird feeders and seeds. Rand also reminded everyone there are tips and instructions on the website to minimize interaction with bears, as well as the fact that

those caught purposefully feeding bears are subject to a state ordinance and a fine.

The selectmen briefly discussed ongoing ideas on how to incentivize affordable housing in a private way. A report has been given to them on what is possible in regards to the state of Connecticut, and they are looking into a few feasible options with the assistance of the town attorney. "It's not over, we just have to keep plugging away at it," Rand said.

The selectmen are hearing bids from contractors to construct a sidewalk from Lincoln City Road to Brook Street. There is \$458,000 in state grant money for this effort. "The ends are coming together," Selectman Christian Williams said. The construction should begin this spring.

Selectman Don Mayland reported that the Water Pollution Control Authority will impose a small rate increase this year.

Fiber optic internet comes to Cornwall

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — The wait for high-speed internet in Cornwall is nearly over as fiber optic cable has begun to roll out across town. The dozen-or-so Optimum trucks and work crews were a topic of conversation during Cornwall's Board of Selectmen meeting on March 7.

"Probably the biggest excitement in town this week has been the army of trucks and bundles of cable that is being installed all over town," said First Selectman Gordon Ridgway. "It's impressive to see how much cable is being put out."

Ridgway said Optimum has not provided a timetable in regard to activating the new system. He has been in contact with the internet provider and will provide updates as they arise.

Frontier has also begun fiber optic installation in Cornwall, albeit on a smaller scale.

"We may go from zero to a competitive fiber environment," Ridgway said, adding that he plans to get in touch with Frontier to learn more about its expansion to Cornwall.

Following a request for a budget increase to Project SAGE (formerly Women's Support Services), the non-profit's director Betsey Mauro attended the March 7 meeting to provide additional information to the Board. Project SAGE offers support services to victims of domestic violence across the Northwest corner.

"SAGE is an acronym, which means support, advocate, guide, and educate," said Mauro. "That's the essence of what we do."

Project SAGE requested a \$1,500 annual budget increase from Cornwall to bring their total to \$3,000. Mauro said the funds are needed due to increased demand in services across their catchment area.

"Over the last two years we've had a 30% increase in our client load," said Mauro. She added that their 24/7 hotline saw a 65% increase and the services they offer in Torrington Court went up by 44%.

Mauro said Project SAGE is funded from a range of sources including grants, individual donors, fundraising, and local governments. The Board voted unanimously to approve Project SAGE's request.

"Betsey does a wonderful job and it is so needed by so many people," said Selectwoman Priscilla Pavel.

Ridgway provided an update on the town's composting project, for which an application was recently submitted to the state. He said there was a "slight development" when a response was received to inform the town that their transfer station is a habitat for the bog turtle.

The Board has a pre-application meeting with their application concierge scheduled for Wednesday, March 15.

"She, I believe, is going to send us some guidance on how to make our project friendly for endangered species," said Ridgway.

During public comment, a reporter informed the Board that Cornwall had been ranked as number 100 on a list of the 150 best small towns to visit in the United States by familydestinationsguide.com.

When asked about their message to potential visitors, Ridgway said, "There are a lot of reasons to come here and there's also a lot of reasons to live here."

"It's always good to be recognized," added Ridgway. "I always feel like the town is enriched by new people coming, visiting, even for a short period of time."

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GOVERNMENT REGULATION: REALLY?

Carol Browner
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Ms. Browner will be interviewed by Vivian Garfein, former Director of the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, Central District, now a resident of the Northwest Corner, and a member of the Salisbury Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

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OBITUARIES

Hope Ann (MacDaniel) Tindall

ANCRAMDAL — Hope Ann (MacDaniel) Tindall, 51, of 525 County Route 8, passed away suddenly at her home on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. She was the wife of the late William D. Tindall who passed March 14, 2022. Hope was born July 5, 1971, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, daughter of the late Harold G. MacDaniel, Sr. and Betty (McCarthy) MacDaniel. She was raised in Stratford, Connecticut, and spent most of her life in Connecticut. Hope was a proud wife, mother, and sister. She loved her family with all her heart. Nothing mattered more to her. Hope was very intelligent and strong and she raised her daughters to be the same. She was able to complete a number of courses at Northeast University. This was a source of great pride to Hope. She was the most caring woman you could ever meet. Hope had a heart of gold. She will be forever missed. She is survived by her two daughters; Patience and Mercy Tindall both of Anctramdale. Hope is also survived by her sister Johanna



Tweed and her husband Gary of Falls Village, Connecticut; brothers Harold G. MacDaniel Jr. and his wife Lisa of Florida; Thomas MacDaniel and his fiancée Dee Eastwood of Stratford, Connecticut; Richard MacDaniel and his wife Tracy of Stratford, Connecticut; and William MacDaniel of Millerton. Hope is also survived by her sister-in-law Kathleen Saja of West Haven, Connecticut, and her best friend Beverly Dean of Torrington, Connecticut. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Graveside services will be held on Thursday, March 16, at 2:00 pm in the Mountain View Cemetery, Sand Road North Canaan, CT 06018. Memorial donations may be sent to a Go Fund Me Account for the benefit of Patience and Mercy or can be forwarded to the funeral home. The link for the Go Fund Me Account is www.gofund.me/7a5d39cd

Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home PO Box 815 118 Main St. Canaan, CT 06018

Austin Perry Solis

MILLERTON — Austin Perry Solis, 33, a resident of Millerton, since 2022, formerly of California, passed away on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. Austin was an accomplished, self-employed audio engineer in California prior to moving to the East Coast, where he worked as a craftsman for The Hudson Company, a custom wood mill specializing in reclaimed wood flooring, paneling and beams, located in Pine Plains.

Born June 7, 1989, in Bakersfield, California, he was the son of Mario Solis of Fresno, California and Kimberly Commerford of Santa Rosa, California. He earned an Associate's degree in music from California State University Los Angeles, where he also trained for his career as an audio and sound engineer. Austin was an avid guitar player and also enjoyed writing songs, playing synthesizers, skateboarding, cooking, playing hacky sack, going on walks in nature, and visiting the Sonoma Coast. On July 1, 2021, in Santa Rosa, he married the love of



his life, Heather Seney.

Heather survives in Millerton. In addition to his wife and parents, Austin is survived by his loving grandfather, Stanley Commerford of Santa Rosa, California; beloved sister, Ariana Solis of Olympia, Washington; two adoring nieces, Niya and Emmy Ryan, also of Olympia; and two loving uncles Kenyon Commerford and Kevin Commerford, both of Santa Rosa. There are no calling hours. Funeral services will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to Music Will, P.O. Box 43369, Montclair, NJ 07043, (musicwill.org) or Guitars in the Classroom, 1286 University Ave #389, San Diego, CA 92103 (guitarsintheclassroom.org).

To send an online condolence to the family, plant a tree in Austin's memory, or to send a floral tribute to the family, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

Nancy (Chase) Morey

NORTH CANAAN — Nancy (Chase) Morey, 81, formerly of 30 Devine Ave., passed peacefully with her beloved daughter Sherrie by her side on Saturday, March 11, 2023, at Noble Horizons. She was the wife of the late Arthur Morey, Jr. Nancy was born Oct. 16, 1941, in Kent, daughter of the late Jason and Hazel (Courtney) Chase.

Nancy loved to help her family and friends. She took this passion and made a career out of it. She was employed for many years as a CNA at the Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in North Canaan. Nancy loved classic country music and whistling along to the songs. She was an accomplished baker and enjoyed hosting holiday feasts for her family. She enjoyed her soap operas, and would even record them so she wouldn't miss an episode. She loved butterflies and collecting bells. Nancy rooted for the Dallas Cowboys, and enjoyed Christmas shopping, but even more

than that, she loved giving those gifts to her many family and friends. Nancy was known to have the qualities of a saint. A gift she shared with everyone.

Nancy is survived by her daughter Sherrie Heath of Canaan, and her son Jason Morey of Cornwall. She is also survived by her stepsons: Arlen Morey of Falls Village; Wiley Morey and Travis Morey both of Sheffield, Massachusetts, and Troy Morey of Canaan; her brother Wayne Chase of Torrington and her four grandchildren Marcus, Sarah, Tristan, and Karina and her three great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Nancy's life will be held on Sunday, March 19, at 2:00 p.m. in the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home, 118 Main St., Canaan, CT 06018. A reception honoring Nancy's life will be held at the VFW Couch Pipa Post 6851, 104 South Canaan Road Canaan, CT 06018 immediately following the services at the funeral home.

SALISBURY — Ronald B. Durning died peacefully at Noble Horizons on March 5, 2023, at the age of 96.



Ronald Durning was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on Dec. 22, 1926, the older of two children of Cecelia Bresler and Alvin C. Durning. As a child, he attended the Isadore Newman School in New Orleans and as a young man, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy. He later received a degree from Tulane University.

Ron began his professional career at the New Orleans Public Service Corp. Two years later he joined Mutual of New York in their New Orleans office. He was selected to enroll in their management training program which required a move to New York and was quickly promoted to manage his own agency in New York City. His agency was consistently one of the leaders in the company and a member of the "Topper Club." Ron later successfully launched and grew Compensation Programs, Inc., a national employee benefits consulting firm. He sold the company in 1975 to Corroon & Black, a major insurance company in the United States. He then was President and CEO of NYSE-listed Alpine Geophysical, Inc., a petroleum services company with offices in New York City, Alpine, New Jersey, and Rome, Italy. Throughout his career, he formed a number of other companies with ties to the insurance and financial world. He also undertook other ventures including a New England resort hotel and two Scarsdale, New York restaurants, The Frog Prince Proper and Chase Landing. In 1993, he turned his attention to commercial and residential real estate development and sales with Country Properties Real Estate in South Egremont and Sheffield, Massachusetts.

Ron was an organized, hardworking, competitive, productive, disciplined take-charge leader with many interests. He dressed impeccably and was always the gentleman. Ron loved sports and was a passionate tennis and paddle tennis player. He played football and ran track in high school. Ron was an avid Yankees and New York Giants fan. He was a lifelong reader with a tremendous memory, and a New York Times crossword puzzle solver. He had a great sense of humor and it seemed he could remember every joke ever told to him (but was

known to burst into laughter before delivering the punch line). Ron loved learning about other places, flew on the Concorde, and traveled to all fifty states and far off places around the world.

In 1950, he married Doris Charbonnet, also of New Orleans.

Three years later they moved to Hartsdale and soon thereafter to Scarsdale, New York to pursue Ron's career and to raise their family. He and Doris had ten children whom he adored. His children were proud that he was their father, rightly figuring that he was a cut above the rest. He was a sentimental father and husband, always warmly greeting his family and easily brought to tears reciting a poem or reading one of his own. Ron was an exceptionally successful football and softball coach for his children's teams and provided a college education for ten children. Ron and his wife, Doris, purchased a vacation home on Cedar Crest Road in the Twin Lakes area in the mid-Sixties, thus beginning his long relationship and affection for the Berkshires and Salisbury in particular. He served for a time as president of the Twin Lakes Beach Club. About this time, he earned his private pilot's license, purchasing a small plane (call sign "Bonanza 1043 Alpha"). He flew it frequently around the country for both business and pleasure.

Together, Ron and Doris, provided a fun and varied upbringing for their children. In 1974, Doris, his wife of nearly twenty-five years died. He married Judy Edge, also of Scarsdale. They were married for fourteen years. In 1998, he married Sylvia Stewart. They had known each other since 1956, when she came to work at Mutual of New York. Since marrying 25 years ago, Ron and Sylvia spent almost every day together enjoying each other's company in and around Sheffield, Massachusetts, the Twin Lakes area of Salisbury and the last ten years at Noble Horizons. During these years they received frequent visits from family and friends and travelled to many places including Toronto, Seattle, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, the United Kingdom and Kyoto, Japan for special events with family. They were married until the time of his death.

Ron's greatest legacy, source of happiness and fulfillment came from his children and grandchildren,

perhaps because of or in spite of having so many of them. Doris and Ron had ten and eventually 18 grandchildren. Ron and Sylvia had one child and a grandchild for a total of 19. He is survived by his wife, Sylvia, and children Ronald B. Durning, Jr. (Skip) and his wife, Margie, of Williamstown, Massachusetts, Michael C. Durning and his wife, Debbie, of Charlotte, North Carolina, Steven C. Durning-Hammond and his wife, Dawn Durning-Hammond, of Holliston, Massachusetts, Diane C. Wolinsky and her husband, Nate, of Newburgh, New York, Quentin C. Durning and his wife, Heidi, of Iwakura, Japan, Christopher E. Durning and his wife, Renee, of Concord, Massachusetts, David M. Durning and his wife, Cathy, of Winnetka, Illinois, John P. Durning and his wife, Susan, of Libertyville, Illinois, Heidi Harris and her husband, Rob, of Toronto, Canada, and Jennifer E. Durning and her husband, Geoff Tennican, of Wilson, Wyoming;

and nineteen grandchildren (Matthew and Peter Durning, Jonathan and Alexander Durning, Jonah and Laurel Durning-Hammond, Ben Durning, Chandra and Ryan Durning, Juliana and Benjamin Durning, Jessica, Malcolm and Clayton Durning, Allie, Sarah and Jack Durning, Amanda Harris-Saenz) and eight great-grandchildren.

Ron Durning was preceded in death by his brother, Marvin B. Durning of Seattle in 2013, his daughter, Cynthia A. Durning in 1977 and his granddaughter, Emily M. Durning in 2017.

A gathering will take place at a future date when Ron's family can come together in the beautiful northwest corner of Connecticut to share treasured memories and their love for him.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Noble Horizons for their warm and loving care. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Noble Horizons Education Fund.

Ronald B. Durning



Worship Services

Week of March 19, 2023

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

<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>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.stthomasamemia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p> <p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. 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 trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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 jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer Pastor Sun Yong Lee 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE 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 ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online Bible studies and Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3003 Rev. Robert Landback The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge MASS SCHEDULE SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart WEEKDAY MASSES Monday & Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart Tuesday 9 AM - St. Bernard</p>
<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email Rev. Mary Gates at: nmgates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.</p>
<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Lenten Services on Website Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>	
<p>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</p>	

In Memoriam:

Ed O'Dell

The premise of the book "The Five People You Meet In Heaven" (by Mitch Abram) is that when you enter heaven you encounter five people who you might not realize have had a significant impact on your life. When I (hopefully) get into heaven I'm sure that Ed O'Dell will be waiting there to greet me. I first met Ed when him mom, Donna, worked at the hospital and Ed was a tough, rambunctious teenager, always getting into trouble. When he married Cindy and they raised their daughter, Ariel, he became a dedicated husband and dad, and worked hard to build his landscaping and handyman business.

Although our lives couldn't have been more different, I knew my family and I could always depend on Ed. He watched over our home and our business with

great care, playing a significant role in keeping everything in good working order. His gruff sense of humor was only surpassed by his kindness. Having hired him to plow our office parking lot, Ed would also take the time to scrape off the snow and ice from our office staffs' cars, and would often be on hand to make sure their cars would start before heading home for the evening. He wasn't asked to do this — it's just the sort of guy he was — to often show a little extra kindness.

Abram's book also notes that "Fairness doesn't govern life and death... if it did, no good person would ever die young." Ed died too young and he will continue to be sorely missed by me and my family, who always considered him a friend.

Dr. Jerry Roth
West Cornwall

Our Towns

Sap is running at Audubon

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SHARON — In case you were wondering what to do with your staghorn sumac, Bethany Sheffer of the Sharon Audubon Center's got you covered.

Sheffer and other Audubon staff and volunteers were out in force on Sunday, March 13, at the center in Sharon for the 2023 Maple-Fest.

Guided tours went up the trail, pausing at sugar maple trees, adorned with sap collecting buckets.

The penultimate stop was the sugar house, where Wendy Miller roved to and fro amidst the steam from the maple syrup boiling apparatus.

Miller explained it takes about 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. The sap boils at 219 degrees Fahrenheit, moving from different areas on the apparatus as the water boils off and the sap gets closer to the magic 67% sugar content needed for proper syrup.

If it continues to cook past that point, you're getting into maple candy territory, Miller said.

The last stop on the tour was a short walk from the sugar shack into the woods, where Sheffer had a small fire going, with an iron pot containing sap suspended over it.

She explained how European settlers learned how to work with sap from Native Americans, and refined the



Bethany Sheffer showed a Sharon Audubon MapleFest audience how to make a spile (a tap for getting sap from sugar maples) out of a piece of staghorn sumac on Sunday, March 12.

the resulting three-to-five inch hollow tube and insert into the nearest sugar maple.

Inside the center building, there were baked goods for sale. The first run of syrup, bottled just days earlier, was on sale in the gift shop.

Volunteers who weren't leading tours were milling about, chatting with visitors.

It was a pleasant scene, and a reminder that when the sap begins to flow, spring can't be that far off.



North Canaan Elementary School Principal Alicia Roy, right, paused recently for a photo with technology staff member Beth Johnson, who will become principal following Roy's planned retirement.

NCES prepares for transition

By Leila Hawken

NORTH CANAAN — North Canaan Elementary School (NCES) principal since 2018, Alicia Roy is planning the transition to new leadership following the announcement that she will retire on June 30, 2024.

During the transition year, the North Canaan Board of Education has named Beth Johnson, NCES Technology faculty member, to the position of Assistant Principal. Upon Roy's retirement, will take over the top job.

A key challenge during Roy's tenure was shepherding NCES students and staff through the pandemic years and the ensuing return to in-person learning.

In a statement, Region 1 District Superintendent Lisa Carter highlighted Roy's achievements on behalf of NCES students ensuring that the pandemic did not adversely affect their progress with learning.

North Canaan Board of Education Chair Erin Drislane also praised Roy for moving NCES to a higher level of academic achieve-

ment.

Reflecting on her 36 years of experience in education, Roy expressed gratitude for her NCES experience and returned the praise to her students, their families, faculty, board members and Region One administration. She plans to remain in North Canaan following her retirement.

Asked about her NCES achievements on Monday, Feb. 27, Roy said, "I am proud of the changes we have made and our commitment as a staff to inquiry teams, professional learning communities, Morning Meeting, Closing Circle, restorative practices, Bridges math, and now the science of reading recommendations. Our state assessment scores show that everyone's hard work is resulting in strong student achievement, the goal of all of our changes."

Johnson offered comment on Friday, Feb. 24.

"I have been at NCES for 20 years. I am also the daughter of an NCES graduate with three children who have and are attending this school. Having roots in this town means

I have connections with the students and their families. Dr. Roy has set us on path with a solid curriculum, Responsive Classroom routines such as Morning Meeting and Closing Circle and teachers who work closely in teams to monitor student achievement. I plan to continue the hard work Dr. Roy has begun as we work with these students who have experienced a global pandemic. I look forward to leading the exceptional NCES staff as we work together with our young, skilled learners. I am excited for this opportunity to give back to a community which has given so much to me."

Looking to the future at NCES and beyond, Roy said, "I am confident that Mrs. Johnson will be a strong leader at North Canaan Elementary School and will continue to ensure that students are at the center of all of her decisions. Having the opportunity to work side-by-side with her for a school year is an ideal situation that will make my retirement a bit easier, knowing that the school that I love is in capable hands."

Sharon to share generator cost

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — After a debate about responsibilities of landlords and tenants, the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved sharing the estimated \$13,800 cost of replacing the failing generator at the town-owned building at 67 Main Street, adjacent to the Town Hall, at a regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 28.

The town leases the space to Tri-State Communications, the home of Robin Hood Radio. The selectmen's discussion centered on a proposed 50/50 split of the cost of generator replacement.

Under the arrangement, the town will pay its half from the lease-fed fund that supports that building's ordinary repairs, and the radio station will be expected to pay its half in installments over the course of its two-year lease.

A brief debate ensued on an issue raised by selectman Casey Flanagan who asked whether the town is responsible for ensuring a power supply to a business.

"We are not installing a generator, we are replacing an asset," selectman Dale Jones responded.

"The town is willing to

pay half," Flanagan said, "and we're giving them an interest-free loan for the balance."

"The generator allows them to stay on the air in the event of a power outage," Jones said.

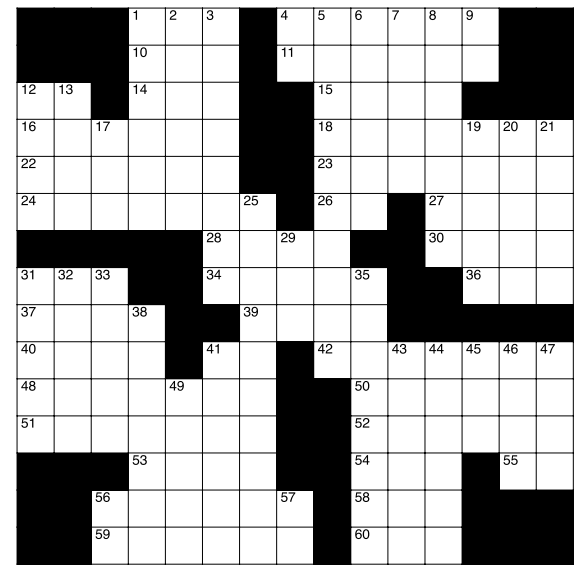
The selectmen also set a date for a special town meeting to be held on Thursday, March 16, 6 p.m. at Town Hall. The agenda includes

three actions: to approve the 2022-23 town financial report, to adopt an amendment to the ordinance governing the Sharon Energy and Environment Commission increasing the number of commission members, and to allocate \$15,000 from the Silly Putty Fund in support of the Sharon Center School's outdoor mural project.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

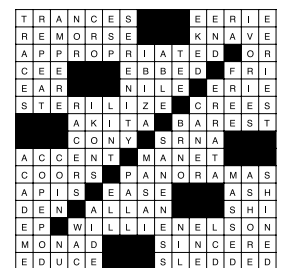
1. Belonging to a thing
4. Pass or go by
10. Partner to cheese
11. Subjects
12. U.S. State (abbr.)
14. Bits per inch
15. Forest-dwelling deer
16. Illinois city
18. A salt or ester of acetic acid
22. Wholly unharmed
23. Cuddled
24. Bane
26. Global investment bank (abbr.)
27. Oh my gosh!
28. Arrive
30. Famed Spanish artist
31. Home of "Frontline"
34. Group of quill feathers
36. Keyboard key
37. Army training group
39. Detail
40. Pole with flat blade
41. Football play
42. Makes unhappy
48. Island in Hawaii
50. Back in business
51. Of an individual
52. Painful chest condition
53. Tropical American monkey
54. Matchstick game
55. For instance
56. Even again
58. Popular beverage
59. Evaluate
60. Time units (abbr.)



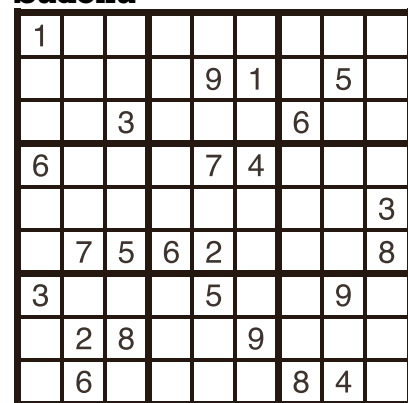
5. City of Angels
6. Peaks
7. Infantry weapons
8. Left
9. Atomic #99
12. Told a good yarn
13. Vale
17. Resistance unit
19. Aquatic plant
20. Bluish greens
21. About some Norse poems
25. Reinforces
29. Egyptian mythological goddess
31. Supportive material
32. Subatomic particle
33. Expired bread
35. Cereal grain
38. Goes against

41. Walkie —
43. One who does not accept
44. Beliefs
45. Indicates near
46. Brazilian NBA star
47. Grab quickly
49. Romantic poet
56. College dorm worker
57. Set of data

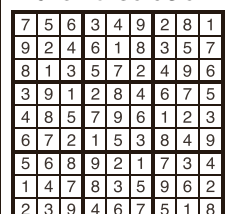
March 9 Solution



Sudoku



March 9 Solution



Level: Intermediate



Misa en Español

La próxima misa será el domingo 26 de marzo a las 4 de la tarde.


Todos son bienvenidos.

El reverendo Félix Rivera predicará y la reverenda Heidi Truax será la celebrante.



La Iglesia de la Trinidad ofrece compañía en el Camino.


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Regional/Our Towns

After one year under Clare de Boer, Stissing House surges forward

By Elias Sorich

PINE PLAINS, N.Y. — Stissing House has remained a centralizing force to the town of Pine Plains in one form or another since its construction in 1782. That's 241 years of milestones. It reached a new one on Friday, March 10: a full year under the ownership of Clare de Boer.

A James Beard Foundation nominee for Rising Star Chef of the Year in 2018, de Boer's move to take on ownership of Stissing House in 2022 was reported on by the New York Times, Eater, and beyond. Her work there has since born fruit: Stissing House was named a semifinalist for Best New Restaurant 2023 by the James Beard Foundation on Jan. 25. Next to a Michelin star, recognition by the James Beard Foundation is one of the food world's most prestigious honors. On March 29, the nominees will be announced, and a winner will be decided at a James Beard award ceremony on June 5.

Having earned her chef stripes working at King in Soho, de Boer now splits her time between the city — where she co-owns both an Italian restaurant and a French restaurant — and Dover Plains, where her family spends much of its time. As for what drew her to opening a restaurant in Pine Plains, the answer was unambiguous: "Stissing House. Period. Stissing House is magnetic. It's a forcefield."

From 1995 to 2021, the Stissing House operated under a series of owners as a French restaurant, and

the journey for de Boer to providing a fresh take on an established and historic mainstay involved taking it back to those historic roots.

"[It was] really about restoring the building to its full potential. It has such brilliant bones, so we didn't want to change anything that was pre-existing.... So our focus is really on creating a sense of place.... For instance our camel logo came from a doodle that we found in one of the old diaries of someone who had slept upstairs at the inn!

"That's kind of our approach to food as well. But the bones of our food are the incredible local produce. We work with all of these incredible farms in the area, and we try and keep it simple by using the wood oven and wood-fired grill. We're kind of locked on all sides by farms, and we want to celebrate that.... Just do simple, country American style cooking."

That first full year of operation, however, was not without difficulties for Stissing House. Though jobs filled in restaurants have now surpassed pre-pandemic employment levels, in April 2022, restaurants were staffed at 6.4% below the 2019 norm. This staffing shortage was met by both a surge in demand — during many of the months of 2022, levels of dining out exceeded pre-pandemic levels — and record inflation. Though this kind of industry-wide difficulty was impossible to avoid, de Boer credited her team for much of the success in navigating it.

"The headline is truly the team. I've been so lucky



PHOTO BY GABRIEL ZIMMER

The Stissing House team, from left: Katie Pearce, Clare de Boer, Jose Rameirez, Roel Alcudia, Nathan Rawlinson and Amanda Beverly.

to find these people that are really doing all of the hard work day to day to make Stissing House what it is. My chef de cuisine, Roel Alcudia.... and my general manager Nathan Rawlinson.... they're wonderful. It takes good people to attract and retain good people. Unless you've got awesome leaders, you have nothing, and I really think that we've got the best of the best."

As for what keeps de Boer tethered to her work both as a chef and business owner amid the busyness and chaos of life, the answer is simple: "People and produce. I'm in constant contact with my team, and love working with them. And I love being in the restaurant, chatting to all of our customers and our regulars. There's a real sense of community around it."

"And then as it comes to food, you can never really get bored of it—because when you do, the next season arrives. Obviously, right now it's March and I'm very bored of kale and potatoes. But just as you lose interest, the ground thaws and you've got peas and rhubarb, and it starts all over again.... I love how food ties into life, how it can make us all feel, and bring people together."

Whether or not Stissing House takes home an award in June, for de Boer, the future of the restaurant



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

The Stissing House in Pine Plains.

A bustling Thursday night



PHOTO BY ELIAS SORICH

is one full of potential and challenges.

"There's just so much room to grow with that building. There're rooms to feast in upstairs, there's a room for us to open a bakery, there's a huge garden that we haven't even begun to landscape! I think we're just at the very beginning of our journey."

Gold Dog application withdrawn at P&Z

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Rather than continuing the public hearing as expected in connection with an application submitted by Gold Dog LLC, the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) officially closed the public hearing at the start of their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 8 after the applicant withdrew the application.

Land Use Administrator Jamie Casey read a brief letter received from Gold Dog LLC indicating withdrawal of their application from further consideration. The public hearing process had opened at the January P&Z meeting, but due to elevator repairs at the Town hall, had been immediately continued to the Feb. 8 P&Z meeting, held at the Sharon Historical Society to accommodate public comment. That hearing was continued to the March 8 meeting, anticipating additional reports and more

public comment.

The plans submitted by Gold Dog LLC sought to create a Village Residential Housing development on a 20-acre parcel located at 82 Amenia Road and 67 Hospital Hill Road.

Following the meeting, Casey said that the letter was an official statement withdrawing the application without prejudice. A future application can be submitted.

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ARTS DAY

Continued from Page A1

"I'm doing needle felting and I'm making a rainbow," said Brodyn as he carefully pinpointed a row of felt.

The day also included three interactive performances. First, a lesson on theater and songs from the upcoming Mean Girls play at HVRHS, led by the Housatonic Musical Theater Society. Next was a showcase of traditional Mexican song and dance, performed by professional singer Tere Luna. To conclude the day, students learned how to beatbox and loop from competitive beatboxer GALUSH.

This marked the first time that Fourth Grade Arts Day was held at Kent School.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Fourth graders took part in an interactive introduction to traditional song and dance of Mexico, led by professional singer Tere Luna.

RAILROAD

Continued from Page A1

Christian Allyn.

The Board said its primary concern is in regard to preserving the shrubs and greenery that run along the tracks and addressing the types of herbicides that are used by HRC.

"It's been an ongoing issue for years," added Selectman Craig Whiting.

The Board agreed to set a time to meet with the other towns and State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) to address this regional concern.

In telephone interviews Friday, March 10, and State Senator Steve Harding (R-30) shared their thoughts on the issue of herbicide spraying along the track. Horn said that a meeting of all relevant agencies was held a few years back that "was quite effective because it did result in an understanding that certain areas would not be sprayed." Horn added that she was unsure if HRC follows different spraying protocols in Massachusetts than they do in Connecticut but that she "would very much like to get to the bottom of that."

Harding said also weighed he "fully supports the towns

The Board said their primary concern is in regard to preserving the shrubs and greenery that run along the tracks and addressing the types of herbicides that are used by HRC.

in their effort." Harding said he will be reaching out to HRC to "see if there's a way that they can work with these towns" to address herbicide concerns. Harding added he plans to look into legislation to mandate that HRC change their spraying practices if necessary.

Repeated attempts, by telephone and in person, to get comment from the railroad have been unsuccessful.

In other matters, leaders from the North Canaan Fire Company (NCFC) were in attendance of the monthly meeting to request a \$50,000 annual increase. If approved, the hike would represent a 62.5% increase on the current \$80,000 budget that has remained stable for the past five years.

"In essence, we've taken a hard zero as far back as five years," said NCFC President Steve Hutchins. "Costs have gone up a lot."

Hutchins said in addition to new equipment and maintenance costs, the department is facing the need to rebuild an outdated pump this year to the tune of \$56,000.

"That \$80,000 is chewed up pretty quick," said Hutchins.

Additionally, the company is looking into replacing its 21-year-old ladder truck in the near future.

"If we were to do it today, we're looking at \$1.3 million to replace that truck," said Hutchins.

The Board indicated that the town's equipment fund currently sits around \$700,000. NCFC said they are pursuing grants and have applied with the state to achieve 501(c)(3) status in an effort to help manage their rising costs.

"When we did the last ladder truck, there was a lot of fundraising that went in," said Whiting.

Whiting encouraged NCFC to hold a budget workshop to flesh out their proposal.

To conclude their March meeting, the Board approved an ordinance to curtail the freedom of free-range poultry. First Selectman Charles Perotti said the proposal was written up as a result of "problems we were having with chickens roaming the area."

The new ordinance covers a range of domestic fowl including chickens, turkeys, ostriches, emus, rheas, cassowaries, waterfowl and game birds. Poultry managers in North Canaan must now make efforts to reign in their free-range flock and keep domesticated birds within the confines of their property.

A first offense constitutes a verbal warning, second offense will be met with a fine of \$50, and subsequent offenses will yield a \$100 fine with the possibility of the flock being confiscated at the discretion of the Selectmen.

"You can still have chickens, you just have to keep them in your yard," said Whiting.

PUPIL SERVICES

Continued from Page A1

tionships with staff, parents and caregivers in the Region. I look forward to working with her in the Director role."

Pat Mechare, The Region One Board of Education

Chair stated, "I am thrilled that Rebecca has been appointed to this position. We are fortunate to have someone with her expertise and deep ties to the community."

BUDGET

Continued from Page A1

ary increase per contractual obligations.

Duncan said Region One got a break on health insurance, settling on an 8% increase rather than the expected 10%.

Region One was also able to secure a heating oil contract at \$3.10 per gallon.

In Pupil Services, outplacement tuition and transportation continue to be significant line items, "somewhat offset" by grant funds and some positions that will not be filled as their current occupants retire.

At the RSSC, the HR Generalist position was covered by grant funds over the last two years, but the cost must now be picked up by the region.

And RSSC is adding a new position to help with

the coordination of computer applications throughout the school system. The cost of this new position will be shared with Kent Center School, where the new assistant already works.

Ned Gow, the North Canaan representative, observed that for the second straight year that town is facing a significant increase in its Region One assessment.

He jokingly told Business Manager Sam Herrick "to be prepared for questions" when Herrick presents the proposed spending plan to the North Canaan Board of Finance.

Duncan reminded everyone that when the budget subcommittee began work, the increase was projected to be more than double, at 4.5%.

Assessments In The Current 2023-24 Budget Proposal

	Cornwall	North Canaan
	\$1,847,118	\$5,702,882
	increase of \$396,904	increase of \$194,760
	Falls Village	Salisbury
	\$1,402,579	\$4,176,112
	decrease of \$94,677	increase of \$179,644
	Kent	Sharon
	\$2,294,173	\$1,609,462
	decrease of \$165,127	decrease of \$145,167

Getting food waste out of garbage stream

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Falls Village Transfer Station Coordinator Tracey Wilson and resident Leone Young, who has extensive experience in the waste management business, talked about the challenges facing the town and the state in managing the garbage at the David M. Hunt Library on Friday, March 10.

The transfer station started its food waste diversion program last week. Wilson said about 35 people signed up initially.

Residents are given a lightweight black plastic box. The box measures 9 3/4 inches in length, 8 3/8 inches wide, and 8 1/2 inches tall. It is slatted, so air gets through, and has a lid and a carrying handle.

The box is small enough to fit on a kitchen countertop.

Residents also get a starter roll of "bio bags," biodegradable three-gallon bags that fit in the black box.

Young said that with the

closing of the waste-to-energy plant in Hartford last summer, and new landfills unavailable in Connecticut, some 40% of the state's garbage is being shipped to a massive landfill in Pennsylvania.

Young said 40% of the weight of a typical municipal solid waste load is organic waste, ie. food scraps. Removing food waste will cut the cost of shipping the trash out of state considerably.

On the general recycling front, Wilson said people often think some items are recyclable, but they are not.

Black plastic, used in frozen meals, is a common example of this, Wilson said.

And single stream recycling, while convenient for consumers by eliminating the sorting of materials, does not mean users can just toss containers in without rinsing them out first.

Wilson said the transfer station crew is happy to answer questions about recycling.

LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from Page A1

tices on its website."

But, the decision says, it's the job of the legislature to make that call.

"We're in a spot where we don't quite know what to do," said Chuck Chadwick, Fenwick's Planning and Zoning Commission chair. "We're on tiptoes."

Newspaper industry opposes bill

Last week, the Planning and Development Committee heard public comment on House Bill 6556, which would allow towns to publish legal notices on town websites.

The bill drew opposition from several in the newspaper industry who raised concerns about transparency and public access to information.

"Requiring public notices to be posted in newspapers helps ensure that the public has access to important information about government activities and decisions, and that government agencies are transparent and accountable," wrote Mike DeLuca, publisher of Hearst Connecticut Media Group and president of the Connecticut Daily Newspapers Association, in public comment. "It is imperative these notices are published by a credible and independent body."

The issue has come up in past legislative sessions and garnered support from town leaders across the state who argue that more people get the information from town websites and that allowing

notices to be published online will bring public policy in line with new technology.

Nationwide, many small towns have faced a decline in local news coverage as the industry has faced layoffs, buyouts and cuts to resources for newsrooms. The U.S. Census Bureau reported last year that revenue for newspaper publishers had dropped by about 52% from 2002 to 2020.

Since 2005, the country has lost about a fourth of its newspapers, according to research from Northwestern.

And it has complicated the process for small towns and boroughs trying to provide legal notice, officials said.

Fenwick

Fenwick is a borough of Old Saybrook; it has its own municipal government but gets school, police and fire services from Old Saybrook.

Many town residents were renting out their homes or cottages for short periods of time, and town officials moved to ban rentals of less than two weeks. Short-term rentals have been a growing issue for municipalities across the country as residents complain that they take up housing stock and cause

quality of life issues.

Months after the policy passed, residents sued, claiming that proper notice hadn't been provided. The town had published notice in the Middletown Press, on its website and put a physical notice on a bulletin board in town.

But since the ruling, the borough has veered away from publishing in the Press. Instead, it has opted to print notices in a free weekly publication.

Newt Brainard, warden of the borough, says that while he believes this fits the court's definition, he's not convinced many people actually read it.

"It's weekly, so that creates problems in terms of timing for individual notices," Brainard said. "We are using that in the relative short term ... It's the only publication that fits the definition as far as we can tell, so that's what we're doing."

The lawsuit overturned the ordinance, Chadwick said. But now, the town is concerned about the best way to move forward.

Towns officials don't typically know how many of their constituents subscribe to certain newspapers, Brainard said. And most of his res-

idents either visit the town website or see the physical notice, he added.

"It's really an antiquated law, per se, and our position would be that it needs to be updated to allow for a modern day notice, whether that's on the municipal websites or allowing notice in newspapers that traditionally circulate among your region, so it's a little more widely interpreted," he said.

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

Send news tips to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Women's Work at Kent Art Association

The Kent Art Association on South Main Street in Kent is currently exhibiting its March Women's Invitational Show featuring large portfolios of work from six female area artists — Theresa Bates, Deborah Chabrian, Erin Cordle, Charlotte Holden, Anda Styler, and Mary Terrizzi.

Kent Art Association is one Connecticut's oldest art associations, founded in 1923 by a group of Kent painters, including George Laurence Nelson, an early 20th-century portrait painter who lived in Seven Hearths, a Pre-Revolutionary manor in Kent that now acts as a museum for the Kent Historical Society. The equally historic non-profit association's goal has been providing emerging artists in the area a venue so that they might gain audience recognition.

Highlights of the Women's Invitational included the realist watercolor botanicals by the recent Rhode Island School of Design graduate Charlotte



Red by Erin Cordle

Holden. With her use of open white space and free-floating composition, the young painter's work, which takes up the majority of the second floor of the exhibition, bears similarity to that of Rory

McEwen, the 20th-century Scottish master of floral illustration, whose almost three-dimensional glowing tulips are held in museums across the U.K. Holden is certainly prolific at a young age, working directly with con-

sumers through Etsy, an open-market e-commerce platform, where she sells her botanicals as cards, prints, and stickers.

The Women's Invitational Show is on view through April 2.



Fireworks by Charlotte Holden



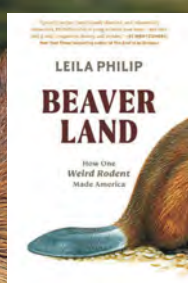
Peony by Charlotte Holden

PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

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WITH AUTHOR LEILA PHILIP



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ART: LEILA HAWKEN

The Mature Students of Northlight's Art Class

Now an anticipated tradition, the Northlight Art Center's 12th annual adult student exhibition opened at the Sharon Historical Society's

gallery space in Sharon, Conn., on Saturday, March 11, drawing a significant turnout to see and purchase the works.

The sense of "being creative" has sustained

Wallie MacMillan's interest in the sessions at Northlight Art Center since she started as a beginner in 2018, working in black and white first with a type of charcoal pencil. She is now pleased to be one of this year's ten exhibitors. A total of 28 works are in the students' show, including media such as oil sticks, pastels, watercolors, and colored pencils. "It's fun," MacMillan

said, adding "a nice group of people." She said that her progress is due to "Pieter's patience," referring to Pieter Leferts, the art teacher and founder of Northlight.

Among the early transactions of the evening was Kathleen Kulig's pastel "Winter Stream," enthusiastically purchased by Sharon resident Jodi Smith.

"You're immediately there," Smith said. "It's so Sharon, so this area."

Continued on next page

At The Movies

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ART: RILEY KLEIN

Arctic Exploration and Processing Through Poetry

As the world continues its emergence from the mental and physical confines of the pandemic, the arts have proven to be a powerful tool for processing collective loss.

A new exhibit at the Cornwall Library in Cornwall, Conn., by visual poet Kylie Gellatly has aimed to “map the internal landscape of ambient grief” that so many people have experienced over the past three years. The show, entitled “Time & Fever & Nothing More,” displayed a collection of visual poetry that was created by collaging text and images from “The Arctic Diary of Russell William Porter.”

“I put it into art form so that it wouldn’t blow away,” said Gellatly as she elaborated on her inspiration for bringing visuals to the poetry.

“I was struck by how much it reminded me of butchery,” she said in regard to cutting-out words and images from Porter’s diary for her art.

“I just use the body and repurpose all the parts for as much as I can.”

Gellatly’s first in-person exhibit, which opened to the public on Saturday, March 11, represented the artwork for her 2021 publication “The Fever Poems.”

“Visual poetry is a really old practice but it’s having kind of a resurgence right now,” said Gellatly. “Everyone is really individually approaching it in their own way.”

Gellatly completed this project in June of 2020 and found parallels between that time and the experience described in Porter’s Arctic diary.

“The fragile yet harsh and unlivable conditions resonated with the time that I was creating this body of work and thinking about the precarity of both our corporeal and planetary bodies.”

Gellatly will have her work on view at The Cornwall Library through April 30.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

An Hour Without Catastrophe by Kylie Gellatly

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

The Best of Baroque Concerts

Sherman Chamber Ensemble will begin their 2023 season with two Best of Baroque concerts featuring piano, flute and strings selections by Arcangelo Corelli, George Frideric Handel, Antonio Vivaldi, and J.S. Bach’s Triple Concerto. Performances will be Saturday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Salem Covenant Church in Washington, Conn., and Sunday, March 19 at 4 p.m. at St. Andrew’s Church in Kent, Conn.

Artist’s Reception for Work by Joseph Clarke

Northwestern Community College in Winsted, Conn., will present an exhibition by alumnus Joseph Clarke in The Gallery at Founder’s Hall on March 20 with an opening reception on March 23, at 4 p.m. Clarke is currently the associate director at Furnace Art on Paper Archive in Falls Village, Conn.

Rock & Mineral Show

The historic Whiting Mills in Winsted, Conn., will host the Rock and Mineral Show on Saturday, March 18 and Sunday, 19, featuring 30 tables of selling gemstones, fossils and crystals.

Mean Girls the Musical

The Housatonic Musical Theatre Society will present a musical production of “Mean Girls” with a script by Tina Fey. Directed and produced by Christiane Olson, the musical will be on stage at the Henry Burgess Auditorium at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, Conn., from Thursday, March 16 through Sunday, March 18 at 7 p.m.

...Northlight class

“I look forward to this event each year, delighted with the range and quality,” Sharon Historical Society’s Executive Director Christine Beer commented. She applauded that “certain kind of attitude among the student artists as they support one another.”

Beer drew a parallel between the Northlight student show and the historical society’s mission of strengthening the community.

“I bought the chicken,” said Paddy Rossbach, referring to artist Cathleen Halloran’s colorful interpretation of an alert rooster, “Mr. Marketplace.” She said that the painting is to be a gift to a friend, most likely. Cathleen Halloran is in

her class at Northlight, she explained, indicating that next year, Halloran may be going to tackle a donkey as a subject.

“I absolutely love the exhibit,” said Piet-er Lefferts, who leads Northlight. For the past seven years, Lefferts has offered art sessions within the Northlight space in the Fudgy’s Plaza, in Amenia, N.Y. A few of the artists admitted to frequenting Fudgy’s Ice Cream before or after their art sessions.

Drawing a distinction between an art teacher and a teaching artist, Lefferts said that he is the latter. “I teach to the individual,” he said. “I get an impression of how each student would benefit from my teaching. It can be technical or

Continued from previous page

philosophical.”

Before his move to the Amenia space, Lefferts said that Northlight had been located in Sharon, at the site of the present Sharon Country Inn.

“I love it,” Lefferts said. “I love the opportunity to bring out what is in a person through art.”

“Learning to draw will set you free as an artist,” Lefferts said. “You develop a skill set that brings confidence to explore other modes of expression.”

“And I get to watch them do it,” Lefferts added, “and I serve tea.”

The Northlight exhibit will be on view at Sharon Historical Society through May 5.



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EDITORIAL

A Health Assessment

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identifies a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) as a systematic, comprehensive data collection and analysis that provides benefits such as improved organizational and community coordination and collaboration, better knowledge about public health and the ways it connects with other activities.

Of course, as it identifies strengths and weaknesses it puts a spotlight on where to focus.

There are many benefits, but one of the biggest outputs of a Community Health Needs Assessment is that it can provide a community with a portrait of its overall health and readiness to remain healthy and/or address problems.

The recently completed CHNA in Sharon Hospital's service area in Litchfield County and Dutchess County under the auspices of Nuvance Health, identified chronic disease, mental health and substance-use disorders as the top health issues affecting residents.

The work was overseen by a committee that included representatives of communities in both Connecticut and New York State, and included hospital Board leadership, administrative leadership from the Nuvance Health network, local health department directors, community stakeholders, and other key hospital stakeholders.

Our coverage of this important survey by Debra Aleksinas in a front page story last week illustrated both commonalities and differences among populations in Connecticut's Northwest Corner and those who live in eastern Dutchess County.

The population on both sides of the border is expected to grow marginally, but that growth also is expected to show a much sharper rise in the number of people 65 and older.

We are graying. If you look around, you can see that.

And the conclusion of the assessment is that we will need services that support healthy aging, and aging-in-place.

Chronic diseases — such as diabetes, heart disease, Alzheimer's, stroke, arthritis, and chronic lung disease — are identified as a prime focus for attention, along with promotion of well-being and prevention of mental health and substance use disorders.

Focus groups are planned to ensure that the community is heard. They will include food pantries, representatives of the medical community, churches and nonprofit agencies, as well as health districts and community members. In other words, as the CDC sees it, to provide benefits such as improved organizational and community collaboration.

We all should be grateful that our community is looking out for its own well-being.

Letters to the editor deadline is 10 a.m. Monday for that week's publication. No more than 500 words. Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com. Please include a phone number for confirmation.

To Right a Book

"As it is an ancient truth that freedom cannot be legislated into existence, so it is no less obvious that freedom cannot be censored into existence."

— Dwight David Eisenhower

In 1650, the first book was banned in Boston which was the epicenter of colony book banning under the sternly punitive Puritans. Surges of book banning have roiled in the U.S. — about religion in the colonial era.

Forward two hundred years and of course the banning/censoring of books spiked related to slavery — that life-time employment/incarceration of peoples for economic boom and the convenience of unpaid servants.

Following the Civil War, the United Daughters of the Confederacy actively led the banning of books to elevate the failed confederacy (along with erecting 850 confederate general statutes); they, the UDC, were activated for book banning again in the 1980's — on race. The Comstock Act was passed in 1873 to outlaw books mailed, handled, possessed that were "lewd," "indecent" which included any written

materials on contraception and abortion. The Comstock Act was finally rescinded in 1936. Joe McCarthy in the 1950's ignited book bonfires — literally.

Since the Romans, humans have been engaged in righting books — removing the bad ones — the ones that tell the "righters" view of truth and morality. In this broad sweep The Canterbury Tales have been banned as too sexy, Shakespeare has taken his hits as have Hemingway (really all of the Lost Generation writers), Morrison, Steinbeck, To Kill a Mocking Bird, Charlotte's Web ... the Bible was banned in its early days.

Times change, locales shift with Florida now the epicenter of book banning — Boston has long since lost that infamy. Righting books has now emerged as a prime campaign lever for Republicans in many states — in Texas 800 books are on one Representative's list to ban. In 32 states, 138 school districts books have been banned in 2022, impacting 4 million students — a group a bit larger

than Tucker Carlson's nightly audience.

Ironically, Ron DeSantis, Mr. Right, is touring the States on a book tour. His book — ought it be banned? Is misinformation, bigotry, power mongering obscene? Not listed here is the book title, its focus, his scam — assume it is DeSantis seeking more power, executive privilege unhampered. DeSantis says his war on books is a hoax — one Florida parent, substitute teacher disagrees "If I weren't living through it, I wouldn't believe it's happening."

Thus far no one has devised a muck boot to aid sane maneuvering our times when Fox lies — big lies — for profits, when political attacks on books, schools, students and teachers soar.

"There is more than one way to burn a book. And the world is full of people running about with lit matches."

— Ray Bradbury

"Books and ideas are the most effective weapons against intolerance and ignorance."

— Lyndon B. Johnson

Kathy Herald-Marlowe
Sharon



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Snowdrops before the snow drops

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Spring, please

OK I've had enough
Of this white stuff
Want the warmth of the sun
And a bit of beach fun
Today was spring's first sign

Next to the post office there were nine
Little crocuses budding away
It certainly made my day
Michael Kahler
Lakeville

An 'uninformed' description

No Thanks, Mr. Godburn. For your mis-informed, insulting description (3/2/23) of our proud, historic neighborhood, Lime Rock Station. You spout: "In fact, that area looks considerably run down, a hodgepodge of housing styles, scrubby land, old cement abutments and perhaps a logging operation". How charming.

Perhaps what you see is our PTSD in the aftermath of an F2 (115-135 mph winds) tornado on August 2nd, 2020. It came through like a giant weedwacker, slicing 100+ foot towering pines like matchsticks, decimating Lime Rock Station and adjacent Arnott Drive, along the river. No one was hurt. Sadly, a neighbour lost their beloved cow, Bossy. Buddy, their donkey, survived. FYI.

Neighbors came together. The Falls Village Volunteer Fire Dept. and Town Crew worked all night and day to clear much of the mangled mess. Perhaps the "logging operation" you cite is our neighbor's property, slowly tidying up. We started a GoFundMe for fuel for his

borrowed excavator. Raised 1500 bucks in a week. Some paid privately to get deadfall cleared. Yes, more work to do.

"Hodgepodge of housing styles?" There are about 6 houses visible along Lime Rock Station (20 total), the 2 oldest gothic beauties from the mid 1800's, plus the old Station House (moved and converted in the 1960's), an authentic (1960's) raised ranch and 4 welcome Habitat houses. A historical "hodgepodge" and typical New England.

Another aspect that went right over your head. History abounds here. Being on the Housatonic Railroad line (built 1842), Lime Rock Station was an important stop. The Barnum and Richardson Company (owned by William Henry Barnum, U.S. Senator) made railroad wheels and employed 1600 people here, in Lime Rock and North Canaan. Perhaps the "cement abutments" you disparage are the old granite walls B+R built to border the tracks. We were the site of the massive Borden Milk Plant for about 100 years, with RR sidings, an ice house and processing plant, providing needed fresh milk to NYC.

"Considerably run down", and the property my family has happily inhabited for 32 years with two homes adjacent. Unbeknownst to you, the new Western New England Greenway (WNEG) bike route and historic Mohawk Trail run right through here and, as of this year, the Housatonic River is now "Wild and Scenic".

Referring to the proposed development, you weakly offer: "The new homes, as shown on the housing website, should be a big improvement." You need a little assistance here, Pilgrim: that Disneyland-like photo is a "stock" shot cut and pasted, which does not depict the actual proposed development. If you look closely at the photo you might also notice the cars in it. A Range Rover and 2 Porsche's. Hardly affordable transportation.

Frankly, I wonder how your defamatory "letter" was ever published. And why we would offer your superfluous insults a response? Pride, I guess. We love our neighborhood and its history. Would we insult your town, Norfolk? Never. Don't insult ours!

Colter Rule
Falls Village

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — March 1923

The many friends of James Winterbottom of Lime Rock will be saddened to learn of his death which occurred at his home on Sunday, March 11th. The deceased was 69 years of age. The funeral was held on Wednesday. Mrs. Winterbottom is critically ill with pneumonia. A nurse from Pittsfield is in attendance.

Display Adv.: AUNT BETTY'S BREAD — YES, our bakery is perfectly sanitary and that's the reason that the products of this establishment are pure. Your appetite regains its hundred percent assertiveness if you partake of the bread that we bake or the cake that we make. Diehl & Minor, Inc., Millerton, N.Y.

W.B. Perry purchased a pair of good looking general purpose horses at the horse sale in Canaan on Tuesday.

Louis Crowe is off duty at O'Loughlin's garage owing to an attack of quinsy.

About every person in this section has had or is having an attack of gripe or as some call it flu. Happily the cases are mild in form.

50 years ago — March 1923

Firemen from four communities battled a Monday morning blaze which gutted the Amenia, N.Y., Center for Girls. The residents, wards of the state, escaped safely though several firemen suffered minor injuries. The structure is rumored to have once been the property of stage and silent movie stars John Barrymore and his mistress Delores Costello. They are thought to have used the "Costello Estate" (as the property was once known) as a secret hideaway.

The Salisbury Bank and Trust Co. moved millions of dollars worth of cash and securities last Saturday from its former building to the new headquarters on Main Street in Lakeville. Customers' safe deposit boxes were moved in blocks. Employees of the Dunbar Transportation Co. of New Haven started the project at 7 a.m. and the job was completed by 6 p.m.

Charles Paine of Reservoir Road in Lakeville has been appointed by the Selectmen to watch for any oil spills in the Town of Salisbury and

to warn local officials. Mr. Paine, who is traffic manager for Community Fuel, was asked to be on guard against leaks and spills into lakes and streams such as have occurred elsewhere in Connecticut, and to report any problems to the Selectmen.

Robert Osborn of Salisbury, artist and cartoonist whose work offers trenchant comments on the contemporary world, has received the 1973 Medal of the Yale Arts Association.

The Sharon Highway Crew was granted a 20 cent per hour pay increase at the selectmen's meeting Friday, March 9. The crew asked for an immediate increase of 50 cents per hour and also requested that they be paid every other Friday. After considerable discussion, selectmen decided to offer the 20 cent increase with the understanding that there could be no further increase until the end of the next fiscal year.

The March issue of Connecticut magazine features an article on collecting sap to make maple syrup and maple sugar with Falls Villager William Holcomb of Ledgebrook Farm. "Every year I say, never again. But then the season comes around, I'm back at it," Mr. Holcomb said.

25 years ago — March 1998

Cornwall residents attending a Department of Transportation hearing on the replacement and removal of concrete crib walls along Route 4 took a different view of the project than the selectmen. It's walls they want, not stone. A handful of citizens came to the hearing Thursday to tell state representatives to go back to the original plans which had been scaled back at the request of local officials.

AT&T floated a balloon in Sharon last week at its primary Herb Road site for a proposed 150-foot telecommunications tower. The company was required to float the balloon Thursday during state Siting Council hearings at Town Hall so residents could judge the potential visual impact of the proposed monopole.

These items were taken from The Lakeville Journal archives at Salisbury's Scoville Memorial Library, keeping the original wording intact as possible.

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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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Better protection for our birds

Several of recent studies tell us that American bird populations are declining and now are only half of what they were sixty years ago. Some experts say we're losing nearly a billion birds each year just from birds colliding with windows!

While the accuracy of the numbers related to bird counts might be questioned, still there is little doubt that populations have declined and continue to do so. What can we do to stem climate change in its various manifestations is a major cause of the decline although less so in the northeast United States than in many parts of the country where wildfires, crippling droughts, giant floods, and monster storms have become worse in recent years severely damaging both plant and animal population. Urbanization and land development have greatly reduced the amount of suitable habitat for most animals, including birds.

Even when the land is converted into farm fields it is seldom a happy change for birds. And if crops are sprayed with pesticide, such land can become a killing field both for the birds and for the insects they feed on.

However, there are some measures that Northwest Corner residents could take to improve the prospects for our avian friends. Perhaps the most obvious one would be to make one's property a more amenable landscape for birds. Often this means relaxing the very manicured look and instead, having wilder, more varied planting with plenty of shrubs and wildflowers. And reducing the area of lawn; in some cases maybe letting it revert to wild grass that gets cut only annually (certain birds choose to nest and spawn in such areas).

Better than relying on bird

OCCASIONAL OBSERVER MAC GORDON

feeders, it would make sense to provide adequate plants on the property to feed resident birds throughout the year.

Even more significant is having a nearby source of clean drinking water. If no nearby lake, stream or other water source exists, consider installing a small recirculating fountain.

Too often our roadsides are kept in an overly sterile condition. Three foot wide strips of lawn between curb and sidewalk only create maintenance problems. Both for birds but even more for people, wider planted areas with a richer palette of plant material including trees and shrubs would be better.

Bird fanciers often insist that cats should be kept indoors unless on a leash (how often have you seen that?). No question, birds deserve our help. But cats are animals too, not just toys for people. They deserve to get outdoors, their natural home, at least some of the time.

Cat owners especially worried about their pets attacking birds might try outfitting them with collars with small bells attached that would warn birds.

With more people now working at home because of the pandemic, the sickening sound of a bird crashing into a window has become all too familiar. What should we do? The experts all now seem to agree that sticky clear plastic film with very thin lines or dots at close, regular intervals is a good deterrent to birds flying towards the window and crashing. But the material

must be applied to the outside face of the window to be effective.

Those who use hanging bird feeders have recommended locating them a few feet directly in front of the window that birds might fly into; usually they will slow down and stop before a collision occurs. However, the aesthetic of a bird feeder directly in front of one's picture window might not suit most people.

And plastic film presents problems. The average homeowner may find it difficult if not impossible, even with ladders, to reach the right position to install the thin plastic sheet. A large window would require considerable expertise to install neatly.

A typical house might have as many as two dozen windows and exterior doors. But a careful study of past bird collisions with a house will usually reveal that most of these collisions occurred in only one or a few spots. This knowledge should reduce plastic film installation to a more manageable task.

Popular taste and window manufacturing skills have made ultra clear window glazing both possible and popular. But some bird fanciers insist that dirty windows help dissuade birds from flying into them. Ugh!

A partial solution to the collision problem is the old-fashioned screen window that is affixed outside of a sliding or swinging door or window. They do double duty, keeping out the bugs while preventing bird collisions and may help protect adjacent unscreened fixed windows as well.

It would be a sad world without birds. Let's give them a little help.

Architect and landscape designer Mac Gordon lives in Lakeville.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

More letters previous page.

Thanking Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance

Saying thanks and giving recognition to the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service.

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THANK YOU for always helping Mom

Salty Swanson's Family
Kim Miles
Salisbury

The debt ceiling drama

In a few months, be prepared for politicians of both parties to turn up the heat as the June debt ceiling deadline approaches. Normally, the stock market responds with increased volatility. The question is should investors pay attention at all?

That may sound like heresy given that we are talking about the full faith and credit of the United States of America. If the government defaults on its debt, the global repercussions of such an event would be momentous. Currencies would plummet, stocks would crash, and interest rates would soar. Armageddon would reign, or at least that's what is predicted to happen, but no one knows for sure because the U.S. has never defaulted on its fiscal responsibilities.

"But there could always be a first time," you might say. And that is exactly why politicians can hold the nation hostage to advance their political careers while making outlandish demands that they know will never become law.

Legislation establishing a debt ceiling was passed in 1939. Congress has revamped the limit 100 times since World War II. Back then, Congress was more heavily involved in federal borrowing, as opposed to today, where the focus is solely on spending. For those who are unaware, the debt limit is not in the Constitution, nor in any of its 27 amendments. It is at best, a statute (law) that gives politicians a chance to disrupt, lie, evade, and cre-

THE RETIRED INVESTOR BILL SCHMICK

ate headaches for the country whenever they please.

The biggest joke of all is that the debt limit reflects money that has already been spent and is now owed to others. Has it ever stopped Congress from spending more money? No, at most it just redistributes spending into different areas such as more in defense, less in social programs, or vice versa for a short time. Given that it serves no policy purpose whatsoever, why have one?

Because it is an immense bargaining chip for some.

Fear of default gives leverage to those who have none. All that is necessary is to threaten while stretching out any compromise agreement to the last possible moment. By doing so, they are counting on the financial markets to become unwilling negotiators on their behalf. Those leading the opposition to raise the debt limit receive enormous coverage by the media.

Demands for programs and legislation, no matter how outlandish, that have nothing to do with the debt limit give politicians a national forum and unearned legitimacy. Debt limits become the saving grace for the economy and the nation for a few short months. Howev-

er, when they finally do vote to raise the limit, few hear about it.

Unfortunately, all this rhetoric seeps into the national consciousness. In a recent poll by the Economist, only 38% of U.S. adult citizens (and only 20% of Republicans) think Congress should raise the debt ceiling. Given those numbers, it is no wonder that agreeing to pay the debts we already owe has become an extremely partisan affair.

As for those on the other side of the debate, in this case, the Biden Administration, there are different avenues available to them if they choose to take them. The U.S. Treasury, for example, could stop making some payments (Social Security and congressional salaries, for example), while coupon and principal payments continue to be paid in full out of tax revenues.

A more drastic direction would be to keep the debt ceiling in place, but the Treasury borrows more money anyway arguing that failing to do so would be unconstitutional under the 14th Amendment. They could also mint a trillion-dollar platinum coin that could be used to fund new spending, including debt service on the national debt. The problem with pursuing any of the above would be that it would almost guarantee that the Republicans in Congress would have no incentive to vote to raise the debt ceiling.

Democrats have learned some hard lessons by giving in to debt limit demands

in the past. Back in 2011, during a clash between former President Obama and the Republican Tea Party, the administration spent months negotiating without success.

At the eleventh hour, an agreement was fashioned by Mitch McConnell and some Democrats to avoid a debt default. But the credit markets, spooked by the close call and partisan behavior, downgraded the country's credit ranking for the first time, which resulted in raising the costs of our future borrowings.

The facts are that those who threaten default are part of the partisan political process, but some person, group, or party that causes a debt default will go down in flames along with the economy and nation. Politicians know this, or if they don't there are still enough level heads in Washington to get the deal done.

Bill Schmick is a founding partner of Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires. None of his commentary is or should be considered investment advice. Email him at bill@schmicksretiredinvestor.com.

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Our Towns

Into The Woods, Together

As many readers of this column know, I have been working in the woods, fields and marshes on my property for about a dozen years, eliminating invasive plants and encouraging native species to grow. Along the way I have made many mistakes; some merely embarrassing, such as thinking the invasive narrowleaf bittercress was young fern, for example. I nurtured these superspreader weeds for several weeks until it was obvious that they were imposters (we have memorialized this gaffe by naming this plant 'fake fern'). The regrettable mistakes almost always emanate from not tackling an invasive earlier. If I had removed the stiltgrass in the swamp when I first spotted it about four years ago, for example, I would be in a much better place figuratively and

literally. I wish someone had warned me!

One of the things that has changed since I started this endeavor is the considerable improvement of information and the technology to easily retrieve it. Cases of mistaken identity can be minimized now that we have apps like PictureThis. Instagram and YouTube consolidate fascinating video instruction from people all over the country engaged in this kind of work. Still, people invite me to stroll (or, more often, bushwhack) with them through their woods and property and prescribe a way to begin. I love doing this more than almost any other aspect of the work. Every woodland has its own character, even when infiltrated by invasives. Pointing out the good within; the types of trees, shrubs, grasses and

flowers, their arrangement, the beauty and habitat they create almost always inspires people to start a process of discovery that includes eliminating invasive species.

Maybe some of you are already doing this work. For those of you who want to experience your own woodland rebirth you are in luck. Now is the perfect time to begin, for two reasons: first, as most plants are still dormant you have a clear view into the current state of your woodland.

And here is the second reason — in partnership of the Lakeville Journal we invite you to join fellow Ungardener readers in making your woodland a more enjoyable place for you, your family and native animal species by joining my Spring 'Into the Woods' Workshop. The goal is to help you re-

The Ungardener Dee Salomon

store and reclaim access to your woodland in a way that is safe, effective and as easy as possible. Tools should cost no more than \$100.

There is no charge for this series which will include step-by-step monthly guides timed to get the best outcomes, answers to your submitted questions and invitations to site visits as we bring this series to life through IRL (that's 'in real life') events. We will bring in subject matter experts when we can and include links to useful videos for hands-on instruction.

Sound interesting? Here's what to do:

Send an email to dee@theungardener.com and let me know that you are inter-



PHOTO BY DEE SALOMON

A restored area of woodland, formerly a tangle of bittersweet, barberry and burning bush

ested in joining.

Please fill me in on three things:

1. Are you a beginner or if you have done this kind of work before?

2. Do you own woodland property that is overrun with invasive species? If not, would you want to help on another property such as on

a land trust?

3. If you can identify them, what are the most problematic species you encounter in your woods?

I hope that we can gather even a small group of us, and effect change in our local woodland.

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