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

Office of Health Strategy public hearing

Nuvance faces tough questions

By Riley Klein

HARTFORD — The Office of Health Strategy (OHS) held a continued public hearing online Wednesday, Feb. 22, for Nuvance Health's application to replace the intensive care unit at Sharon Hospital with a progressive care unit.

This session of the hearing included OHS questions for Nuvance Health and Save Sharon Hospital's (SSH) witnesses who testified in the initial hearing as well as closing arguments from both sides.

See OHS HEARING, Page A6



PHOTO SUBMITTED

40 Fire Chiefs reunite

Fire chiefs, both past and present, from Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts, gathered at a dinner on Friday, Feb. 24 at the Canaan Country Club to catch up. Every person in this photo has been a volunteer Fire Chief of their own respective departments. Donnie Reid of Lakeville Hose Co. organized the event. Departments represented included Amenia, Millerton, Sheffield, Lakeville, North Canaan, Falls Village, Cornwall and Sharon.

Nursing homes oppose proposed staffing mandates

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SALISBURY — A sweeping bill pending before Connecticut lawmakers that would impose mandatory minimum staffing hours at nursing homes is being met with opposition by operators of Northwest Corner facilities, which are still in the throes of a pandemic-induced nursing shortage.

S.B. No. 989, which has been introduced by the Human Services Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly, would boost the direct-care hourly time that a nurse or CNA spends with a resident from 3 to 4.1 hours per person each day. Facilities that fail to comply could face civil penalties.

While the proposed measure is well-intended, said nursing home operators in Sharon, North Canaan and Salisbury, the reality in the rural Northwest Corner — and across the state — is that nursing homes are already short staffed.

Solutions, not staffing reforms and sanctions, are what is critically needed, they said.

Pandemic pummeled staffing levels

"The nursing home workforce is at its lowest level since 1994," said Christine McKinney, regional director of operations for Athena Health Care Systems, which operates Sharon Health Care Center.

See NURSING, Page A6



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

From left, RNs Julie Moore, Ruthanne Wright and Gina Butts at Noble Horizons, a nonprofit senior living community in Salisbury.

Seasonal Affective Disorder more prevalent in northern climes

By Isabelle Clark

SHARON — Seasonal Affective Disorder, otherwise known as SAD, is an important issue, especially for those living in northern latitudes.

SAD affects approximately ten million people across the United States, an estimated prevalence of 0.5 to 3%.

In a recent interview with Dr. Sabooh Mubbashar, chief of psychiatry at Sharon Hospital, who has worked with SAD patients for several decades, he shared both general information about the disorder as well as recommendations for treatment and relief.

With SAD, as geographical latitude rises, so does prevalence. For example, New Hampshire has a rate of 9% while Florida has a 1.9% rate.

Symptoms of SAD include: sad

mood, low energy or lethargy, difficulty concentrating, withdrawal from social life, excess carbohydrate and sugar consumption, and insomnia or hypersomnia.

mood, low energy or lethargy, difficulty concentrating, withdrawal from social life, excess carbohydrate and sugar consumption, and insomnia or hypersomnia.

SAD is currently identified under the umbrella of depressive disorders, however, experts are advocating that it have its own diagnostic category. A person with SAD meets criteria for this type

See SEASONAL, Page A6

Lead paint suddenly falling off the state's bridges

By Dave Altamari
CT Mirror

HARTFORD — Chips of lead paint are falling off hundreds of bridges in Connecticut at such a rate that the state Department of Transportation has put out an alert to municipalities and intends to hire contractors to clean it up.

"Bridge structures statewide have been experiencing a sudden, unexpected release of lead-based paint chips, which is believed to be

related to the recent extreme swings in temperature," said the DOT alert first issued to its own employees on Feb. 17.

The DOT's bridge maintenance unit spent the weekends of Feb. 18-19 inspecting more than 2,100 bridges across the state and determined that lead paint was cracking and falling off hundreds of them.

"This discovery is not unique to Connecticut," said DOT spokesman Josh Morgan. "Although paint chips on the ground pose little dan-

ger, members of the public should not touch any debris seen under bridges or on roadways. The flaking paint also does not pose a safety hazard for those crossing these structures."

After that discovery, Mary Baker, the principal engineer for bridge safety and evaluation at the DOT, sent an alert to municipalities, warning them that they should inspect their local bridges.

"Last week, the Department of Transportation experienced a sud-

den failure of the paint coating on many steel bridges," Baker said. "In response to the coating failures, the Department's Environmental Compliance unit began remediation efforts to address the paint chips that had fallen."

Baker's memo to municipal officials said "paint chips are suspected of containing lead, [and] the remediation efforts are initially focused on areas that are accessible to the

See LEAD PAINT, Page A6



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In The Journal this week

LEGAL NOTICESA2
 OUR TOWNSA3-A4
 OUR TOWNSB5
 OBITUARIESA5
 COMPASSB1-2
 OPINION..... B3
 VIEWPOINT B4
 SPORTS.....B6
 CLASSIFIEDS.....B6-7
 SPECIALIST B8

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.

Passing in unsafe manner
 On Wednesday, Feb. 15, at approximately 10:00 a.m., Seth Durette, 31, of Torrington, was traveling westbound on Route 4 in Cornwall in a 2016 Volkswagen GTi. Michael Moody, 43, of Litchfield, also was traveling westbound on Route 4 in a 2006 GMC Envoy. Durette came to a stop at the four-way intersection of Routes 4, 43 and 128 and Moody passed in an unsafe manner, striking the driver side of Durette's vehicle. Moody continued on from Cornwall to New York, with Durette close behind. Dutchess County officers arrived on the scene based on a 911 call. Both parties exchanged information upon order of the officers. No enforcement action was taken.

Disorderly conduct
 On Friday, Feb. 17 at approximately 4:30 p.m. troopers were dispatched to a Canaan residence on Railroad Street for a disturbance. Charles Parmalee, 43, of Canaan, was arrested and charged with disorderly con-

duct and released on a \$5,000 surety bond.
Disregarding stop sign
 On Friday, Feb. 17, at approximately 4 p.m., Theodore Weintraub, 18, of New York City, was traveling southbound on Indian Mountain Road in Salisbury in a 2016 Mercedes C30 and disregarded a stop sign at the Route 112 intersection, striking a UPS truck driven by Anthony Rosa, 33, of Waterbury. who was traveling westbound on Route 112. Weintraub was cited for failure to obey a stop sign. The Mercedes was towed from the scene.
Criminal mischief charge
 On Wednesday, Feb. 22, at approximately 12:00 a.m. troopers responded to a Sharon residence for a report of an active disturbance. Troopers learned that Fawn Rosier, 32, of North Canaan, had left the scene and was located, placed under arrest and charged with criminal mischief 3rd degree, disorderly conduct and violation of a protective order.

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.com



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Old technology meets new as Shamu Sadeh works amid the chickens.

Applications accepted for online program on food skills, ecology

FALLS VILLAGE — Applications are being accepted for Adamah at Home, a three-week program from March 13 - 31 to build food skills, ecological connection, and Jewish community. Open to ages 18 and over who can commit to 8 to 10 hours a week of live video learning and connection. The program will support students in getting their hands dirty: growing food on balconies or in backyards, preparing/preserving food in the kitchen, and exploring their local food system. The program is offered at a sliding scale. Go to www.hazon.org/adamah/adamah-at-home/ for information and to apply.

Trail camera discussion March 4

CORNWALL — The Cornwall Conservation Trust and the Cornwall Conservation Commission will co-host a program on Saturday, March 4 at 5 p.m. on Zoom, "How to capture images and videos of wildlife using trail cameras day or night." Larry Master, Conservation Biologist and Photographer, will show some of his most successful work.

Scavenger hunt for Women's History Month

FALLS VILLAGE — Throughout the month of March, the David M. Hunt Library, in collaboration with the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society, will run a scavenger hunt highlighting Falls Village women in honor of Women's History Month. Participants can pick up the scavenger hunt at the library and travel around downtown Falls Village looking for answers to various historical clues about women in town. Once completed, the entries can be turned in at the library and participants will be entered into a raffle to win a basket of goodies including a tote bag, chocolate and a gift certificate to the monthly book sale. The scavenger hunt will run through the end of March.

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

Documentary portrays region's rich agriculture

By Elias Sorich

PINE PLAINS — On Saturday, March 4, at 4 p.m. at the Stissing Center, the documentary film "Our Farms, Our Farmers" will set to screen a little slice of the region's rich agricultural history. Through a series of interviews with local farmers young and old, the 20-minute film aims to help keep alive the traditions and stories of agriculture that have persisted in Dutchess County for generations. The film was conceived, funded and organized by the Little Nine Partners Historical Society, and Vice President Ann Simmons spoke to the inspiration behind putting it together: "Oral history is so important! Farming is a big part of the community, and just being able to have some oral history that can be used down the road for research or just for information is so crucial." As farming has become increasingly industrialized in the region, and the number of farming families have aged out and declined, so too has access to firsthand accounts

of an industry that used to define the county. Simmons had a personal experience with this challenging reality, which reinforced to her the urgency behind the work of the Historical Society. "Before we decided to make the film, I'd planned to sit down with my father-in-law, Ron Osofsky, of the Ronnybrook family, to record some of the stories of his life. He passed away before we had a change to do that, and it really drove home to me the importance of preserving that kind of information." After developing the idea for the film with other members of the Little Nine board, Simmons reached out to local filmmakers Murphy Birdsall and Keith Reamer to make it. Following the screening, there will be a panel discussion featuring many of the farmers interviewed for the film. Tickets are \$10 for adults, and free for children and student. They are available online at www.eventbrite.com/e/our-farms-our-farmers-film-tickets-527317880977 or at the door.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on February 21, 2023:
 Approved Site Plan Application #2023-0210 by owner Virginia Hayes, for a new attached accessory apartment in accordance with Section 208 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 05 as Lot 31 and is located at 48 State Line Road, Lakeville.
 Any aggrieved person may appeal these decisions to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §8-8. Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
 Martin Whalen, Secretary
 03-02-23

First Selectman
 Christian E. Williams,
 Selectman
 Donald Mayland,
 Selectman
 03-02-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF AGNES MARY SOLAN Late of Lakeville (22-00344)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated February 9, 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:
 Salisbury Bank and Trust
 c/o Mark J Capecelatro
 Mark J. Capecelatro, LLC
 117 Main Street
 P.O. Box 1045
 Canaan, CT 06018
 Beth L. McGuire
 Chief Clerk
 03-0 2-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF BABETTE H. BARRETT Late of Salisbury (23-00048)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated February 16, 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:
 Douglas K O'Connell
 Howd Lavieri & Finch, LLP
 682 Main St
 Winsted, CT 06098
 Megan M. Foley
 Clerk
 03-02-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF HEATHER L.F. HOLMES Late of New York (22-00069)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District

of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 15, 2022, 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:
 John S. Holmes III
 c/o George L. Smith
 Whitman Breed Abbott & Morgan, LLC
 9 Greenwich Office Park
 PO Box 4459
 Greenwich, CT 06831
 Megan M. Foley
 Clerk
 03-02-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF EMMA A. PALEY Late of Lakeville (23-00044)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills February 16, 2023, Probate Court, by decree dated, 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:
 Sarah Coon
 c/o William Jeffrey Manasse
 William J. Manasse, PLLC
 27 No. Main Street
 P.O. Box 460
 Kent, CT 06757
 Beth L. McGuire
 Chief Clerk
 03-02-23

TOWN OF SHARON SEEKING BIDS

The Town of Sharon, CT is seeking bids for the interior renovation of the Community Center located at 99 North Main Street, Sharon, CT. Bid packets are available from the Town Hall and on the Town Website. Sealed bids are to be submitted by 12 Noon, Thursday April 6, 2023. The Town of Sharon reserved the right to accept or reject any or all bids. The Town of Sharon is an equal opportunity employer.

Online This Week
Considering raising backyard chickens?
 What's involved in having your own homegrown supply of eggs. Go to www.tricornernews.com
One-act plays during "Weekend in Norfolk"
 All-Norfolk productions during town's weekend activities. Go to www.tricornernews.com

Grange square dance March 4

SHARON — Taghhan-nuck Grange in Sharon is having a Square & Contra Dance on Saturday, March 4 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. featuring caller Bob Livingston accompanied by the band "Relatively Sound!". The Hall is located at 7 Dunbar Road in Sharon, off Route 4 between Sharon and Cornwall Bridge. This is fun for the whole family with brief dance instruction before each dance. The suggested donation is \$5

per child, \$10 per adult, or \$20 per family. Refreshments will be provided. Proceeds from the dance will be used to help pay for community service projects such use of the internet for free at the Hall, giving dictionaries to third graders in four towns, donating to the local food banks and other charities. For more information, please call Debbie at 845-418-9755.

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Our Towns

New look for Lake Waramaug run

By Lans Christensen

NEW PRESTON — The oldest winter race in Connecticut, the Polar Bear Run, happened for the 38th time on Sunday, Feb. 26. As always, the 7.8 mile race circled Lake Waramaug, passing through the towns of Kent, Warren and Washington.

However, this year's version had a significant change: the start/finish was moved to the Hopkins Inn and Vineyard property in New Preston, to allow for better parking and race management. It also provided a very challenging steep uphill finish for the runners.

Race day dawned cloudy, and dry, with the thermometer creeping into the thirties by the 11 a.m. start. Runners' race wear ranged from shorts and T-shirts to fully bundled down winter wear.

The race is held to benefit "Guiding Eyes for the Blind", an organization that trains and provides dogs to aid visually impaired individuals.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

The new start and finish point for the Polar Bear Run is at the Hopkins Inn and Vineyard in New Preston. This allows the runners to start the race going downhill.

Several of the new trainees were at the start, happily enjoying the attention from the crowds.

The race started promptly at 11 a.m. with 575 registered runners heading downhill on Bliss Road and then onto the familiar path around the lake.

The uphill finish on Hopkins Road also added two-tenths of a mile to the race length.

This was no problem for previous winner William Sanders, finishing first overall in 41 minutes 25 seconds. Asked about the new changes, he said he "was actually

surprised that the race felt somewhat different."

The race was organized by TrailHeads, and sponsored by Kent Wine and Spirit and the Kent Lions Club, among others. Timing and results are available from FastTrack-Timing.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

First Selectman Henry Todd gave an award to Mary Worden at the Lee H. Kellogg School commencement in June 2022.

Falls Village's Todd not seeking reelection

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — First Selectman Henry Todd is not running for a fourth term this November.

In a phone interview Thursday, Feb. 23, Todd said he is stepping down and plans to spend considerable time in France, where his son lives.

The Todds are not leaving town, however. Asked what he thought were his accomplishments in office, Todd said he's glad that most of the town will have access to fiber optic communications.

He cited a more business-friendly environment

under his watch, with "five or six" new businesses in town.

"We've lived in the town up a little bit."

He noted that during the COVID-19 pandemic, Falls Village was "the only town in the state that was never in the red," referring to the state's color-coded map that assessed the prevalence of cases by municipality.

"I think COVID really took it out of people and their businesses."

What words of wisdom does he have for the next first selectman?

"Patience," said Todd. "Patience, and don't let anything rile you up."

Kent selectmen take on herbicides

By Leila Hawken

KENT — Following a report by the town Tree Warden, the Board of Selectmen unanimously endorsed the efforts of the Housatonic Herbicide Working Group (HHWG) at a regular meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 22.

Bruce Bennett, who serves as the Tree Warden for both Kent and Cornwall, described for the selectmen the work of the HHWG and concerns about the herbicide spraying program of the Housatonic Railroad Company whose tracks pass through Kent. Concern centers on the potential for harmful chemicals leaching

into groundwater and nearby waterways.

"There is a need to keep the brush down," Bennett conceded, particularly along the railroad track beds, "but Cornwall has experienced decimation of surrounding trees, notably white pines."

Bennett explained that the elaborate mixture of strong chemicals applied by railway company equipment is long-lasting by design for effectiveness, but the chemicals can migrate into the soil and travel to contaminate waterways including the Housatonic River. Both Kent and South Kent are in wetlands, he noted.

The water table in Kent is

only 12 feet below the surface of the land in places, Bennett noted, and in some instances, residents' wells are situated near the railroad track bed.

Bennett asked the Kent selectmen to join with other towns at risk in asking the railroad company to follow ecological controls in effect in Massachusetts, including monitoring areas that are most susceptible to herbicide damage. At present, Bennett reported, when the company sprays in Connecticut, they discontinue adherence to the Massachusetts controls.

At the state level, Bennett said that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has little

control over this spraying program. Rather, it is the Department of Transportation (DOT) that has the authority. He noted that the town of Cornwall has worked with the DOT to limit spraying and to define local no-spray zones.

The long-term goal, Bennett said, is to create and enact a bill through the state Legislature to control herbicide spraying. That idea has the support of the Housatonic Valley Association and other organizations, Bennett noted, adding that Conservation Commissions in five other area towns traversed by tracks are being asked to join in supporting the efforts.

Cornwall raises concerns over railroad spraying

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Year after year, the Housatonic Railroad Company (HRRC) submits a proposed vegetation management plan that includes the spraying of herbicide along its scenic railroad track. Despite health concerns raised by residents and conservationists over the years, these plans have remained largely unchanged.

In response to this year's HRRC vegetation management plan, the Cornwall selectmen have penned a letter of requests and demands related to the spraying of herbicide. Among other things, this letter demanded a precise spraying notification process including types of herbicide and dates, requested the removal of Method 240SL herbicide due to its EPA warning label, and urged increased mowing and

reduced spraying.

"I like the idea that you're suggesting they do something more environmentally sensitive," said Selectwoman Priscilla Pavel.

The letter also requested the arrangement of a regular meeting between HRRC, DEEP, ConnDOT, and state and local representatives for ongoing discussion of these matters.

"I've already talked with Maria Horn, and she is in favor of meeting," said First Selectman Gordon Ridgway. "I think our legislators are interested in trying to improve on what are the state regulations."

The board approved a motion to send this letter to HRRC. Ridgway hopes that the first meeting can be held within the next month, well before spraying season begins for the year. Attempts to reach HRRC for comment

were unsuccessful.

The selectmen provided an update on the town's composting program and presented rough draft designs of the proposed plan. Ridgway reviewed plans with Zoning Enforcement Officer Karen Nelson prior to this meeting.

When reviewing the plan, Ridgway said, "Karen had no problem with this. These are all intrinsically harmless materials and we're doing something positive by getting a good byproduct here in town."

If approved by the state, the program would mix leaves and lawn clippings with food waste brought by residents. After being moved through a three-phase system, the final product would be locally sourced compost that Cornwallians can take home. The board's goal is to have this program up and running by Earth Day this

year, Apr. 22.

Cornwall's Building Official for the past two decades, Paul Prindle, has stated he plans to retire and will not be seeking recertification.

"Over 20 years I've gotten no complaints, only praise," Ridgway said regarding Prindle's tenure as building official.

Local contractor Peter Russ has begun the certification process to replace Prindle through a training course in Hartford. In the interim, Ridgway motioned to appoint Prindle as the temporary building official. During this time, Russ will serve as apprentice and complete his certification to replace Prindle.

Two additional appointments were approved: Christopher Sampson to the Economic Development Committee and Kimberly Valkenberg to Park and Recreation.

Meditate with Bach March 3

SALISBURY — The Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC, will present its monthly Mid-day Music and Meditation on Friday, March 3, from noon to 12:30 p.m. at the church at 30 Main Street, Salisbury. The Meeting House doors will open at 11:30 a.m. and attendance will be restricted to one-half capacity. Audience members will be admitted on a

first come-first-served basis. Masks are optional.

For this musical meditation, the church's Music Director, David Baranowski, will present a half-hour of works on the harpsichord and flute, including Bach's B minor flute sonata played by flutist Cecilia Burns.

For more information, contact the church office at 860-435-2442.

Scholarships for camp available in Salisbury

SALISBURY — Salisbury Family Services, a local non-profit organization, serving residents of the Town of Salisbury, will provide scholarships to summer camp for the chil-

dren of qualifying families. Assistance is given for resident and day camps, special needs, arts and sports camps.

Call Patrice McGrath at 860 435- 5187 to apply.

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Salisbury prepares a home for affordable housing

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SALISBURY — The dumpster parked on the front lawn of a modest, single-family home at 70 East Main Street is an obvious clue to the renovation going on inside.

What is not so apparent is the time, materials, resources and talent being provided by a group of local contractors to upgrade and update the house that will be sold by the Salisbury Housing Trust, Inc. (SHT) to an individual or family as affordable housing.

Orchestrating the renovation project are Salisbury resident Ryan Cooper, owner of TriState Landscaping, who also serves on the board of SHT, and general contractor Andy Molnar of the family-run EJ Home construction/property management company.

"Andy, from the start, has enthusiastically asked to run the show in order to give back to the community," said John Harney, who serves as co-president of the housing trust with Leo Gafney.

Harney credited Molnar with bringing together "a coalition of contractors who feel the same and have made time to help renovate this property for affordable housing. Local contractors are using their time, favor-

able estimates, and expertise to create a beautiful, affordable house for a future family."

Last summer, trustees of the nonprofit housing trust purchased the circa 1900, three-bedroom, two-bath, two-story home for \$250,000 with the intention of investing another \$100,000 to \$150,000 to renovate it, and then subsidize the home so that a family or individual can purchase it for around \$200,000, depending on their income.

\$90,000 challenge grant

Fundraising is a key component of the SHT's efforts, said board member Judy Gafney during a recent Saturday morning walk-through at the property with several housing trust board members and contractors to inspect the progress.

She has taken the lead on fundraising efforts and explained that about \$90,000 is still needed to complete the renovation. According to Cooper, the discounts in work provided by the contractors has resulted in a savings of about \$40,000.

Still, all new kitchen appliances are needed, as are 10 interior doors costing \$900, and a vanity in the bathroom for \$1,600, according to Gafney.

"We are encouraging the



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Andy Molnar of EJ Home in Salisbury checks on progress in the newly renovated attic space.

public to donate to those upgrades," she said, noting the progress already made. "Fundraising is easy when you can show them something."

Harney, a long-time area real estate agent, challenged other agents to consider donating a small portion of their commission, around \$500, when a property trans-

action as a way of giving back and supporting the affordable housing effort.

"It can be done easily at the closing table to have a second check cut to SHT for reinvesting in the community," explained Harney, who also gave credit to Sue Dickinson at Litchfield Bancorp for taking the lead in supporting the housing trust's

mission.

As he spoke, board member Karen Sunnarborg arrived just in time to join in on the tour. Participants marveled at the view of the Railroad Ramble walking/biking trail directly across Route 44, which conveniently leads to various amenities in the village hub.

Visible progress after months of labor

In recent months, the kitchen has been completely gutted, the floor leveled and high-end, repurposed kitchen cabinets from prior EJ home projects await installation. Cooper said that in a few days, the low-maintenance, durable vinyl flooring that resembled wood will be installed.

"It's meant to be durable and last," he explained.

Even the small attic received some TLC, as Molnar proudly pointed out during the tour. Once dark and dingy, the space is now white and bright and usable.

Among the contractors assisting with the project are Will Bassett, owner of Bassett Heating and Air Conditioning; Decker and Beebe, which is doing the plumbing; electrician Rob Asselin of Asselin Electric; Luis Ismalej, lead carpenter; AJ Home's three partners, which include, in addition

to Molnar, his wife Jusztina Paksai, and Stephen Levin. Bill Clark, manager of Herrington's, has been supporting the renovation project through discounts on materials.

As for the big construction dumpster out front, it has been offered at a discount by C&M Carting Solutions, said Cooper.

"Their support has been an integral part of this project," said Cooper, who noted that he is looking forward to starting on the home's exterior improvements in about a month, including lawn repair, new flower beds, a patio off the living room and new exterior drainage.

"I'll come in and bring my workers at no cost," said Cooper, who noted that his first client 21 years ago was Sarum Village, and he has been doing building maintenance at that site, and at other affordable housing projects, since then.

"This board is special to me because it's about home ownership. It encourages the next step to someone who is renting," explained Cooper, who grew up on a private estate in town belonging to "big donors" of affordable housing.

"I want to be part of the solution and would like to carry on their legacy."

Physical therapist finds new space

By Cynthia Hochswender

NORTH CANAAN — Devoted clients of physical therapist Mike Mangini will be relieved to know he has opened his new private practice, in North Canaan, as of Monday, Feb. 13.

Mangini, 55, was the founding director of outpatient therapy at Geer in North Canaan, where he saw patients for 25 years, building up a devoted clientele over the decades. The waiting list to see him or one of the two other therapists in the department was often five weeks.

Despite the need for the program, and its popularity, COVID and other challenges forced Geer to close the outpatient therapy department last September. Mangini spent a few months searching for just the right commercial space, one that was clean and spacious and which offered easy wheelchair access.

He found it at last at 10 Railroad St. in the center of town. Mangini said he is grateful to building owner John Considine for "being very accommodating and doing such a nice job creating this space."

Considine owns several commercial properties in the North Canaan business district; Mangini said his landlord's mission is to bring to town "more nice things to do; and I hope to add to what he's started here in the center

of town."

The storefront space that Mangini now occupies is unexpectedly cheerful for a medical space, with two friendly signs announcing "physical therapy," an inviting message that is enhanced by two giant brightly colored therapy balls next to the front door (the wheelchair access is through a side entry).

Generally, physical therapy is not a joyful activity, but somehow the upbeat and humorous Mangini manages to make appointments with him something to look forward to. He is an experienced and highly competent therapist with an advanced degree in orthopedic PT, thousands of hours of continuing education in (and experience in) manual therapy, including in the Mulligan manual therapy technique.

He does work that can be compared to chiropractic; he is expert in the technique of dry-needling, which is similar to acupuncture but which, he explained, "is based on anatomy and Western medicine, unlike acupuncture, which is based on the meridians and on Chinese medicine." Another difference: Dry needling is done in combination with a light electrical stimulation, "which has a way of changing how the brain internalizes pain information. The goal is to change the body tissue, but also to create systemic change in the brain and spinal cord."

Mangini estimates that 75% of his patients are helped by dry needling, in combination with manual therapy and PT exercises.

"It's fun and it doesn't hurt," he promised.

One of the main challenges of being a successful PT, of course, is not just the techniques you use but also the way in which you diagnose a problem and then choose the appropriate treatments.

"I try to be empathetic and a good listener. I try to remember that people have psycho-social needs and that sometimes I need to really hear what someone is saying to me. I try to look at what motivates people, and to understand that not everyone is going to go home and do all the exercises I recommend to them.

"I feel like if I can understand what motivates someone, I can more easily contribute to their recovery process. People want to move better and live better. I want to give them strategies and management tools so they can make good decisions about their health."

While that all might sound a little earnest, Mangini presents those life lessons wrapped in a healthy dose of humor and good cheer. Unusually, there is nearly always laughter involved in a session with him, even when the road to mobility and relief is painful. So when Mangini promises that, for example,

dry needling is fun, he means it, and he isn't kidding (about that). Also fun: Pool therapy at the YMCA at Geer Village in North Canaan.

"It's fun!" he promises. "And it's effective for people with balance issues, spinal pain, arthritis."

For patients who haven't already worked with him at Geer, Mangini suggests a phone call or a text with questions of the "Hey, I've got something going on" variety.

"Then I can either say, 'I think you should come in,' or I might say, 'That sounds complex, you should probably talk to a doctor.'"

Appointments are now booked directly through Mangini; although there is not yet a five-week waiting list, his calendar is beginning to fill up.

In addition to pool therapy at the Y, he is also doing some home visits, to reduce stress for patients who can't



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Physical therapist Mike Mangini opened his new private practice in North Canaan on Feb. 13.

always get a ride to his office, or for those who can't easily be moved.

The office is now open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"I'm an out-of-network provider for all major medical plans," he said. "Or patients can do fee-for-service."

Costs vary depending on how long the session lasts, with most costing between \$60 and \$120.

Contact Mike Mangini by text or phone at 860-309-4449; email him at mike-manginipt@gmail.com; or go to his website at www.manginipt.com.



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OBITUARIES

Bernard Oliver 'Bernie' Silvernail

MILLERTON — Bernard Oliver "Bernie" Silvernail, 90, a lifelong Millerton resident, died peacefully at Vassar Brothers Medical Center on Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2023. Born April 10, 1932, in the Town of North East, Bernie was the son of the late Albert N. and Florence (Parmalee) Silvernail.



eral years on the Town Republican committee. Bernie also coached minor league, Little League, and Babe Ruth baseball. Bernie wrote a very popular weekly History column for The Millerton News titled Yesterday Year. Bernie's true passion was being a volunteer firefighter. He also served as the Fire Company Historian for his entire career, and was also a charter member of the Company color guard. Bernie held many titles through the years including Parade Marshal for the Company's 125 Year Anniversary Parade. He was also the Company jokester, constantly making people smile and laugh, but took his firefighting seriously, and was always there to help.

Bernie was a graduate of Millerton High School, and on June 23, 1953, he married his wife of nearly 70 years, Joan (DeWitt), who along with their son Robert, survives at home. Bernie was predeceased by a sister, Isabel Corbett, and is survived by a sister, Joan Schuster, and a sister in law, Jean DeWitt. He has a niece, Terry Young, and nephews Michael DeWitt, Alan (Brenda) DeWitt, David (Patti) VandeBogart, David Corbett and Peter Corbett.

Bernie was a huge part of the Millerton Community. He had a great sense of humor, and was a dedicated individual that loved his community, and the local history that accompanied it. He will be dearly missed by all.

Bernie proudly served his country as a member of the U.S. Air Force from 1951-1955, mostly stationed in Biloxi, Mississippi. Bernie specialized in meat cutting, and was employed by the First National in Millerton. He had a long career as a machine operator at the Keuffel & Esser Company, also in Millerton. He later worked as an athletic assistant at the Salisbury School. He worked in the same position at the Hotchkiss School as well as a housekeeper and a security officer.

Callings hours will take place on Saturday, March 4, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. Members of the Millerton Fire Company and the Millerton Legion Post 178 will conduct services during visiting hours. A funeral service will be held at 11:30 am at the funeral home. Pastor William Mayhew will officiate. Burial with Standard Military Air Force Honors will follow at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton. Memorial contributions may be made to the Millerton Fire Company, P.O. Box 733, Millerton, NY 12546 or Millerton Legion Post 178, 155 Route 44, Millerton, NY 12546. To send an online condolence to the family, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

Bernie was extremely active in his community. He was a seventy-three year active member with the Millerton Fire Company. He was a member of the American Legion Post 178, and a member of the North East Historical Society. He was a Town of North East tax collector, served on the Town Planning Board and Board of Appeals, and was an interim building inspector. He also served sev-

Judith Ann Madden Crump

NORTH CANAAN — Judith Ann Madden Crump, 80, of North Canaan, passed away unexpectedly at Danbury Hospital on Feb. 24, 2023. Judy, as she preferred to be called, was born July 2, 1942, in Winsted to Raymond and Gertrude (Heady) Madden.

knew that was a sign that she loved them.

She grew up in Winsted and met the love of her life there.

She loved all her nieces, nephews and their families. She was proud of them all. She loved seeing everyone every year at the family reunions. Many of her friends' children saw her as a second mother, a position she did not take lightly. She loved every one of them as if they were her own family.

On Sept 19, 1964, she married Richard V. Crump. They moved to Canaan in 1968 and were married for 58 years. They loved to travel together, frequently going on cruises and bus trips. She was the loving mother to Stephen and Cheryl.

In addition to her parents Judy was predeceased by her brother Raymond Madden Jr., sisters Helen Leila Madden and Marjorie Robillard. She is survived by her husband Richard, children Stephen and Cheryl, and niece's Jeanie Hilton, Sue Robillard, Helen Stringham, Janice Madden Coon, Marge Valois and Amy Robillard; nephews Tim Robillard, Guy Robillard, Raymond Madden and Donald Madden, as well as all their children.

Judy loved animals, especially gorillas, monkeys and dolphins. Some of her greatest adventures involved swimming with the dolphins and sea lions. Her last adventure was a trip to the Atlanta Zoo and the Georgia Aquarium, where she got to see and interact with her favorite animals.

Judy was requested no calling hours instead the family will host a celebration of life in the spring. She will be buried beside her parents in Winchester cemetery in the spring.

Judy worked at Canaan Pharmacy, Becton Dickinson and Edward R. Hamilton Bookseller, where she met many of her friends. She had an infectious laugh and was a joy to be around. Family and friends were very important to Judy. They meant everything to her. She loved chatting with her friends and family near and far on Facebook. She could frequently be seen giving her friends a hard time, but everyone

The family would like to thank Canaan Ambulance, all the staff at Sharon Hospital (who treated her like family) and the staff at Danbury Hospital for the wonderful care they gave her.

Please consider a donation to one of Judy's favorite charities, MilesandsmilesforHadley.com, St Jude's or the Disabled American Veterans.

Sharon Woman's Club welcomes local artist

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — The Sharon Woman's Club (SWC), now entering its 112th year, continues to bring about educational opportunity in the form of programs and scholarships, creative endeavors and top-quality social gatherings.

and referencing sounds heard from the quiet solitude of his canoe experience, Lefferts explained that "Kek Kek" is his interpretation of the sounds made by the calling frogs.

The club's most recent meeting on Thursday, Feb. 16, held at the home of SWC member Theresa Kenny, featured a talk by acclaimed local artist Pieter Lefferts who spoke of his roundabout career as an artist and author of a new book for children, "What the Kek Kek Saw," the title recalling his third-grade formative experience of floating alone face up in a canoe on a lake in the Adirondacks and hearing the distant call of frogs.

A theme of the book, he said, is "transitioning from loneliness into solitude and feeling not alone. The animals have a perspective on our future."

"Knowing who the animals are is a huge difference from knowing what they are," said Jane Strong during her introduction of Lefferts, referring to the premise of his book. Strong is Executive Director of The Equus Effect, a therapeutic program based in Sharon, bringing people into beneficial contact with the "who" of horses.

Of his teaching, Lefferts said, "I am a teaching artist, not an art teacher." His studio art classes are held at his North Light Studio, now in Amenia, New York (in Fudgy's Plaza), although the enterprise had its roots in Sharon.

Capturing his audience by recounting the circuitous route he took toward the visual arts and painting, Lefferts described a major in international studies at Lewis and Clark University in Oregon, travels in Italy, studying design at the Disney organization's offices in New York City, serving as a personal assistant to jazz saxophonist Jerry Mulligan and his quartets ("at least when they were onstage, I knew where they were"), and cherishing a fleeting meeting with blues great B.B. King.

Authentically engaging with art is a creative process, Lefferts said of the work of students in his studio.

Along the way and lately, too, Lefferts said he has been influenced by the American Impressionists, including Andrew Wyeth and Winslow Homer.

"Always stay curious," he advised.

One of Lefferts' newest works, a landscape inspired by an Adirondacks mountain scene, was displayed on an easel. The work will be shown at an April 18 exhibit being planned by the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village.

Organized in late 1910, the SWC decided on a motto: "In good things, Unity; In small things, Liberty; In all things, Charity." Among their first actions was a petition to establish a teachers' pension in the state and to rally against cruelty to birds whose plumage adorned ladies' hats.

Hoodies and woodies event at Sharon Audubon March 18

During ensuing decades, the SWC supported the creation of the town beach and the use of seatbelts. For their 50th anniversary, the SWC donated town street signs. In the 1970s, the SWC was instrumental in initiating the four-way stop intersection of Routes 343, 41 and 4, by the clock tower and sought to control the commercialization of Main Street around the Green.

SHARON — Learn about Hodded Mergansers and Wood Ducks during "Hoodies and Woodies: Two Dynamic Ducks You'll Want to Know," Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m. to noon at Sharon Audubon Center and the Miles Wildlife Sanctuary "Hoodies" and "Woodies" are inarguably Connecticut's most decorative and charismatic breeding ducks. They're colorful, animated, and are part of a very small cohort of cavity

Coinciding with the 75th anniversary in the 1980s, the SWC began its Town Beautification Project.

Orchids demystified March 11

The SWC centennial decade began in 2010, seeing the presentation of a flag to the town on Memorial Day and Lyme disease became a focus. In 2019, the pandemic limited activities but even remotely, all but two of the SWC's 18 committees continued to serve the community.

SHARON — Join the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, in collaboration with the Essex Library Association, on Saturday, March 11 at 4 p.m. for a virtual program "Orchids 101: Demystifying the World's Most Fascinating Plants" with landscape architect Ty Triplett to learn

nesting ducks in the state. The program will offer information about their natural history before entering the Miles Wildlife Sanctuary to observe them. Fee: \$15 per participant, suitable for ages 13 and up. Pre-paid online reservations available, but cash and check payments are also accepted onsite.

Celebration of Life

Kent T. Kay

A Celebration of Life for Kent T. Kay, DVM, will be held on Saturday, June 17, at

Register at www.sharon.audubon.org/events, or call 860-364-0520 x115 or email bethany.sheffer@audubon.org with questions.

how to grow orchids.

This program is free. Pre-registration is required. Go to www.hotchkisslibrary-ofsharon.org and click on "calendar" for March 11 to register or call the library at 860-364-5041 for more information.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Gathered for a photo at the Sharon Woman's Club regular meeting on Thursday, Feb. 16, are members Jane Strong, left, and SWC President Charlene Whitney. At right is Pieter Lefferts, local artist and featured speaker at the meeting.

Worship Services

Week of March 5, 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 YouTube 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.stthomasamenia.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>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock In person services on Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 A.M. Livestream at 10:30 on www.trinitylimerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</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>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, March 12 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoio@gmail.com All are Welcome</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>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 TEKAWITHA 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: mmgates125@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. 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>

Send obituaries to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

NURSING

Continued from Page A1

In a Feb. 16 letter to members of the Human Services and Aging Committee expressing Athena Health Care Systems' opposition to the proposed bill, McKinney pointed to "worrisome findings" from a January 2023 job report from the American Health Care Association (AHCA) and the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL), which analyzed data collected by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics between January 2020 and December 2022.

"The report notes that skilled nursing staffing levels won't return to pre-pandemic levels until 2027," she said, adding that nursing homes lost more employees than any other business in the health care sector, a total of 210,000 during the report's timeframe.

"Our frontline workers are continuing to feel the pressure. We are continuously working on preventing staff burnout in what's clearly a difficult hiring climate," she explained. "If the industry job climate doesn't improve — all signs show that it won't — this measure has the potential to do more damage than good as the staff is just not there."

McKinney warned lawmakers that, "If you force this action this will stress the skilled nursing sector in the state causing closures for all facility owners."

Currently, Sharon Health Care Center is "continuously looking at our staffing levels to ensure we have the appropriate staff in place to care for

"For us to reopen the 30-bed unit we would need to hire 18 to 22 people, most of them nursing staff, and that's just not plausible in the current environment."

Bill Pond, Noble Horizons

existing residents and safely accept more patients into our centers," according to Athena spokesperson Savannah Ragali.

"Across all of our centers if we do not have the appropriate staffing levels, we will pause new admissions until we are safely able to care for the residents."

A temporary solution at Noble Horizons

The Noble Horizons Senior Community in Salisbury recently reduced capacity at its nursing facility from 91 to 65 beds in order to maintain staffing ratios at about the proposed 4.1 hours per patient, according to Administrator Bill Pond.

"Otherwise, we would not have been able to provide the type of care we are recognized for," he said.

"We identified this as our solution. We were able to find staffing and operate at numbers we are very comfortable with."

The fix, though, is only temporary, noted Pond.

"For us to reopen the 30-bed unit we would need to hire 18 to 22 people, most of them nursing staff, and that's just not plausible in the current environment."

"I don't think there's anybody who doesn't want to see better staffing levels, but the proposed regulations come at a time when we are trying to find ways to find staff for the levels we are used to operating at."

Geer CEO: two-pronged problem

In a Feb. 1 letter to State Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Kevin O'Connell, CEO of the Geer Village Community in North Canaan expressed concerns with the Biden Administration's plan to issue a regulation through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that would impose a nationwide minimum staffing mandate.

"We applaud any effort to help increase staff for our

state's nursing homes," wrote O'Connell in the letter, which he also directed to CMS administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. "Nursing homes everywhere are already doing everything they can to recruit and retain staff. Unfortunately, a staffing mandate simply will not work for Connecticut for two main reasons."

The first, he said, "is that the workers are simply not there."

The staffing mandate that the administration is considering would require an additional 181,000 nurses nationwide, O'Connell explained. "These nurses don't exist."

The second reason a staffing mandate will not work is even if the additional 181,000 nurses were available, wrote O'Connell, nursing homes do not have adequate funding to pay.

"A study from the accounting and consulting firm Clifton Larson Allen determined that the cost of the Biden Administration's staffing policy would be more than \$11 billion in the first year. CMS has no ability to pay for these positions and it seems unlikely that congress will do so."

Every administration, including the Obama administration, has rejected this staffing proposal because it is "impossible to operationalize without a major influx of workers and funding."

The Geer administrator said in a telephone interview

"Punishing providers because they cannot find them or afford to increase wages will only make the staffing crisis worse."

Kevin O'Connell, Geer

on Feb. 16 that he has the same message for Connecticut lawmakers and is opposed to Bill No. 989.

Struggle with staffing

On Feb. 16 H.B. 989 was discussed at a joint hearing of the commissions on Human Services and Aging which drew dozens of nursing home staff, administrators and residents to Hartford.

Among attendees was Jim Thompson, administrator of the Torrington Center for

Nursing and Rehabilitation, who expressed opposition to the proposal.

"We struggle every day with staffing," and underfunding, Thompson said in his testimony. He noted that some days the facility operates with between 10 and 12 open positions. Often, he said, temporary hires choose not to show up because they are offered higher pay at other facilities.

"I think we have to keep in mind what is attainable. Our residents do deserve extra staffing but I don't see it happening at this time," said Thompson. "There's no other way to say it. You can't get blood from a stone."

SEASONAL

Continued from Page A1

of depression when symptoms correlate with seasons, whereas depression occurs at any time of year and may be exacerbated during the winter, but does not correlate seasonally. In SAD, there will be a full remittance of symptoms when the season is over.

According to Dr. Mubbasar, there are a number of prevalent theories about the causes of SAD.

With the Phase Shift hypothesis, experts argue that the disorder is related to exposure of light, that an individual's biological clock is out of phase, mostly delayed, with the day/night cycle.

Another theory is that in some individuals the disorder may have to do with neurotransmitters and genetics — they may have a higher level of a protein called SERT, which interferes with the action of serotonin, leaving it less available in the brain. Serotonin, a neurotransmitter in the brain, regulates mood and low levels are associated with depression. People with higher levels of SERT tend to be more predisposed to SAD.

Finally, there is the Photo-Count hypothesis. With less intense daylight the body has a higher melatonin release and lower serotonin concentrations.

Dr. Mubbasar recommends a number of treatments to patients including light therapy, vitamin D supplementation, medications, and cognitive behavioral therapy.

Light therapy involves using a cool white florescent light behind an ultraviolet shield. Light strength must be 10,000 LUX (units of illuminance based on an international standard) every day for thirty- forty five minutes. Light therapy can be done while doing every day activ-

ities such as reading a book or having a meal. Light boxes are available online for as little as forty dollars. If light therapy is the right fit, an individual will see a difference in about one to two weeks.

According to Dr. Mubbasar, the best medicine is prevention, so light therapy should be started in late September and continue through mid March.

Vitamin D therapy will be important if an individual has low levels. There is a 41.6 % vitamin D deficiency prevalence across the United States. Vitamin D is involved in serotonin neurotransmission, a process necessary for physical and emotional wellbeing. In an individual with SAD, it is important to get regular versus annual vitamin D measurements to ensure proper dosing, Dr. Mubbasar tells us.

Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) in short duration can be a useful form of treatment, even in short six-eight week duration. CBT can enhance one's repertoire by increasing motivation, developing routine and structure/schedule, identifying and planning for enjoyable activities during the winter months, and shifting negative thought process to more positive framework.

For more severe symptoms, which can include impairment in daily functioning, difficulty keeping up with work/life demands, or suicidal ideation, Dr. Mubbasar will utilize a medication for patients, usually an antidepressant.

Support groups can also be helpful. In coping with SAD, proper diagnosis and treatment can be life changing.

Isabelle Clark is a licensed independent clinical social worker.

OHS HEARING

Continued from Page A1

If Nuvance's application is approved by OHS, the staff and equipment in Sharon Hospital's ICU would be relocated to the second floor and combined with the Medical-Surgery unit. Merging these wings would create a new progressive care unit and become the central hub for critical care services at Sharon Hospital.

The bulk of OHS' questioning was directed at the three witnesses who testified on behalf of Nuvance Health during the initial Feb. 15 hearing: Nuvance President and CEO Dr. John Murphy, Sharon Hospital President Christina McCulloch, and Sharon Hospital's VP of Medical Affairs, Dr. Mark Marshall.

OHS sought clarification on how Nuvance could justify its claim that all services currently in place in Sharon Hospital's ICU would remain in place under the proposed PCU, considering these are two distinct levels of care.

During his explanation, Marshall said, "We haven't been keeping patients for many years that require high level intensive care services."

OHS Operations Manager Steven Lazarus asked Nuvance when Sharon Hospital last provided ICU level of care.

Murphy responded by saying, "It's a moving target."

Marshall stated there are varying levels of critical care medicine and the level of care that qualifies as intensive care has changed over time. "At one point we might have been considered a mid-level ICU, but now the care that we practice is really progressive care medicine," said Marshall.

Hearing Officer Daniel Csuka requested a side-by-side comparison of the types of acuity cases that can be handled in an ICU versus a PCU as it relates to Sharon Hospital. Additionally, OHS requested updated census data, policies, and transfer statistics from both the ICU and Medical-Surgery unit at Sharon Hospital. Csuka set a Mar. 17 deadline for Nuvance to submit late files.

OHS also inquired about how Nuvance would proceed if this, or its other pending

application to shut labor and delivery services, were denied.

Murphy noted the current financial losses at Sharon Hospital and responded by saying, "This model cannot continue. The rate of loss is of enormous concern." Murphy mentioned a potential alternative that he described as unfavorable: designating Sharon Hospital a Rural Emergency Hospital (REH).

REH is a Medicare provider designation that began in January of 2023. This federal program was designed to compensate rural hospitals that are unable to sustain a full range of services.

REHs receive Medicare funding to provide emergency care, observation care, and additional outpatient services.

"I continue to believe and worry that all inpatient care might go away," said Murphy. In reference to the application in question, he said, "This is a highly preferable alternative. This preserves care in the community. This preserves jobs."

During closing arguments, SSH attorney Paul Knag summarized his side's stance on the issue. He stated the creation of a PCU at

Sharon Hospital would result in financial losses, a reduction in quality of care, and a loss of access to care for the community.

Knag noted that all elected officials who spoke during public comment were opposed to Nuvance's proposal. "This assessment by the community leaders show that there's a strong need to continue access to Sharon Hospital's core services," he said. "We ask that the hospital work with us to find a solution that leaves its core services intact."

Nuvance's attorney Ted Tucci closed by stating, "What has been proposed is a transformation plan that not only satisfies all the critical factors you've identified, but actually ensures that this hospital remains a critical part of this community."

Tucci added that if OHS were to deny this application, "essentially what you will be doing is dooming Sharon Hospital to be stuck in the past."

Tucci's closing arguments concluded round two of hearings for this application. OHS will await late files from Nuvance to review current data before ruling on the application.

Hospital compliance

On Monday, Feb. 27, Nuvance held a state-mandated online forum on current conditions at Sharon Hospital that included a report from PYA, a consulting firm that reports to the OHS on compliance with the hospital's Certificate of Need agreement.

David McMillan of PYA reported that for the seventh six-month reporting period (ending Sept. 30), there were "no non-compliance findings requiring intervention."

On Nuvance's current applications to close the Labor and Delivery unit and to consolidate the ICU and Medical-Surgery units into a PCU, PYA found that the hospital has complied with the requirements by holding public presentations of the hospital's plans and by entering into the CON process with OHS.

McMillan said that PYA was aware of an "interruption" in ICU services but it did not amount to a violation.

There were two questions from the public, both from Barbara Prindle of Sharon, who asked if the hospital plans to schedule surgeries only during daylight hours.

McCulloch said the hospital has been discussing ways of creating a more efficient surgical schedule since Sept. 2021, but no changes have been made and no solution has been determined yet.

Prindle also wanted to know when the MRI machine would be fixed.

McCulloch said there was indeed a malfunction and that a service technician was at the hospital that day, but the machine was still out of service.

— Patrick L. Sullivan



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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

FILM: ALEXANDER WILBURN

In the Midst of War, the Fight for Animal Survival

Under siege from the Russian invasion, Feldman Ecopark, a zoo in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, became the site for a daring rescue mission as both staff and volunteers worked to evacuate animals out of the warzone. Large predators like lions and bears had been trapped in their enclosures as Russian shelling destroyed Ecopark, and transporting them to safety took a team willing to risk their lives. Their story is captured in “Checkpoint: Zoo,” a forthcoming documentary by Joshua Zeman, a now full-time resident of Falls Village, Conn., whose filmmaking career has included “The Loneliest Whale: The Search For 52” distributed by Hulu and executive produced by Leonardo DiCaprio and Adrian Grenier. Zeman spoke with me ahead of a presentation on the film he’ll be giving at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village on Saturday, March 4.

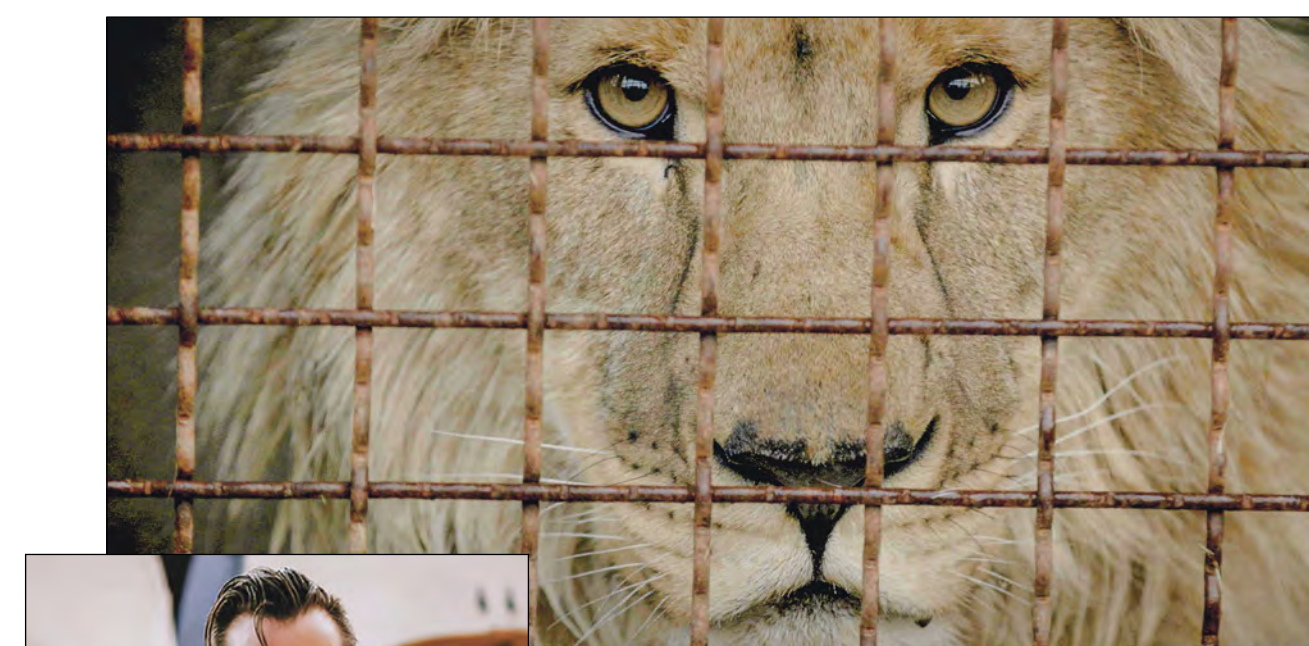
Alexander Wilburn: In this conflict, we’ve seen, in addition to the civilian loss of life, the effect of the bombing on animals. Pets were abandoned in the streets, and farm animals were killed during shelling, but the zoo faced a particular Crisis. Can you tell me how you first learned about Feldman Ecopark and the plight they were facing?

Joshua Zeman: It started with a New York Times story about this chimpanzee that was roaming the streets of Kharkiv. They were able to lure her back by using a bicycle and having her ride back to the zoo. I did an animal documentary with DiCaprio that

was about this search for one unique whale. That had gotten some great reviews, they called it a modern-day “Moby Dick,” so I’m always looking for really interesting and engaging animal stories that sort of transcend your typical nature documentary. When I saw this story about the chimp I was intrigued, and I found out that she had come from Ecopark. I thought that was really interesting, the story of these displaced animals, much like the displaced Ukrainians who were at the time streaming out of the country during the conflict. There were a lot of stories about places being bombed, and farms being bombed, but what makes Ecopark unique is that it really was behind enemy lines, in between the last checkpoint of the Ukrainian army and the Russian front. The Russians were on the edge of the park, so the park almost became this no man’s land, like the buffers used in war.

AW: The zoo is located in this really vulnerable spot, and prior to the war they were also conducting a lot of work with endangered species and preservation, right?

JZ: The film tries to talk about the unintended victims, the collateral of war. We don’t automatically think of animals during wartime. But the film also talks about the importance of zoos in societies. People can say, “We shouldn’t have zoos, look what happened here,” but actually zoos are becoming more places of conservation and breeding and wildlife reproduction than they ever have before, so I think that’s important to consider



FILM STILL FROM “CHECKPOINT: ZOO”



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Joshua Zeman

in the conversation with animals and conflict.

AW: This has been a conflict where we’ve seen a lot of on-the-ground civilian footage, especially through TikTok, how much did that contribute to the filming process?

JZ: There’s an article in The New York Times today that says the war in Ukraine is the first “TikTok War.” Ecopark was evacuating these animals, but they had no way to get the larger predators out because it was so much more involved. It required cages and tranquilizers. So the zoo started posting videos, like one video of a young men evacuating the kanga-

roos. It’s wicked cute and the video was aired on [The Late Show with Stephen Colbert]. Once that ended up on Colbert, Ecopark realized they could ask for help on social media with the larger animals — and they got all this help. So they really learned to use social media to help save these animals. But in this war, we’ve replaced the Walter Cronkite, 7 p.m. news coverage of Vietnam with TikTok. That’s how most people see this war, they see it through their social media feeds.

AW: Through Tiktok, we get a ton of really immediate footage. How do you see that as affecting the role of the documentary?

JZ: In previous

decades we’d hear that there was no way you could incorporate cellphone footage into a documentary, the audience won’t accept that as creatively legitimate. But now I can use cellphone footage because in the context of war, and in the immediacy of war, this is how we document life now. That allows for a lot more stories to be told, and the democratization of that storytelling because it’s not being filtered through CNN.

AW: I have to imagine traveling to Ukraine was a unique filming experience.

JZ: I filmed a Netflix series called “Murder Mountain” so I spent a year up in Humboldt County [Calif.] with a whole bunch of outlaw weed dealers with a bunch of guns in my face, so it was a different kind of danger. For “The Loneliest Whale” I spent two weeks out in the ocean on a boat tagging whales — so this was a different kind of danger.

AW: Do you feel like this was the next level of extreme environments?

JZ: I’m not like an adrenaline junkie, I just like drama in my stories.

AW: You certainly had that, as well as this group of volunteers, zookeepers, even the zoo owner, millionaire Oeksandr Feldman, helping to

rescue these animals, a cast that cuts across all these different economic groups in Kharkiv — as well as human casualties.

JZ: It brings up a good question, which is why are some people willing to risk their lives to save animals. This is a no-brainer for some people, but other people would say that’s a ridiculous thing. Is it our empathy? What is it? There had been stories about Feldman Ecopark that were circulating in the press, but it wasn’t until reaching out to them that I realized the depth of the situation. Four zookeepers were killed, and there was a 15-year-old boy who was killed who was the son of two zookeepers... the idea of these young kids risking their lives to rescue these predatory animals while bombs are dropping was just so crazy.

AW: As you’ve seen this war progress, do you think the ecological ramifications are part of the conversation?

JZ: I think because of the intimacy that social media has provided, more and more we’re realizing the larger implications of war. I think this was one of the quickest times we’ve realized the unintended consequences of war — can you imagine all of these citizens had to evacuate and leave their pets behind? Their pets are like their children, their most intense source of comfort, and then they have to leave them. I think we have a far more nuanced understanding of the implications of war, but I’m not sure we have yet to fully understand the long-term ecological and environmental effects this will have, but we will be seeing it. It will be interesting to see how they rebuild and what Ukraine becomes.



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VZ by Beth Rundquist

ART: EMILY EDELMAN

\$100k Raised at Art Auction To Aid in Ukraine Relief

Ukrainians' courage, ingenuity, and perseverance have changed and inspired the whole world," said Cellmark Inc. Executive Andre Wlodar in a speech to welcome the crowd of nearly 200 guests to Troutbeck on Sunday, Feb. 26, for a fundraising event to mark the one-year anniversary of the war in Ukraine. The event raised approximately \$100,000 toward relief for Ukraine.

"It's one year that this unthinkable thing happened," he said. "We thought, 'Russia is going to overpower Ukraine,' and guess what? A miracle happened, and that was the miracle of Ukraine."

Wlodar and his wife, art dealer Kim Schmidt-Wlodar, launched an online art auction in early February to raise money for Ukrainian relief that culminated in the gathering at Troutbeck.

Art by both Ukrainian and local artists had been on display at The Re Institute in Millerton, N.Y., for two weeks prior and was moved to Troutbeck for viewing during the fundraiser.

Guest speaker Alice Chun, founder and CEO

of Solight Design, discussed her journey to Ukraine to deliver her collapsible solar lanterns to children's hospitals there.

Chun has taken her lights to other wartorn and impacted areas, and gave a heartfelt account of her experiences.

"Every time I go to one of these red zones," said Chun, "I go to prove that there are always two sides to a story. When you breach the limits of prejudice and fear, it's always about going beyond that fear and self-pity into a place of enduring acceptance."

"It struck me that we wouldn't blame these kids if they were hateful, but they didn't have any hate. They were so gracious and kind and hopeful for a future of light... I couldn't believe the amount of love and hope that was coming from these kids and the grace of their hearts."

Ukraine native Julia O'Connell coordinates fundraising events for the nonprofit Razom — which, along with the Wayair Foundation, has been working with the Wlodars provide relief for Ukraine — and also spoke, discussing how her organization delivers medical supplies to

Ukraine.

A live auction conducted by Rachel Orkin-Ramey of Christie's featured unique packages including a home consulting experience with Hammertown owner and founder Joan Osofsky; dinner for six prepared by local resident and chef Matthew Lodes; and a photo shoot with Edward Acker Photography of Lenox, Mass.

A number of local eateries and purveyors including Champetre in Pine Plains, N.Y., Le Gamin in Sharon, Conn., Four Brothers, and Guido's Fresh Marketplace in Great Barrington, Mass., were represented, providing traditional Ukrainian foods and other offerings for guests.

Bard College graduate student Teryn Kuzma entertained the crowd by singing traditional songs and accompanying herself on Ukrainian bandura.

"They are so strong," said Wlodar of the people of Ukraine. "They're fighting also for our freedom, not only for their freedom. On this first anniversary of the war, I just wanted to say, let's stand with Ukraine and its people. We are in deep gratitude for what they're doing."



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIVE POINTS GALLERY

Citizens II by Sandra Filippucci

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

A Different View of War Trauma

Now on display at Five Points Gallery in Torrington, Conn., "Ukraine Flower Series: The Power of Defiance" is a collection of violent black and white florals by painter Sandra Filippucci. At once blooming to life and a reflection of the jarring rush of death from wartime explosions, the mixed media paintings go against much of the artistic iconography that has

sprung out of this East European conflict. In an online artist's talk held on the one-year anniversary of war in Ukraine, Filippucci, a resident of Cornwall, Conn., shared that she purposefully avoided literal images of the country in peril.

"Most of the work is austere and monochromatic. I did not want to bring in Ukrainian colors. I did not want to paint sunflowers. I thought there has to

be a way to express the generational damage of war without using the universal go-to's," Filippucci said. "Otherwise it becomes an illustration. I was a New York illustrator, and I wanted to overcome the impulse to be narrative in this series."

"Ukraine Flower Series" is on display in the West Gallery of Five Points Gallery through March 11. For more go to www.fivepointsarts.org

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Chorus Angelicus

The Congregational Church of Salisbury in Lakeville, Conn., will host Chorus Angelicus' three children's choirs performing folk arrangements and Felix Mendelssohn classics on Sunday, March 5 at 3 p.m.

Gardening speaker series continues

Garden designers Page Dickey and Deb Munson will share their secrets for using native plants to attract bird, bees and butterflies at The White Hart Inn in Salisbury, Conn., on Thursday, March 2 at 5:30 p.m. The talk is part of the ongoing Bad Grass Speaker Series with proceeds benefiting the Sharon Audubon Center in Sharon, Conn.

For details on the series and to purchase tickets go to www.silvaetpratium.net



PHOTO BY EMILY EDELMAN

Rachel Orkin-Ramey of Christie's presided over the auction at Troutbeck in Amenia, N.Y.

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EDITORIAL

The library venue, a place where all belong

Last week the NorthEast-Millerton Library's Annex on Century Boulevard was the setting for Expo '23, an exhibit that focused on housing challenges for people of moderate incomes. The multi-day event attracted more than 50 attendees. Visitors came and lingered inside at the informational displays and talked with each other, sharing stories and ideas. A few weeks earlier, the Pine Plains Free Library was the setting for a public hearing held by the town's Planning Board. Approximately 60 residents attended the gathering — held in the library's spacious Community Room on the second floor — to learn about a solar project proposed by a New York company near Pulver's Corners. Before and after the hearing, small groups gathered on the side, talking among themselves, sharing viewpoints on the controversial plan.

The plan by Sharon Hospital to shutter its labor and delivery operation and transform its ICU into a progressive care unit has been the subject of roundtables at several forums — held mostly in libraries. In September, the Save Sharon Hospital (SSH) organization talked to the public at the Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury. In November, SSH held its meeting at Cornwall Library. Then twice in October and February, SSH held similar meetings in the Annex at NorthEast-Millerton Library. And at the Annex, just as it happened at the housing Expo and at the Pine Plains hearing, residents stayed after the event to take in an extra social moment of talk and thought — and connect.

There isn't room in the columns of this newspaper to list all the ways that our libraries serve their communities by connecting people, promoting community spirit and advancing literacy. Town halls are where the business of governing gets done, but in many respects the town library serves the community in important ways.

Aside from catering to readers with books, magazines, newspapers, CDs, book clubs, movie streaming and a litany of online resources, they also serve as gathering places, social forums for all age groups.

There are 17 libraries in Litchfield County and 26 in Dutchess County. A partial list, besides the Scoville and Cornwall libraries, includes the Douglas Library in North Canaan, which marked its 200-year anniversary in 2021; the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon; the Kent Memorial Library; the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village; and the Norfolk Library. In eastern Dutchess County, besides the libraries in Millerton and Pine Plains, we have the Amenia Free Library, The Roeliff Jansen Community Library in Hillsdale/Copake, the Millbrook Library and the Stanford Free Library in Stanfordville.

The shared experience of sitting in a group with neighbors to learn something, to discuss it, to share thoughts and then to leave the event having interacted with people in the community—even if it's a nod or a handshake—is edifying in ways that trace back to our earliest days. Some come without saying a word. Nevertheless, they are part of it.

Discussing hospital cutbacks or affordable housing or the potential impact of a solar project on a rural landscape is one thing, but think of the value of a story hour program for children, who come together at library events as young social beings to experience a movie, arts and crafts, story time, dog visits, or music sing-a-longs, to name a few. And have the common experience together. Belonging.

Letter had incorrect information

I rebut. A month ago, First Selectman Henry Todd felt there was some urgency regarding getting FIOS from Frontier for the whole Town of Falls Village. Commendable. What, however, was most noticeable was how swiftly a Town Meeting WAS proposed by Mr. Todd and took place in short order. So simple. For close to 4 years, Mr Todd has denied that chance for our Town to fully engage as a Town over River Road. Indeed, citizen participation has been fraught and many don't want to be involved. So, we are left tit for tatting in this fine Newspaper. So be it.

Ms. Ayer, you are wrong. You allege "many more citizens" support River Road. How can you state that? Volunteer town citizens got 71 signatures on a quick petition for a Town Meeting and yay-

nay vote in one weekend in 2019. Denied. You have seen the Jahana Hayes "award" for \$750,000 application by the Falls Village Housing Trust (FVHT). We haven't and want to very much. Make it available, please. We have witnessed consistent falsehoods over the years on previous applications. Please stop citing the wealthy Towns abilities to afford their housing. Kent, Cornwall and Salisbury. We don't have humongous Grand Lists and donating millionaires. We KNOW the Town will not be funding the construction of River Road. But what costs will we be forced to afford which will add to one of the highest mill rates in Litchfield County? High school students at \$30,000 each. More Fire and EMS calls to already overburdened Volunteer services (of which I



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Icing

Housing opponents cost towns time, money and rental units

Every time Colter Rule writes a letter complaining about the River Road housing project in Falls Village, housing experts and town officials have to write letters refuting his claims and setting the record straight.

This time it was Jocelyn Ayer's letter of Feb. 23 which effectively rebutted the spurious claims Mr. Rule made on Feb. 16 about town liability and malfeasance.

Why does The Lakeville Journal keep printing those trumped-up charges? Publishing misinformation is not fostering democracy or communication.

As Ms. Ayer pointed out, Mr. Rule and the minority who oppose the project have had their grievances endlessly addressed — they just don't like the result.

If you google where Mr. Rule lives — right across from the housing site — his objections become clear. He once said the project would "ghettoize" the area, then furiously claimed he didn't mean it that way.

In fact, that area looks considerably run down now. "Lime Rock Station" sounds quaint, but it's a hodgepodge of housing styles, scrubby land, old cement abutments and perhaps a logging operation. The new homes, as shown on the housing website, should be a big improvement.

In Lakeville, the opponents of the Holley Block project are just as spurious. Their court case was dismissed for lack of credibility. Many of their "concerns" were ridiculous, like whether the new building's windows would have real separated panes or artificial grills. Please. Any reasonable questions about traffic and parking were addressed long ago.

am a Member). Yielding on the development paying taxes? Citizens want to know. Will the EPA sign off on the River Road property, a former sand pit and dumping ground of abandoned cars. Will the FVHT actually be able to start and run a private water company? And manage the entire development? How affordable WILL it be? Too many questions. Too few answers.

Ms. Ayer, you are an affordable housing professional. You allege there is a "housing crisis". Numerous people here don't think there is, particularly the way you propose to do it. You know

Perhaps the real problem for some objectors is not the building, traffic or parking, but the residents who would live there. This seemed to be the case two years ago when they suggested relocating the housing way out to the state line by the town dump. That sounded very much like class segregation if not racism.

Despite widespread criticism of that appalling idea, the objectors just dug in further and tried to stop the project by lawsuit. They seem adamantly opposed to having an enclave of lower income people in the upscale village near the Town Grove - or is it just those fake window grills that worry them?

The plaintiffs in this lawsuit are Joe Schaefer, Celeste Shannon and William Muecke, though you could easily miss their names. The Journal often cloaks them in anonymity as "abutting property owners" or just refers to their legal entities.

Instead of providing such cover, the paper ought to shine a brighter light on their claims and motives. The Journal didn't even report how much money their baseless lawsuit has cost the town so far, just noted that it's "quite a bit."

Similarly, when citizens insisted that rentals at the Dresser housing site in Salisbury should go to locals only — as if out-of-towners might be undesirable of the wrong ethnicity or class — the Journal didn't name them either.

Endlessly printing falsehoods or shielding objectors who are delaying, denigrating and downsizing projects, costing towns money and making renting families wait years longer is not helpful. Nor is zoning that won't allow accessory apartments.

Mark Godburn
Norfolk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Position on River Road

In response to Colter Rule's Letter to the Editor in the Feb. 16 issue, Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Connecticut, our local affiliate, wants to clarify our position regarding the Falls Village Housing Trust plan for River Road in Falls Village.

We are advocates of affordable housing in general and are aligned with Habitat for Humanity International on the need for more affordable housing in all of its forms, be it homeownership or rental. We follow the mission of bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope with guiding principles that include supporting sustainable and transformative development, focusing on shelter, and advocating for affordable housing.

We are proud to say that

we are currently building a single family home in North Canaan for a new family partner. Our thorough application process has presented us with a wonderful single mother who works in Canaan and has two exceptional children that attend the public schools. She, like all of our family partners in the Habitat homes in our local communities, has wanted to own a home. Not everyone is ready for or wants that commitment. So, if there are other opportunities, like rentals, we support their efforts to help our communities to put people in safe, decent and affordable housing.

Evan Cooper,
Executive Director,
for Board of Directors of
Habitat for Humanity of
Northwest Connecticut
Lakeville

Act against Iroquois pipeline project

The "Iroquois" Pipeline Company proposes to drastically increase the amount of gas they push through their existing 37-year-old, 414-mile long fracked gas pipeline, which runs from the New York/Canada border through Connecticut and into Long Island and New York City. In order to push more gas through the aging pipeline, they are applying to double the size of four already toxic and noisy compressor stations along the route of the pipeline — in Athens and Dover, New York, and Brookfield and Milford, Conn. The company is seeking a permit to expand "Enhancement by Compression" to a degree which is inconsistent with state climate law.

It seems clear to me that enhanced compressor

stations would be a terrible addition to the already terrible "Iroquois" pipeline project, increasing stress on old and unsafe infrastructure and emitting more harmful particulates into our already over-burdened atmosphere.

We have to move away from the use of fossil fuels immediately. We are so far down a path to our own destruction — there should be no question that this project is furthering our ongoing climate and health disaster.

I do not live in New York state but Dover, New York, is half an hour's drive away, and Brookfield, Conn., about an hour, and the state borders don't restrain airflow.

Please act against this project.

Patricia Mullins
Sharon

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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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More letters appear on the next page.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Latest chapter in Troutbeck's story

As a lifetime neighbor of the Troutbeck property, and a personal friend of Lewis and Sophie Mumford, I find it ironic that at Troutbeck's own website one can read Lewis Mumford's essay 'The Story of Troutbeck' in which he predicts this time of reckoning for the historic property.

He states: "...admittedly, there are moments when, in walking around Troutbeck, one remembers Chekhov's 'The Cherry Orchard,' and wonders whether its fate is to be that of many country houses in Europe and America: to become the rural outpost of some metropolitan institution, or to be broken up like a suburban subdivision into building lots. That may be Troutbeck's destiny; yet there is something in the personality of the place that makes one hope for a different outcome when it changes hands..."

The following poem, written by my husband, reflects how we feel, that the Troutbeck property should, for centuries to come, be protected from development in such a significant manner.

Marian M. Paton
Amenia

A Reflection on the Newest Chapter in Troutbeck's Story

For many in life there will come one time;

a moment, a crossroads, that itself defines

how we are remembered throughout the ages.

For most of us that history is small and soon forgotten to the past,

but on the newest chapter in Troutbeck's story

history will shine its honest light, and forever

allow our children's children and great-grandchildren

to vividly see, with clarity, how in that moment we

chose to write, forever, our family's legacy.

I'll echo Lewis Mumford's prescient words

who spoke of Troutbeck's timelessness being freed

from the city's urgency (and carelessness).

He eloquently wrote of the spirit of a place

that has, since Caleb Benton's time,

linked families to that soil and land

and for generations has inspired

the continuation of a collaboration

between the world of nature and the spirit of man.

With learned insight he hoped that reverence

would for centuries to come rise up

and protect those glens from greedy plans

for development and parking lots.

If you own a manor with history profound,

before you move to defile that hallowed ground,

(where Sinclair Lewis and Mark Twain both

spent days of quiet leisure)

sit down, alone, with a quiet mind,

(as did John Burroughs and Myron Benton)

and there beside that lovely stream

(so admired by Emerson and Thoreau)

open your hearts and embrace the past

in a spirit of introspection,

and before becoming historic villains

first contemplate those unspoiled fields

and that wooded mountain.

That majestic mountain, eons old,

stands a silent monument to those men of fame who

nature so adored, who fought to stay the

selfish hand of man and the earth's destruction

did abhor and did shield that ancient hunting ground

held sacred by true native clans

from the soulless excavators' wanton claw

and the bellowing bulldozers' gaping maw.

James Robertson Paton
Amenia

Diversity — an American jewel

"I can tell you, without diversity, creativity remains stagnant."

— Edward Enninful, British Vogue

1965 — the Beatles on Sullivan, Malcolm X assassinated, first U.S. combat troops land in Vietnam, Man of La Mancha opens off Broadway, Johnson announces The Great Society in his State of the Union speech. A historic year for Johnson blazing an ever-widening way for deeds to follow the words of the 1964 Civil Rights Act outlawing discrimination for color, race, sex, religion and national origin. Equal employment laws and affirmative action begot Fortune 500 company investments in diversity training with revisions to employment practices — a boon to productivity.

In 1965, with little fanfare Johnson rescinded the Immigration Act of 1924 passed to preserve U.S. homogeneity with quotas and severe re-

strictions. The removal of the 1924 Immigration Act by Johnson in 1965, lifted quotas on immigrations from all continents. Reminders: three U.S. immigration waves: 1) mostly English speaking 1600's to 1850's; 2) Southern and East Europeans starting in 1860's; 3) Asians and Latin Americans in 1980's. Immigration has prevented the U.S. falling into population decline/decimation as have Japan, China, Russia, others.

Immigration not only balances U.S. demographics but generates 36% of the Nation's innovation — the enduring wealth of the nation. All forms of organizations have learned that diverse teams are more innovative and productive than homogeneous ones. I, for decades, worked in a major corporation research and engineering organization where in the 1990's the nature of research dramatically transitioned from "belly at the bench", solo genius researchers to

cross-functional, diverse research teams — more genius, more productive, faster.

Diversity programs lifted an entire workforce — establishing effective identification, movement, and skill enhancement practices and policies. Traditionally technical organizations told a man on Friday that on Monday he would be the group's Supervisor — the transition was his putting on a tie. Diversity awareness, appreciation and skill enablements benefited all employees while paying steep productivity dividends.

In 2023, diversity and immigration are under vicious attack. Ron DeSantis (100% Italian with eight grandparents all Italian immigrants in the early 20th C) is the reigning extreme immigrant antagonist. His family members, early to mid 1900's, were to many in the US "despicable".

Johnson's Great Society legislative and executive action raised all immigrants — all peoples of differing religion, race, sex, color, and national origin. Ron DeSantis, as he strains to be the Republican Presidential candidate, rewrites history, embraces autocratic policies, appoints officials to overturn democracy, ignores his own heritage.

Unlike Trump who suffers from exposure, DeSantis hides himself. With both Yale and Harvard degrees, he is anti-elite. DeSantis was for COVID and prevention, now he denies it. DeSantis mocks, attacks immigrants. Gleefully he batters education, bans books, attacks history, assaults teachers and students. Fit to be President?

If you believe, as we believe, that diversity leads to better products...you obviously put a ton of energy behind diversity the same way you would put a ton of energy behind anything else that is truly important. Tim Cook, Apple Computer Inc.

Kathy Herald-Marlowe
Sharon

Renovation of a park

Thank you for your wonderful review and appreciation of our work on the Housatonic Meadows State Park Renovation. We would like to add a few kudos. One is to Mike Nadeau who provided drawings, expertise and suppliers to the project and who will be advising on much of the volunteer follow-up. Secondly, the Housatonic River Commission is also an instrumental part of the Environmental

Working Group assembled by DEEP. Finally kudos to Rep. Maria Horn who got our funding and has supported ongoing legislation for improved Hazard Tree Management. This has been a very good collaboration that will develop ecological awareness and recreation possibilities for all.

Katherine Freygang,
Bruce Bennett

HMPA Renovation Reps.
Cornwall

Sharon Hospital thanks

Kudos to the staff at Sharon Hospital Emergency Department! My girlfriend Cathleen dislocated her shoulder today, a Saturday. We went in and were greeted warmly and with kindness. Cathleen was in pain and was treated quickly and professionally. She was checked,

had an IV put in, X-rayed, and treated, all within an hour and a half.

The staff today was so good-humored and kind, not to mention knowledgeable and skilled. We feel lucky to have this hospital close by.

Karl Saliter
Cornwall Bridge

More letters previous page.

Our Home, Our Future:

Voices from our Salisbury community about the housing we need for a healthy, vibrant future

Community connections are what build valuable relationships and give us a deeper sense of belonging.

When I mention Salisbury to people who are not familiar with our town I always say what makes Salisbury special are the wonderful people who live here. Salisbury would not exist as we know it if it weren't for its generous citizens who, over generations, have donated time and resources to help their neighbors and enhance the town.

Volunteering is a huge part of what joins us together as a community and contributes greatly to our quality of life. Almost 100 people volunteer for various town commissions, committees and for other activities, which are essential for the operation of our town government. Our first responders are all volunteers. Hundreds more volunteer for the many nonprofit organizations in town that help children, the library, environment, health services, civic organizations, political parties, seniors, pets, recreational programs and social services.

The Salisbury Association, located on Academy Street, has published a resource guide that lists the many volunteer opportunities in town: www.salisburyassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/nw-corner-handbook-6-2021.pdf

Here's some interesting history about just a few of our very special places and services. None would exist without the generous donation of time and money by people who love our town.

In 1951 the Belcher family contributed much of the money the town needed to purchase the Holley Grove, which became our Town Grove. It's impossible to imagine our town without the beautiful Grove for boating, fishing and swimming as well as paddle tennis and the community center. It's where the whole town gathers for a Fourth of July picnic and to hear Lou Bucceri read the Declaration of Independence followed by a Salisbury Band concert.

The Scoville Memorial Library began in 1771 with a gift of 200 books donated by 39 residents. The library took various forms until 1885 when the Scoville family financed the current building. In 1981 and 2016 the building was enlarged, renovated and reimagined. Scoville Library has kept up with the times and provides space for community events, engaging programming, videos, books in all their forms and much more.

A few years ago \$850,000 was raised locally by the Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA) to rebuild the ski jumps which were the site for this year's 97th annual Jumpfest Winter Festival. It's a highlight of the winter season.

The Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association, which recently joined with two other organizations to form Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County, had its origins in 1904 when Mrs. Rose Milmine Parsons hired a nurse by the name of Henrietta Van Cleft out of her own funds to make home visits to residents in need. Henrietta made her visits via horse and buggy! They now provide skilled home medical care, hospice care, private assistance services and many wellness classes and clinics.

Salisbury Family Services was founded in the 1930s as the Welfare Association of Salisbury, the purpose of which was to promote the welfare of the Town and people of Salisbury. It is funded solely through donations. They continue to help people by providing emergency assistance to those experiencing hardship as well as sponsoring programs supporting education, housing, and childcare among others.

The Salisbury Association Land Trust has been instrumental in preserving land in our area. One example is the Dark Hollow Preserve which is a 140 acre wooded preserve just off Salmon Kill Road. It began with a donation of 5 acres in 1993 from Louise Gross; 123 acres were added with the help of state financing, the Belcher Charitable Trust, and many generous Salisbury donors. In 2008 an additional 12 acres were purchased from the Pope Family. Local residents have worked to clear the land of invasive species, helping to create a beautiful woodland with 2.7 miles of public trails.

As early as 1960 the town recognized the need for more housing that was affordable for local workers. With the average home sale price between August 2021 and January 2023 of \$1,219,400, the situation in town has reached crisis proportions. The future use of the "Pope Property" bordering Salmon Kill Road is on the minds of many people in town. Gustavus Pope was the founder of the Salisbury Land Trust and the Historic District Commission and donated the land which is now home to Salisbury Family Services, Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association, the Housatonic Child Care Center, Trotta Fields, basketball courts and the town's Community Garden. The surrounding land, which was also owned by the family, was purchased by the town in 2016. In a letter to the town

regarding the sale the family expressed their hopes that "permanently affordable housing will be a major element of its development."

Sarum Village is Salisbury's largest rental complex. In 1984 private citizens raised \$140,000 to purchase land so the newly formed Salisbury Housing Committee could build and manage affordable rental housing on the site. With 100 families on the waiting list, the need has never been greater.

The Salisbury Housing Committee continues to work on increasing rental housing at Sarum Village. With available land the biggest challenge to building affordable homes, Jim Dresser, a board member and long-time advocate for affordable housing, recently donated land on East Railroad Street to the Housing Committee.

The Salisbury Housing Trust raises money locally to purchase homes or property that are resold with deed restrictions at affordable prices, creating affordable home ownership opportunities. Dunham Road is named in honor of Richard Dunham, who worked tirelessly to make the Trust an early success. Volunteers on the Trust board have been working with local contractors who are generously donating discounted time and materials to help renovate a home on East Main Street.

What an incredible legacy all of these people have created! A way to experience the joy, satisfaction and comradery of supporting our town and its future is to donate money, time and/or property to one of our many nonprofit organizations either now or as part of your estate planning.

Mary Close Oppenheimer has been part of the Lakeville/Salisbury community for 40 years and is a volunteer on the Salisbury Affordable Housing Commission.



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Ever wonder about the history of the stone walls that are abundant here in the NW corner of Connecticut? Even in the most remote parts of the forest it is common to run across a stone wall that indicates that the land was once open for pasture or farming. A good place to start is with this article by John-Manual Andriote: www.earthmagazine.org/article/history-science-and-poetry-new-englands-stone-walls. This will lead you to books written by the UCONN professor Robert Thorson such as Stone by Stone, The Magnificent History in New England's Stone Walls. For more information, please visit: robertthorson.clas.uconn.edu/writing/books.



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Our Towns

Student recital covers Bach to bop in Salisbury

By Matthew Kreta

SALISBURY — The Annual Student Open Recital was held at the Congregational Church in Salisbury on Sunday, Feb. 26. The recital is eligible to students from kindergarten through high school, and features official school ensembles as well as students of private instructors.

The concert began with Sophia Poirier playing Beethoven's "Für Elise". Poirier approached the piece with poise and a steady rhythm, undaunted by the classic piece's quick transitions and intense latter half.

Brothers Soren and Lucca Peacock performed a duet of Antonio Vivaldi's "Sonata #5 in E minor RV 40," a daunting piece of work with four major sections over about 10 minutes. The brothers, Lucca on piano and Soren on cello, played with experienced synchronicity and beautiful tandem. Lucca's piano provided a firm and unshakable foundation to Soren, as his cello soared through quick and precise jumps between higher and lower notes and somber melodies.

Jayden Lee then played an original piano piece entitled "Un morceau sur une mélodie que j'ai entendue." Lee quickly stunned with blindingly fast arpeggios and runs of notes from the very start of the piece, while maintaining a light and airy quality to his playing. The piece was full of interesting key changes, chromaticism and turns that had listeners enthralled.

Lee then joined performers Tiffany Zhai on flute and Dorothy Machiels on cello to complete the Indian Mountain School Advanced Ensemble and perform another original piece by Zhao. As befitting of its name, "Dreaming in the Night," the piece moved quickly from place to place with loosely tied melodies and key changes. The trio traded melodic material back and forth, weaving through sharp turns into varying keys and melodies with ease.

Continuing the trend of expressionistic music, Nicole McDowd then performed "Arabesque #1" by Claude Debussy, on piano. McDowd leaned heavily into the piece's emotion, appropriately ad-



PHOTO BY MATTHEW KRETA

The Salisbury School Classical Ensemble performed a Bach piece at the Student Open Recital Sunday, Feb. 26.

justing tempo and volume to give an incredible ebb and flow to the piece, capturing Debussy's love for ethereal and abstract soundscapes.

The Salisbury School Classical Ensemble then performed Bach's famous or-

gan piece, "Little' Fugue in G minor BWV 578". Arranged for violins, cello, trombone, alto saxophone and clarinet the ensemble approached the Baroque piece with rigid and stable rhythm appropriate for the time, dutifully and skillfully passing the song's main melodic material between the many instruments while demonstrating excellent counterpoint to supplement it.

Joaquin Pachano Vollert played Chopin's "Scherzo #2 in B flat minor, opus 31," a

difficult and extensive piece that requires much from its performer.

The piece continually shifted between slow, heavy staccato phrases offset by light and quick arpeggios which Vollert navigated with grace. The piece also has a middle section that Vollert brought an incredibly peaceful and tender emotion to, before ramping back into a flurry of notes that would close out the piece.

The Salisbury School Jazz Ensemble closed out the con-

cert with three selections, "Tom Cat" by Lee Morgan, "Lawns" by Carla Bley, and hard bop classic "Song for my Father" by Horace Silver. The three songs served the ensemble well, showing off the group's cohesion while also giving several opportunities for players to perform extended solos.

The recital is open to students from kindergarten through high school, and features official school ensembles as well as students of private instructors.

The 'Fearsome Foursome' explained at Hunt Library

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — As this non-snowy winter (until this week) winds down, the woods might seem bereft of life. Rest assured, said Ginny Apple. If you go for a ramble, there are animals watching you, including the "Fearsome Foursome": raccoons, skunks, porcupines and possums.

Apple, a state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Master Wildlife Conservationist, spoke at the David M. Hunt Library Saturday, Feb. 18.

Raccoons have the dubious distinction of being the biggest vector of rabies, she said.

However, if you spot one out during the day, that doesn't mean it is rabid.

Raccoons are very adaptable and dexterous, meaning there is an excellent chance of them getting into the garbage, day or night.

And if humans leave a "smorgasbord" in the form of household garbage out where the raccoons (and other animals) can get at it...

Raccoons enjoy a superb tactile sense. Their paws bear more than a passing resemblance to the human hand, and are so sensitive that the animals can locate grubs and other subsurface food by placing their paws on the ground.

Apple said raccoons are often observed placing their paws in water. This is not to wash their food, as many people think. Rather, the cold water stimulates their nerve endings.

The North American porcupine is a rodent. The animal's most notable feature are the barbed quills that cover most of the body, except the face and belly.

They have 30,000 quills, attached singly. (Old World porcupines have quills attached in bunches.) The quills are hollow and therefore buoyant, making the porcupine a good swimmer.

Porcupines have poor vision but an excellent sense of smell.

Porcupines are often encountered as roadkill. In addition to being smallish, dark



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Ginny Apple expounded on characteristics and habits of the "Fearsome Foursome" at the Hunt Library Feb. 18.

and hard to see, they like to lick the salt used in winter road treatment.

Evict carefully

Skunks, about the size of a house cat, are known for their sulfuric spray, which they direct accurately to a distance of 10 to 15 feet. A generally easy-going creature, the skunk, when alarmed, will blast the spray from musk glands located under the tail.

So the prudent homeowner, upon discovering skunks under the porch, will refrain from attempting a physical eviction.

Instead, make life unpleasant for your unwanted tenant. Apple suggested loud noises.

The possum is the only marsupial in North America, and like its famous antipodean relative, the kangaroo, the female possum keeps its newborns in a pouch until they are ready to venture out

into the world.

Possums draw the attention of many predators. To keep their numbers up, possums have short gestation periods of 12 days, and have multiple babies.

Despite an impressive set of teeth, the possum has one famous defense mechanism. It plays dead.

Apple said this is a reflexive action, not a conscious decision on the part of the possum.

Possums also have a habit which should endear them to humans. They eat ticks, by the thousands.

None of the Fearsome Foursome hibernate, Apple said.

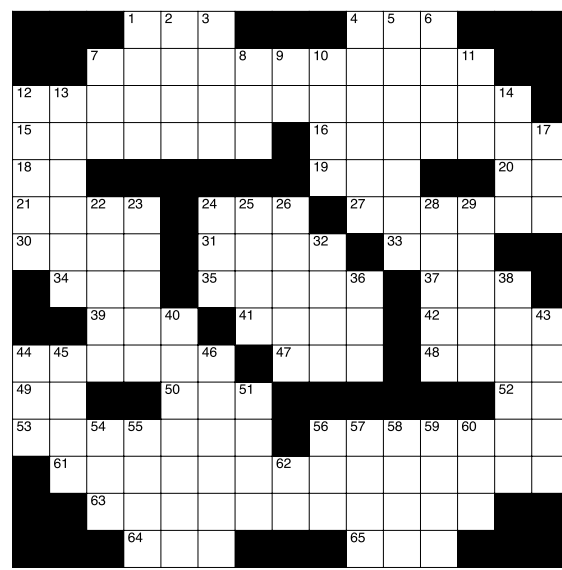
However, they will "hunker down" in severe weather.

So as you wander through the woods, keep an eye out. The Fearsome Foursome are assuredly keeping tabs on you.

Brain Teasers

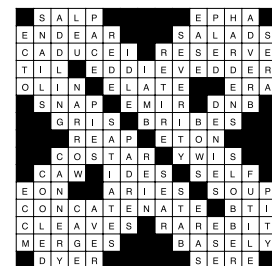
CLUES ACROSS

1. Relaxing place
4. Plant by scattering
7. A type of explorer
12. Unique traits
15. Lady
16. Dismayed
18. Railway
19. Type of whale
20. Sodium
21. Manning and Lilly are two
24. Where golfers begin
27. Entrapped
30. Influential punk artist
31. Hebrew calendar month
33. Car mechanics group
34. Undesirable rodent
35. Minneapolis suburb
37. Witch
39. Get free of
41. A written proposal or reminder
42. British School
44. Country on west coast of Africa
47. Cool!
48. Information
49. ___ route
50. Jim Nantz's network
52. Something to register (abbr.)
53. Give cards incorrectly
56. One who's learning on the job
61. Stevenson adventure novel
63. Taking careful notice
64. CNN's founder
65. Speak badly of



12. Fencing swords
13. Basement
14. Samoan monetary unit
17. Male parent
22. Finnish lake
23. A smooth fabric
24. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
25. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
26. Very willing
28. Expressed pleasure
29. Lasso
32. Hindu model of ideal man
36. Move your head in approval
38. Ill-___: gained illegally
40. Die
43. Accused publicly
44. Precious stone
45. Individual thing or person
46. Behaved in a way that degraded
51. Derogatory term
54. No seats available
55. Liability
56. Popular beverage
57. Tough outer skin of fruit
58. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
59. Troubles
60. Negative
62. Camper

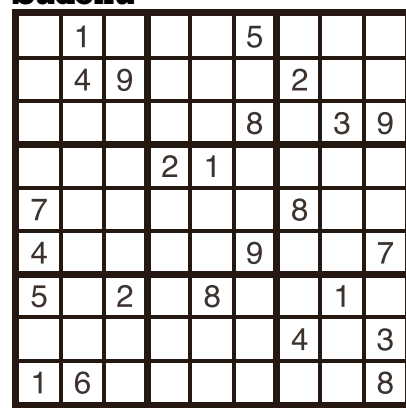
Feb. 23 Solution



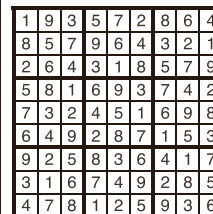
CLUES DOWN

1. A person with unusual powers of foresight
2. Single sheet of glass
3. Portrays a character
4. Expresses happiness
5. Acquires
6. "The Martian" author
7. Degree
8. 60-minute intervals
9. A detective's pal
10. Group of nations (abbr.)
11. Popular Georgia rockers

Sudoku



Feb. 23 Solution



Level: Intermediate



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Email managing editor Patrick Sullivan
at patricks@lakevillejournal.com

Sports

2023 Certified Guide to Tackle Fondling

It's early March, and that means it's tackle fondling time.

Connecticut and New York have both eliminated closed seasons for most inland trout fishing, but cold respects no human regulation.

And after the subzero temperatures on Feb. 3 and 4, I have not been in any big hurry to suit up and go fishing.

Instead I have spent a large amount of time dozing on the couch while watching "Ancient Aliens."

Have you seen this show? To call it "preposterous" is an insult to all those hard-working souls who sit around thinking up preposterousness.

In a nutshell, the show chalks up just about everything we don't understand to extraterrestrials.

And the host looks like he combs his hair with a fork, just after he stuck it in a plugged-in toaster.

The beauty of the show is I can doze off at any point and when I wake up, nothing has changed. It's still the extraterrestrials.

Let's be kind and call crashing out on the sofa with "Ancient Aliens" in the background a "winter coping mechanism."

But it will soon be practical to fish again. So let us review the steps that make that first outing a success.

Success means the waders don't leak. I used to fill them with water in the bathtub to look for leaks, and clean the



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Here's what happened last time I decided to organize my fly boxes. It's called "mission creep."

TANGLED LINES

PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

tub while I was at it.

This is called "multitasking." It never worked out well. I didn't spot the leaks, and the tub wasn't that bad to begin with.

Far better to use a flashlight from within the waders to look for those pinhole leaks that cause much misery.

When you find them, deploy a glue-y substance called Aquaseal.

Boots: Do they need new laces? Are the soles coming apart?

This is a good time of year to find new boots. Manufacturers are rolling out their new and improved products, and the old and lousy models are on sale at fly shops and from discount outfits.

Check your lines. I bet at least one of them is cracked, and should be replaced. I'm

also positive they are dirty. Clean them with warm water and a bit of Dawn dishwasher detergent, and then dress them. I use Mucilin Red for this, there are plenty of similar products.

Take your reels apart and blow the gunk out with a can of compressed air. A toothbrush also comes in handy.

Use reel oil or some other light machine oil to lube them up. Use it sparingly, a very small amount goes a long way. A Q-tip is your best friend here.

Organize the fly boxes. Hahahahaha. My traditional solution to overstuffed fly boxes is to buy more boxes and overstuff them, too.

You need a large, flat area, such as a table, to properly organize flies. Do not do it on the floor, or sometime in July you will get a Royal Coachman in your foot.

If this happens, and you have to go to the emergency room, someone will ask you how the accident occurred.

Pro tip: Blame it on the ancient aliens.

Taft defeats Hotchkiss Bearcats in 4-0 win

By Riley Klein

WATERTOWN — The Taft School Rhinos hosted The Hotchkiss School Bearcats on Saturday, Feb. 25, for the final hockey game of the 2022-23 regular season. Taft put on a show in front of a packed home crowd and closed out the year with a 4-0 victory.

The rival squads appeared evenly matched as they took to the ice in Odden Arena. Defenders from both sides shut down offensive opportunities before they began, leading to a scoreless first period.

Taft got the action started about a minute into the second period when senior Zave Greene found the back of the net on a fast break. Hotchkiss booked an interference penalty shortly after the goal, leading to a powerplay for Taft. The Rhinos capitalized on their advantage with a



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Taft junior wing Patrick Hentemann flicked a shot from the outside during the game against Hotchkiss.

goal from sophomore Preston Hidy to take a 2-0 lead over the Bearcats.

Lockdown defense from both teams resumed as the game got increasingly chippy. A washout penalty midway through the third period was quickly followed by a cross-check from Hotchkiss, leading to a four-on-three advantage

for Taft. Rhino senior Jackson Holl scored during the powerplay to put Taft up by three.

Hotchkiss found a few fast-break opportunities but was unable to sneak one past Taft's brick wall in front of the net. The puck seemed magnetically drawn to Rhino goalie Rudy Guimond's glove as he scooped up everything that came his way.

Senior center J.J. Lemieux scored the final goal for Taft to cement their 4-0 victory over Hotchkiss. The Rhinos celebrated on the ice as they wrapped up the season with a record of 19-8-1 while the Bearcats finished 10-14-3.

The win qualified Taft as top seed for the Martin/Earl Large School Tournament in New England Prep School Athletic Council's postseason. Tournament play begins Mar. 1 with the championship game to be held Mar. 5 at St. Anselm College in Goffstown, N.H.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Rhino center J.J. Lemieux found the back of the net when Taft played Hotchkiss on Feb. 25.

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HELP WANTED

be received by Monday, March 20, 2023 by 4:00PM at the above address. The Town of Sharon is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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