



Daylight saving time begins March 12

# The Lakeville Journal

TriCornerNews.com

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



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Area representatives and supporters broke ground for a new North Canaan location for the Community Health and Wellness Center of Greater Torrington (CHWC) on Friday, March 3. Left to right, CHWC CEO Joanne Borduas, State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64), Foundation for Community Health's Nancy Heaton, and Charles Perotti and Craig Whiting, North Canaan Selectmen.

## Health center construction begins in North Canaan

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — Construction of a new Community Health and Wellness Center (CHWC) in North Canaan officially began on Friday, March 3 as area representatives and supporters gathered at the site on East Main Street to break ground.

The project, 15 years in the

making, will offer medical services to the many residents across the Northwest Corner with increased access to primary and behavioral healthcare services regardless of ability to pay.

The new center will be the third location for CHWC, with the other two located in Torrington and Winsted.

"Primary care and behavioral

health services is what we're going to offer," said Joanne Borduas, chief executive officer at CHWC. Borduas added that individual therapy, group therapy, medication management, women's health, and child and adolescent care are among the services that will be offered.

See HEALTH CENTER, Page A8

## Bank merger means same jobs for some, new jobs for others

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — Salisbury Bank and Trust President Rick Cantele said that the merger between SBT and NBT Bank of Norwich, N.Y., is on schedule and that all "customer-facing" employees have been offered jobs with the new entity.

In a telephone interview Friday, March 3, Cantele said NBT is reviewing operations staff and procedures. Some employees will be offered similar roles, and others different jobs.

Salaries and benefits are roughly the same, he added.

"Some people are deciding to retire," Cantele said, and some are changing careers entirely. The bank is offering a severance package for those employees who choose to leave.

Cantele will be staying on, but not as the chief executive officer, "to ensure the transition runs smoothly."

NBT has committed to keeping the operations center on Bissell Street in Lakeville, the former site of the old The Lakeville Journal building.

See BANK, Page A8



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

### Elevation

South Kent junior Jacob Hogarth scored nine points against New Hampton in the NEPSAC Class AAA semifinals on Mar. 4. The Cardinals won the tournament the next day with a 74-55 victory over the Brewster Academy Bobcats.

## Survey IDs top health needs

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SHARON — The latest assessment of community health needs in Sharon Hospital's service areas in Litchfield County and Dutchess County, N.Y., has identified chronic disease, mental health and substance use disorders as the top health issues affecting residents.

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), a triennial review by Nuvance Health, parent

of Sharon Hospital, was conducted from January to September of 2022 and included a review of the most current health data available, demographics and input from numerous community representatives on both sides of the state line.

The process culminated in the development over the past several months of a Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP) to

See HEALTH NEEDS, Page A5

## School bus driver shortage hits athletics

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — A regional shortage of bus drivers has left school districts across the state scrambling to meet transportation demands. Region One schools have felt the pressure throughout the year as All-Star Transportation has struggled to fill driver vacancies.

Sam Herrick, business manager for Region One schools, said All-Star has been managing the daily routes to and from school, but extracurriculars have felt the shortage most of all.

"We only have one bus per day for athletic teams," said Herrick. "Far from where it needs to be."

Herrick said Athletic Director Anne MacNeil has had to juggle road games to facilitate scheduling for the teams. He added that All-Star has provided ads for the

school to send out through their messenger system to attract drivers in the area.

"We're really trying to partner with them and help them bring in some drivers," said Herrick.

Steve Gardner, general manager at All-Star Transportation, said the shortage of drivers was exact-

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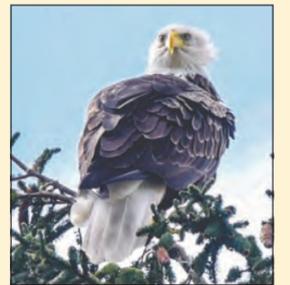


PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Bald eagles have made a comeback in Connecticut. This bald eagle was photographed in Kent near the Housatonic River.

## A big tree and a body of water

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SHARON — Bald eagles are doing pretty well in Connecticut, according to Brian Hess of the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

Hess, assisted by his young daughter Kenna, spoke at the Sharon Audubon Center on a snowy Saturday morning,

See EAGLES PAGE A8



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## In The Journal this week

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## POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

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

### Failure to maintain lane

On Sunday, Feb. 19 at approximately 12:15 a.m., John Matthews, 71, of Sharon, was traveling westbound on King Hill Road in Sharon in a 2014 Volkswagen when his vehicle ran off the roadway and came to a rest in a bush. The vehicle was towed from the scene. Matthews was issued a verbal warning for failure to maintain lane.

### Driving unreasonably fast

On Tuesday, Feb. 21 at approximately 12:15 a.m., Finn Churchill, 16, of Lakeville was traveling south on Salmon Kill Road in a 2019 Ford F150 when he lost control after traveling unreasonably fast through a curve. The vehicle was towed from the scene and Churchill was issued a warning for traveling unreasonably fast.

### Striking embankment

On Saturday, Feb. 25 at approximately 12:30 p.m., Lisa Macmillan, 56, of West Cornwall, was traveling west-

bound on West Cornwall Road in a 2018 Subaru Forester when her brakes locked up due to snow covering the roadway. The vehicle struck a dirt embankment and bushes and vines, and was towed from the scene. Macmillan was issued a verbal warning for failure to maintain lane.

### Criminal mischief charge

On Tuesday, Feb. 28 at approximately 6:30 p.m., troopers responded to 46 Great Hollow Road in Cornwall on a report of a suspicious incident involving a Nissan SUV. The operator, Karen Bockrath, 60, of Goshen, refused to follow troopers' direction and was placed under arrest. EMS transported Bockrath to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington and she was issued a misdemeanor summons for operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs and was released on a \$500 non-surety bond.

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](mailto:johnc@lakevillejournal.com).

## Region 7

# Norfolk, Colebrook revisit consolidation

By Mike Cobb

NORFOLK — Faced with a diminishing student population, Norfolk town officials are once again looking into the consolidation of Norfolk and Colebrook schools.

"This comes to light every year at budget time. The school budget is \$2.4 million. This year there are 64 students at Botelle, next year there will be 56 students," Norfolk First Selectman Matt Riiska said.

"Currently, Botelle has four combined classes from pre-K to 6th grade. If you have a class size of six, how much social interaction are you having? It's an issue across the board. There's been a lot of discussion about combining classes, and if that's the best teaching method. There are a lot of negative comments about it, but it obviously serves a purpose."

Riiska met recently with Mike Sconyers and Nina Ritson from the Board of Finance, Virginia Coleman from the Board of Education, and two attorneys from the state Department of Education to discuss how consolidation might work.

"There are multiple ways. One is a cooperative agreement between Colebrook and Norfolk, which is regulated by state statute 10-158a, an agreement between Norfolk and Colebrook's Board of Ed, in which they'd say we'd like you to come up with a figure to send kids to Colebrook on a tuition basis, paid through local taxes. We'd still retain some status with the Board of Ed, so there'd be some oversight with Norfolk Board of Education.

"The second option is a consolidation between Colebrook and Norfolk. That's a longer process with a lot of paperwork with the Department of Education. There's a lot to hash out because you're combining two schools. Colebrook voted it down eight years ago."

"Then it would be a question of which school site would better serve the students. Obviously both towns would like to retain both schools. Norfolk's is in very good condition."

"In the first agreement, we'd be sending students to Colebrook, but with the cooperative agreement, we could have students from North Canaan or even Winsted. I'm not sure how that'd work; we'd have to come up with tuition."

The school budget is \$2.4 million. This year there are 64 students at Botelle, next year there will be 56 students.

— Matt Riiska, Norfolk First Selectman

Board of Education member Ann DeCervo said, "The focus of the Norfolk Board of Ed is the quality of education for our students. Our board constantly considers and evaluates real-world solutions - including but not limited to consolidation. It is important to note, though, that consolidation doesn't solve the educational, social, and financial issues facing Norfolk. It does feel clear, however, that not having a home-town school would not be helpful for attracting families to our town."

"Cooperation with Colebrook is not something new. Botelle already cooperates with Colebrook on a regular basis through combined field trips, cultural and social programming, professional development, and in a myriad of other informal collaborative ways," she added.

Board of Education member John DeShazo said "We are looking into ways to

make Botelle thrive, given what we have the power to do as a board. One idea that was raised at our last board meeting, which can be viewed online, is augmenting our existing curriculum with an after school program that could offer students more specific, deeper learning in STEM subjects and the arts. We already have a maker space and we have had EdAdvance facilitate Personal Interest Projects (PIPS) at Botelle, and we are looking into ways to expand those programs.

"The board's focus is on making the education at Botelle the best education that we can provide. We are all stakeholders in the school. We should all be working to do what we can to make Botelle an outstanding school."

Asked further about financing the additional cost per student, Riiska said "Mike Sconyers and I were just at the Regional 7 Board of Education meeting. Their per

pupil cost is about \$25,500. You'd work that out through funds raised through taxes just like our regular Board of Education budget and we'd still have to maintain our school as a town."

One critical factor is that the school population has dropped drastically. At one time Botelle had 250 students.

"Thirty years ago when my daughter was there, there were 140 kids. Part of that is the cost of homes and rentals. We have a huge issue with lack of affordable inventory. It's all connected, you can't talk about one thing without the other," Riiska said.

Quality jobs are also a factor in attracting families with children to Norfolk. "There are jobs out there but how well they pay is another question," Riiska says.

Currently, the prospect of further consolidation is still tentative and nothing has been decided.

The Board of Education will meet again next week, and the discussion will continue. Critical questions regarding costs, best use of funds, and working with a tight budget remain in play.

"It's a long discussion; there's no magic wand," Riiska said.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### Legal Notice

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

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

Map 69 as lot 17-1 and known as 512 Twin Lakes Road, Salisbury. The owners of the property are Charles R & Karyn K Bendit

Map 69 as lot 17 and known as 510 Twin Lakes Road, Salisbury. The owners of the property are Jonathan & Dorinda D Higgins

Map 68 as lot 13 and known as 65 Washinee Heights Road, Salisbury. The owners of the property are Russell Wesley & Linda Conklin

Map 58 as lot 22 and known as 69 Washinee Heights Road, Salisbury. The owner of the property is Judith Ascher Menikoff

Map 58 as lot 21 and known as 75 Washinee Heights Road, Salisbury. The owner of the property is Don Ronchi

Map 58 as lot 20 and known as 93 Washinee Heights Road, Salisbury. The owner of the property is Alan Friedman

Map 58 as lot 19 and known as 99 Washinee Heights Road, Salisbury. The owners of the property are Thomas & Patricia Medvecky

Map 58 as lot 18 and known as 125 Washinee Heights Road, Salisbury. The owner of the property is Don Ronchi

Map 58 as lot 17 and

property at 91 Preston Lane, Salisbury. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 69 as lot 31.

Approved—Application 2023-IW-002 by West Twin Hydro-Rake Group represented by Russ Conklin for the restoration and maintenance by hydro-raking associated with the following properties shown on Salisbury Assessor's:

Map 69 as lot 17-1 and known as 512 Twin Lakes Road, Salisbury. The owners of the property are Charles R & Karyn K Bendit

Map 69 as lot 17 and known as 510 Twin Lakes Road, Salisbury. The owners of the property are Jonathan & Dorinda D Higgins

Map 68 as lot 13 and known as 65 Washinee Heights Road, Salisbury. The owners of the property are Russell Wesley & Linda Conklin

Map 58 as lot 22 and known as 69 Washinee Heights Road, Salisbury. The owner of the property is Judith Ascher Menikoff

Map 58 as lot 21 and known as 75 Washinee Heights Road, Salisbury. The owner of the property is Don Ronchi

Map 58 as lot 20 and known as 93 Washinee Heights Road, Salisbury. The owner of the property is Alan Friedman

Map 58 as lot 19 and known as 99 Washinee Heights Road, Salisbury. The owners of the property are Thomas & Patricia Medvecky

Map 58 as lot 18 and known as 125 Washinee Heights Road, Salisbury. The owner of the property is Don Ronchi

Map 58 as lot 17 and

known as 127 Washinee Heights Road, Salisbury. The owner of the property is 127 WHR LLC

Map 58 as lot 16 and known as 129 Washinee Heights Road, Salisbury. The owner of the property is 129 WHR LLC

Map 19 as lot 19 and known as 145 Taconic Road, Salisbury. The owner of the property is 145 TR LLC

Approved — Subject to Conditions — Modification of Permit 2022-IW-071 by 31 Robin Hill LN LLC (Leven) to construct a new 16'x30' Garage in the Upland Review Area. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 34 as lot 1 and is known as 31 Robin Hill Lane, Lakeville. The owner of the property is EJ Home.

Any aggrieved person may appeal this decision to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §22a-43(a) & §8-8.

03-09-23

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.

03-02-23  
03-09-23

## Online This Week

### Amenia plans more affordable housing

Changing regulations to provide workforce housing. Go to [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com)

### Pine Plains solar project faces headwind

Residents near a proposed solar project organize their opposition. Go to [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com)

## Long-delayed art opening at Hunt Library March 11

By Judith O'Hara Balfe

FALLS VILLAGE — The "Shape+Color+Movement" art show opens at the David M. Hunt Library on Saturday, March 11, from 4 to 6 p.m., featuring the work of David Crum, Joel Foster and Richard Griggs.

The exhibit was planned almost three years ago, but was interrupted by COVID-19. Now the artists are getting ready for their long-delayed opening.

Crum, who lives in Milerton, and is self-taught, derives his style from inspirations such as de Kooning, Frankenthaler and Pollock. He noted that he also "listened" to them, which may explain the feeling of motion and emotion in his works. He allows his paintings to speak for themselves: "They are open to suggestion."

Foster works large, with great color and patterns, possibly as the result of becoming legally blind in in 2008, the result of a genetic condition called Stargardt

disease, which blocks all central vision.

At his studio in Wassaic, Foster has developed a method of working through his blindness; he uses tape to achieve the lines and patterns of his works, something he admits to never doing when he painted houses earlier in his career.

Griggs is also inspired by manmade objects, with a few natural objects thrown in. He has worked for more than 20 years collecting used items and instilling in them new life in the form of art. Griggs is a kinetic artist known as the ThingMaker, working under Tim Prentice. His art will be hung from the ceiling — mobiles, if you will, created from scraps of other's lives, reborn with new meaning and energy. Griggs and his wife are proprietors of the Wish House shop and Souterrain Gallery in West Cornwall, Connecticut.

For more information, go to [www.huntlibrary.org](http://www.huntlibrary.org) or call 860-824-7424. The show will run through Friday, March 31.

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The deadline for legal notices is Friday at 4 p.m. for publication the following Thursday.

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Go to [www.tricornernews.com/legalnotices](http://www.tricornernews.com/legalnotices) to view current and past legal notices.

## Our Towns

# P&Z invites public to join Lakeville planning event

By Debra A. Aleksinas

LAKEVILLE — Residents and visitors of all ages are invited to an interactive brainstorming session at the Lakeville Town Grove on Saturday, March 18, to address ongoing concerns and help shape and define a vibrant future for the village.

The program, co-sponsored by Salisbury's Planning and Zoning Commission and Colliers Engineering and Design, will run from 10 a.m. to noon with the intent of gathering input from the public on Colliers' recommendations for short and long-term strategies to address issues of concern identified by the community.

"The pandemic is stress-changing the patterns of residency and use" in Lakeville, said P&Z chairman Michael Klemens.

He noted that a convergence of several major projects focused on the downtown area, including the proposed Holley Block affordable housing plan and the conversion of the old firehouse into a restaurant, sparked renewed public concerns over traffic, safety and parking.

"These issues have been plaguing the village for some time," Klemens said.

Last fall, Colliers was tasked by the commission to prepare a study of Lakeville village center on five main topics: pedestrian and bicycle access, circulation and safety; public greenspaces; traffic circulation and safety; and parking and stormwater management.

Over the past four months the engineering team visited the area, reviewed prior

studies and plans and convened focus groups to gather information about Lakeville's history and evolution, access and utilization of businesses, services and amenities, and identified locations that could benefit from enhancements.

According to town officials and representatives of Colliers, the focus groups took a deep dive into the village's recreational, open space, historic and cultural resources, as well as the challenges of parking, ease of navigating the area on bike, foot or car, availability of greenspaces and the connectivity via sidewalks between various locations.

"As you develop, as we have, you develop parcel by parcel, and what you lose is the opportunity to look at larger scale planning," said Klemens. "Sometimes the sum is greater than the parts. If we look holistically, we may find better solutions."

### Need for connectivity and signage

"The biggest thing we see is the connectivity in making Lakeville more pedestrian-friendly," said Deborah Lawlor, Colliers' principal associate. For example, she said, one analysis pinpointed to the need to fix gaps between sidewalks.

Lawlor even hopped on her own bike and traversed the Rail Trail from the train station area all the way to Salisbury village and then out on to Route 44 "to try to get back" to where she started.

"It was really not something I was able to do easily," she noted.

More clearly defined parking areas with signage and painted parking spaces

would go a long way towards making the village more user-friendly, said Lawlor. And while the volume of traffic and posted speed limits were not seen as a major concern, the speed of vehicles was, she said, and that is something that could benefit from enhanced traffic signals.

"The speed limits are okay, but people don't abide by them," which begs the question, she said, "How do you slow it down?"

According to the planning study, while the downtown area appears bucolic in nature, the main street in the village is Route 44, a major east-west thoroughfare between New York and New England states that intersects with State Highway 41, which extends from the New York border into Massachusetts.

These two roadways serve as major truck routes in the northwest region of the state.

"In addition to the volume of trucks, the speed of the vehicles on Route 44 is a concern," the Colliers report notes. "The current configuration of the Route 44 and Route 41 intersection needs to be evaluated for improvements to address safety, speed and turning considerations."

### Vibrant downtown, viable businesses

Lawlor said like many New England towns, the ways people shop, dine, do their banking and seek services has changed over time, a trend that was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"However, while malls may have lost their luster, vibrant downtowns are becoming more and more desirable."

Despite suggested im-

provements, said Lawlor, by no means has the village outgrown its quaintness.

"In fact, I see great potential to take the quaint character of Lakeville and elevate it to attract desirable businesses to serve Lakeville residents as well as the greater Salisbury area."

In general, said Lawlor, when a year-round residential population grows, businesses become more viable because there is greater predictability of the market.

Although Lakeville is primarily a residential village, noted Klemens, it currently does not have the critical mass of people needed to make it a vibrant, thriving community.

### 'It's like a roadmap'

Salisbury First Selectman Curtis Rand said he is in full support of the planning study, which was financed by the town with federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

"It's like a roadmap," said Rand. "We can gather input, decide on projects and then apply for grants."

Klemens said he is excited to have public involvement in the planning process and encourages people to take part in the mini-break-out groups where they can provide their views on specific topics.

Youngsters, too, are welcome to comment on their experiences riding bikes around the village or crossing streets,

or visiting the recreation area, said the forum planners.

The forum will offer interactive features, like the ability for people to post sticky notes on a map of the village with comments.

"There may be ideas, solutions or other problems we have not yet uncovered. We want people to really think with us for comprehensive, better solutions. We want them to be partners with us," Klemens explained.

For those unable to attend the public program, an information and response form will be uploaded to [www.salisburyct.us](http://www.salisburyct.us) prior to the March 18 event. Suggestions and comments are welcome until April 1.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

### Angelic Voices

The Angels in Training Choir performed "Artza Alinu" at the Salisbury Congregational Church Sunday, March 5. Three children's choirs performed a mix of folk arrangements and original settings of poetry to a packed house.

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## OBITUARIES

### James Edward Haynes

LAKEVILLE — James Edward Haynes was born April 24, 1933, in Port Huron Michigan, and died March 2, 2023, in Tampa, Florida.

At Port Huron High, Jim not only excelled academically, but was an accomplished athlete, participating in baseball, football, swimming and wrestling. He was accepted to Yale University. After graduating with a B.S. in Industrial Administration in 1955, Jim went to work for IBM in Poughkeepsie and New York City as a Methods Analyst.

Already interested in auto racing, Jim began competing as a driver in various races, winning the 1959 SCCA (Sports Car Club of America) National Champion Formula III event. He also won the SCCA National Champion Formula Junior race in 1963. Since IBM would not allow employees to compete professionally, Jim raced under the name "Eddie James."

He left IBM in 1960 to form Lakeville Precision Molding in Lakeville, which he sold in 1964. Car racing had become one of Jim's primary passions, so when the opportunity arose, he bought controlling interest in Lime Rock Park, a beautiful natural-terrain road racing venue in nearby Lime Rock. He successfully ran the track until its sale in 1984.

A seminal event in Jim's always colorful life occurred in March 1978. He was asked to come to Florida to help revive the "Twelve Hours of Sebring" race that had been dormant for several years. He managed to get the track up to code to qualify as a sanctioned race. At the event itself, the catering for the corporate tents was being provided by Toni Abercrombie's business,

"Eat Your Heart Out." They met and, as they say, the rest is history. As Jim would proudly say, "Toni has been my 4th wife for 43 years."

After Lime Rock Park, they moved to Denver where Jim was Vice President of Special Projects with the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA). Later (in 1988) Jim became CEO and General Manager of Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, where he stayed until retirement in 2000.

Jim was active in the Rotary Club for over 25 years, serving as President in Salisbury, and named a Paul Harris Fellow in 1985. In both Connecticut and Wisconsin, he served as President or Member of the Board of Directors in the Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to Jim's passions for Toni and vintage car racing, he also loved to fish and traveled the world to do so. Adventures included the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the Pacific coast off Cabo San Lucas, the coast of Maui, the River Shannon in Ireland, Sail fishing off Palm Beach and many years in the Keys aboard his and his brother's sport fisherman, "The Moonraker."

Jim was the personification of a man who lived the life he wanted to live. He lived large. He was a voracious reader, particularly of mysteries, loved good food and not so good wine, unless one considers Corbett Canyon box wine a "good char-donnay."

He is survived by his wife Toni Abercrombie Haynes, four children and nine grandchildren and brother, Alex. Rest in peace, Big Jim, we love you.

### Donald Wayne 'Whitey' Schreiber

FALLS VILLAGE — Donald Wayne "Whitey" Schreiber passed away peacefully at home in Tariffville, on Jan. 18, 2023, after a long illness. He was born in North Canaan on Aug. 4, 1943, the son of the late Robert William Schreiber and the late Virginia Colleen (Scranton) Schreiber. He grew up in Falls Village and was a graduate of H.V.R.H.S., class of 1962.

Don spent the bulk of his adult life as a concrete pump operator and was a longtime member of Local 478, International Union of Operating Engineers. His free time found him either on his beloved boat "Simple Pleasure" or helping friends, family and neighbors with all manner of tasks.

Don married the love of his life, Carol Ciarcia Schreiber on Sept. 14, 1994. He is survived by his son, Glenn, stepson Bryant and

Beth Chatfield of Avon, grandchildren Brandon and Sydney Chatfield, niece, Victoria Carrabba, and very close cousins Virginia (Scranton) and Carl Vogt, their son, Sam and his family, Elizabeth (Scranton) and husband Sandy Rhoades and family. He was predeceased by his brother, Michael Schreiber and cousin, Hannah Vogt. Memorial donations may be made to the National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation, [www.npcf.us/donate-directly](http://www.npcf.us/donate-directly).

SPENCER, N.Y. — Barbara Lynn Devers passed away unexpectedly on January 30, 2023, at her home in Spencer, New York. She had lived there for thirty years on a hundred-acre farm where she took in horses rescued from those who abused them and from those who would sell them to slaughterhouses.

Barbara was the daughter of Charles Edward and Mary Elizabeth Devers, born in Sharon, on July 19, 1956. She attended Saint Joseph's Parochial School, followed by four years at the Millbrook High School, Class of 1973, and graduated from SUNY Plattsburg with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1977. She obtained her Master's Degree in teaching at Boise State University.

Barbara's professional career saw her teaching in Idaho's Grand View Elementary School during her decade there, the Upton Lake Christian School for several years, and finally in the Ithaca City School System where she taught elementary grades. Her great love was her

unbridled passion for horses. While in high school she and her neighbor Patrice O'Neill pooled their funds to purchase a small pony named Simmy at Luther's Livestock Auction in Dover Plains.

The first of her rescue horses, Simmy lived to be 42 years of age, decades longer than would have been possible had the girls not rescued the little brown pony from the dog food companies bidding against them.

Barbara never had less than twenty horses on her farm. She bought and sold scores of horses over the years, all with a contract stating the purchaser could never sell them to butchers and would keep them safe for the entirety of their natural lives. She was part of a network of like-minded women and men who shared her feelings about preserving the lives of all the steeds they could. As a friend wrote, "Who else would accept the

crazy idea of a strange rescue from Texas to help a herd of feral horses of over 75 head without question? Barb."

Barbara also had a great fondness for cats. Her family always had a cat or two living with them and Barb carried on with this tradition — but in a larger

manner. With the purchase of her farm Barb acquired a half dozen barn cats that made their lives in the lofts of the stables and she welcomed them as family. Her felines Dooley, the loving matriarch of all the cats that lived on Old Crow Farm, and Pistol Pete, the large black protector of her cat tribe, had outstanding personalities and were loved by her and her brother and sisters greatly.

Barbara is survived by her siblings Peter, Deborah, and Sheila Devers; her Canadian cousins the Macgarrags; and her American cousins the O'Connors and

Parrishes. She leaves behind many cherished Millbrook, college, and Spencer friends who enriched her life with their caring ways.

In accordance with her wishes, there will be no wake or formal services. Her ashes will be spread on her farm in Spencer, on a lake in Canada where she visited most all the years of her life, and in Nine Partners Cemetery beside her mother and father. A few Irish tunes will be played on a silver whistle, poems by Yeats and Frost will be read, and a prayer of thanks will be spoken for the life of many kindnesses that she led.

### Scoville Library holds puzzle sale

SALISBURY — Friends of the Scoville Library is holding a March Madness Puzzle Sale until March 21.

Gently-used puzzles have been donated by Salisbury residents and are on sale at the library, starting at \$1.

All proceeds are used to fund free library programs.

### Barbara Lynn Devers



### C. Arthur 'Art' Eddy

SALISBURY — C. Arthur "Art" Eddy passed away on Feb. 19, 2023, after a brief illness. He was 90 and was a long-time resident of Salisbury, where he leaves a legacy of community involvement, having served as a volunteer for numerous organizations, including the School Board, the Board of Finance, the Board of Tax Review, and the Salisbury Association. He was a long-time member of the Northwest Connecticut Unitarian Fellowship and the Salisbury Congregational Church.

Art arrived in Salisbury with his family in 1963 to join the faculty at The Hotchkiss School, where he was a mathematics teacher and coach for three decades. Even after retirement, he stayed connected to the school community; regularly attending Hotchkiss events and playing golf on the school course.

Born in Gardner, Massachusetts, on May 11, 1932, Art earned his B.A. from Colby College in Maine in 1954 and was a pitcher on Colby's baseball team. He was a proud Colby alumnus, serving as the Class of 1954 Correspondent for nearly 20 years. He received an M.Ed. from the University of Massachusetts in 1962, and an

M.A. in mathematics education from the University of Oregon in 1969.

Art loved his career as a teacher. He loved and was proud of his family. He enjoyed a good pun and Haagen Daz coffee ice cream. And he was passionate about golf, which he played throughout his 30-year retirement — as many times a week during golfing season as he could.

Art was predeceased by his first wife, Barbara J. Eddy in 1988, with whom he had four children, and his second wife, Anne Rudd Eddy, in 2011. He is survived by his children, his sister and brother, two daughters-in-law, one son-in-law, five grandchildren, a great grandson and loving nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, Art's family asks that memorial gifts be sent to two local organizations that support and enrich his beloved Salisbury community: The Scoville Library (38 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068) and The Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service (PO Box 582, Salisbury CT, 06068)

A Celebration of Art's Life will be held at the Congregational Church of Salisbury, (30 Main Street, Salisbury CT) on Saturday, April 15, at 1:00 p.m.



### Worship Services

Week of March 12, 2023

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

**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!  
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[www.salisburyucc.org](http://www.salisburyucc.org)  
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(860) 435-2442

**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](http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org)  
860-435-9290

**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](http://www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational)  
860-824-7252  
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](http://www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org)

**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](mailto:Lakevillemethodist@snet.net)

**The Sharon United Methodist Church**  
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green  
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits  
10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care  
No Sunday School in Summer  
Pastor Sun Yong Lee  
860-364-5634  
[sharonumc5634@att.net](mailto:sharonumc5634@att.net)

**Promised Land Baptist Church**  
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Sunday Worship - 11am  
Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM  
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**Falls Village Congregational Church**  
16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village  
10:00 a.m. Family Worship  
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860-824-0194

**The Smithfield Presbyterian Church**  
656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY  
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**Canaan United Methodist Church**  
2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT  
11 a.m. Worship Service  
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Rev. Lee Gangaware  
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[canaanct@gmail.com](mailto:canaanct@gmail.com)  
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**All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church**  
313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT  
Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M.  
Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.  
Lenten Services on Website  
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860-824-1340 | [allsaintsofamerica.us](http://allsaintsofamerica.us)

**Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon**  
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[www.christchurchsharon.org](http://www.christchurchsharon.org)

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
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The Rev. Heidi Truax  
[trinity@trinitylimerock.org](mailto:trinity@trinitylimerock.org)  
(860) 435-2627

**Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT**  
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Thursday 8am  
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4 PM - St. Bridget  
SUNDAY MASSES  
8 AM - St. Bernard  
10 AM - Sacred Heart  
WEEKDAY MASSES  
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9 AM - Sacred Heart  
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### Salisbury Kindergarten registration

SALISBURY — Salisbury Central School Kindergarten pre-registration for the 2023-2024 year is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, Wednesday, March 22, and Monday April 3.

All children born during the calendar year 2018 should be registered.

Please call Pat in the school office at 860-435-9871 to schedule an appointment.

Please bring your child's birth certificate to confirm the date of birth and a current record of childhood immunizations.

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## Assessing community health needs

### HEALTH NEEDS

Continued from Page A1

address the needs identified through the CHNA.

Sharon Hospital will utilize this plan as a guide through 2025 to offer programs that support both the health of the community and the mission of the hospital, according to Nuvance officials.

#### Priorities mirror 2019 needs assessment

Sharon Hospital President Christina McCulloch said the key focus areas identified as priorities in its 2022-2025 implementation plan are the prevention of chronic diseases — such as diabetes, heart disease, Alzheimer's, stroke, arthritis, and chronic lung disease — promotion of well-being and prevention of mental health and substance use disorders.

Not surprising, said McCulloch, is that the priorities presenting in the 2022 assessment mirror those identified in the hospital's prior 2019 CHNA. The reason, she said, is tied to the timing of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We did fall behind in the pandemic," as people avoided going to the doctor for preventive care, and if they were sick, many did not seek treatment at the doctor's office or hospital out of fear of contracting COVID-19, she noted.

Plus, during the early days of the pandemic, for hospital officials and staff, it was all hands on deck as priorities shifted to responding to

COVID-19.

Even though, the priority areas are a reflection of what is happening in the communities.

"Chronic disease management is always needed and mental health is always present," said Ildie Rabinowitz, assistant vice president of health equity, diversity and inclusion for Nuvance Health.

Hypertension, for example, is a major concern, she noted. COVID-19, Rabinowitz explained, "threw a wrench into a lot of initiatives and the ability to expand them when we were forced to go into survival mode. COVID had a huge emotional and mental impact on people" as reflected in overdose deaths.

"Substance use really increased during the pandemic and after the pandemic," said Rabinowitz.

The current challenge, noted McCulloch, is "How to, as a hospital, get back out into the community and promote wellness. It really comes down to partnering with all the stakeholders in the community and having representatives out there," offering wellness classes, mental health first-aid, smoking cessation classes, substance abuse and use counseling and sessions on how to take blood pressure readings, among

other outreach efforts.

"Yes, the hospital is here 24/7, but for the families when they aren't able to get services, it's a key part of the CHIP [Community Health Improvement Plan]," said McCulloch.

#### 'Very divergent level' of household income

Sharon Hospital is located along the and Dutchess County, N.Y., border, and for purposes of the CHNA and partnering with state-based initiatives, Sharon Hospital focused on its Litchfield and Dutchess County service areas and conducted research for these communities sep-

arately. household incomes by town range from \$62,432 in North Canaan to \$109,886 in Goshen. North Canaan also has higher poverty levels affecting approximately 14% of all residents," according to the report.

In addition, within the Connecticut hospital service area, one in three households are considered "housing cost burdened," according to the report.

Residents of neighboring Dutchess County also have historically higher household incomes and lower poverty compared to New York overall.

"However, it is worth noting that across the county, more than one in 10 (14.1%) households have an annual income of less than \$25,000," the CHNA reports.

"Having Sharon Hospital connect with our community is going to make such an impact," noted Palmer-House.

The overall Nuvance system, she said, has the ability to address specific concerns, including persistence substance abuse disorders.

"It's system-level prowess on a local level."

#### Report points to states that are aging

The 2022 report also revealed that Connecticut and New York overall are aging states.

According to Rabinowitz, all signs point to an increase in the older population.

"We do know that we need to really increase services that are focusing on the aging population through our community care team, by connecting the hospital to the community to make sure patients have the services in the home environment."

"Between 2022 and 2027, the population aged 65 or older is projected to increase 14.2% and 16.9%, respectively, the largest increase of any reported age group," according to the CHNA. The total population for both states is projected to increase 2% and 4.9% respectively.

The Sharon Hospital service area population is projected to increase by 1,549

people, or 2.7%, from 2022 to 2027, although consistent with an aging demographic, this growth will occur exclusively among adult populations.

The population aged 65 or older will increase by 1,904 people, or 12.8% from 2022 to 2027, while the child population under age 18 will decline by 297 people or minus 3.1%, according to the report.

"We definitely saw across both states an increase in the older population," noted Palmer-House.

Findings point to a need for care focusing on older adults, including having services in the hospital promoting healthy aging and aging in place.

"We do see that in the E.R. mental health is a struggle for the elderly," said McCulloch, who noted that Sharon Hospital has an award-winning senior behavioral unit which treats seniors in distress.

#### Health care access and quality

Having health insurance does not ensure access to health care when it is needed.

According to the 2022 report, "Litchfield County has lower provider availability than Connecticut and/or the nation, and all of the county is a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for mental health care."

Dutchess County also has lower provider availability when compared to state benchmarks, and lower primary care provider availability when compared to the nation. While none of the county is HPSA, migrant and seasonal farm workers

are identified as a medically underserved population within the eastern portion of the county, including the counties of Amenia, Wassatic and Dover Plains. Among New York respondents, 51% said it was "not very true" or "not at all true" that there are sufficient, quality mental health providers.

Approximately 17% of respondents said there was a time in the past 12 months when they or a member of

their household were unable to get medication when they needed it, and 16% said there was a time when they couldn't get health care, including dental or vision.

The report reveals that health care access disparities may be exacerbated by language barriers and lack of bilingual providers or interpreter services.

Approximately 25% of the Litchfield County Asian residents and 23% of Latino residents were considered linguistically isolated, characterized as speaking English less than "very well."

"Partnership is the most important piece of this," said McCulloch. "If we work in silos, we are not going to be able to address the needs."

According to Rabinowitz, plans are in the works to create individual focus groups "to make sure we are hearing from the community."

"We are looking at services and service gaps from many, many angles," and focus groups will include representatives of food pantries, the medical community, churches, non-profit agencies, health districts, the America Heart Association, behavioral health service providers and community members, among others, noted Rabinowitz.

#### Have action plan, time to act

The completion of the needs assessment and improvement plan is just the beginning of work that will progress over the next three years, said McCulloch.

"We are just getting started. We have a plan that was developed, but now is when we get to act, to take what we learned through our plan and put it into action, and that will really have an impact on the community."

In announcing the release of the report, Dr. John M. Murphy, president and CEO of Nuvance Health, said staff are dedicated to the health and well-being of everyone in the health care system's service region. "This is our promise to the more than 1.5 million children and adults we serve in western Connecticut and the Hudson Valley of New York."

**The current challenge, noted Sharon Hospital President Christina McCulloch, is "How to, as a hospital, get back out into the community and promote wellness. It really comes down to partnering with all the stakeholders in the community and having representatives out there."**

**Approximately 25% of the Litchfield County Asian residents and 23% of Latino residents were considered linguistically isolated, characterized as speaking English less than "very well."**

### Sharon Audubon MapleFest on March 12 offers tours, goods

SHARON — Sharon Audubon Center, located at 325 Cornwall Bridge Road (Route 4) in Sharon, will hold its annual MapleFest and Maple Bake Sale on Sunday, March 12 between 12 and 4 p.m.

Ongoing guided 45-minute to one-hour tours will lead visitors through the sugaring operation, including a working sugarhouse and a re-creation of Native American and early colonial sugaring methods. Participants can watch as pure sugar maple sap is collected from the trees and turned into maple syrup.

Admission for the event

is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (two years old and under are free).

Fresh, homemade maple baked goods, as well as coffee and water, will also be available for purchase during the day as part of the Maple Bake Sale. Each treat will be made with the Center's maple syrup. Depending on production, fresh syrup will be available for purchase while supplies last.

For more information on MapleFest or the Sharon Audubon Center sugaring operation, call 860-364-0520 x105, go to [www.sharon.audubon.org](http://www.sharon.audubon.org).

Kathryn Palmer-House, who chairs the Sharon Hospital Community Health Committee, is a member of the hospital board and is the town clerk in Dover, N.Y., said her group "did see some commonalities" between the communities serves by Sharon Hospital in Connecticut and those in New York, but also many differences.

"There are about 58,000 people in the entire Sharon Hospital Health Service Area (HSA), representing a very divergent level of household income," noted Palmer-House.

Income and work impact health outcomes, according to the report. For example, many people access health insurance through their job, although not all types of work provide access to health insurance.

Beyond health insurance, making healthy choices, such as purchasing lean meats and fresh produce, or joining a gym, all cost money.

The medium household income in the Connecticut HSA is \$80,000, compared to \$77,696 statewide, and fewer residents live in poverty compared to the state overall, the report pointed out. However, this positive experience is not shared by all residents.

"Within the HSA, median

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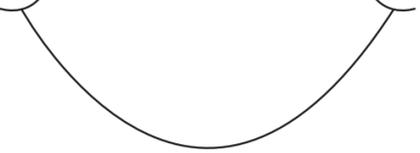
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## HEALTH CENTER

Continued from Page A1

CHWC was awarded a bond contract of \$3 million from Gov. Ned Lamont's office for construction.

State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) was in attendance at the groundbreaking and said the center is "going to make a huge difference for the whole Northwest corner."

The Foundation for Community Health (FCH) awarded a \$1.3 million grant toward this project. Borduas said FCH Director Nancy Heaton was instrumental in

making this center possible. "None of this can really happen until everybody gets on board," said Heaton. "It really does, as they say, take a village."

Borduas thanked Heaton and the FCH "for recognizing the critical need for access to healthcare services in the North Canaan area and their long-time quest to get us there."

Construction on the project is expected to be completed by the end of November 2023.

## BUS DRIVERS

Continued from Page A1

erated by the pandemic in recent years.

"Prior to COVID there was a shortage, but we were always able to make it work," said Gardner. "COVID really hurt us bad."

Gardner said that in the past, vacancies were often filled by retirees seeking part time work. Since the pandemic, in Gardner's opinion, that demographic has "lost interest" due to the increased health risk.

With three more drivers retiring at the end of the

year, All-Star is looking to hire six to eight drivers for Region One busing. Gardner said they are prioritizing North Canaan routes as two drivers are currently being pulled from another district to fill the need.

Positions start at \$20 per hour and no prior bus driving experience is necessary. All-Star offers paid training and flexible part-time schedules. For more information call 860-435-0352 or visit all-startransportation.com.

## EAGLES

Continued from Page A1

March 4, to three intrepid souls, a couple of Audubon staffers and a reporter.

Hess said he considers the bald eagle a "social keystone species," alluding to the prevalence of the eagle in American iconography. The bird is front and center in the Seal of the United States, for example.

As for Benjamin Franklin's oft-cited preference for the turkey as a better emblem of the young American republic, Hess said "that's kind of a myth."

Franklin's famous letter, in which he derided the bald eagle as a "Bird of bad moral character" for the eagle's habit of scavenging and/or snatching food from rival predators, was written some years after the symbol had been adopted.

So the letter was more sour grapes than policy statement.

Bald eagles are big. They have a wing span between six and seven and a half feet, are some 34-36 inches from head to toe, and weigh in between eight and 16 pounds.

Females are up to 30% bigger than males.

Bald eagles have excellent eyesight, and have a stong, hooked bill and razor sharp



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Brain Hess from DEEP was assisted by his daughter Kenna with a talk on bald eagles at Sharon Audubon Center.

talons for hunting. Their feet also have rough skin, the better to grasp their primary prey, fish.

As anglers, bald eagles prefer larger bodies of water — rivers rather than streams, lakes rather than ponds.

They don't dive into the water like ospreys, Hess said. But they will get in the water if necessary.

Hess said he once watched

a bald eagle going after a carp. Try as it might, the bird could not achieve lift-off with the large fish clutched in its talons.

So instead the eagle swam to shore, towing the fish behind it.

Bald eagles also eat ducks, gulls and assorted mammals.

To illustrate their opportunistic scavenging, and the sort of behavior Franklin found distasteful, Hess showed a dramatic video of a coyote with something bloody in its mouth, trotting along in the snow.

Out of nowhere, a bald eagle swoops in, snatches the carcass out of the coyote's mouth, and zooms away.

A rough timeline of the bald eagle's presence in Connecticut runs thus:

Bald eagles were common in the colonial and early Republic, and were designated as the national bird in 1782.

By the 1940s bald eagles were in steep decline, and in the 1950s there were none in the state.

By the 1960s, there were

only 400 or so bald eagles in the Lower 48 states.

The culprits were increased human development and subsequent habitat disturbance and loss, and the widespread use of the pesticide DDT, Hess said.

DDT resulted in thinning eggshells, and increased mortality of eagle chicks.

DDT was banned in Connecticut in 1969 and in the U.S. in 1972.

The federal Endangered Species List and complementary legislation and enforcement began in 1973.

"Without the bald eagle in trouble, I'm not sure we'd have an endangered species list," said Hess.

The bald eagles population has since rebounded in the state, from 20 in 1979 to 176 in 2022.

The chances of seeing a bald eagle in Connecticut are good, Hess said. The ideal bald eagle home is a big tree located within a half mile of a body of water.

"That's most of Connecticut."

## OBITUARIES

### Ellen S. Kloke

NORTH CANAAN — Ellen entered the world on

Jan 23, 1959, at Sharon Hospital, born to George and Sue Schaefer of Canaan. She exited in her TARDIS during the early-morning hours of Jan. 26, 2023, three days after her 64th birthday, at home with her husband and sister at her side.

Ellen was a life-long resident of Canaan, growing up on West Main Street during a time when it was safe for kids to make their own entertainment, staying outside for hours no matter the season to play and explore with her brothers and sisters and all the other neighborhood children. She graduated from North Canaan Elementary School and Housatonic Valley Regional High School, enjoying many of the schools' activities.

She took a brief hiatus to achieve a degree in Accounting from Central Connecticut State University.

After passing the state test to be licensed as a Certified Public Account she remained living in the Hartford area to work with public accounting firms. Despite having an out-of-town mailing address, she was home frequently enough for family events and visits to be considered as never-having-left.

Ellen returned to Canaan in 1986 to work locally and to be closer to family. A short time later she met Lyle Kloke

who had recently moved to Canaan. They married on May 27, 1989. They bought and moved into a small house on Barlow Street in May 1990, where they have lived since.

Ellen was a master in her trade, meticulous in her accuracy and attention to detail. Because of her profession her computer literacy began early when "laptops" were the size of suitcases that used two floppy disks because hard-drives weren't yet available. She was adept in numerous software packages leading to responsibility for implementation of many accounting and point-of-sale systems for several small businesses in addition to performing her standard tasks.

Ellen liked to garden and spent years nurturing her perennial beds to create a bee, bird and butterfly-friendly environment with the assistance and guidance of her friend, Scott. She enjoyed taking her daily walks around to observe how things changed through the seasons. She never failed to stop to smell the roses, the lilacs, the clethra, and her plumerias. Or, just wonder about such delicate beauty.

Ellen enjoyed nature in general but especially during her walks with her sisters in the woods, or along the river, or just along roads in the area. Enjoying each other's company with conversation

and laughter.

Stopping from time-to-time to focus on a particular plant or view along the way. She enjoyed camping, hiking and anything involving water — going to the beach, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, paddle-boarding, and simply floating. She relished the hours spent just relaxing on the screen porch, reading, looking over her gardens, watching the butterflies flutter by, listening to and watching the splashing of the birds in their bath, never ceasing to be amazed and amused by the acrobatics and antics of the feisty hummingbirds.

Ellen enjoyed cooking and could always be counted on to bring a dish or dessert to any gathering. Her herbed rice was most frequently requested. She was a long-time supporter of and contributor to community-sponsored agriculture and the preservation of Connecticut farmland.

She enjoyed arts and crafts of all different kinds. She liked embroidery, faux finishes, sketching, and Zentangle. She liked to make candles in a variety of sizes, experimenting with various blends of colors and scents to develop ones that she favored.

She especially liked digital photography. She got her first camera, when they first became available, using the proceeds from a winning Superbowl pool. She had a lot of fun with it, and the ones that followed as image quality improved. She'd chase butterflies from flower-to-flower until she got a good shot. Tried to sneak up on birds for a close-up. Zoomed-in on particular flowers that caught her eye.

Acted as Event Recorder, curating cameos of family and friends at all the planned and ad hoc gatherings and parties. The photos were her raw material to produce greeting cards, invitations



### Betty Wisell

LINCOLN, Vt. — Betty Wisell, 91, passed peacefully Friday, Feb. 17, 2023, at her home in Lincoln in the arms of her loving family.

She was born on Feb. 17, 1932, in Rupert, Vermont, the daughter of Henry and Theresa (Smith) Kilburn.

She was predeceased by her husband of 65 years, Emery E. Wisell Sr., on Oct. 1, 2015.

Betty is survived by her four children Emery and wife Pamela, Richard and wife Deborah, Katherine and

Howard; six grandchildren; four great grandchildren; two brothers, Paul Hunt and Robert Kilburn; a sister Charlene Hunt; nieces, nephews and many dear friends.

A service will be announced at a later date at St. Ambrose Church in Bristol, Vermont. Interment will be at Maple Cemetery in Lincoln in the spring. To send online condolences to her family please visit [www.brownmcclyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.brownmcclyfuneralhomes.com)

For more obituaries, see page A4

Send obituaries to [johnc@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:johnc@lakevillejournal.com)

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## BANK

Continued from Page A1

The merger must be approved by regulators and shareholders. Cantele said he expects the merger to be complete by mid-May.

Asked if any current SBT branches will close, Cantele said the Red Oaks Mill branch near Poughkeepsie is closing, but that decision was made prior to

the merger.

No other SBT branches are slated for closing at this time, although once the merger is complete there will be two branches of the new bank at the northern and southern ends of Great Barrington. Cantele said there are no plans as of now to close one of them.

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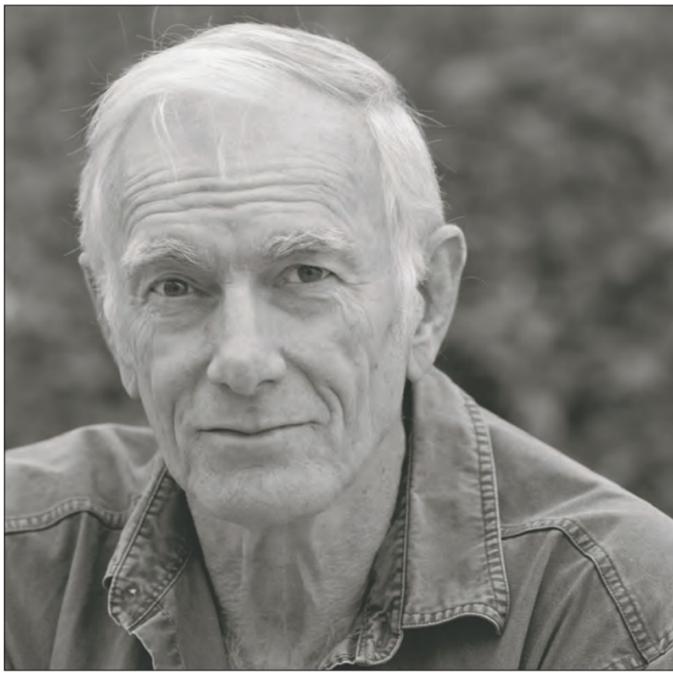
BOOKS: ALEXANDER WILBURN

## In Historical Fiction, the Rebels of a Scots Saga

In his new novel “Jamie MacGillivray: The Renegade’s Journey,” Academy Award-nominated screenwriter John Sayles (“Passion Fish,” “Lone Star”) takes fans of historical fiction on a bloody, decade-spanning romantic odyssey from the blockbuster-style Jacobite battle scenes of the Scottish Highlands to the 18th century colonies of The New World. Sayles spoke with me on the phone from California ahead of a talk he’ll give with WAMC’s Joe Donahue at The White Hart Inn in Salisbury, Conn., on Wednesday, March 15.

**Alexander Wilburn:** As someone who has written across all mediums, books, film, and television, what brings you back to the novel?

**John Sayles:** You don’t have to raise money to write a book. Certainly, as a filmmaker, I probably have 10 movies I’ve written that I’ve never been able to raise money for. As a matter of fact, “Jamie MacGillivray” started a screenplay over 20 years ago, at the suggestion of Robert Carlyle, a Scottish actor. I just felt like it was such a good story, I took it up and started thinking about it as a novel. Of course, things always grow when you turn something into a novel. Secondary characters get much bigger and you can do deeper research. When you’re writing for a movie you have to be so aware of time — are we 10 minutes or half an hour into the movie? Very few people sit down and



read a novel straight through, so it has a very different rhythm.

**AW: How much of the scope of the story changed then compared to the original script?**

**JS:** It always began at The Battle of Culloden and ended with The Battle of Quebec, so it was an ambitious feature. But for instance, Jenny was a pretty minor character who showed up a few times in the screenplay, but when I was doing the research for the story as a book I came across ship logs that did take Jacobite prisoners over to various slave jobs. One of the ships that carried women was taken over by a French privateer before it was able to reach Jamaica, so the prisoners were liberated on the island of Martinique. I thought, first of all, that’s a great way to get Jenny overseas and I eventually wanted to get her to Canada. So if she’s on a French island

she can hook up with a French officer and he can get transferred to Canada. As it turns out the research helped me make all of those moves. It’s a little bit like a board game.

**AW: This novel is an epic, romantic, often violent saga. I’m always really curious about the prep work that goes into crafting a big novel like this. As an American writer what kind of research did you do to write a convincing narrative about characters from the Scottish Highlands?**

**JS:** The good thing is that the time period is not so old that there’s nothing written about it. In fact, in the first part of the novel, some scenes are verbatim. The minutes of the trial of Lord Lovat were published. Everything that the various barristers said in front of the judge is recreated in the novel. There were records kept by the military of who

was killed at Culloden and what clans they were from. There are shipping records of the prisoners who were sent to the New World, and those involved in slave trafficking, so you can look up a certain ship and see how long the voyage took, how much cargo was on it, and how much money they made. In the New World, the colonists were keeping documents — they weren’t necessarily living up to the letter when it came to Native tribes, but a lot of that is documented as well. I can read in French so for a lot of the stuff that happens in Martinique I was able to find books written at the time. I also did a certain amount of reading of the novelists of the time, Dickens and Henry Fielding who wrote “Tom Jones,” and artists like Hogarth who did these series like “The Rake’s Progress,” which are full of details. My

one rule when I’m working on a book is that I can do research for a week, but then I have to sit and write fiction for a week. Because you can get sucked down the rabbit hole.

**AW: Is the pressure to be constantly period accurate to the 18th century something you strive for or do you take creative license for the sake of storytelling?**

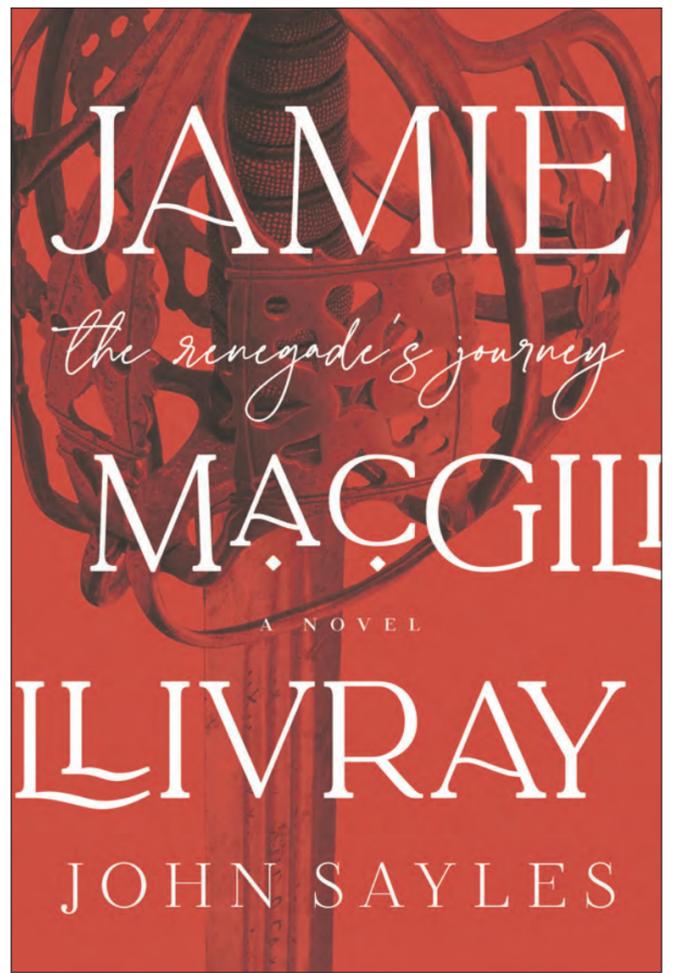
**JS:** I find I get much better ideas if I follow what actually happened. So I have a calendar of when things happened and I fit my characters into that calendar. I also get ideas from the technical research — what weapons were they using? How did they operate them? What was the penal code at the time? How did law work? There’s a chapter where there’s a guy who’s afraid of heights, and he gets the job of putting two beheaded prisoner’s heads up on the spikes

on the gate and they’re going to sit there for years and years and years — somebody had to do that. So that kind of detail from research gives me ideas. It’s great to not have to make up a plot, the history is pretty rich in itself.

**AW: I want to circle back to William Hogarth who appears in the novel. He’s one of the great painters who captured the frenzy and life and emotion of the 18th century. Were his works a source of visual inspiration?**

**JS:** One of the things that he does in his series like “The Rake’s Progress” or “The Harlot’s Progress,” they’re like stories. Every detail, every background person — even if you look at the paintings on the wall they’re commenting on what’s going on. So they’re really rich and novel-like just looking

*Continued on next page*



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## ...Scots saga

at his pictures. Then there's the fact that he met Lord Lovat, who had just been captured, to be tried. Eventually Lord Lovat was the last lord ever beheaded by the British, and Hogarth did this beautiful picture of him — he's as wide as he is tall, and his head looks like a wicked Jack-o'-lantern. He was a notorious character in his day. That was important for my research, knowing there was satiric humor at the time.

**AW: You'll be having a live stream conversation with "Outlander" author Diana Gabaldon, who has become the modern archetypal author of Scottish fiction. This is sort of a "Tale of Jamie's."**

**JS:** It will be very interesting because I assume we've held a lot of the same research in our hands. She started as a researcher before becoming a novelist, so she's very deft at that. I'm always interested when you start with

*Continued from previous page*

the same core material what sends you off in these little directions, what strikes you. Years ago I adapted the first novel of "The Clan of The Cave Bear" by Jean M. Auel and I know a little about the research that she did. This was before people knew the Neanderthals and the Cro-Magnons had interbred. She was right about five or six things that hadn't been proven yet. She said things came to her in a dream. That's another way of getting your material.



COURTESY OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, GIFT OF SARAH LAZARUS, 1891  
**Detail of Simon Fraser, 11th Lord Lovat by William Hogarth, 1746**

### GARDENING: LEILA HAWKEN

## Looking for spring inspiration? Join the Cornwall Garden Club

A relatively new organization, the Garden Club in Cornwall, Conn., held its first meeting of the year at the historic home of Melissa Gamwell and Kevin Greenberg, attracting gardening enthusiasts to hear about indoor plants and what's best to do for them to keep them green. The event was held on Sunday, Feb. 26.

The Cornwall Garden Club was created in 2020 by resident Charlotte Van Doren, as a way to gather neighbors during the pandemic.

Everyone is welcome, whether beginner or advanced. Because the group chose not to become incorporated, Van Doren said, the garden club gains flexibility in programming.

Spontaneity is the order of the day, Van Doren explained, as part of the fun, light-hearted personality of the effort, kind of like "Let's put on a show!"

With justified pride in the progress of the garden club, Van Doren said that she is now one of a seven-member team managing a variety of programs and strands of activity, including gardens, labs, and adventures that feature field trips to more distant garden spaces.

In addition to Van Doren who serves as a sort of president, as she self-describes, the seven-member team includes Stephana Bot-



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

**Bosco Schell and Melissa Gamwell**

tom, Juliet Hubbard, Dee Salomon, Heidi Cunnick, Susie Lily Ott, and Molly Larrison. Van Doren has even assembled an Advisory Committee with recognized expertise. Jane Garmey and Roxana Robinson are serving in that capacity.

This coming season, Van Doren said, will have a new programming strand called The Heirloom Series, with hands-on workshops. The focus will be on what can be made from materials grown in the garden.

Other events during the coming year will demonstrate pickle-making with Cornwall resident Dave Cowen and herb gardening and tea-making with herb grower Patty Bramley.

"We want people to join with us and come to different things," said Stephana Bottom, de-

Schell of Falls Village, Conn., where he gardens along with his wife, noted horticulturist and author, Page Dickey.

"I'm not a professional gardener," Schell began. "I'm just a gardener. Let's have a conversation."

The first thing to consider is exposure to light. Pelargoniums like lots of sunlight, Schell said, adding that during winter, many indoor plants like to rest a while.

Soil and its composition are important elements in that some plants like begonias favor a lighter soil, so sand might be added to the potting mix. To create heavier soil for the pelargoniums, for example, add some compost.

Water, when and how much, is key, Schell said. "More plants are killed by overwatering than by underwatering."

Because the area is prone to hard water, it is best to collect rainwater to use for plants. Home water softening systems introduce salt to tap water, and plants do not care for salt, Schell cautioned.

With fertilizer, less is better, Schell said. Cut the recommended doses in half as a matter of course, and then in half again, during winter. He recommended using

Jack's fertilizer brand and also Dyna-gro.

Any plants that store food, like bulbs of any sort, appreciate potassium, Schell advised.

Creating more plants by taking cuttings and promoting root growth was a feature of the second half of the program.

"You have to keep pruning your houseplants," Schell said, suggesting the use of plastic pots filled with perlite for rooting cuttings of some plant types. Plastic pots will hold moisture better, as will glazed pots. Clay pots can be good, but Schell advised soaking the clay pot in water for an hour to prevent the clay from wicking away water from the soil holding the cutting.

When re-potting, avoid the temptation to re-pot to a much larger pot. Only step up one pot

size, Schell said, an inch at a time. A small plant in a large pot will likely not survive.

The next event scheduled by the Cornwall Garden Club will be on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, at the Cornwall Public Library. A panel discussion to be moderated by veteran news correspondent Richard Schlesinger will dig deeply into composting. One of the panelists will be Ted Larson, describing the town's proposed program for composting at the transfer station. As an additional feature, the event will include a walk around the town center to visit residents' composting areas, and seeing how they do it at home.

For more on the Cornwall Garden Club email at [cornwallgardenclub1@gmail.com](mailto:cornwallgardenclub1@gmail.com) or go to [www.cornwallgardenclub.org](http://www.cornwallgardenclub.org).

## TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

### Two Art Openings at LABspace

LABspace in Hillsdale, N.Y., will host the opening of two exhibitions on Saturday, March 11 from 1 to 5 p.m. The first is "Peripheral Visions" with city and landscape paintings by Dee Shapiro of Colebrook, Conn. The second is "Body High" a group show addressing human form with work by Pauline Decarmo, Lois Dickson, Jacob Fossom, Zohar Lazar, Rebecca Litt, Kelsey Renko, Julia Schwartz, Olivia Tawzer, and Michael Van Winkle Both shows will be on view through April 30.

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EDITORIAL

Providing a solution

Last week ground was broken on a \$5.3 million project to create a new health care center in North Canaan that will serve all Northwest Corner residents with a range of services, including primary care and behavioral health services. In a Page One story this week, our reporter Riley Klein notes that besides individual therapy, there will be group therapy, medication management, women's health and child and adolescent behavioral services.

The new facility, to be located across from the Stop & Shop and which is expected to be completed in the fall of 2023, will provide this care regardless of ability to pay. It will be the third one for the Community Health and Wellness Center in Torrington, a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center (FQHC). As such, it receives federal money to provide medical care to areas in need where such care is scarce and without regard to insurance status or financial means. The center's two other facilities are in Torrington and Winsted.

Starting last May, the same Community Health and Wellness Center in Torrington started a mobile-clinic service covering the towns in the Northwest Corner with a regular weekly schedule of visits. The mobile clinics were hailed as a breakthrough that made it possible to get healthcare without traveling. In the case of West Cornwall, a visit to the mobile clinic marked the first time in three decades that residents could get medical care in their own town. On one visit, two clients were seen as new patients. Others received COVID shots, a typical need back then.

Some experts see such innovation as a significant element in future delivery of medical care to people.

The North Canaan project, funded by a bond contract of \$3 million from Gov. Ned Lamont's office and a \$1.3 million grant from the Foundation for Community Health, and supported by State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64), has been years in the making. Joanne Borduas at the Community Health and Wellness Center and Nancy Heaton at the Foundation for Community Health have spearheaded the effort, recognizing a need and delivering a solution.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Diet of fear and anger can be countered by joy

It seems from all of the endless news stories these days that international relations between the U.S. and China are at a low ebb. It also seems that some national politicians [mainly Republican] are hell-bent on making sure that the 21st century go-to messaging subtext of our 24 hours news cycle culture — "be afraid, be very afraid, and angry" — is used about China with relish, daily. If left in the hands of our power hungry pols [for the next election], this empty calorie sugar high of fear and anger will quite possibly become a self-fulfilling destruction of meaningful dialog.

The following simple moment of international exchange, from my past, can point to a different path.

Many many years ago I was given the rare opportunity to join a "practice session" with the leading troupe of Chinese Acrobats on a world tour. They were from Wuhan, China [yes, that Wuhan]. I realized then that it is customary to give something "special" when meeting your international brethren [I am a juggler] for the first time. After much thought I decided that the most meaningful thing I could offer would be to show them a film I had of the greatest juggler of all time, Francis Brunn.

After the group practice session, all 70 or so of the Chinese Acrobats and coaches assembled in a nearby hall and I introduced the film. I said that it was a performance by someone they may never had seen — as he mainly performed, years before, in Las Vegas.

Francis Brunn had opened for Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland, Danny Kaye and Jerry Lewis among others. [As a boy, Francis Brunn along with his father and sister had fled Nazi Germany.] The lights went down and the film began. The normal conversational hubbub quickly gave way to total silence as Mr. Brunn started his 7-1/2 minutes of brilliance. To get a feel for his performance, imagine you are watching one man create our solar system of spinning planets and moons, diving comets, and falling stars — and he is the sun.

At the conclusion of the film, the lights came up and there was not a sound to be heard from the assemblage of Chinese Acrobats. Then, suddenly, they all turned to their interpreter and excitedly gave voice to a single short sentence — followed by all 70 heads turning towards me expectantly. The interpreter smiled and gently spoke "They all want to know — 'Can we see it again?'" In this spirit of international cultural exchange — I wish, oh, I so wish.. President Vladimir Putin could meet and sit with Charlie Chaplin — and watch Charlie's movie "The Great Dictator." President Xi could meet and sit with Alice Walker — and listen to Ma play Bach. President Kim Jong Un could meet and sit with with George Carlin — and just talk about people. I wish — oh, I so wish..

Michael Moschen  
Cornwall Bridge



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Spring is coming

'Fathers and Sons'

The great Russian novelist Ivan Turgenev wrote "Fathers and Sons," taking place in 1859, two years before the serfs were freed.

The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863.

Bazarov, one of the protagonists (yes, there can be more than one), is a nihilist, who believes not in art, love or any such sentimentality. Until, of course, he meets the Madame Odintsova, to whom he soon plights his troth.

You know what that gets him. Nichevo.

Another main character is Arkady, who looks up to Bazarov, his fellow student.

Arkady's uncle, a member of the old guard, is horrified by Bazarov's lack of belief in anything — this, the nihilism, the first time, this belief in nothing, some say the first time expressed in literature, although we do have Hamlet's Except my life, except my life, except my life.

And countless ancient Greeks.

Bazarov believes in science. Unfortunately, he is careless with an experiment and accidentally poisons himself. So much for nihilism. Nietzsche, eat your heart out.

I re-read the Turgenev every few years and it enriches me every time. This time it's because of Christian Walker, one of Herschel Walker's four children, who was seen on YouTube railing against his father, then Georgia Senatorial candidate (who of course lost), repeatedly calling him a liar. Walker pere railed against abortion but seems to think that prohibition shouldn't apply to women he impregnates.

We've seen this Republican Hypocrisy Movie before. And no doubt will see it again.

So who do the Georgia Peaches vote for? The Reverend Raphael Warnock, the incumbent, pastor of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.'s church in Atlanta,

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SOVEREIGN STATE

LONNIE CARTER

or the philandering football star? Duh. Obviously, Warnock won.

A young man I have known since he was 2, now 31, I have had a hand in raising. I call him my son and he calls me Dad.

He has had brushes with the law and has been jailed. I visited him during his 6-month stay for minor, non-violent, but repeated, offenses. I found it harrowing. Never having visited a prisoner before, I didn't exactly know the drill. The regulars did and walked me through.

No, don't stand there, the door will open out, put your key in the locker this way, et cetera. The Regulars. Every week, I guess.

I sat across from 31 during the 30 minutes and didn't know whether to hug him at the end. How is the food? Awful. Others hugged. We were not separated by barriers. So I hugged him.

He got out. Screwed up again. We have not hugged since.

Where are we with sons shouting at absent fathers? And did I feel absent? And is Walker a walking stereotype? And will he join the most elite club in the world? Will his son scream at him as he is invested in the Upper Chamber?

Recommended reading: "Between the World and Me." Ta-Nehisi Coates, his letter to his 15-year-old son.

The literal translation of the Turgenev is "Fathers and Children."

I have three daughters. None of whom has done time.

Lonnie Carter is a playwright, Obie winner and his signature play is "The Sovereign State of Boogedy."

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — March 1923

Miss Mary Menary is ill with pneumonia at White Hart Inn and a trained nurse is in attendance.

Miss Belle Adams, who has been ill for some time with the gripe and an abscess in one ear, is again on duty at Roberts' store.

The Journal is issued late this week owing to a bad break in the press which unfortunately could not be repaired in time to print this issue of the paper. However, thanks to the kindness and courtesy of Brother Loope of the Millerton Telegram, who permitted us to use his press, we are able to furnish our readers with their usual copy of the Journal even though somewhat late.

Another brisk snow storm struck town on Tuesday night and reminded us that winter had still some backbone left. A high wind accompanied the snow and piled it up in drifts, rendering many of the roads in bad traveling condition, and demoralizing the railway service to considerable extent.

Not exactly good weather for blue birds and robins, but there's hopes.

50 years ago — March 1973

Sixteen-year-old Timothy Rogers of Lakeville escaped serious injury last Saturday after one of the most spectacular car crashes in the area in years. Police say young Rogers' car was northbound on Route 41 when it ran off the left side of the road and struck five fence posts. It came back into the southbound lane, then went off again on the same side, this time taking down 20 more fence posts. The careening vehicle then went down an embankment, over a water culvert, struck the stream bank, and in the words of police, "became airborne for 120 feet before making contact with a large tree five feet above the ground." Though not seriously hurt, he was taken to Sharon Hospital for treatment of facial cuts and bruises. Police charged him with speeding.

For at least 70 years and perhaps longer the Falls Vil-

lage Town Clerk has been an employee of one of the local banks and has transacted town business during banking hours. While the system seems to have worked in the past, times are a-changing, and starting next week the Town Clerk will start to hold office hours at the town hall. Town Clerk Lucille Marston told the selectmen a month ago that the Falls Village branch of the Torrington Savings Bank had requested that the town not maintain an office in the bank.

Funeral services were held Monday for Orange S. Seger, 65, of Seger Mountain, who died March 2 at Sharon Hospital after a short illness. Born in Kent on March 20, 1907, he was a son of the late Frank and Mabel (Sterry) Seger. He spent his entire life in Kent. To his friends and others who knew him, he was known as Lem, short for Lemon.

Joanne Erickson of Salisbury has been named to the 1973 Girls' Junior Eastern Cross Country Team. This team, consisting of six girls and an alternate, will represent the East at the Junior National Championships in McCall, Idaho, March 11-17.

25 years ago — March 1998

Plans to renovate the former Geer Memorial Hospital into an assisted living facility for the elderly have been scrapped, as will be the building itself. Geer's board of directors announced this week that despite the award of a grant that would have allowed them to turn the stately old building into apartments, a revised estimate of the cost of renovating has shown it to be far more expensive than the combined cost of tearing it down and rebuilding.

One hundred fifty years after the Nation Iron Bank opened its doors in the middle of Falls Village, it is closing up shop and moving to Salisbury. As thanks to the town for hosting it for a century and a half, the bank has offered to donate its building for use as town offices.

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

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## After 10 years dogless, I once again wanted a dog

Like everyone else, during quarantine, I wanted a dog. But unlike some people, I had owned dogs before. This wouldn't be a venture into the romantic unknown. I had had dogs for years and years, and the last three had all been the same breed and the same gender, so, if I got another, I would know exactly what I was getting.

My last dog had been part of our lives as we were moving from the country into the city, and I had decided that I didn't want to have a dog if we were spending most weeks in an urban environment. So I went dogless for 10 years. I didn't want to have a dog in the city. Not that I minded the daily walks with the dog, it was the walks without the dog that I minded. It was saying goodbye once again as I closed the door on the desolate face, the drooping ears, the sad flat-footed pose. I didn't want to disappoint my dog over and over and over. So I remained dog-free until something happened on Facebook. There I watched other people's dogs, taking vicarious pleasure from their big body-wags, their sweet smiles, their cozy curl-ups.

My friend, the writer Josephine Humphreys, owned a dog of the breed I favor. She had been posting beautiful and hilarious pictures of him for years, and Archie had become a local star, recognized on the street and at the vet's. I loved feeling that I knew him, even that I shared in his ownership because Jo generously made him all of ours. But one day she posted a picture of a new dog — the same breed, but a different color, with the question: This is Rosie. Should I get her?

Honestly, I was outraged. Jo already had a dog. Now she was getting a second one, while I had none at all? At first this seemed cataclysmically unfair, though I was unsure of exactly how to present the unfairness to Jo, and then it occurred to me that I could take care of this myself. I could get my own dog.

### MY DOG: PART ONE ROXANA ROBINSON



UNITED KENNEL CLUB

And so, in the summer of 2021, while the whole country was clamoring for dogs, while canine shelters were being drained of orphans, while everyone was baking bread and getting puppies, I began to search the internet for my breed.

A word or two about this breed: Standard Poodle. A bit of history — the Standard Poodle is the big one. It's a hunting dog, a water retriever, to be precise. They actually are originally from the German marshes, and the word "Poodle" comes from the German "pudelin," which means to splash in water: think "puddle." (Once my two poodles ran off after deer when I lived in Katonah. A friendly neighbor called to tell me they were at her house. She was a German speaker, with a strong accent. "I haff your two puddles here," she said, and at first I was confused.)

Standard Poodles are water retrievers from a cold place, so that's why they have such dense coats. If you don't clip them — which I don't, all winter — they produce an impenetrable mass of dense pelt, which is effectively waterproof. They have hair, not fur, which is why they don't produce dander. This means they are hypoallergenic, and won't rouse allergic reactions. Their hair insulates them from cold when they have to swim across open water to retrieve a fallen bird. But because the hair is so dense, and gets matted and tangled, own-

ers clipped them close along the body, to make grooming easier. The waterproof hair was kept long and dense over all the joints — neck, knees, ankles and hips — to keep out the cold water and protect them from arthritis. The resulting clip now looks fancy instead of practical — long and full around the neck, with hair bobbles at the ankles, hips and knees, short everywhere else. At shows, the hair is brushed into a mane, and the bobbles look merely decorative. Then putting bows in their coat doesn't suggest they are working dogs. But they are.

My husband once talked to a dog trainer at a field trial for sporting dogs. "Poodles will do anything well," she said. "Anything you want them to do. They'll point, scent, retrieve. Anything." A Poodle once ran in the Iditerod. "So why don't more hunters use them for shooting birds?" my husband asked. "Prejudice," the trainer said. "They're one of the smartest breeds on the planet, and they'll do anything you want." Because they are so smart, and so biddable, they've been coopted into circuses, because they'll dance, and fetch, and do any crazy thing you think is a good idea.

Poodles are known for their elegant carriage and a light, floating gait. Many of them are comfortable standing on their hind legs, and they will dance if you ask them. But the breed is a working one; they are strong and biddable. They don't bark incessantly. And the fact that they are so smart makes them interesting. All dogs are affectionate, that's how they evolved. But a super smart dog makes a remarkable partner.

I had already owned three Standard Poodles. Suddenly I was determined to have a fourth.

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*Roxana Robinson is the author of ten books, including six novels, and the biography of Georgia O'Keeffe. She lives in Cornwall.*

## Caring for the caregivers

The baby-boomers are aging. The bulk of the baby-boomers are reaching the point where they are officially "old." And old people, elders, need help: sometimes just a little, sometimes a lot. And, boy, do they resent it. These are the people who raised families, built businesses, and ran the country. And now they need help with the most ordinary things. It is galling to discover that the latest technology is beyond you. It is infuriating to realize that you are no longer a competent driver. It is devastating to realize that you need a caretaker.

Caregivers aren't saints or angels, they are people who have taken on a job most of us would rather not do — the job of caring for our elders. This job falls, almost exclusively, to women and immigrants. As with most fields dominated by women, these jobs are poorly paid, if they are paid at all.

Often the caregiver didn't actually choose the job, but ended up with the responsibility after a game of hot potato where all other likely candidates have escaped and the elder in question refuses to leave their home.

As we age, we deteriorate both physically and mentally. Sad but true. Eventually our "senior moments" become

### BUT THEN AGAIN ... LISA WRIGHT

dangerous. In the "Waltons" version of the past, the extended family would take turns keeping an eye on Grandma or Grandpa. That doesn't work anymore, if it ever did. Now the extended family may be spread across the country and all of them work outside the home. Many people don't have an extended family at all.

Love does not pay the rent or put groceries on the table. And minimum wage workers are not going to give the care our elders deserve.

I have known women who enjoyed caring for older people and would happily do the job if they could afford it. Our parents, our grandparents, deserve to be cared for by people who choose this work whether family member or not. But that is never going to happen until we recognize that it is a fulltime job that deserves respect and remuneration.

When are we going to face up to the fact that poor pay results in poor care.

Eldercare is a societal responsibility. Social Security is a good start, but too many people are left out of it. No credit is given for stay-at-home moms or dads who end up sandwiched between needy children and needy parents. No one pays the adult offspring who chooses to care for a struggling adult over their own career.

We need Social Security to provide reasonable stipends for family members who can't work because their loved one needs full-time help. We need to pay our caretakers what they deserve, not what we can get away with. We need to give our seniors respect and forgive them their age-related lapses.

The only alternative to growing old is dying young. So think about the fact that you, too, will one day face these issues. We can come up with alternatives to the problem of people staying in their homes well past the point when it is safe or sensible if we try. We really need to try.

*Lisa Wright divides her time between her home in Lakeville and Oblong Books in Millerton where she has worked for nearly 40 years. Email her at wrightales@gmail.com.*



## The Covid-19 virus: its origin, its power

The U.S. Energy Department has reported that the Chinese scientists did not make the Wuhan-1 version (as it was then called) of the SARS-Cov-2 coronavirus. This conclusion is the most important, but least remarked. Virologists, Chinese or American, would not have known how to create such a virus.

The Energy Department also reported that the virus may have escaped from a lab at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, but they had low confidence, which is an odd thing to say. Why report anything? In their search for dangerous respiratory viruses, Chinese scientists went into caves and abandoned mineshafts, and despite protection, were occasionally infected. Before they developed symptoms and were isolated, a virus could have passed to others. There are ways to test the effects of viruses on human cells growing in petri dishes, which was what the cave explorers intended for the viruses they found.

Finally, the SARS-CoV-2 virus may have evolved in a live animal market, from which some of the initial patients came. The virus was spreading in late 2019. Where it came from or how it escaped, is less important now that it is on the loose, than controlling this infection and stopping future pandemics, which are surely coming.

China is an authoritarian country and that interferes with its responses to pandemics, from arresting the scientist who first found the virus for spreading rumors, to not using foreign made mRNA vaccines, to their zero covid policy, to not reporting statistics on hospitalizations and deaths, and by blocking visits of outside virologists.

The Chinese are angry and so are Americans, but we cannot afford anger that gets in the way of good sense and hard work. Laker and Chicago Bulls Coach Phil Jackson once said, 'nobody learns anything when they are angry' and he was right. Viruses are a fearsome enemy and interfering rage must be suppressed.

### THE BODY SCIENTIFIC RICHARD KESSIN

The world will need a scientific relationship with China and China with the world to stop pandemics and treat diseases, whether they start in China, the United States, Africa, or elsewhere. International institutions exist but are not able to take on all the opportunities that we have for combatting viruses and other pathogens.

The public is more acquainted with the power of viruses than they were three years ago. Viruses make proteins that help them get into human or animal cells. They make other proteins that copy their genomes, and several small proteins that derail our immune responses. When SARS-Cov-2 infects a cell, it makes hundreds or even thousands of new viruses in a few hours. Viruses mutate to make new variations of their proteins that are resistant to vaccines and antibodies. That and fantastically large numbers, let variants spread across a country in weeks. Viruses have other tools: they are carried by mosquitos, other insects, and bats. Viruses have their own air force. Before we leave the threat viruses pose, realize that there are more than two hundred families of viruses assessed by compar-

ing DNA or RNA sequences and how the viruses look under an electron microscope; all these families may have dangerous relatives. Viral disease, (never mind bacteria or other ghastrly organisms) is too big a problem for anything less than full effort and cooperation.

Where does this information leave us? President Biden is about to call Secretary Xi, ostensibly about China arming Russia against Ukraine. Not that Mr. Biden needs my advice, but perhaps he should start by trying to reestablish connections on disease research. The Chinese government was badly burned by Covid, as were we, both losing more than a million people and infuriating many others who lost work. Covid-19 left many clues that should be exploited, and we are going to need a treatment that is faster than vaccines, which take a year to make. Perhaps Mr. Biden and Secretary Xi could set up working groups on a warm Pacific island (it's hard to be angry there) to provide an agenda. Then, Mr. Biden and Mr. Xi could discuss arming Russia against Ukraine. Perhaps Mr. Xi would decide there are better things to do.

*Richard Kessin is Emeritus Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center. His email is Richard.Kessin@gmail.com His website is Richardkessin.com.*

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# Our Towns



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

**First Selectman Brent Colley (seated) holding the contract between Comcast and the Town of Sharon on Thursday, March 2. Left to right are SCTF co-chairman Jill Drew, Selectman Dale Jones, SCTF co-chairman Meghan Flanagan, Selectman Casey Flanagan and contract performance manager Nikki Blass.**

## Comcast contract signed

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — After years of study by the town and the Sharon Connect Task Force (SCTF), culminating in a town vote in late 2022 to approve a contract between the town and Comcast Corp., the selectmen voted unanimously to direct First Selectman Brent Colley to sign the \$1.6 million agreement on Thursday, March 2.

The completed final contract clears the way to providing high-speed broadband access for every home and business in the town.

With the contract signed, Nikki Blass will begin her work in earnest as the contract performance manager, serving as a liaison between Comcast, town leadership, residents and the SCTF.

“Comcast is responsive to everything,” Blass said, praising the relationship between the town and the company. SCTF co-chair Meghan Flanagan added that Comcast maintains a regional corporate presence for timely response to questions as they arise.

On behalf of the town, the Board of Selectmen praised the years of work by the SCTF in finalizing the agreement, including the miles logged by the co-chairmen Jill Drew and Meghan Flanagan who drove every road and found every property in the town, trying to ensure that the planning maps could be as accurate as possible.

Soon after the Tuesday, Feb. 14, selectmen’s meeting when she expressed concern over discrepancies found within Comcast’s planning map (Exhibit A) and what she had observed from personal inspection of properties, Drew arranged for a day-long drive with a Comcast engineer to re-

solve the issues. As a result of the drive, the Comcast map was revised to include the six properties that were in question. The properties shown as needing service but where service was already provided were adjusted on the map, leaving only a few open questions. For example, Drew noted, at the Miles Wildlife Audubon Sanctuary the SCTF would need to determine which buildings would benefit from internet connection.

Selectman Dale Jones commented that the SCTF had done its due diligence in contacting residents, their best faith effort.

Selectman Casey Flanagan felt that there is sufficient flexibility within the contract wording, that solutions can be found to individual situations as they arise.

“Through hard work, you got it there,” Jones said. Fla-

nagan pointed out that Drew has spent the equivalent of years of her life driving over the town’s roads inspecting internet access.

“It was good faith on Comcast’s part as well,” Drew said.

“This is the culmination of the town of Sharon and their enthusiastic endorsement to ensure that everyone in town would have access to broadband,” Jones said, referencing the town meeting vote.

The next step, according to Drew, Flanagan and Blass will be to schedule a meeting with Comcast’s Matt Skane, Manager of Government and Regulatory Affairs, within the Comcast Western New England Corp. While Comcast has already begun the process of obtaining permits for the work, the meeting will decide the next steps at the local level.

## Selectmen reject second trooper, set compromise on overtime

By Leila Hawken

KENT — Influenced by the results of the recent referendum when voters rejected a proposal for a second state trooper to serve the town as a School Resource Officer, the Board of Selectmen voted 2-1 to deny a request made by former trooper Andrew Ocif to include the position in the proposed budget for the 2024 fiscal year.

The action was taken at the selectmen’s budget workshop meeting on Wednesday, March 1, one of a series of such workshops to create the town’s proposed spending plan for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

First Selectman Jean Speck cast the single negative vote, having expressed what she saw as a need for additional trooper coverage to deal with issues of speeding on town roads and other public safety needs throughout the year, particularly in summer.

“I don’t think the town will support a second state trooper,” said selectman Rufus de Rham during the discussion.

Acknowledging the need for additional coverage, however, the selectmen did favor a program of increased overtime costs between July 1 and Sept. 30, or 400 hours of planned overtime. Under the overtime plan, the town could request the service of an additional trooper from

Troop L as needed during the summer. If a trooper is available to be assigned for the shift, the request could be fulfilled.

“This will satisfy those in town calling for more coverage,” de Rham commented. Selectman Glenn Sanchez agreed to the compromise.

Reporting on behalf of the transfer station, Rick Osborne of the Public Works Department was available to answer questions about the pay schedule for the coming year in his department. He is anticipating new programs in composting and recycling, expecting that the town will participate in a pilot program for organic composting.

Some towns are imple-

menting on-site composting, Speck indicated, but Kent is expected to use the services of a vendor to haul the organic materials away to an out-of-town site. Homeowners will be issued countertop organic waste containers to help with collecting organic kitchen scraps. Osborne noted that the compost program will not include leaves.

The selectmen agreed to continue workshop meetings the following week, looking to complete work on their proposed fiscal year 2024 budget and finalizing a draft proposal on Monday, March 13. The proposed town budget will then be ready for presentation to the Board of Finance for review.

## Open house at Center on Main on March 11

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Center on Main is holding an open house Saturday, March 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the center, 103 Main St.

Brook Martinez is the Center’s new Creative Administrator, and along with Adam Sher, who is the president of the Center’s board, will discuss the Center’s new strategic plan.

In a phone interview March 4, Sher said the Center has three immediate goals: to hire the creative

administrator, to develop an annual program of events and activities, and to “take care of the building.”

Sher said the idea is to make the Center “a place of creative activity and community-oriented performance.”

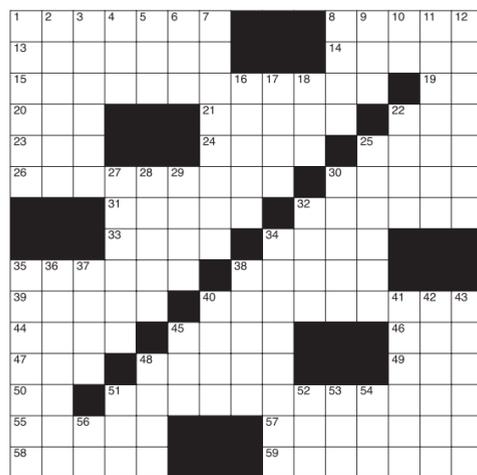
This will include the Falls Village Children’s Theater productions.

On March 11 visitors will get a sample of coming attractions, with the children’s theater and Martinez’ vocal group, Galactic Overtones, performing.

## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Half-conscious states
8. Unnatural
13. Deep regret
14. Rogue
15. Taken without permission
19. An alternative
20. After B
21. Partner to flowed
22. Weekday
23. Body part
24. World’s longest river
25. One of the Greats
26. Make clean
30. C. Canada indigenous peoples
31. Japanese seaport
32. Most unclothed
33. Small grouper fish
34. Soluble ribonucleic acid
35. Distinguishing sound
38. French realist painter
39. Popular beer brand
40. Views
44. God depicted as a bull
45. Relieve
46. Residue after burning
47. Habitation
48. Poe’s middle name
49. Japanese title
50. TV series installation (abbr.)
51. Beloved country singer
55. Single unit
57. Genuine
58. Develop
59. Traveled through the snow



12. Most supernatural
16. Spanish island
17. Unlimited
18. Where golfers begin
22. No charge
25. Print errors
27. Professional drivers
28. Kiss box set
29. Short, fine fibers
30. Administers punishment
32. Czech city
34. Normal or sound powers of mind
35. The academic world
36. Crustacean
37. Currency
38. Pastoral people of Tanzania or Kenya
40. Cloth spread over a coffin
41. Grouped together
42. On land
43. Glistened
45. A type of extension
48. One who assists
51. College sports conference
52. Zero
53. Midway between northeast and east
54. Type of screen
56. The 13th letter of the Greek alphabet

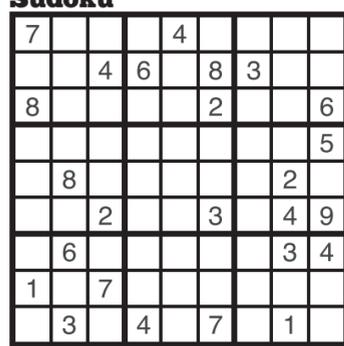
### March 2 Solution



### CLUES DOWN

1. Clues
2. Do again
3. Current unit
4. Neither
5. Corporate exec (abbr.)
6. Second sight
7. The absence of mental stress
8. Supplemented with difficulty
9. Stop for good
10. College dorm worker
11. Bones

### Sudoku



### March 2 Solution



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# Sports

## South Kent wins AAA title

By Riley Klein

SPRINGFIELD — The South Kent School Cardinals won the New England Prep School Athletic Conference (NEPSAC) Class AAA Tournament with a 74-55 victory over the Brewster Academy Bobcats in the March 5 final in Springfield, Mass.

Brewster handed South Kent their only in-conference loss of the year, so the showdown between the top two teams in NEPSAC Class AAA was sure to make for a memorable conclusion to the tournament.

South Kent got off to a quick start and pulled ahead 7-0 in the first two minutes. The Cardinals' size and intensity on defense subdued the Bobcat offense that had been red-hot in the preliminary rounds. Brewster was consistently forced to put up prayers from the perimeter as South Kent denied any player who drove the lane.

Cardinal senior guard Elmarko Jackson defined the tone early. He racked up a block, a steal and took a hard charge on defense. The McDonald's All-American played the role of a quintessential point guard as he facilitated his teammates with clutch assists and sank his free throws every time he stepped to the line. Jackson, who has committed to the University of Kansas, finished off the first half with 14 points. South Kent held a 38-26 lead at intermission.

The Cardinals kept pushing the tempo into the second half and never allowed the Bobcats to threaten their lead. South



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

**Cardinal guard Elmarko Jackson displayed quintessential point-guard play during South Kent's title run.**

Kent won by 19.

The tournament win came on the coattails of two hard-fought matchups in the first two rounds. South Kent defeated Vermont Academy 84-77 in the quarterfinals and then matched up against visiting New Hampton School in the semifinal on March 4.

After falling behind 15-7 early on against New Hampton, the Cardinals picked up steam with an 11-0 scoring run midway through the first half. South Kent controlled the post on each end of the court, led by 6'10" senior center Papa Amadou Kante. The future Michigan Wolverine raked in rebounds like a Hoover and swatted down a pair of blocks. By halftime, the Cardinals had established a 50-38 lead.

New Hampton responded to South Kent's supremacy in the paint by switching their line-up around and playing small-ball in the second half.

They fed their guards on the perimeter with increasing success and started to mount

a comeback.

As soon as South Kent lifted their foot off the gas, New Hampton revved up and tied the score at 63. With 10 minutes remaining in the game and the season on the line, Cardinal Coach Raphael Chillious regrouped and urged his team to get back to basics. "Simple! Keep it simple," he shouted from the sideline.

South Kent senior Elijah Wilborn heeded the call and dominated the glass, reeling in a few crucial offensive boards to help stop the bleeding. The explosive 6'9" forward threw down a couple colossal dunks, fired up the crowd, and helped his team seize control as the game neared conclusion.

The Cardinals took back the lead and resumed lockdown defense on the inside for the rest of the game to win 87-80.

Next up for South Kent is the National Prep School Championship at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., with games set to begin on March 8.

## Hotchkiss girls make run in tourney

By Riley Klein

LAKEVILLE — The Hotchkiss School Bearcats girls basketball team made it to the finals of the New England Prep School Athletic Conference (NEPSAC) Class A tournament before losing Sunday, March 5, to defending champions Loomis Chaffee.

The Bearcats started their post-season run with a home court victory over the Sacred Heart Tigers 61-42 in the quarterfinal game on March 1.

It was standing room only in William C. Fowle Gymnasium as the two squads took to the court. The Bearcat student section brought the ruckus in hopes of cheering their side to victory.

Both teams looked to be evenly matched early on. A back-and-forth game with hard fought possessions yielded a 13-13 score by the end of the first quarter.

With the momentum on an even keel, Hotchkiss senior guard Kaila Richards looked to ignite a flame for her side. Richards schooled and fooled defenders as she spun around the Tigers and drove to the basket. Some fancy footwork and handles helped Richards score nine points in the first half and bring the Bearcats to a 28-27 lead by halftime.

All signs were pointing to another nail-biter finish with both sides staying neck and neck up to the intermission, but Hotchkiss sophomore forward Morgan Jenkins had other plans for the second half.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

**Hotchkiss forward Morgan Jenkins locked down the paint during the quarterfinal game against Sacred Heart.**

Jenkins became an unstoppable force in the paint during the third period. She scored 10 points, crashed the boards on both ends, and smacked down two big blocks.

The atmosphere was electric with roars from the Bearcat student section growing ever louder. Fueled by Jenkins' presence in the post, Hotchkiss scored 11 unanswered points and pulled ahead to a

47-34 lead by the end of the third quarter.

The Bearcats coasted on a comfortable double-digit cushion throughout the fourth. Hotchkiss won 61-42 and advanced to the next round of tournament play.

Jenkins ended with 16 points, the most for Hotchkiss, and Kaila Richards followed her up with 14. Sacred Heart was led in scoring by junior guard Payton Sfredo who scored 19 in the game.

Hotchkiss moved on to play Thayer Academy in the semifinals on Saturday, March 4. The Bearcats strolled into Braintree, Mass. and emerged victorious over Thayer with a 55-51 win.

On Sunday, March 5, the Bearcats traveled to Windsor to face top seed and defending champs Loomis Chaffee School for the Class A championship game.

Hotchkiss was smoldering early on with every shot finding the back of the net. Kaila Richards led the charge and nailed three consecutive three-pointers in the first quarter. The Bearcats opened up a 21-3 lead with a minute remaining in the first.

Loomis' senior star Carys Baker found her rhythm in the second and closed the gap. By halftime Hotchkiss led 29-26.

Despite a heroic 30-point performance from Richards in the game, Loomis clawed back and defended their title with a 64-60 win.

Hotchkiss finished their season as runner-up in NEPSAC Class A with a final record of 18-6.

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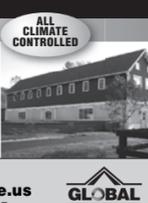
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