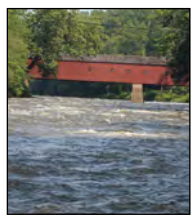


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The Lakeville Journal

TriCornerNews.com

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



Sharon Connect Task Force Co-chairs Meghan Flanagan, left, and Jill Drew shown in front of Sharon Town Hall.

Two who spurred Internet access for all in Sharon

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Years of strategic planning, focused research, community interaction and corporate negotiation brought about the town's approval of a contract agreement between the town and Comcast for a \$1.6 million partnership to expand internet service along 28.5 miles of road to every home and business along the way, about 250.

Sharon Connect Task Force Co-chairs Jill Drew and Meghan Flanagan guided the process begun in 2019 and supported by the expertise of the other eight task force members.

A town-wide survey was part of the planning process, as was commissioning a study by the Sertex Broadband Solutions, completed in February 2020. That study described an alternative plan whereby the town would initiate its own utility to provide town-wide broadband coverage at a cost of \$12.5 million.

Throughout, negotiations continued with Comcast, ultimately resulting in its offer of a partnership plan.

Following a town meeting last month and voters' approval of

that partnership, the town began the process of naming a Contract Performance Manager, an essential step toward finalizing the contract.

Once the contract is signed, Comcast's work will begin with arranging required permits to use existing utility poles for its cables. Completion is anticipated in 2023.

Interviewed in December, Drew and Flanagan reflected on their backgrounds, their attraction to volunteerism and their roles as project leaders.

"We kept our goal in mind —

See INTERNET, Page A6

Housing, cost of living on legislators' radar

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — State Representative Maria Horn (D-64) and State Senator Stephen Harding (R-30) both said that housing and the overall cost of living would be hot topics in the new session of the Connecticut General Assembly.

The session, which began last week, is a "long" one, which will produce a two-year state budget.

Horn is chair of the Finance,

State Representative
Maria Horn is chair of the
Finance, Bonding and Revenue
Committee, and is on the
Environment and Energy and
Technology committees.

State Senator
Stephen Harding is the ranking
member on the Environment
Committee, and is also on
the Judiciary, Education,
and Finance, Bonding and
Revenue committees.

Bonding and Revenue Committee, and is on the Environment and Energy and Technology committees.

Harding, who moved from the House to the Senate to succeed the retired Craig Miner, is the ranking member on the Environment Committee, and is also on the Judiciary, Education, and Finance, Bonding and Revenue committees.

Both legislators were interviewed Sunday, Jan. 8.

Horn started off by saying the legislature will be looking broadly at the high cost of living in Connecticut, including health care, energy and housing, what is driving those high costs, and what to do about it.

Horn said any action will include "helping to support the most vulnerable."

On housing, Horn said the legislature has to find a balance between local control and "the high cost of housing, which is affecting everyone."

See LEGISLATURE, Page A6

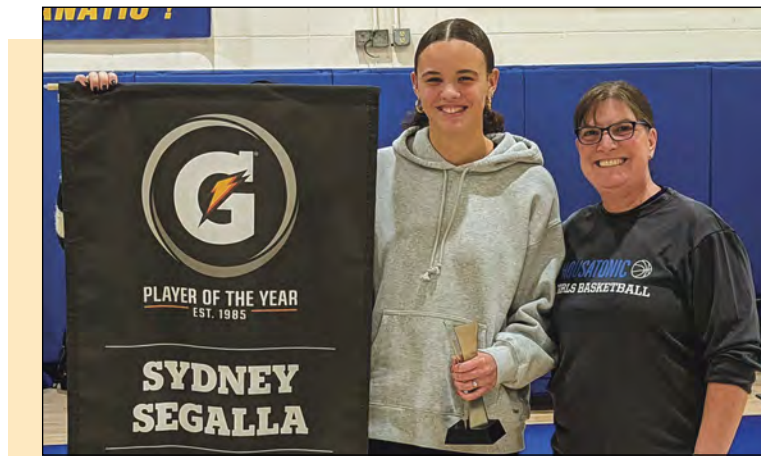


PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Segalla honored

HVRHS graduate Sydney Segalla was honored by Athletic Director Anne MacNeil before a basketball game Jan. 5 at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village. See full story on Sports, page B5.

COVID-19 cases surge

By Debra A. Aleksinas

With COVID-19 cases climbing into the new year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has ranked Litchfield County in the "high" category for community transmission along with

five other Connecticut counties.

As of Jan. 6, Hartford, Windham, Fairfield, Middlesex and New Haven counties were also listed in the "High/Orange" category of the CDC's color-coded community levels map.

The COVID-19 community levels map, which was launched in early 2022, informs CDC recommendations on prevention measures, such as masking and testing.

This approach, according to state officials, focuses on preventing hospitals and health care systems from being overwhelmed and directing prevention efforts toward protecting people at high risk for severe illness.

In recent weeks the virus has accelerated. As of Jan. 5, Connecticut's COVID-19 positivity rate hit 17.36%, compared to 15.56% a week earlier, according to Gov. Ned Lamont's weekly updates on the state's coronavirus response efforts.

Hospitalizations jumped from 714 to 761 during the same seven-day period, and deaths increased by 33.

The case positivity rate has nearly doubled since Thanksgiv-

The case positivity rate has nearly doubled since Thanksgiving, when it hovered around 8%. Cumulative figures for Litchfield County reveal that as of Jan. 5, 34,539 confirmed, and 6,111 probable.

ing, when it hovered around 8%, a cause for concern for state and local health officials.

Cumulative figures for Litchfield County reveal that as of Jan. 5, 34,539 confirmed, and 6,111 probable.

COVID-19 cases were reported. During the same period, 428 deaths related to COVID-19 were confirmed, and 76 probable.

"We are now witnessing the long-anticipated winter COVID-19 surge," Commissioner Manisha Juthani of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) said in announcing the state's updated county transmission levels on Dec. 30.

To protect vulnerable residents

See COVID-19, Page A6



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Limited reopening

The covered bridge in West Cornwall reopened for vehicles during limited hours and days while repairs proceed. For more, turn to page B2.



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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.

Under the influence

On Sunday, Jan. 1 shortly before 9 a.m. Jose Manuel Dejesus, 52, of North Canaan, was pulled over on Route 44 at the Birch Lane intersection in North Canaan after troopers observed erratic driving. Dejesus was administered a sobriety test and was subsequently charged with operating under the influence, failure to drive in the proper lane, operating a motor vehicle without minimal insurance and without a motor vehicle license.

Hit and run

Troopers are investigating a hit-and-run motor vehicle accident that allegedly occurred on Monday, Jan. 2 at approximately 2:30 p.m. on Route 7 south of Route 44 in North Canaan. An unknown vehicle traveling north struck a road sign indicating "30 MPH."

Exited road, flipped

On Tuesday, Jan. 3 at approximately 4:30 p.m. Jorie Welshans, 17, of West Cornwall lost control of a 2007 Chevrolet Colorado while traveling north on Route 7 in the town of Sharon. The vehicle left the road and flipped over. The vehicle was towed from the scene and Welshans

was issued a written warning for failure to maintain lane.

Deer in roadway

At approximately 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 4 Christian Deluca, 40, of Lakeville was driving a 2019 Ford F150 Raptor southbound on White Hollow Road in Sharon when he swerved to avoid a deer in the roadway, striking a boulder on the side of the road. The vehicle was towed from the scene and Deluca was issued a warning for failure to maintain lane.

Stolen car at Stop & Shop

On Friday, Jan. 6, at approximately 8 p.m. a white Honda Civic with Massachusetts plate "7NX195" was reported stolen from the parking lot of the Stop & Shop in North Canaan. The case is under investigation.

Habitat for Humanity boombox theft

On Saturday, Jan. 7, at approximately 5:45 p.m. an unknown person reportedly stole a black JBL Boombox from the Habitat for Humanity on Ashley Falls Road in North Canaan. The incident is under investigation.

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

Diversity programs discussion set Jan. 21 at Noble Horizons

SALISBURY — On Saturday, Jan. 21 at 11 a.m., Noble Horizons will host Lianne Norman, The Hotchkiss School's Co-Director of Diversity and Inclusion, who will explore the growth of diversity and inclusion initiatives in business, education and beyond.

Norman is a graduate of Hotchkiss, Brown University, and Harvard University, where she earned her Ph.D. She has worked in corporate America, academia, and the tech industry for over 20 years, with roles at Dell, Visa, and currently, Gusto Inc.

While Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is not a new concept, the widespread creation of DEI programs is fairly recent. Norman will provide some historical context to the creation of

Hotchkiss' DEI program, and examine the larger positive impact of incorporating DEI in our communities and society at large.

To register go to www.noblehorizons.org.

Video series features aspects of Region One

FALLS VILLAGE — A series of short videos detailing life in the Region One school district is available for viewing.

The project was proposed by Nancy Hegy Martin, who works on the Region One and Housatonic Valley Regional High School websites.

Martin worked with Ted Perotti (HVRHS '16), a local documentary filmmaker, and his colleague Elias Hill (HVRHS '18) to complete the project this fall.

The team spent a day at all seven schools in Region One, interviewing they students, faculty, administrators, parents and alumni.

They also created videos on the Region One office, the Mahoney-Hewat Science and Technology Center and extracurricular activities at the High School.

To see the videos go to www.region1schools.org and scroll to the bottom.

Photos by Prud'homme at Cornwall Library Jan. 21

CORNWALL — The Cornwall Library will present artist Sarah Prud'homme's new series, "Inhuman Time," a meditation on stones collected from the New England coast, starting with a reception at the library Saturday, Jan. 21, 5 p.m.

Prud'homme's stones were created over 400 million years ago, when volcanic magma was propelled to the earth's surface. Mostly basalt, they have high concentrations of magnesium, iron, and calcium, which gives them a rich black hue. As they cooled and were shaped by ocean wave action they became smooth and round, which captivated the artist's eye.

To register go to www.cornwalllibrary.org/events/.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Kellogg School students are preparing for an art exhibit and reception to be held Saturday, Jan. 28.

'Birds of the World' exhibit planned by Kellogg students

FALLS VILLAGE — In January and February, the David M. Hunt Library will host the art exhibition "Birds of the World" featuring the emerging artists of Lee H. Kellogg School.

The show will include paintings, drawings and

sculptures by students from Kindergarten through 8th grade.

There will be an opening reception on Saturday, Jan. 28, 11 a.m. to noon.

The exhibit will remain on display through March 3.

Pot-pie dinner benefit Jan. 18 for youth winter ski programs

SALISBURY — The White Hart Inn Pot Pie Dinner to Go will be held Wednesday, Jan. 18, at Provisions (at the White Hart).

The dinner includes a chicken pot pie, mashed potatoes and English flapjacks.

The cost of the dinner, which is takeout only, is \$30. Dinners are available by pre-order only.

To reserve a pot pie dinner call Provisions at 860-435-0030. Only 100 dinners will be available and they have sold out quickly in the past.

Dinner pickup will from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Salisbury Winter Sports Association's youth skiing programs.

Online This Week

Look for these stories and more, exclusively at www.tricornernews.com.

Falls Village sets Frontier plan hearing

Public hearing on Frontier fiber optic proposal is set for Jan. 20. See www.tricornernews.com.

Electricity illuminated at Cornwall talk

A local electrician and his son discuss electricity. See video at www.tricornernews.com.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF KENT

The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2021 is due and payable January 1, 2023. The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2021 will become delinquent on Thursday, February 2, 2023.

As soon as the tax becomes delinquent, it shall be subject to interest at the rate of 1.5% per month from January 1, 2023 until the same is paid.

Bills may be viewed on line by going to the Tax Collector's page of the Town of Kent website at www.townofkent.ct.org.

The Tax Collector's office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and there is a drop box at the front door of Town Hall.

Payment is also welcome through the mail at P. O. Box 311, Kent, Connecticut 06757.

Credit cards are accepted in the office and you may also pay online by going to <https://www.mytaxbill.org/inet/bill/home.do?town=kent>
Deborah Devaux CCMC
Tax Collector
12-22-22
01-12-23
01-26-23

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that Arnoff Moving & Storage, Inc. has a storage lien against the property owned by:

Peter Bogardus, L38
Lakeville, CT, HHG
Nancy Flood

L6, Lakeville, CT
H, HHG
Peter Nugent, HP120
Lakeville, CT, HHG
Tracy Powell, HP260
Lakeville, CT, HHG
Corinna Sherman, 16-38
Lakeville, CT, HHG
Lennette Benjamin
M37 & HP189 Millerton,
NY, HHG
Janice Fenn, M39
Millerton, NY, HHG

All such properties will be sold unless the lien is satisfied. Such liens are claimed for occupancy charges, processing fees, cleaning and miscellaneous services of the total reasonable value agreed upon price now due and owing and that a detailed statement of such charges, services and storage with a statement of dates has been previously mailed to the said accounts by certified letters, the said accounts are further notified that if said balance is not paid by Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 12:00 p.m., the personal property above described will be sold by Absolute Auction and Realty online at www.aarbids.com on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 as provided under the Lien Law of the State of New York and the Lien Law of the State of Connecticut. Please register to bid under www.aarbids.com if you wish to participate.

01-12-23
01-19-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF JEFFREY A. FILLMAN

Late of Salisbury
AKA Jeffrey Andrew
Fillman
(22-00483)
The Hon. Diane S. Blick,
Judge of the Court of Probate,
District of Litchfield Hills

Winter performing arts classes for all ages

SHARON — The Sharon Playhouse's Arts Education Program continues its performing arts training with 2023 Winter Classes for all ages.

For younger students, there are six different classes from basic movement, rhythm, and pre-ballet to regular ballet, and dance combinations.

There is a singing class, two acting classes, and a class that teaches teens the choreography of stage combat.

In the teen-to-adult dance category there are two levels of tap, a jazz class in which to learn choreography for top Broadway and pop classics, and "Mindful Movement" combining dance with vinyasa-based yoga flow.

There is a scene study class on comedy for actors, a tutorial on how to audition for a musical, and another on how to audition for a play.

For more information on these and many other offerings, go to www.sharonplayhouse.org/classes.

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VOW FROM HIROSHIMA



Setsuko Thurlow

The Vow from Hiroshima is a documentary film about the life of Setsuko Thurlow, a 90-year-old survivor of the world's first atomic bomb, dropped on Hiroshima in August 1945. The film takes us from Thurlow's teenage memories of Hiroshima to her activism in the anti-nuclear movement, culminating in the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023 • 10:30 A.M.

The Moviehouse, Millerton, NY
Admission free. Doors open at 10 a.m.

Q and A will follow with Susan Strickler, the film's producer and director, and producer Mitchie Takeuchi, a second-generation survivor of the atomic bombing.

All persons are required to wear a face mask in the theater.

www.salisburyforum.org

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

Notices can be emailed to legals@lakevillejournal.com or mailed to The Lakeville Journal, ATTN: Legal Notices, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039.

Go to www.tricornernews.com/legalnotices to view current and past legal notices.

Regional

Hayes survived 2022 run

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — Jahana Hayes (D-5) won a third term in the U.S. House of Representatives on Nov. 8.

Incumbent Gov. Ned Lamont (D) and Lieutenant Gov. Susan Bysiewicz (D) led the way as Democratic candidates swept statewide offices: attorney general, secretary of the state, treasurer, and comptroller.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D) defeated GOP challenger Leora Levy to win a third term.

In a nailbiter, the incumbent Hayes (Democratic and Working Families) received 127,776 votes for 50.39%. Challenger George Logan (Republican/Independent lines) came up short with 125,801 votes for 49.61%.

State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) won reelection easily, with 7,363 votes for 63.99% (Democratic, Independent and Working Families lines). GOP challenger Chris DuPont received 4,182 votes for 36.01%.

The GOP's Stephen Harding won the race to succeed the retiring Craig Miner (R) in the 30th State Senate district, with 24,404 votes (53.81%) to 20,945 for Eva Bermudez Zimmerman (20,945 votes for 46.19% on the Democratic, Independent and Working Families lines).

The new probate court judge is Republican Jordan M. Richards, who won with 10,387 votes (50.84%) to 10,044 (49.16%) for the Democratic candidate, Kristen Mostowy.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

A downstream view of the covered bridge over the Housatonic in West Cornwall from July 29, 2021. The river was high and discolored that day.

Murphy, Hayes shepherd Housatonic Wild & Scenic bill through Congress

By Patrick L. Sullivan

KENT — The Housatonic Wild and Scenic River Act was included in the omnibus spending bill passed by Congress in late December.

U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) and U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-5) were in Kent on Friday, Feb. 11, to announce the crafting of federal legislation to obtain federal Wild and Scenic Riv-

er status for about 41 miles of the Housatonic River, between the Massachusetts border and Boardman Bridge in New Milford.

At the February meeting in Kent, Murphy pointed to the Wild and Scenic status of the Farmington River as an example of what can be done — including improved access to federal funding and resources.

The 41 miles of the

Housatonic are popular with anglers and recreational boaters.

Four other rivers in Connecticut have achieved federal Wild and Scenic status: the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook, the West Branch of the Farmington River, the Eightmile River Watershed in Haddam and the Pawcatuck River system in Stonington.

2022 marked merger of Salisbury Bank with NBT

LAKEVILLE — Salisbury Bank and Trust announced on Dec. 5 that it plans to merge with NBT Bank of Norwich, N.Y.

The SBT announcement said that "Salisbury Bank will become a part of NBT Bank during the second quarter of 2023, pending approval by shareholders and required regulatory agencies."

SBT president Rick Cantele said NBT is similar to

SBT, "in terms of the business model, products, and lending culture."

Cantele said there won't be any drastic changes for customers "other than the signs on the buildings and the name on your checks."

Centele said the NBT management, of which he will be a member, "anticipate keeping all customer-facing employees."

"And we'll be keeping the

new operations center [on Bissell Street in Lakeville] as a regional operations hub."

NBT describes itself on its website as a full-service community bank with 140 locations in New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Connecticut.

SBT has 14 branches in Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts.

Labor shortage made 2022 brutal year for business

By Debra A. Aleksinas

Throughout 2022, employers large and small in the Northwest Corner suffered unprecedented challenges that can be boiled down to two words that deluged roadsides, storefronts, and message boards: Help Wanted.

For most of the year, just about every sector — health care, manufacturing, retail, daycare, nonprofit, hospitality, recreation and farming — faced a crippling worker shortage on top of the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising inflation and the evolving needs and desires of employees.

Summer was brutal for restaurants and businesses dependent on a busy tourist season. Customers were out in full force for the first time since the pandemic started, but a lack of staff due to resignations or illness forced some business owners to curtail hours of operation while others had little choice but to permanently close.

The community pool in Falls Village came days away from closing for the summer because of a lifeguard shortage. Sharon Daycare Center

struggled to keep up with demand from the community, with 11 infants and toddlers on a wait list until more teachers could be hired.

May saw a surge in Help Wanted online postings. Leading the industry sectors with the most job postings were health care and social assistance, finance and insurance, retail trade and manufacturing.

The lack of affordable housing is at the root of the worker shortage, particularly in Litchfield County, said state officials.

"It's not just employees, it's volunteer ambulance personnel and firefighters. And we have an aging community, although we did pick up some young families during the pandemic, but now we have to make sure we can keep them here," State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) said during an interview this past summer.

Connecticut small businesses leaders and organizations joined forces calling on policymakers to use federal pandemic relief funds to address the unemployment debt crisis threatening the state's economic recovery.

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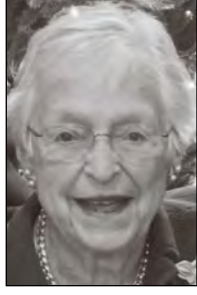
Find care now at [nuvancehealth.org](https://www.nuvancehealth.org)

Sharon Hospital

OBITUARIES

Miriam Eerkes Jones

SALISBURY — Miriam Eerkes Jones died Nov. 29, 2022, in Williamsburg, Virginia. She was 89 years old.



Miriam is survived by her husband, W. Melville Jones of Williamsburg. Also by two sons, Gregory Jones (Kathy) and Bradford Jones (Stephanie), both of San Francisco, California. She is also survived by a daughter, Carrie Mueher (Stephen) of suburban Chicago, as well as five grandchildren. Miriam was extremely devoted to her family, and considered the early years raising them her first and best job.

Miriam graduated from Swarthmore College in 1955 with a degree in political science. She met her future husband the first week of her freshman year at a social mixer. The relationship "clicked" and they continued to date throughout their four years of college.

Following graduation, she and Mel Jones were married. He entered the Army and Miriam became an elementary school teacher. First in Baltimore where Mel was in training and subsequently in St. Louis, Missouri, where Mel was stationed. In 1957, Mel left the Army and entered the Harvard School of Business Administration. Miriam taught school in the Newton, Massachusetts system.

In 1959, Miriam moved to Bronxville, New York since her husband had accepted a job in New York City.

Miriam and two other women opened a gift shop in downtown Bronxville. In addition to working in the store a couple of days per week and participation in the buying, Miriam handled the books and all contact with external accountants and lawyers.

In 1972, Miriam and her husband purchased a large, abandoned farmhouse in Salisbury.

The renovation took over a year and the structural modifications and work was supervised by Miriam. Once

completed Miriam and the children would spend entire summers in Salisbury.

In 1980, Miriam sold her share of the Bronxville store and she and her husband moved permanently into the Salisbury home. Miriam first worked as office manager for her husband's new start-up company.

Then she became the secretary/assistant to the president of a large newspaper company that owned over 100 weekly newspapers and 23 dailies. A couple of years later its headquarters moved to Princeton, New Jersey. Miriam was then hired as personal secretary to the chairman of the company who maintained an estate in Salisbury. After several years, Miriam became the secretary/assistant to the managers of a radio station.

In 1995, Miriam and her husband retired and moved to Williamsburg. They built a house in Ford's Colony where they lived until 2019 when they moved to the Williamsburg Landing. Before moving to the Landing Miriam volunteered at Colonial Williamsburg — two assignments were The Tucker House and as a receptionist at the Goodwin building.

During summers Miriam played tennis, swam and water-skied at a lake near their Salisbury house, and in Williamsburg, she played golf. During winters in Salisbury, she played platform tennis and was frequently seen on cross-country skiing trails.

Always elegant, thoughtful, gracious, kind, and intelligent, Miriam had the ability to sprinkle all of her conversations with both humor and a smile. She will be dearly missed by all the friends and family members who loved her.

A graveside service for Miriam was held Thursday, Dec. 15, at Cedar Grove Cemetery, 809 South Henry Street, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Terez 'Pinczes' Terdik

MILLBROOK — Terez "Pinczes" Terdik, 86, died peacefully at home on Jan. 7, 2023.

Born on Feb. 26, 1936, in Hungary, she was the daughter of Jozsef and Erszabet Pinczes.

She married her soul mate, Janos "John" Terdik on Dec. 20, 1954.

She worked as an attendant with patients at the Wassica Development Center and retired in 1998.

She is survived by her daughter, Veronica Stark and her husband, Kevin of Millbrook; two grandsons, John Stark of Maybrook, New York, and Peter Stark of Saugerties; two great grandsons, Avery and Maverick Stark of Maybrook; a

brother, Bela Pinczes and his wife, Rosie of Fishkill; a sister-in-law, Theresa Pinczes of Stanfordsville; several nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Predeceased in addition to her parents and husband; a sister and brother-in-law, Elizabeth and Gabby Farkas; brothers, Thomas Pinczes, Joe Pinczes, Matt Pinczes; and a nephew, Joe Pinczes Jr.

Calling hours were held at the Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon, Connecticut on Tuesday, Jan. 10 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Church services were held at the Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, on Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 10 a.m.

Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Gary M. Lovett

CLINTON CORNERS, N.Y. — Gary M. Lovett, 69, died unexpectedly on Dec. 17, 2022, while cross-country skiing in the Catskills with friends. The cause of death is unknown.



Gary was a forest ecologist and Senior Scientist Emeritus at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, where he worked full-time for 35 years. Throughout his career, Gary stretched the boundaries of ecosystem science, advancing understanding of how forests process pollution, cycle nutrients, and respond to pests and pathogens. His research achievements were matched with a passion for bringing science to bear on policy and practice that led him to forge collaborations with nonprofits and industry, chief among them his Tree-SMART Trade campaign.

A deeply valued member of the Cary community, Gary was a leader and collaborator in so many other communities, among them the Hubbard Brook Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) community, the Catskill Environmental Research and Monitoring (CERM) conference, and the Northeastern Ecosystem Research Cooperative.

Colleague Peter Groffman, who succeeded Gary as the lead investigator on the Hubbard Brook LTER Program, notes, "Gary was

an internationally recognized forest ecologist who made fundamental contributions to the field, and aggressively worked the interface between science and society. The strength of his contributions to both the content and culture of science was deep and will be missed by many."

Raised in New York's Capital Region, Lovett was shaped by summers at Helderberg Lake in a cabin his parents built by hand. He received a BS in Biology from Union College (1975) and a PhD from Dartmouth College in Biology and Plant Ecology (1981). Before being hired at Cary Institute, he was a postgraduate fellow at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (1981-83) and a research associate at the University of Tennessee (1983-85).

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21, in the auditorium at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, 2801 Sharon Turnpike, Millbrook, NY. Calling hours are from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with a Remembrance Service at 2:00 p.m. Donations in support of Gary's work on Tree-SMART Trade may be made to Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies or online at www.caryinstitute.org/science/tree-smart-trade. For directions or to leave a message of condolence for the family please visit www.peckandpeck.net

Vincent Joseph DeCarle

MILLBROOK — Vincent Joseph DeCarle, 71, of Aquebogue, New York and Millbrook passed away on Dec. 25, 2022.

Vincent was born on April 12, 1951, to Agnes DeCarle in Bayshore, New York. After Vincent graduated from Riverhead High School in 1969, he went on to study and work in the field of computer science. Most of his career was spent at Northrop Grumman and BOCES on Long Island, New York. After retiring, Vincent moved with his wife to Millbrook to be closer to his daughter and grandsons.

Vincent had a spectacularly sharp sense of humor and keen wit. He enjoyed the simple pleasures in life — his family and friends, engaging conversation, his gardens and birds at his feeder, good music, a strong vodka, Long Island corn, and time spent at the waters of the East End of Long Island. He was truly present in life and appreciated all that was around him. He was an incredibly hard worker who provided for his family through thick and thin. He could fix anything and often did this for not only his family but also many friends — he was al-

ways willing to give to others and did this selflessly. In this regard, he will remain a lasting role model for his daughter and five grandsons.

Vincent was predeceased by his son (David DeCarle), his mother (Agnes DeCarle), and his dear uncle (Johnny McDonald). He is survived by his wife (Bette DeCarle), his daughter (Jennifer DeCarle Moriarty), his brothers and sister (Joe DeCarle, Jimmy DeCarle, and Rita Figurniak), and the biggest joys of his life — his 5 grandsons (Trey, CJ, Braiden, Desmond, and Liam).

A celebration of life will be held in the Spring of 2023 with a date and time to be announced. In Vincent's memory, we ask all who knew and loved him to take a moment to be present and grateful for your family and friends, have a good drink, and rock out to some of your favorite tunes!

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations please be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation to help fund research for Type 1 Diabetes (jdrf.org) or to Hudson Valley Hospice, whose kind support allowed Vincent to remain at home with his family.

William Seeley Fisher

SHARON — William Seeley Fisher, 74, died on Dec. 25, 2022, at the Amsterdam Nursing Home, New York, New York, after an extended illness. He was born Dec. 27, 1947, in New York City, the son of Dr. Robert L. and Ruth Seeley Fisher of Sharon, Connecticut. William graduated from The Gunnery (now the Frederick Gunn school) in 1966 and the University of Pennsylvania in 1970, with a degree in English. Following service in the Pennsylvania National Guard, he took a job as Wire Editor for the Waterbury Republican-American, and subsequently held various positions at the Fort Meyers News Press, Mexico City News, and the Arizona Republic. After a stint as Copy Editor at the New Haven Journal-Courier, William worked at Outbrainz Technologies, LLC, before accept-

ing a job as Rim Editor at the New York Daily News.

Surviving in addition to his long-time companion and partner of 26 years, Linda Sparber, of New York, New York, are his three brothers, Robert Fisher, Jr. of Goshen, Jonathan Fisher of Red Hook, New York, and Gordon Fisher of Cornwall, as well as two sisters, Phoebe Fisher of New Braunfels, Texas, and Nancy Eklund of Pine Plains, New York.

William is remembered as a loving brother with a quick wit. He enjoyed "Farside" cartoons, reading all kinds of novels, writing essays, and rowing (which he learned at the University of Pennsylvania in the early 70's.)

A service of remembrance will be held in late Spring, 2023. Details will be released at a later time.

For more obituaries, see page A5

Send obituaries to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

Worship Services

Week of January 15, 2023

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

<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. Al Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7252</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock In person services on Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 A.M. Livestream at 10:30 on www.trinitylimerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>
<p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, February 12 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokiuloi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Pastor Joy Veronesi 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer Pastor Sun Yong Lee 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online Bible studies and Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>
<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3005 Rev. Robert Landback The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge MASS SCHEDULE SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart WEEKDAY MASSES Monday & Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart Tuesday 9 AM - St. Bernard</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mngates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.</p>
<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>	<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>
<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Ditchers Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 A.M. 518-789-3138</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mngates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.</p>

In Loving Memory of Peter C. Roosa

October 12, 1950 to January 11, 2019

Time slips by and life goes on
But from our hearts you're never gone.
We think about you always, we talk about you too, we have so many memories but we wish we still had you.

You are deeply loved:
Phyllis, Jamie, Nonnie,
The Petkovich and Roosa Family

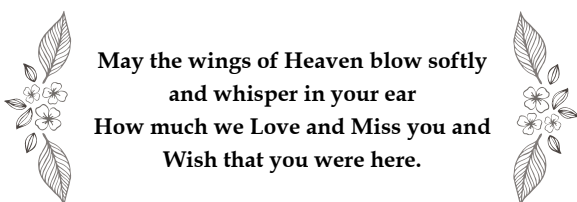


In Loving Memory of Jeffery Jay Petkovich

May 12, 1968 to January 20, 1990

May the wings of Heaven blow softly
and whisper in your ear
How much we Love and Miss you and
Wish that you were here.

You are loved deeply:
Mom, Jamie, Nonnie



OUR TOWNS

Electricity with citrus circuits

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — The Cornwall Library was buzzing as two area experts led a discussion and demonstration on electricity on Saturday, Jan. 7.

Local electrician Steve Saccardi teamed up with his son and UMass Amherst PhD student Brian Saccardi to provide insight on the fundamentals of electricity.

The duo addressed the science behind electro-magnetism as a force and reviewed the different ways electricity can be generated and harnessed.

"The electro-magnetic field is concentrated along the outside of the wires that run to things like lights," said Steve Saccardi. "The reason those fields exist is because inside the wire there is an electron moving."

After an in-depth discussion on how and why electricity works, the Saccardis provided visual demonstrations on two different methods for generating electricity.

First, a circuit consisting of four lemons and four oranges, each rigged with copper wire and zinc nails, was used to power a small light bulb.

"If you have two dissimilar metals, one has a stronger affinity for electrons than the other," said Brian Saccardi as he explained the chemistry behind the experiment. "When put in a substance that allows electrons to easily move, the metals will trade electrons."

He explained this process is fundamentally the same as the science that occurs in everyday batteries, with the citrus acting as battery acid in this experiment.

After using lemons to light a bulb, the Saccardis demonstrated a Van de Graaf machine, which uses charge separation to gen-



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN
Brian Saccardi demonstrated charge separation as a form of generating electricity at the Cornwall Library on Saturday, Jan. 7.

erate voltage. In a Van de Graaf machine, high voltage direct current is generated at low levels through the movement of a belt inside an insulated column.

The discussion was presented as part of the Cornwall Conversations program at the library.

Salisbury eyes 2023 goals, plans

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Board of Selectmen met online Monday, Jan. 9 to discuss plans and goals for 2023.

First Selectman Curtis Rand went through a list, starting with the plan for the Pope Design Committee to meet with three land use commissions on Jan. 26. The meeting will be held remotely; check the town website for the time.

The design committee will meet with the Planning and Zoning, Inland Wetlands and Historic District com-

missions to present "three or four" concepts for the town-owned Pope property. Rand was gloomy about solid waste management, saying it seems likely that the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA), will go out of business by the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

MIRA is the agency that used to run the now closed trash to energy plant in Hartford, and which still has a shipping contract for municipal solid waste with several Northwest Corner towns, including Salisbury.

"There's no good news coming out of any of this," Rand said. "We're trucking, or training, our waste way out West."

Rand said he didn't have any answers, other than to encourage people to recycle as much as possible. He also mentioned that the Salisbury-Sharon transfer station has had some problems with contamination in the recycling, and asked residents to be careful about what they toss in the hopper.

Rand said the town's highway crew, along with tree removal specialists, will be working on a long list of trees around power lines that need to come down.

On the COVID-19 front, Rand said the latest variant is making the rounds and that visitors to Town Hall and

Ida Mary McEathron

MILLERTON — Ida Mary McEathron, 80, a lifelong area resident, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023, at Sharon Hospital in Sharon.

Mrs. McEathron worked as a therapy aide at the Wassaic Development Center in Wassaic, a career that spanned over 30 years prior to her retirement in 1993.

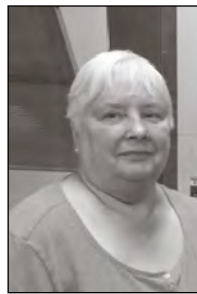
Born Sept. 13, 1942, in Sharon, she was the daughter of the late James and Winifred (Somers) Ferris. She attended grade school and high school in Amenia. On April 8, 1974, in Millerton, she married Herbert W. McEathron. Mr. McEathron survives at home in Millerton.

In her spare time, Ida enjoyed feeding and watching birds, especially red Cardinals, completing jigsaw puzzles and spending time with her beloved family.

She will forever be dearly missed by her loving family and by all those who were touched by her kindness and caring heart.

In addition to her husband Herb, Ida is survived by two daughters, Winifred Pinczes and her companion Ronald Weegar of Winthrop, New York, and Melissa Near and her husband Bruce of Pine Plains; her grandchildren,

Bridget M. Butts and Bradley W. Butts of Ancram; two sisters, Lorraine Phillips of Millerton and Muriel McEathron of Forest City, Pennsylvania; two brothers, Daniel Ferris of Bennington, Vermont, and Irvin Ferris of Millbrook; her dear nephew, Joseph Cawley of Millerton and sev-



eral nieces and nephews and extended family members and friends. Ida was predeceased by her son, Jozsef C. Pinczes in 2021 and her sisters, Mildred Birdsall, Catherine Wendover and Diane Hall as well as her brothers, Stanley Ferris, James Ferris and Leonard Ferris.

Calling hours were Monday, Jan. 9, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. A funeral procession followed at 11:45 a.m. from the funeral home to Valley View Cemetery in Dover Plains, NY.

A graveside service took place at 12:30 p.m. at the cemetery. Pastor William Mayhew will officiate. Burial followed. Memorial contributions may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Association at the following address, DonarRelations@mymssa.org. To send an online condolence to the family, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

Anna-Elysapeth Ruff McGuire

CANAAN — Anna-Elysapeth Ruff McGuire, 66, of North Canaan sadly left us on Dec. 31, 2022, after a brief illness. She was born at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut on Sept. 19, 1956, and was a graduate of Canton High School in 1975. She is survived by her loving mother Frances Ruff also of North Canaan.

Anna was pre-deceased by the love of her life, her husband Francis D. McGuire. Anna had a love for politics which started when she was 17 when she won her first election. She was Republican State Central Operations Director for many years along with holding many other positions within the Republican Party for the State of Connecticut. She then continued on to serve for over 20 years as the North Canaan Republican Registrar of Voters, a Republican Delegate for the 5th district and she has been a vital part of numerous campaigns. Along with her love of politics she was a lover of all living things and

her community. Anna volunteered for the North Canaan Daycare Board and the Chamber of Commerce. For many years she organized the Canaan Railroad Days. She grew up breeding Springer Spaniels with her parents and never had a time when you were not greeted by a special dog or cat at her home. Anna was also predeceased by her father Joseph Ruff. Along with her mother Anna is survived by her aunt, cousins, nieces, nephews and sisters-in-law. During Anna's final days, she and her mother were comforted by Michelle Hansen. A funeral will be held Saturday, Jan. 14, at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph's Church, 4 Main Street, North Canaan, CT 06018. Interment will follow at St. Joseph's Cemetery. Calling hours will be at Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home, 118 Main Street, North Canaan, CT 06018 on Friday, Jan. 13 from 5 to 8 p.m. Memorial donations can be sent to the Little Guild, 285 Sharon-Goshen Road, West Cornwall, CT 06796.

Mary A. Wilkens

AMENIA — Mary A. Wilkens, age 90, of Powderhouse Road in Amenia, passed away suddenly on Dec. 20, 2022, in Sharon. She was the loving wife of the late George F. Wilkens, to whom she was married for 69 years.

Mary was born on Sept. 23, 1932, in Queens, New York, where she and George lived for more than a decade before moving their family to Bedford, New York. Mary enrolled at Pace University, and while raising three children, attended school full time, graduating Magna Cum Laude. Mary proceeded to work for IBM as the Executive Secretary to IBM founder Tom Watson, in Armonk, New York, then as an editor, and finally manager, working there until her retirement.

Mary was a dedicated volunteer for many years at the Amenia Library, serving on the Board of Trustees. She organized book sales, purchased books for the library and spearheaded the fundraising for the new addition. The expression that when a person dies, a library burns down, was so true for Mary.

Her wealth of knowledge, her ability to quote any poem to its finish, her incredible intellect, her continuous questioning, analyzing and creative mind are a loss to all who had the good fortune to know her.

Mary was a loving and generous person, which extended beyond her family and friends. She was passionate about many causes, donated to numerous charities, and always offered a hand to someone in need.

She is survived by a daughter Kate Franklin (married to Douglas Schone) a son Matt (married to Amanda), and Brett (married to Joan), five grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her sister, Cecilia, and her son-in-law Christopher Franklin, in addition to her husband.

A celebration of Mary's life will be planned and posted on her Facebook page and on her children's Facebook pages, as well as in the local newspaper. Memorial contributions may be made to the Amenia Free Library, 3303 NY-343, Amenia NY, 12501. The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



Falls Village sets survey for 2023 planning effort

FALLS VILLAGE — The Planning and Zoning Commission will be updating the Plan of Conservation (POCD) and Development this year.

As part of this effort, the Commission has created an online survey in order to give Falls Village residents, businesses, and property owners an opportunity to provide input to the planning process.

The survey can be accessed from the front page of the Town website at www.canaanfallsvillage.org.

The survey will be open through midnight on Sunday, Jan. 29.

A POCD is an advisory

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INTERNET

Continued from Page A1

improving connectivity for everyone in Sharon — but were open about how to do that,” Drew said, indicating that they researched models throughout the U.S., particularly looking at western Massachusetts.

They soon determined that Sharon differed from models in Massachusetts where regional and state funding is available. Each of Sharon’s neighboring towns would need to approve funds. So rather than trying to build a regional consensus, they focused on what Sharon needed and would be willing to fund.

It all started with a survey to see if residents would consider this connectivity issue a priority. “We really wanted to know what people thought,” Drew said, noting that 551 responses were received from a mailing to about 1,600 homes.

Next, Drew recommended creation of a task force of members who offered diverse skills, open minds, enthusiasm for the mission and the willingness to meet regularly. She stressed the importance of working closely with town officials, and subscribers, keeping them informed with public information meetings and social media posts.

“Try to involve the community, not market to them,” Drew advised.

Drew majored in literature at American University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1984 and had a 25-year career as a print journalist, first as a reporter covering Wall Street for various trade publications, then as a reporter and editor for New York Newsday, and The Washington Post.

“My husband and I began visiting Sharon with our son when my husband’s father, Robert Drew, and his second wife, Anne Drew, moved here in 2007. Derek and I decided to move to Sharon full-time in 2016 after our son went to college” Drew recalled.

Today, she manages Drew Associates, the independent documentary film company her father-in-law founded in 1960, mainly licensing films and footage from Drew Associates’ archive of iconic cinema verité films.

“We fell in love with Sharon,” Drew said.

One of her first volunteer opportunities was to become an Emergency Medical Responder on the Sharon Fire Department Ambulance Squad. “I did it because I had such gratitude to members of the squad, especially Jamie and Tom Casey and Betsy Hall; they made it possible for Bob to live the last years of his life safely in his own home after Anne passed away in 2012.”

“I like puzzles and I love collaborating with like-minded people on solving complex problems,” Drew said.

“Incumbent providers had demonstrated that they didn’t care about those in Sharon who had no high-speed access,” she explained. “I was determined to make them care and get everyone connected, even if it meant building our own town-owned network. Like electricity, clean running water, universal mail service, public schools, safe roadways, the internet is an essential service. If private industry won’t provide it, the community should step in.”

Drew noted that task force members have a diverse set of skills and experience.

Brent Prindle, former owner of Cornwall Electric, knows how Sharon’s roads are wired.

Barbara Prindle, who

“Incumbent providers had demonstrated that they didn’t care about those in Sharon who had no high-speed access. I was determined to make them care and get everyone connected, even if it meant building our own town-owned network.”

Jill Drew, Sharon Connect Task Force Co-Chair

chaired the Sharon Board of Finance for years, guided the task force through all the municipal approval processes, including getting a line item in the budget to fund the feasibility analysis and getting a Town Meeting organized to approve the Comcast proposal.

John Brett brought finance, management, and people skills; Eric Simon, a telecom consultant, brought a deep understanding of the industry; Ben Newhouse lent his tech and data savvy; Patrick Gallaway, his analytic skills; Beth Rybczyk, her experience on Sharon’s Sewer & Water Commission; Roger Lourie’s engineering skills; Alexandra Peters and Linda Neiberg offered their writing abilities.

Drew recalled the work of former Selectman Jessica Fowler, who championed Sharon’s need for universal broadband access for years.

“I was one of the people

“This work allows me to share my technical knowledge as well as my love of guiding and teaching others in how to be successful with technology.”

Meghan Flanagan, Sharon Connect Task Force Co-Chair

who raised her hand when Jessica asked for volunteers to continue the mission.” That was in November of 2019, she said. “I didn’t really know what I was getting myself into, frankly. But I have learned so much and made so many great friends on this task force that I’m delighted I did it.”

Flanagan, with husband Casey, moved to Sharon in 2003 when she accepted a position in the stables at the Weatherstone Estate, just after graduating from Marist College in Poughkeepsie

“I love living in Sharon because the area is beautiful. You can live in the woods and enjoy nature just by looking out the window or stepping out the front door,” Flanagan said.

Her volunteer work began with motherhood, Flanagan recalled. After her son Jack was born, she soon realized that the daycare centers he attended were always in need of support from families. “This really began my passion for volunteering in town,” she said.

Flanagan’s day job is as Chief Operations Officer for a non-profit organization. This position has allowed her to see the importance of volunteers and their positive impact on an organization and/or a community.

“A lot of my passion with volunteering comes from a desire to fix things,” Flanagan explained. In her current role on the task force, she said often she helps individuals with getting or enhancing their

internet connection. “This work allows me to share my technical knowledge as well as my love of guiding and teaching others in how to be successful with technology.”

Flanagan said a trip to Ireland opened her eyes to the problem of connectivity.

“The home we stayed at was on a sheep farm in the remote countryside accessed by a single lane road two miles long. The road was narrow with no shoulder, so you had to pull over (or sometimes back up) to let another driver going the opposite direction pass,” she recalled. Yet even in that remote countryside, the home they visited had excellent internet service with enough bandwidth for three working professionals and four pre-teen and teen children to game at the same time.

She was amazed that such a remote place in Ireland had better internet access than the town of Sharon, only a two-hour train ride from New York City.

“We approached this problem with many solutions (cell towers, satellite dishes, municipal fiber network, partnership with the incumbents), but we did not give up on any one of them.”

For other towns grappling with connectivity issues, Flanagan said, “My advice is, explore every option and do not dismiss any of them until everyone is connected.”



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ancram Opera House Expansion

An architect’s rendering of the Ancram Center for the Arts, a proposed expansion of the Ancram Opera House in Ancram, New York, at left, which received a grant of \$255,675 from the New York Main Street program of the Office of Homes and Community Renewal for renovation of a neighboring building as housing for interns and performers as well as programs and workshops.

LEGISLATURE

Continued from Page A1

From her position as chair of the Finance, Bonding and Revenue Committee, Horn said that fiscal responsibility will inform the committee’s agenda.

She said that fiscal “guardrails” enacted in 2017 have expired, and the first bill the committee will consider reinstates those “broad covenants.”

She added that the committee will be looking at “some sort of middle class tax relief.”

On health care Horn said she was concerned about access, which she said ties into the ongoing situation with Sharon Hospital’s plan to close the labor and delivery unit.

From the Environment Committee, Horn said the group will be looking at increased costs and the unpopular shipping of municipal solid waste out of state in the wake of the closing of the Hartford waste-to-energy plant.

“We’ll be looking for solutions,” she said. “I don’t think there will be a singular answer.”

She mentioned the food waste diversion program at the Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station as an example of an effective solution to part of the problem.

Horn said she is also looking at traffic safety. “Every town in my district’s got a Main Street that people speed on.”

She said she is open to the idea of using traffic cameras.

Harding said he was worried about an economic downturn and noted that “we’re not going to have \$2 billion from the federal government” this year.

A fiscally responsible state budget will focus on good long-term investments and “not on one-time pet projects.”

Harding said he expects another attempt at a statewide zoning bill, with limits on local control.

He was critical of using mandates and/or penalties to create affordable housing.

“I don’t think that’s the right approach.”

He noted that his home town of Brookfield has been

successful in building affordable housing.

“I think it can be done with incentives, not mandates,” he said, adding “when locals are involved, it produces the best results.”

Harding said he is determined to protect open space. “When you have overdevelopment, it upsets residents.”

Harding is also worried about bears. Referring to an October 2022 bear attack in Morris, in which a 10-year old boy was seriously injured, Harding said the legislature needs to take action to prevent more attacks.

As a start, Harding said the laws and regulations concerning what actions citizens may and may not take regarding problem bears are not well understood and need clarification.

“Right now it’s kind of ambiguous.”

He said he will work with the state attorney general’s office and the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to clarify the rules.

COVID-19

Continued from Page A1

and preserve capacity in the state’s health care system, Juthani advised people living in the high transmission category to wear a mask indoors in public, stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and get tested if showing symptoms.

State health officials also warn that additional precautions may be needed for residents who are at high risk for severe illness.

DPH has reported that as of Dec. 7, 308,226 cases of COVID-19 among fully vaccinated persons in Connecticut have been identified. Those cases, according to health officials, account for 10.18% of the nearly 2.8 million Connecticut residents who are fully vaccinated.

The Omicron variant con-

tinues to be the most prevalent, accounting for 29,499 cases, followed by Delta at 17,235 cases.

“As we approach the three-year mark of this pandemic, we have many more ways to deal effectively with COVID-19,” Juthani noted the days leading up to 2023, including vaccines and updated boosters,

Test to Treat locations, mobile van clinics and a variety of self-test kits.

Juthani added that the federal government has now made four free self-test kits available per household, which can be ordered by visiting www.covid.org/tests.

The health commissioner also noted that Connecticut currently has more than 40

Test to Treat sites, which are located at pharmacies and urgent care centers throughout the state.

Resources for testing and treating COVID-19 are available in the DPH toolbox at www.ct.gov/coronavirus.

For COVID-19 treatments to work, Juthani advised that they must be started early, within five days of when symptoms start.

“Everyone age 65 and older should be treated for COVID. If you are 50 and older with underlying medical conditions, particularly if you are unvaccinated, treatment for COVID can reduce the risk of hospitalization or

death.”

According to DPH, for those who test positive for COVID-19, oral therapeutics such as Paxlovid may be recommended by a provider who can prescribe these oral antiviral pills. Patients can fill a prescription at most retail pharmacies across the state.

“Therapeutics can be used to prevent or treat eligible non-hospitalized patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 and have mild to moderate symptoms,” said the state health commissioner, who noted that heading into 2023, “We are in a far better place with this pandemic than we were in 2020.”

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Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

FILM: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Preventing a nuclear future

On August 6, 1945, America dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima killing over 70,000 citizens from both the blast exposure and the effects of radiation. A survivor of the bombing, 91-year-old Setsuko Thurlow has made nuclear disarmament her life's mission, earning her The Nobel Peace Prize in 2017. Her story is documented in the film "The Vow from Hiroshima," produced and written by Mitchie Takeuchi and directed by Sharon, Conn., resident Susan Strickler. I spoke with Takeuchi and Strickler in anticipation of a screening of the documentary for The Salisbury Forum.

Alexander Wilburn: Can you tell me about your first time meeting Setsuko Thurlow and how "The Vow from Hiroshima" came about?

Mitchie Takeuchi: The first time I met her was through the a program called Hibakusha Stories, *hibakusha* meaning the survivors of the atomic bomb. I met Setsuko through this educational program where she was going to speak at New York City high schools to share the hibakusha experience as a survivor firsthand. I was there as an interpreter — Setsuko didn't need an interpreter, but there were other survivors from Japan so I was helping them.

Susan Strickler: Mitchie got me involved with Hibakusha Stories. As a group we went to a program at the Truman Little White House, and that was the first time where I really spent more time with Setsuko. At first I think she found me to be too opinionated, so we didn't initially have the most warm and fuzzy relationship, but eventually we did.

We did a trip to Vienna, which is portrayed in the film, where she was the keynote speaker at two major conferences. Her husband had recently died and she was trying to find a new balance in her life. Her husband had helped her write her speeches. She was saying "I don't know how much longer I can do this, and I don't really see myself writing a book." I told her, she's so charismatic, and she is both fierce and a delightful person to spend time with, someone should make a documentary about her. But I was a soap opera director, I certainly wasn't thinking of myself. Then the next year in 2015 she was nominated for the Nobel Prize and was also going to be a part of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Conference which meets every five years, plus it was the 70th anniversary of the dropping of the bomb — it seemed like there was a lot happening and someone had to capture it. So without a script or money, I enlisted someone I knew through New York Women in Public Television who was a camera person. Over time, Setsuko and I became very close. I had quibbled in the beginning with the way she talked about certain things. She gave a speech at the Truman White House and we had an argument about that.

AW: What was the conflict?

SS: During her speech she referred to the dropping of the bomb as a war crime and compared it to the concentration camps. And some people got up and left because they were offended.

Americans are still very sensitive about owning the fact that they were the first to drop the bomb. It may be what she thinks, but I didn't think it was judicious of her to say that.



COURTESY OF BULLFROG FILMS

AW: In the film she talks about not wanting to be a figure of tragedy and sympathy, but focus on pushing policy forward. How did you balance that while also conveying the horror of her past?

MT: When we started to make the film we were purely focused on following her life because it was more like an autobiographical piece. It was a substitute for her wanting to write a book. We weren't necessarily trying to capture the nuclear ban movement, but as it started moving forward very rapidly with the Nobel Prize, it became part of the narrative.

SS: When we started we were purely looking at Setsuko's story to understand the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, but we were frequently shocked while filming how little Americans knew about the bombing — we had an adult say, "I didn't know there were survivors." People didn't know that the U.S. occupied Japan for several years.

AW: What' the reaction been from the

younger generations as you've shown the film? For students there seem to be a barrage of threats, from gun violence in schools to climate change, have you found it impacts the way they view the topic?

MT: We've shown the documentary to university and high school classes and the reception has been so encouraging. Gen Z are so surrounded by environmental issues and violence, they're much more open to listening to our stories because I think they can relate to it.

AW: That's what I was thinking while watching the film.

MT: It is a very realistic scenario for them, especially because of the environmental impact of nuclear weapons and climate chaos. I think young people are able to see through a lot of political elements for the sake of saving the planet. It's very encouraging.

SS: This film started with the program called Hibakusha Stories, and the survivors couldn't really go on because they're in their late 80s and 90s, and Setsuko, who is still very engaged in the movement, has started to use the film as a way to tell her story. It really saves her emotionally, and frees her to focus on policy, which is what she's really interested in now.

AW: In the film we see Setsuko being awarded the Nobel Prize with ICAN (The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) director Beatrice Fihn. Fihn told Time this week that she feels the possibilities of banning nuclear weapons have backslid. Since the invasion of Ukraine, do you feel the conver-

sation around the film has changed?

MT: I think audiences are way more engaged in this subject now. Ever since Donald Trump and North Korea, there's been a shift in awareness, but particularly with the invasion of Ukraine and Putin using nuclear weapons as a threat, people in the United States are so much more interested. It's unfortunate, but we really do need to utilize this awareness.

SS: When we started making this film, and we were going to foundations trying to get grants,

we were frequently met with "Nuclear weapons? That's so 1980s!" It was very discouraging and we always felt like we were pushing a rock up a hill. Now there's so much more interest, and even though Beatrice may be saying it's harder to advance policy towards disarmament, I think more people realize there's a need. The general population, who were kind of asleep until Trump and then the invasion of Ukraine, they're awake.

Screening and Q&A on Jan. 15 at The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y.

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

سالنامه

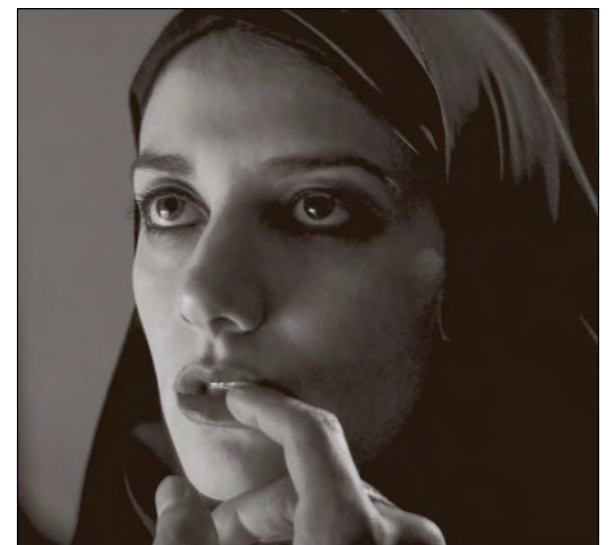


PHOTO COURTESY OF MOVIESTILLSDB

A GIRL WALKS HOME ALONE AT NIGHT

The vampire, a lonely figure bound to a life nocturnal on the outskirts of society, above mortal law but fearful of Christ's cross, has bewitched the imagination of storytellers for centuries. Entrenched in the taboo — unholy life beyond death, the transgression of sexual mores and wantonly feasting on shared fluids — the vampire has continued to adapt to the times, from the 1920s silent expressionist horror in "Nosferatu" to Anne Rice's 1970s Southern Gothic chronicles of baroque homoeroticism among the Creole gentry. Considered to be the first modern vampire story, John William Polidori's "The Vampyre" was inspired by Lord Byron during the same fateful summer in Geneva

where Mary Shelley produced "Frankenstein." Polidori, who died by suicide at age 25, tells of a clearly Byron-esque undead vagrant named Lord Ruthven, a wicked seducer and murderer of diffident debutantes. "The Vampyre" would go on to influence Bram Stoker, but also American authors like Uriah Derick D'Arcy, who in 1819 penned "The Black Vampyre: A Legend of St. Domingo" where vampirism is the magic that allows enslaved West Africans to rise up against the oppression of the slave trade. "A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night," the 2014 directorial debut by Ana Lily Amirpour, takes the vampire myth to modern-day Iran, with influences that are far more Tarantino than Polidori. A slick Persian-language romance between a working-class James Dean-inspired stud and a too-cool-for-school vampire art girl, Amirpour's stylish spaghetti western is both comic and comic booky, like if "Twilight" had been made by the sardonic girls of Daniel Clowes' "Ghost World."

Boondocks Film Society presents "A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night" on Jan. 21 along with a happy hour and music performance by Simone White at Nancy Marine Studio Theatre at The Warner in Torrington, Conn.



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Our Towns

Cornwall bridge partially reopened

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Cornwall's Board of Selectmen reviewed an eventful holiday week at their first meeting of 2023 on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

The primary topic of conversation was the closure of West Cornwall's covered bridge, which had been closed since a pick-up truck towing an excavator drove the length of the bridge on Friday, Dec. 23.

Considerable damage was done to support beams that run across the top of the bridge, requiring repairs throughout the length of the structure.

"This particular incident did damage from one end to the other," said Ridgway. "It's remarkable to me that the person who was driving did not stop until they were outside the bridge."

The state hired Mohawk Construction Company to repair the bridge. As of 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 6, the bridge was reopened for use on evenings and weekends. Work is expected to continue Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. for at least two more weeks, during which times the bridge will be closed.

The damage had an effect on businesses in West Cornwall and has been an obstacle for Cornwall's emergency services.

"It effectively cuts off the west bank of the Housatonic from the coverage of the Cornwall Fire Department," said Ridgway. "There was a

car accident south of the bridge... and Falls Village ambulance was there ahead of our ambulance."

The board discussed additional measures that can be taken to prevent future damage to the landmark bridge. Suggestions included metal guard rails to prevent oversized vehicles from entering, but concerns over compromising the aesthetic of the bridge were raised.

Selectwoman Janet Carlson suggested the installation of an electronic eye that can warn drivers of oversized vehicles before entering the bridge.

The commotion in Cornwall over the holidays was compounded by a significant power outage in town caused by Winter Storm Elliot, which knocked out power to many of the hilltop homes in town for nearly four days, including Christmas Eve and Day.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said power lines were damaged in 30 different places and repairs were completed by Eversource.

Final allocations for federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were reviewed during this meeting as well: \$100,000 to Cornwall Housing Corporation for site development of housing, \$35,000 to The Little Guild for site development of its new headquarters in Cornwall, \$38,000 to the Food and Fuel Fund for winter assistance, and \$5,000 to Greenwoods Counseling for the services they provide.



PHOTO BY HOPE MONGEAU

Fr. John Kreta of All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church led parishioners in the annual blessing of the waters at Twin Lakes on Sunday, Jan. 8.

Parishioners bless Twin Lakes waters

By Matthew Kreta

SALISBURY — Parishioners of All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church in Salisbury made their short annual hike to Washing Lake to bless the water on Sunday, Jan. 8.

Fr. John Kreta and the parishioners of All Saints of America blessed the water in celebration of Epiphany, also referred to as Theophany. Epiphany celebrates Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist in the river Jordan as well as God revealing Jesus as His Son and as part of the Holy Trinity to the people. It is considered one of the 12 major feasts of the Orthodox Christian calendar, alongside celebrations like Christmas and Easter. Water is blessed in both the church and at open water, and water blessed in the church is meant to be taken home for both blessing homes and drinking for health.

The church members walk to the lake at the conclusion

of normal Sunday services carrying banners and the cross, and the water is blessed through a short service. At the end of the service, a small amount of water is drawn and used to bless those in attendance. After the people have been blessed, the cross the priest carries is tossed into the water to be retrieved by divers, though due to usually cold weather Fr. Kreta tosses it in a shallow area. In the following weeks, the priest will visit homes and bless them with the water blessed in the church.

The water symbolizes renewal and the essence of life. Orthodox churches across the globe hold this service at hundreds of thousands of bodies of water.

Matthew Kreta is the son of Fr. John Kreta.

This 'n' That for Habitat thrift store closing doors

By Leila Hawken

NORTH CANAAN — For well more than 10 years, This 'n' That for Habitat has served the northwestern Connecticut community, bringing awareness of the essential mission of Habitat for Humanity. In the process the destination thrift shop has provided low cost, high quality home furnishings to customers throughout the region.

In the wake of an announcement from Habitat for Humanity of Northwestern Connecticut that the retail location would soon close, the store scheduled two consecutive weekends of a final clearance sale to liquidate its entire stock. The first weekend sale opened on Friday, Jan. 6, and continued through Sunday, Jan. 8. The second will be Friday, Jan. 13 through Sunday, Jan. 15 from noon to 4 p.m.

"That is so beautiful," was a comment heard often as customers circulated through the displays on the opening day, Friday, Jan. 6. A watercolor artist was delighted to find two antique lidded chamber pots in perfect condition.

Another long-term customer spoke fondly of Judy Moore's years of dedication to the shop and recounted how the store carried on valiantly to remain open after she left. Looking to the future, Evan Cooper, Executive Director of Habitat of Northwestern Connecticut, said, "We're still here and we intend to remain active in the community." Cooper has served as executive director since February, 2022.

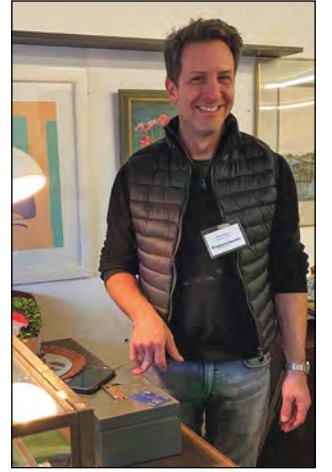


PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Evan Cooper, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Northwestern Connecticut, managed sales at its North Canaan location on Friday, Jan. 6.

"We'd like to be able to maintain a retail presence," Cooper said, adding that Habitat's board of directors would be meeting within weeks to discuss future plans.

Habitat is presently building two new homes for families, one in Torrington and one in North Canaan on Salisbury Road where the past week had seen the pouring of the foundation in preparation for framing in the coming week.

North Canaan gets state grant for child care center renovations

By Leila Hawken

NORTH CANAAN — Renovations to the Canaan Child Care Center will be supported by the town's application for state grant funding, which was announced at the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

The town has been awarded a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant in the amount of \$84,471 to be used for renovations to the Canaan Child Care Center at North Canaan Elementary School. To meet STEAP grant requirements, an additional \$20,868 in local funding will be provided by the town's allocation of federal American Rescue Plan

Act (ARPA) funds.

Improvements will include new windows, an enhanced door lock system for security and new exterior fencing, First Selectman Charles Perotti said.

The ARPA fund available balance now stands at \$17,000, Perotti added.

According to the terms of the STEAP grant, the project must be completed within two years. Perotti expects that work will begin this spring as it may take 60 days to complete the paperwork with the state to receive the funds. Perotti also announced that a COVID vaccination clinic will be held at the Falls Village Fire House on Friday, Jan. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

State police cadet training info Jan. 20

By Leila Hawken

NORTH CANAAN — An information open house, hosted by Troop B in North Canaan, will provide details of the State Police Cadet training program for youth between the ages of 14 and 20. It will be held on Friday, Jan. 20, at the North Canaan Town Hall, beginning at 5 p.m.

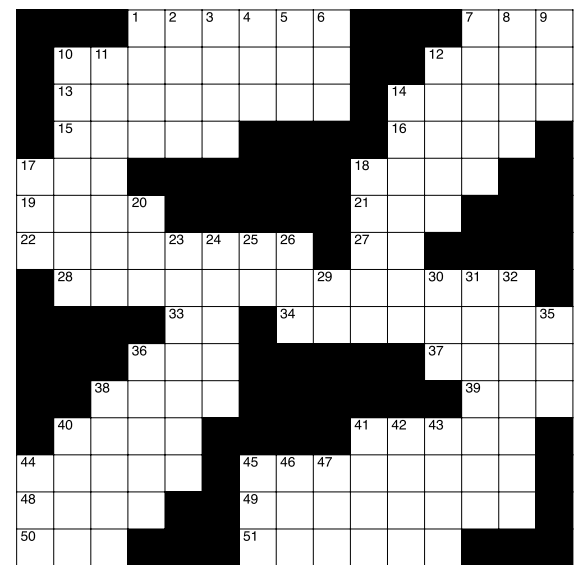
Participants can expect first-hand law enforcement experience, including overview of criminal justice, public speaking instruction and team-building activities.

For questions, email Post1903.CSPB@gmail.com.

Brain Teasers

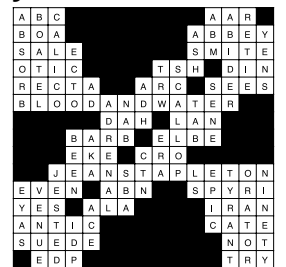
CLUES ACROSS

1. Respiratory disorder
7. Bulgarian mountain peak
10. Group of important people
12. South American nation
13. Amazes
14. ___-Castell, makers of pens
15. Perlman and Seehorn are two
16. Early medieval alphabet
17. Legislator (slang)
18. Tasty crustacean
19. Course of action
21. Airborne (abbr.)
22. Permanent church appointment
27. Larry and Curly's pal
28. Famed American journalist
33. 12th letter of Greek alphabet
34. In a way, vanished
36. Afflict in mind or body
37. Egyptian Sun god
38. Source of the Blue Nile
39. Egyptian unit of weight
40. Be the source of pain
41. Esteemed award ___ d'Or
44. Partner to pains
45. Deep blue
48. No longer living
49. Country in the UK
50. Not even
51. Arizona city

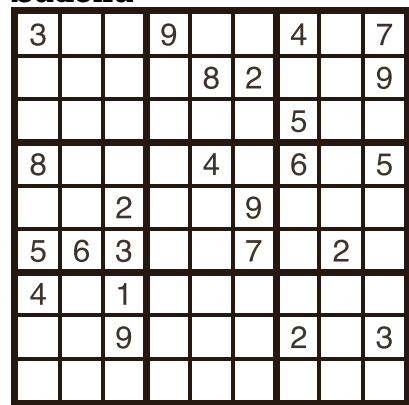


8. City northwest of Provo
9. C. European river
10. One out of jail
11. Henry Clay estate
12. Heathen
14. Refrained
17. Parts per billion (abbr.)
18. "The Stranger" author
20. Not old
23. Periods of starvation
24. Language of tribe in India
25. Savings account
26. Pitching stat
29. Megabyte
30. Ribonucleic acid
31. A place to put your feet
32. The fun part of a week
35. We all have our own
36. Partner to "ooled"
38. African nation
40. Breeced through
41. Sets out
42. Other
43. Not fattening
44. "Much ___ about nothing"
45. Central Time
46. Former EU monetary unit
47. Charles S. Dutton sitcom

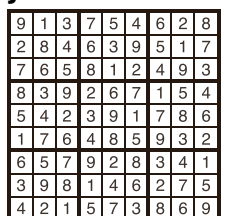
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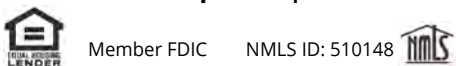


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EDITORIAL

Housing is a critical need, one that should command attention

What is more basic to the ability of humans to thrive than having a place to live? Maybe good health, which is always a variable. But a home is something that is more controllable if society takes it seriously for all of its members.

In Connecticut, providing housing for all of its citizens is even more challenging than in other states across the country. As covered in the CT Mirror this month, Gov. Ned Lamont and the state Legislature are working on finding ways to help municipalities build affordable units faster, and if that can happen, there will be more local control over what is built where.

According to the CT Mirror, Connecticut lacks about 85,400 units of housing that are affordable and available to its lowest-income renters. They attribute that data to the National Low Income Housing Coalition. They also note that homelessness rose in 2022 for the first time in nearly a decade, and evictions have surged. Rents are rising statewide, and apartment vacancy rates are among the lowest in the country.

How does this play out in the Northwest Corner? Anyone who lives or visits here can see the repercussions of a lack of workforce housing. And there are multiple organizations working to find ways to meet the 10% goal the state has given cities and towns for affordable housing. See the 2022 review story by Debra A. Aleksinas in last week's Lakeville Journal to better understand the steps each area town is taking to try to solve this ongoing problem.

In Kent, which has had its approach to affordable housing well-honed over years, there are at least 20 new units planned over the next five years. In Cornwall, a forum was held to analyze the best way to increase density in town and provide homeowners with options of sharing their space with others within zoning regulations. In Salisbury, the Salisbury Housing Committee received a donation of five acres of land designated as a site for affordable housing from former selectman and longtime resident Jim Dresser. The Lakeville Holley Block affordable housing initiative is delayed due to a court case that is scheduled to come up on the court docket soon. Keep an eye out in this newspaper for further news on that activity. The newspaper fervently hopes the court case does not delay that well-planned and funded project to the point where it will not move forward.

In New York state, the towns just over the border in Dutchess County have the same challenges, and Amenia has found that despite the fact that the new Silo Ridge luxury housing should also include a percentage of workforce housing, the owners can pay a fee and forego that requirement. This has created pushback from various groups that see the lack of foresight in that approach. For more, go to www.tricornernews.com, and read a news analysis by our reporter Judith O'Hara Balfe in The Millerton News of Dec. 15, 2022.

In order for this region's communities to continue to not only survive but thrive, more access to affordable and workforce housing is critical. More access to transportation would also help those who wish to work here. Keep watch on our ongoing coverage in 2023 and weigh in with your opinions on these topics in these pages.

An open letter to Nuvance Health admins and Sharon Hospital Board of Directors

In January 2022, I gave birth to my fourth child, Nora. My "rainbow" after an extremely traumatic child loss in February 2019. My experience at Sharon Hospital was the best I have had giving birth, as a mother of four. Dr. Howard Mortman listened to me, he heard me and understood. That is very rare in Obstetric & Gynecological Medicine. OB-GYNs are known more for their proficiency in medical gaslighting, then they are validating the pregnant person sitting in front of them seeking medical care.

I said it out loud, it needs to be addressed. But not now, I only have 500 words.

The week I was planning to be induced, Dr. Mortman planned his schedule around what date I chose to be induced, so he would be the delivering doctor. It was important to me to know who

was delivering my daughter, I would not survive losing another child and he knew what that would do to my family. This is how he treats every one of his patients, I am not special. Did you know that he has never lost a single pregnant person, during or as a direct result of childbirth, his entire career (1985ish-present) as an OB-GYN?

That's pretty good, considering the U.S. has the highest maternal fatality rate out of any other industrialized nation, at a rate of 23.8 deaths per 100,000 live births. Black women die during childbirth at a rate of 55.3 deaths per 100,000 live births, in the United States of America. France is second, with 8.7 deaths per 100,000 live births. In 2012 the US was still first, but just at a rate of 17.4 deaths per 100,000 live births

So, our medical system is

failing pregnant people, and brutally.

Ascension Healthcare just got caught (see The New York Times, Dec. 15, 2022, article by Rebecca Robbins, Katie Thomas and Jessica Silver-Greenberg) trying to drive facilities into the ground for profit, always putting profit over human life. A healthcare company that is price gouging and exploiting its employees and patients, without regard for human life. For money.

That is wild to me. So, I start reading about what Ascension Healthcare did to their facilities and the employees that work/worked there. The similarities should make you uncomfortable because there are too many for just coincidence. The optics looking at the Board are not great, with Board Chair Richard Cantele, being President & CEO of Salisbury Bank,

simultaneously sitting on the board of a nonprofit hospital. A hospital that has questionably fulfilled the requirements for its nonprofit status since 2018, shortly after Nuvance took over.

If I ran my household the way you all handle hospital business, child services would take my children away and the bank would take what was left of a neglected house.

This is corporate greed, turned corporate psychopathy.

It is extremely disturbing. Make no mistake, we see you.

Siobhan Rooney Sharon

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



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

Hay field, January style

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Life saving care Sharon Hospital

On December 19th, one of the busiest days experienced by the emergency department at Sharon Hospital, the care that I received was indeed life saving. My age and an unrecognized heart condition detected along with flu and developing pneumonia finally overcame my independent nature. I have never had a

doctor speak so convincingly and I do wish to thank her and the staff for the excellent care I received.

Previously my grandson had also received imperative excellent care for a minor football injury. As a resident of Salisbury since the 1960s and one who has seen our volunteer ambulance service started by Reese Harris and

my husband, John Harney, we are so fortunate to have this emergency care so available. With private schools in the area and the increased population of young families with young children, I commend Sharon Hospital for the excellent work they are doing.

Elyse D. Harney Salisbury

Service here is exceptional

Christmas Eve. 5:15 pm. Two days with no electricity or water. We were cold, frustrated and unhappy with the lack of information from Eversource. But then a truck from Perotti Plumbing of Canaan pulls up.

Will Perotti pops out, with a smile on his face: "let's fix this now!"

In 30 years living in

Greenwich, Conn., I know of no heating or plumbing specialist who would service a non-emergency client on Christmas Eve!

In Sharon, service is the accepted norm — whether it is neighbor-to-neighbor or business-to-household or medical provider-to-the-home. Locals and neighbors go out of their way to assist,

even on Christmas Eve.

That is what makes living in this area so exceptional! Thank you Perottis, snow-plow drivers, emergency medical staff and all good neighbors: may you enjoy a fine 2023. You deserve it.

Roger H. Lourie Sharon

Correction, Pope property reference

Thanks to The Lakeville Journal for running a very informative two-part series on the role that local land trusts play in conservation. However the caption accompanying the photo on page 1 of the Dec. 22 edition is incorrect.

The 55-acre Pope prop-

erty on Salmon Kill Road was acquired by the Town of Salisbury. It has been identified as a potential site for affordable housing. The Salisbury Association Land Trust owns the 79-acre Pope Preserve located north of town off Route 44 and adjacent to the Appalachian Trail.

This year the Salisbury Association passed a resolution in support of affordable housing. We believe that land conservation and affordable housing are both essential to our community.

Jeanette Weber, President Salisbury Association

Thanks for the seasonal cheer

Warm white lights on Main Street trees, friendly reindeer covered in lights, the familiar tree ablaze with white lights on the White Hart lawn, Salisbury Ambulance building with its fanciful lights, candlelight in house windows all be-

speak warmth, peace and a quintessential New England town. Amidst our topsy turvy world, this scene has been a welcome sight for our family Christmas stroll and throughout this season.

Thank you to all who made it happen. You certain-

ly brightened our lives. We wish you a New Year filled with light, warmth and hope for 2023. With gratitude.

Newt and Barbara Schoenly Salisbury

Another letter next page

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — January 1923

SALISBURY — Miss Lila Senior was home from Canaan over Sunday.

Owing to the storm no session of the public school was held on Monday.

The large creamery at Cornwall was destroyed by fire on Tuesday night of last week.

Arthur McNeil of Town Hill was the victim of a painful accident last week when a horse stepped on his left foot, the caulk penetrating the foot to considerable depth.

50 years ago — January 1973

Northwest Connecticut school attendance was cut sharply this week as the result of a lingering flu visitation. Monday was the worst day, with 302 out of 686 students, 16 teachers, 3 custodians and an aide absent from Housatonic Valley Regional High School and 332 out of 2,062 elementary school students absent, mostly due to the flu.

Lakeville's official "ice man," George P. Milmine, proclaimed "ice in" Monday, Jan. 8 after the lake froze all the way across when temperatures dipped below zero and skaters ventured out.

The Rev. F. Newton Howden, rector of Trinity Church in Lime Rock, has been slowed down for the past week by a broken bone in his left ankle, suffered when he tripped and fell at the door to his office in the parish house. Father Howden is not burdened with the usual cast, but wears a pair of high laced army combat boots whenever he gets out of bed.

Apparently assured of clear title to the former "horse sheds" property, the Village Improvement Society continues to move toward its proposed construction of an off-street shopping center in Salisbury village.

Firemen from Sharon and Amenia battled for more than 12 hours in near-zero cold Monday to save the barn at the Milton Crosby farm on the Amenia Union Road. Cows belonging to Lawrence Duncan were led out but some 4000 bales of hay were

Continued next page

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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Viewpoint

Abu Zubaydah: His brutal torture 'justified' by so many falsehoods

Part two of two

Last week, I described the monumental miscalculation of the Bush Administration: designing Guantánamo Bay's prison and courtroom complex for the short term, when the decaying complex recently became 20 years old, and counting. The prisoner population has plummeted to a meager 35, three of whom have never been charged yet continue to be imprisoned. Sen. Dick Durbin, chair of the Judiciary Committee, had this to say on that: "Holding people without charge or trial for years on end cannot be reconciled with the values we espouse as a nation..." Yet my client, Abu Zubaydah (AZ), falls officially within that category, and no one can predict when, if ever, he will be transferred to another country where he would be subjected to security restrictions.

On March 28, 2002, the U.S. joined forces with Pakistani police to conduct a sweep of safe houses in Faisalabad, Pakistan. AZ, caught in a crossfire, took three slugs into his body that nearly killed him. While he was recovering from his surgery, FBI Special Agent Ali Soufan interviewed him. AZ repeatedly expressed his willingness to cooperate, providing information the CIA described as "quite important" and "vital," including that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was the "mastermind" of the 9/11 attacks who had trained the hijackers. (Unless noted otherwise, all statements relating to AZ's 4 1/2 years of captivity, interrogation, and torture by the CIA appear in the over 6 MM pages of CIA records, from which the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence drafted and published a 500 page Executive Summary of its Study of the [CIA's] Detention and Interrogation Program [SSCI ES]). Nonetheless, the CIA elected to torture AZ to test his avowals that he had no information about future attacks on the U.S. and the possible presence here of enemy operatives.

So the Agency hired two contractors, James Mitchell and Bruce Jessen, who had zero experience in interrogating anyone, to design so-called "enhanced interrogation techniques." But during AZ's interrogations, the CIA and its contractors applied the torture techniques in a manner that a Justice Department attorney concluded "was quite different from the descriptions" in Justice's memo approving the use of enhanced techniques.

From August 4 through 23, 2002, "the CIA subjected [AZ] to its [torture]

on a near 24-hours-per-day basis." The torture began when "security personnel entered [AZ's] cell, shackled and hooded [him], and removed his towel (so he was naked). Without asking any questions, the interrogators placed a rolled towel around his neck as a collar" then used the collar "to slam AZ ('headfirst') against a concrete wall."

For a prisoner with shrapnel "lodged in his skull," this was an absurdly dangerous technique to employ, and nothing like the benign description of "walling" approved by the Justice Department.

Yet this was just the beginning. Those terrible days included waterboarding AZ 83 times (as reported by The New York Times), one session of which nearly killed him. (I have omitted the description intentionally.) After the use of torture finally stopped (for a while only) the CIA personnel at the detention site concluded that AZ "had been truthful throughout all that torment as he did not possess any new terrorist threat information." Mitchell and Jessen even cabled from the CIA interrogation site that the interrogation had been a "success," not because their torture had produced useful information, but rather since their use confirmed that AZ had been telling the truth throughout. This bizarre reasoning prompted two experienced writers, one of which had worked for the CIA, to declare in their book: "This paradox should be terrifying to any sane man."

But the end of the "aggressive phase" of AZ's torture by no means signaled that his torment would stop. The CIA then flew him from "black site" to "black site" around the globe. While it has long been publicly known that AZ lost his left eye while in the CIA's custody, details remain classified. Further, as the result of their complicity in AZ's captivity and torture in those countries, the European Court of Human rights, among other forms of relief, ruled that Poland and Lithuania each owed him 100,000 Euros, plus costs.

The U.S. used a litany of falsehoods to get to this point. Desperate to appear strong following the 9/11 disaster, President Bush in a April 9, 2002, speech boasted: "The other day we hauled in a guy named AZ. He's one of the top operatives plotting and planning death and destruction on the [U.S.] He's not

plotting and planning anymore. He's where he belongs." Apart from AZ's capture, not a word of Bush's remarks was true.

After the CIA studied AZ and his life more thoroughly, according to the prominent author Ron Suskind ("The One Percent Doctrine", 2006) an opinion that was the polar opposite of Bush's bombastic claims gained acceptance in the upper reaches of the CIA.

FIELD NOTES FROM A BATTLEGROUND
CHARLES R. CHURCH

When CIA chief George Tenet included this turnabout in a daily briefing to the president, Bush said: "I said he was important. You're not going to let me lose face on this, are you?" Tenet replied dutifully: "No sir, Mr. President." Thus, according to Suskind, the CIA's chief was willing to lie to the country to protect the image of its leader.

To obtain Justice's clearance of the torture techniques, the CIA on July 24, 2002, sent to the now-notorious John Yoo, the lawyer at Justice who would draft the memo, a "Psychological Assessment" (PA) to provide the factual predicate for Yoo's legal opinion. The PA's review of AZ's background is chock-a-block with falsehoods. Most blatantly, the PA several times charged AZ with belonging to al Qaeda, yet the CIA has admitted that AZ never belonged to that, or any other terrorist group. Incredibly, the PA even claims that AZ was one of the planners of the 9/11 attacks, when the several million pages of CIA records fail to support this claim. To conserve space, I will conclude this discussion with a major finding in the SSCI ES: "The CIA repeatedly provided inaccurate information to [Justice], impeding a proper analysis of the CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program."

Why all this fuss by the U.S. about AZ, and his being held for so long without charge nor formal indication that he will be transferred? That's a puzzle. A close review by AZ's lawyers of the government's statement of facts claimed to justify his ongoing detention leaves them convinced that the U.S. has committed a gigantic error. Stay tuned.

Salisbury's Charles Church is a lawyer who serves as Co-Counsel for Abu Zubaydah. His comments reflect his own views, and not those of this newspaper.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES
NORMA BOSWORTH

Continued from previous page

destroyed. The roof of the barn was heavily damaged but the structure itself remained sound.

Births hit a record low in Salisbury last year. Town Clerk Lila Nash, reporting the town's vital statistics for the calendar year 1972, said that only 14 babies were born to Salisbury residents, as contrasted with 32 the previous year.

The heavy rains of 1972 ruined crops, dismayed ski resort operators and caused all sorts of havoc in Northwestern Connecticut, but they brought a near-record year for the Hartford Electric Light hydro plant at Falls Village. HELCO's generating plant turned out more than 55 million kilowatts last year, according to statistics compiled by plant supervisor Dave Goddard. That makes 1972 the best year for hydro production since 1951, and the fourth best year since the plant was built back in 1914.

Ed and Pegeen FitzGerald, who have brightened American households for 35 years with their weekday broadcasts of homey chatter, gave their last show on Friday. The show has been terminated due to Ed FitzGerald's deteriorating health.

25 years ago — January 1998

Zeina El-Hanbaly, the first baby of the new year, was born at 8:30 a.m. Jan. 1 to parents Asmaa Aly and Hany El-Hanbaly. The Egyptian couple's first child was early -- two weeks earlier than expected. "All of the people at work told me to try and have her on New Year's Day," Mrs. Aly said. "I didn't know why they were telling me this." The new mother found out quickly, when the local newspapers began calling and stopping by for photographs, though she still did not know what the fuss was all about.

It was a less than auspicious beginning to the new year for one Canaan family. As the clock struck midnight on New Year's Eve, they watched volunteer firefighters work to save a building on their farm. A repair garage at Sunset Hill Farm was heavily damaged by the blaze, discovered about 11:30 p.m. Thursday by the Giulian family, owners of the dairy farm on Boinay Hill and Sand Road. A wood stove used to heat the building was blamed for the fire.

The New Jersey-based Journal Register Co. increased its Connecticut holdings to more than 70 publications this week including its purchase of two Northwest Corner weekly newspapers as part of a larger \$3.8 million deal. The Lakeville Journal Co. had sought to expand its weekly newspaper publications to five holdings with the planned purchase of the Kent Good Times Dispatch and the Litchfield Enquirer before the Journal Register Co. blocked the pending sale in a last-minute deal to buy HVM, a New Milford-based limited liability company. The firm includes the Housatonic Valley Publishing Co. which serves Litchfield and Fairfield counties as well as Putnam County, N.Y.

The Litchfield County Women's network announced that the recipient of its first scholarship is Candise M. Stiewing of Falls Village. Ms. Stiewing will be awarded a \$500 scholarship at the Jan. 21 luncheon of the Women's Network at Marino's Restaurant in Torrington.

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

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

Some words of wisdom from explorers

Explorers take many shapes and forms. Some explorers push environmental boundaries -- "where no man has gone before" -- others push the boundaries of knowledge and experience -- "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" -- and many, even back in pre-history, break technological barriers to experience events and discoveries no human had managed before -- "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."

Exploration is exactly like magic, revealing the marvels of the unknown. The chance to be the first, perhaps more

importantly the chance not to be the last either -- these first steps, these first discoveries, these first experiences, these are what make humans a race of beings; a race of beings determined to expand, explore, reveal the wonders all around.

An astronaut I greatly admire, Brewster Shaw, recently gave a lecture in which he likened any young individual's pathway to success as an explorer-to-be. His metaphor was taken from the sailor's need to keep on track, to

navigate. Sailors used the North Star to always orientate their way, the North Star was their constant guidepost.

So too, someone starting out on the journey of life needs a North Star to keep them on track.

Once a young person decides on a passion, a career or vocational target as a wanna-be explorer they need to apply four steps:

1. Follow your heart. Set your goals and always, always stick to them.
2. Find the opportu-

nities, look for them, seek them out, use them as steppingstones.

3. You have to be competitive always keeping your eye on your personal goal. Others can block your way, so you must find, combat, your way around these obstacles.

4. Share your journey with others. As an explorer your duty is to share with and benefit others. You cannot be a thief hoarding the experience only for yourself, but sharing it allows you -- even if you are first -- never to be the last.

Peter Riva, a former resident of Amenia Union, now lives in New Mexico.

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE
PETER RIVA

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Considering the new year, working to help others

With the New Year of 2023 off to a warm weather start, more people can enjoy a "mini-vacation" and remember that spring and time to plan for gardens and outdoor events, walks and fundraisers is just around the corner. I have enjoyed thinking of ways more people could feel connected to the seasons and months of the year in wider circles.

For instance, dividing the 50 states of America by 12 and placing them on a calendar grid of four across and three deep, we can recognize and learn more about

the states if groups of four or more from West to East, and give each one (or so) a week per month, so Jan. would include the NW then April would include the NE.

The next set of states would pick up from May on the West Coast to August on the East, then the SW states would go from Sept. through the SE through December. How climate, large cities and natural resources and the skills and needs of people interact are all key factors to consider on a large scale, then hone in on regional and particular areas with more

details. I have made The Turtle Garden Permaculture Game, which is free online for countries, states, towns, schools and other businesses and groups to access the basics of the Permaculture Design process.

I hope more people will join me and others in taking learning into their own hands yet helping those with deeper pockets and decision-making power know everyone is using their time and energy to team up and learn what can be done from the ground up to improve options for all.

Helping youth and adults

learn of those who have been exploring possibilities such as Dr. Steven Greer and many in permaculture networks around the world can ease the typical news of doom and gloom, of too little, too late across many fields.

Thanks for all doing their utmost to join in the efforts of those who have worked for decades to give us more options, time and ways to see the world and one another with new friendly eyes as team players.

Catherine Palmer Paton
Falls Village

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A wonderful new business in North Canaan is ILSE Coffee located at 35 Railroad St where the owners offer coffee they have sourced from small growers around the world. Local Rebecca Grossman and Lucas Smith are the owners and are committed to roasting the finest coffee possible. In addition to roasting coffee, they also plan to have a retail store and cafe in the near future. For more information, please visit their website at <https://ilsecoffee.com>



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Sports

Housy girls drop first home game of new year

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE — THE Housatonic Valley Regional High School's girls basketball team suffered a 53-18 loss in the team's first home game of the new year against Lewis Mills High School on Thursday, Jan. 5.

The Mountaineers started one senior and four sophomores.

Housy looked to create offensive opportunities through the use of screen plays early on, but struggled to penetrate the lock-down defense of Lewis Mills.

As Lewis Mills opened up a comfortable 24-9 lead by halftime, Coach Steve Dodge shifted tactics on the court.

"Go for traps. Get steals. Always look for the next pass," said Dodge to the team during a third quarter time out.

The Mountaineers applied a full court press in the second half and forced repeated turnovers. The change in game plan yielded strong offensive opportunities for Housatonic and allowed them to double their score

within the third quarter.

Lewis Mills adapted by the fourth as they overcame the pressure and resumed their lock-down defense, holding Housy to a scoreless final quarter.

Housatonic's record fell to 1-4 on the season as a result of the 53-18 defeat against Lewis Mills.

After the game, Coach Dodge focused on the positives as he addressed the team huddle.

"That was a really good effort," said Dodge. "Defensively, we'll keep working."

Housy has some work to do in practice this week as they look ahead and plan for upcoming games in the schedule.

The Mountaineers will be back on the HVRHS court Tuesday, Jan. 17 when they will host Thomaston High School at 7 p.m.



Sophomore guard Mia Dodge cuts around a screen in the game against Lewis Mills on Thursday, Jan. 5.



Mountaineer Captain Anne Moran took the tip-off to start the game versus Lewis Mills High School on Thursday, Jan. 5.

Standout athlete Segalla honored at Housatonic Valley Regional

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE — Sydney Segalla of North Canaan was named 2021-22 Gatorade Player of the Year for her performance on the track last year.

Segalla, who graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in

the spring of 2022, received her trophy during the ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 5.

The Mountaineers star athlete competed in soccer and basketball for the duration of her time at HVRHS, but it was not until her senior year that she ran track.

In her rookie season on the track, Segalla won the

Berkshire League Championship and Class S State Championship in the 100, 200, and 400-meter dash.

Segalla set new Class S records in both the 100 and 400. Her performance at the state open meet qualified her for the New England Championship.

Segalla won the 400

at that event, qualifying her for the New Balance National Championships where she placed 6th in the 400.

"While her accomplishments are amazing, it was Sydney's character that made her a standout student athlete," said Athletic Director Anne MacNeil.

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