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Celebrating Our 126th Anniversary

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



PHOTO BY RANDY O'ROURKE

Flying high

Cooper Dodds of the Ford Sayre Ski Club got horizontal during the ski jumping Sunday, Feb. 5. Go to pages A10 and 11 for the Jumpfest results summary, stories and more photos.

High egg prices take business toll

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — Up until last year, Theresa Freund was paying about \$30 for a flat of 30 dozen eggs at wholesale from a Hudson Valley poultry farm for her family farm's bakery operation. Now, she is shelling out more than \$80 for the same order.

"I asked the delivery driver if he has to have an armed guard with him when he is out making deliveries, because the price of eggs is getting like the price of gold," said the owner of Freund's Farm Market and Bakery in North Canaan.

Although the Freund family farm has its own flock of about 35 free-range chickens which lay eggs that are sold at retail for \$7.79 a dozen, Freund said she is required to buy eggs from a USDA-certified farm for use in the bakery operation.

"In a commercial kitchen you can't use home-grown eggs," explained Freund, whose rural farm stand sells an assortment of fresh-baked cookies, breads and pies. As a result, she said, her line item for food supplies shot up by 18 per-

See EGG PRICES, Page A12

Nuvance and SSH lock horns again over ICU plans

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Save Sharon Hospital (SSH) group held the first of two public meetings on Thursday, Feb. 2 at the Scoville Memorial Library to express opposition to the plan of Nuvance, the parent company of Sharon Hospital, to consolidate its intensive care and medical-surgical units on the hospital's second floor.

The state Office of Health Strategy (OHS) is holding a public hearing (on Zoom) on the matter on Wednesday, Feb. 15.

Dr. David Kurish had multiple objections to the plan.

He said that a "Progressive Care Unit" such as the hospital is proposing is an intermediate level of care, not as comprehensive as an ICU.

He said the PCU unit, with individual rooms instead of an open layout, will pose challenges in the monitoring of patients.

Kurish said that PCU nurses have less training than their ICU counterparts, and that the current ICU staffing level of one nurse for two patients would change to one nurse for four patients.

"It's incomprehensible to me that they think this will work"

Victor Germack said the end result of the consolidation plan will be transferring more patients from Sharon Hospital to other Nuvance hospitals.

"It's called 'network optimization.'"

The state Office of Health Strategy (OHS) is holding a public hearing (on Zoom) on the consolidation of Sharon Hospital's intensive care and medical-surgical units on Wednesday, Feb. 15.

tion.

SSH president Nick Moore urged the audience of some 25 people to tune into the hearing and to write letters opposing the Nuvance plan, as happened prior to the recent OHS hearing on Nuvance's application to close the Labor and Delivery unit at Sharon Hospital.

SSH held a second meeting in Millerton Wednesday, Feb. 8.

In an interview Monday, Feb. 6, Sharon Hospital President Christina McCulloch explained the proposal.

She said that currently the med-

See CONSOLIDATION, Page A12



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Housatonic defender Colin Goguen reeled in the puck while wearing Marcus Rogers' #20 jersey. The jersey number was retired by the Housatonic co-op hockey team after its final appearance on the ice on Saturday, Feb. 4.

Housatonic co-op hockey team honors Marcus Rogers

By Riley Klein

KENT — A somber tribute was held for Marcus Rogers before the start of Housatonic co-op hockey's first game since the player's tragic death.

While on his way to practice last Tuesday, Rogers, 16, and his grandfather, William O'Leary, 84,

"It's been a tough four days, but you guys made it a lot easier. It'll never get easier, but you guys sure helped a lot."

Marcus Rogers, father

died after a head-on collision on Route 44 in Winsted. After the game against Tri-Town on Saturday, Feb. 4, Rogers' #20 jersey was retired by the team, which has players from HVRHS, Northwestern, Torrington, Oliver Wolcott Tech, and Wamogo. Rogers, from New Hartford, was a student at Wolcott Tech.

The number 20 filled scoreboards inside Stockdale Arena at the South Kent School as fans piled into the rink on Saturday night. Housatonic Coach Dean Diamond and Rogers' father, also named Marcus, spoke passionately to the crowd of over 500 attendees before the game began.

"The amount of love, well-wishing and fans that have come our way this week have gone a long way in easing the pain in our hearts that we

all feel," said Diamond. "As I look at my team on the goal line, I know that Marcus is standing side-by-side with each and every one of them getting ready to play the game that he loves."

"It's been a tough four days, but you guys made it a lot easier," said Rogers. "It'll never get easier, but you guys sure helped a lot."

Tri-Town players provided the grieving family with bouquets of flowers after the heartfelt speeches. Rogers then presented his son's jersey to Housatonic defender Colin Goguen, close friend and teammate of Rogers since age 4.

Goguen wore #20 throughout the game so Rogers' jersey could grace the ice one final time. A cer-

See ROGERS, Page A12

Holley Block lease extended

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously on Feb. 6 to extend the lease on the Holley Block property to the Salisbury Housing Committee until July 31, 2025. There was no discussion.

The town-owned property in Lakeville is the site for a proposed affordable housing

development, which was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission on May 17, 2022, with numerous conditions and after three separate and lengthy sessions of a public hearing.

On June 8, opponents of the proposal filed a lawsuit to stop it.

A decision is expected later this month.



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POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

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

Disorderly conduct arrest

On Wednesday, Feb. 1 at approximately 6:45 p.m. troopers were dispatched to a Kent Road South address in Cornwall on a report of a verbal altercation. An investigation led to the arrest of Edward Sebranek, 59, of Cornwall on charges of disorderly conduct and interfering with an emergency call. Sebranek was released on a \$5,000 non-surety bond.

Sharon disturbance

On Thursday, Feb. 2, at approximately 9:20 p.m. troopers were dispatched to an address on Route 7 in Sharon for the report of a disturbance. An investigation led to the arrest of Amy Centurione, 33, of Wyoming, Pennsylvania, on charges of disorderly conduct. Centurione was released on a \$1,000 non-surety bond.

Early morning accident

On Saturday, Feb. 4 at approximately 12:30 a.m. Luis Ordóñez-Romero, 49,

of Norfolk, was traveling eastbound on Route 44 in North Canaan near the intersection of Deely Road when his 2007 Honda Civic crossed into the westbound lane and struck a utility pole. The vehicle's front and side airbags deployed, and the vehicle continued to travel eastbound, crossing into the westbound lane and back into the eastbound lane, coming into contact with wireguard rope. The vehicle continued eastbound into Norfolk when the driver's side rear tire detached from the vehicle as it continued in an eastbound direction. The vehicle came to a stop at the Route 44/Blackberry Street intersection. The driver declined medical attention and was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol/drugs, operating without an operator's license and evading responsibility.

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.

Pizza Day in Sharon on Feb. 9

SHARON — Come celebrate National Pizza Day at the American Legion Thursday, Feb. 9, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., sponsored by the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon.

There will be a pizza taste test, and the opportunity to make mini dessert pizzas, de-

sign pizza jewelry and make pizza masks.

This program is intended for children ages 6 to 11. There will be limited supplies available.

Please register at www.hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org/event/pizza-mania/ to attend.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Sing-a-long

Children joined in a sing-a-long on Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Douglas Library in North Canaan during a children's event that featured Jonathan Grusauskas (aka Jonny G) from the Music Cellar in Millerton.

New alliance helps farmers find solutions

By Janna Siller

Farmers in our region, like farmers everywhere throughout history, turn a few simple ingredients — seeds, sun, soil, and water — into crops and livestock.

In a complex food economy, a host of other considerations factor into farm business viability. Access to land and markets present particular challenges here in the Northwest Corner, along with those faced by all modern farmers like capital expenses, rising energy costs, price fluctuations, and climate change.

While consumers aren't often aware of the invisible puzzle behind each local carrot or carton of milk, a network of state and federal agencies, non-profits, and farmers' associations exists to address the farmers' challenges from different angles, with varying degrees of success. It's enough to make a beginning farmer put down her hoe — attempting to understand fixed-rate vs. variable-rate credit opportunities, crop insurance qualifications, conservation incentive eligibility — it's a lot.

The New CT Farmer Alliance, a statewide network of young and emerging farmers, held an event last month in Bloomfield to connect farmers with potential opportunities that might help them face their challenges.

Farmers in their first few years of operation bopped around from table to table talking to staff from eight different farm service providers.

University of Connecticut extension staff were there to discuss everything from how to take advantage of plant disease diagnostic laboratories to understanding sales opportunities with Connecticut school districts.

While staff from Connecticut's department of agriculture presented grant op-



PHOTO BY JANNA SILLER

Emerging farmers mingled with service providers at a networking event in January in Bloomfield.

portunities, farmers inevitably found their imaginations translating elaborate names into potential applications on their farms.

Could the Connecticut Farmland Restoration Grant Program lead to a scene in which the local deer population, which plagued last season's crop, is left staring hungrily at rows of lush lettuce heads from the opposite side of a new eight foot fence?

Would the "Organic Cost Share Grant Program" lead them to be able to use the organic logo on their products without breaking the bank on certification costs?

Could the "Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry" grant allow them to afford an expensive no-till seed drill to keep carbon in the ground during planting season?

While the possibilities in an enthusiastic farmer's imagination tend to be endless, projections required tempering as state grants in Connecticut are highly competitive with need outstripping funding.

Staff from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency explained credit and financial service options, including microloans, a relatively new credit option better geared to the needs of beginning farmers than traditional USDA loan options that are more suited to large, established farms.

The USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service explained technical and financial assistance opportunities for using climate smart practices like soil-health improvement and perennial plantings; for mitigating

risk with measures like windbreaks and erosion control; and for innovating with new tools and practices that increase the long term viability of their farming systems.

Two associations of farmers were on hand — the Connecticut branch of the Northeast Organic Farming Association and the Connecticut Farm Bureau — to discuss the advantages of linking up with other regional farmers for information sharing and lobbying on behalf of the group's interests.

Legal Food Hub, a non-profit providing free legal

services to farms, and the Carrot Project, which offers business training to farmers, talked about their resources.

Perhaps the biggest hurdle for beginning farmers in northwest Connecticut is access to land, as prices per acre are in line with real estate values rather than what farmers can afford to pay from their crop profits. Two organizations with farmland preservation missions, American Farmland Trust (AFT) and Land for Good, talked to farmers about potential solutions including farm succession matches between beginning and retiring farmers and working with land trusts.

According to AFT's 2020 report "Farms Under Threat: The State of the States," 23,000 acres of Connecticut farmland were developed between 2001 and 2016, putting Connecticut in the top three states nationally for the percent of farmland developed or compromised. If current rates continue, the report concludes that by 2100 a third or more of Connecticut farmland will be lost. Time will tell what impact the farmers and service providers who spent the afternoon at NCTFA's event together will have on this trend.

Online This Week

Spending a day at the 97th Jumpfest

Hundreds turned out over the weekend. Go to www.tricornernews.com/multimedia.

Jumpfest photos from Salisbury's Satre Hill

See more photos from the weekend's action. Go to www.tricornernews.com

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF RUTH T. TYROL Late of Salisbury (23-00036)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 24, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is: Donald H. Tyrol c/o Louise F. Brown Ackerly Brown, LLP 5 Academy Street P.O. Box 568 Salisbury, CT 06068

Megan M. Foley Clerk 02-09-23

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Our Towns

Cornwall reviews broad progress on POCD goals

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — Committed to progress toward meeting town goals outlined in the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), revised every ten years, the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) held its third annual review on Monday, Jan. 30.

P&Z chair Anna Timell introduced the town planning forum, praising the work of the volunteers who offer expertise to each of the 20 or so local boards. She noted that the POCD itself remains a volunteer planning effort.

"The citizens shape the town," Timell said, in recognition the concept of local

control that is important to many residents.

Reporting on the work of the P&Z, Timell said that the past year has seen progress on re-writing the town's zoning regulations to add clarity and to provide update. The next focus will be to change the zoning regulations to allow for more affordable housing opportunities, seen as a critical local need.

Introducing the remainder of the forum, Timell described the four divisions within the POCD, including economic development, housing, natural resources, and finally, community, cultural and youth services.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reported on behalf of the Board of Select-

men, describing gains being made on key initiatives. He said that the current year will see fiber optic cable being strung throughout the town to enhance essential broadband service. He cited federal support given to the West Cornwall wastewater management project and the current emphasis on establishing a site for the modestly sized, wastewater treatment building, likely to be built behind the parking lot between the post office and Three Guys.

To make the town more bicycle friendly, Ridgway reported that an infrastructure grant is being applied for.

"We're not seeing any new housing or any diversity," Ridgway said, noting that

in 2022, the median home price rose 55% with an average home price standing at \$1.2 million. The implication, he said, is that there is very little opportunity for people to move into town.

Monthly meetings of the Housing Task Force are addressing the situation, Ridgway said, their efforts assisted by the town's Housing Coordinator Jessica Brackman.

With one of the primary goals within the POCD being the creation of 25 affordable housing units to be built during the ten-year period of the plan, Ridgway noted that three years in, there is nothing in the pipeline to achieve the goal.

"We have to be nimble

in the face of changing demographics," Ridgway said, adding that the state has recently acquired more than 500 acres of Cornwall land, further reducing site availability.

The work of the Cornwall Housing Corporation, an organization overseeing affordable housing properties, was summarized by Ginni Block who said that local teachers would have trouble qualifying for a mortgage. She favored the creation of a fund to assist first-time homebuyers.

"We are totally supportive of the P&Z efforts toward multi-family housing," Block said.

The Economic Development Commission's review was presented by commission chair Simon Hewett who reported a stronger "Buy Local/Hire Local" continuing program. Free Wi-Fi service has been extended in recent years, beginning in 2021 when the first zone was created in West Cornwall, followed in 2022 by adding Cornwall Village, and foreseeing that in 2023 a zone may be launched in Cornwall Bridge.

Regional tourism remains an expanding focus throughout the northwest towns.

"We've done a lot of what we set out to do in the past year," Hewett reported.

Janet Carlson, who serves on the commission as a representative from the Board of Selectmen, praised the growth of The Local and The Union in West Cornwall. "All kinds of things are happening," she added.

A pre-recorded video report on the work of the Cornwall Conservation

Trust was submitted by Chair Bart Jones. He reported that progress in the past year had seen continued protection of lands, support of environmental concerns, collaboration with other organizations in town to promote cooperation and working to create an interactive map to identify acreage and properties that might be candidates for housing development.

Reporting for the Conservation Commission, Deb Bennett described the work of protecting forests and continuing efforts to combat invasive plant species, working with the Housatonic Railroad Company to define herbicide no-spray zones.

Following up on the conservation report, Katherine Freygang discussed local progress within the SustainableCT program that has earned Bronze status for the town's efforts and that now she is working to attain Silver status.

Freygang reported that areas showing progress have included working with the Economic Development Commission to promote local business and the arts, promoting composting at the transfer station, revitalizing an energy efficiency program at Cornwall Consolidated School and working with Social Services Director Heather Dinneen on the social services component of the SustainableCT program.

Future efforts described by Freygang may include working with the wastewater treatment planning process, developing a food hub, creating an inventory of town vehicles, and working to create a sustainable purchasing policy for the town.

Region One hike looms for Cornwall

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — A sharp increase in Cornwall's Region One assessment dominated budget discussions as the town prepared its spending proposal for 2023-24 at a special online meeting of the Board of Selectmen Tuesday, Jan. 31.

Cornwall's population at Housatonic Valley Regional High School is expected to increase from 25 to 35 students next year, which will increase the town's annual tuition payments by \$450,000.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said he has been working with town officials to cut costs in an effort to minimize tax increases for residents.

"We've reduced our overall spending by \$15,000 and made cuts to our capital

spending for a combined decrease of about \$70,000," said Ridgway as he reviewed the proposal. "Even with those decreases, we're still looking at this point at a 5.7% increase in the mill rate."

While the assessment increase has overwhelmed this process, other increases have had an impact as well such as a 3% salary increase for town employees and a rise in insurance rates by about 8%. The selectmen have also looked to the state as a source of potential savings.

Ridgway has spoken with State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) about increasing state assistance in regard to education.

"Our entire education grant is \$13,000, which is a very low number per capita," said Ridgway. "Our representatives are working to

increase that amount."

Selectman Janet Carlson found a silver lining in the situation.

"Our increase in costs are from sending more kids to the high school," said Carl-

Norfolk offers photo contest

NORFOLK — Photographers are invited to participate in the My Norfolk Photo Contest.

Photographers may submit multiple images.

There are only three rules: The images must be taken in Norfolk, participants under 18 must use their parents, or legal guardian's name and contact information, and photos of pets and babies should not be submitted.

For the free application and additional information go to norfolkct.org/photo-contest.

son. "Our schools are fantastic and it's good to see that we do have those young people."

Cornwall's spending proposal will be presented to the Board of Finance at a special meeting on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m.

The deadline for submissions is midnight on March 31.

A panel of local photographers will select four winning photos, a first place, and three runners up. Winners will be notified by email and a public announcement will be made on May 1, 2023.

The winning photos will be showcased on the Norfolk Town website and will be displayed in an upcoming public exhibition. Questions can be sent to photos@norfolkct.org.

Help Save Our ICU!



What will happen if Nuvance is allowed to close the Sharon Hospital Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and replace it with a Progressive Care Unit (PCU)?

According to Nuvance's public statements, "the PCU would provide the same level of critical care" the community now relies on. But Nuvance contradicts itself in filings with the CT Office of Health Strategy, stating:

- 1) Its proposed PCU would be "akin" to an "intermediate care unit,"¹ and NOT an ICU, which treats the sickest patients.
- 2) Patients with "clinical conditions requiring ICU level nursing care" would not be admitted to the proposed PCU.²

The result of these changes?

- 10% of the patients now treated in our ICU would no longer qualify for admittance to Sharon Hospital³ and would be transferred to another hospital.
- Nuvance will LOSE money at Sharon Hospital if this plan moves forward.⁴

What would this change mean for our community?

While the Sharon Hospital ER would still stabilize patients before transfer to another hospital, our sickest people would not be admitted close to home. Families of critically ill patients would have to travel up to an hour (weather permitting!) to be with their loved ones.

What can you do to help prevent this change?

Testify at the upcoming public hearing on Nuvance's application to close the ICU and replace it with a PCU.

- **Wednesday, February 15 at 9:30am via Zoom, with public comment scheduled to begin at 3pm.**
- **To provide written comment:** email CONComment@ct.gov and reference docket #22-32504-CON by February 14.
- **To provide oral comment:** log onto Zoom at 2pm to sign up, and public comment will begin at 3pm. Please see www.savesharonhospital.org for the Zoom link.

All references are part of Nuvance Health's Application to close the Sharon Hospital ICU, located on the OHS CON Portal website under docket #22-32504-CON, <https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/Pages/Certificate-of-Need/CON-Portal>:

- (1) Second Completeness Letter Responses 11.14.22, page 3
- (2) Exhibit A- Sharon Hospital CON Application 5.27.22, Attachment D
- (3) CON Application Main Form 5.27.22, page 31
- (4) Second Completeness Letter Responses 11.14.22, Financial Worksheet (A), page 7

SAVE SHARON HOSPITAL

Learn more at www.savesharonhospital.org

Historical Society: Sharing stories of life in Sharon

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Although interviewed one at a time during the “Voices of Sharon” program presented by the Sharon Historical Society on Saturday, Feb. 4, two extraordinary residents shared stories and opinions that intersected when it came to love of the town and the value of volunteerism. Each had offered decades of service and held a firm belief in the town’s bright future. A capacity audience attended the event.

Sharon Historical Society board member and broadcast journalist Brian Ross engaged in conversation with Betsy Hall and Jano Fairservis, asking questions that would coax memories of Sharon and explore how their considerable volunteerism shaped their perspectives. Both had well-developed bits of wisdom to impart, and they did.

The Hall view

Betsy Hall went first. She and her husband, David, moved to Sharon in 1971 and have remained for 50 years. She noted, however, that they did move away twice, but came back.

“I hope the people moving here now will realize how important it is to volunteer,” she said. Having a diversity of residents is always a plus, she added, urging new residents to contribute their time and talent to their town.

At first, Hall recalled that she was reluctant to join the Sharon Ambulance Squad, part of the Sharon Fire Department. Nevertheless, she trained to become an EMT, and served for decades (44

years). “The people you are serving and working with are your family and friends,” she came to realize, finding that there can be 20 to 30 trained people helping at an accident scene.

“First you have to turn off the shock of it all, then you get into the routine. You did not cause the problem you are being called to; you are there to do something about it,” she explained.

“It’s vital for the Sharon Hospital to remain a full-service hospital,” she urged. If the hospital changes its service levels, it will affect the volunteer services throughout the area, Hall said, indicating that the town is growing in population and stressing the need to retain the rural aspect.

“We don’t want a lot of build-up,” Hall said, while acknowledging the current pressing need for affordable housing.

Hall described Sharon as a “place of security. There is freedom and opportunity here that you don’t find in a city,” she added.

“The shopping center is what saved the town Green,” she said, in response to Ross’ question about factors that have preserved the integrity of the green. Hall recalled that at one time, there were stores located around the green, pleased to have seen the advent of the shopping center.

Since the town was founded in 1739, the green has remained essentially the same in appearance, Hall noted, with the bordering homes seeing minimal change.

Ross asked Hall’s biggest worry. “I worry about peo-



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

The Sharon Historical Society meeting room was filled to capacity on Saturday, Feb. 4, to hear reminiscences of decades of caring about Sharon. Residents Jano Fairservis, center, and Betsy Hall, at right, were guided in conversation by historical society board member Brian Ross, at left.

ple losing interest in working together for the town. People don’t know how to talk with one another anymore,” she said, citing a lack of eye contact in communication and reliance on messaging devices.

“There is enough concern and love that it’s going to be OK,” she said of the town’s future.

“I’m very involved and

would like to continue. When you are active, it helps you to grow old,” Hall concluded.

Next, Ross interviewed Fairservis.

The view from Fairservis

Beginning by noting that her name is Scottish, Fairservis who is now enjoying life at 95, said that she and her husband, Walter, came to Sharon when he became the head of the Anthropol-

ogy Department at Vassar College. They had first met at Lakeville’s Camp Sloane as students in the 1940s. She was in her freshman year at Skidmore College. When he was at the camp, Walter was studying archeology.

Her husband was an avid book collector and she was just as avid about her costume collection, Fairservis said. They both worked at the Sharon Playhouse, putting on a production of “Murder in the Cathedral” in 1968. In the 1970s, they put on a Christmas pageant on the town green with all of the local churches participating. There were even live animals, she said, envisioning the memory.

The Sharon Playhouse has been a significant focus for Fairservis from its inception. Speaking of the present day educational program at Sharon Playhouse, Fairservis said, “The value of pretending to be someone else is valuable for young people.”

Prompted by Ross to comment on her decades living in Sharon, “In many ways, Sharon is much the same,” she said, although she remembers an abundance of lilac bushes planted all around the green.

“The whole aesthetic of the town is so appealing,” she said.

For the interview, Fairservis was seated in front of a quilt that she designed depicting all the homes around the Green. The quilt was stitched by the Episcopal Church Women’s group in 1987. She noted, as had Hall, that the houses around the green have not changed.

Asked by Ross whether

the people have changed, Fairservis said, “I don’t know.”

People who volunteer, though, are part of the celebration of community, she said. “It hits you in the heart. It’s fascinating work.”

She and Walter raised “four adorable blonde girls,” in town. Their home had a barn and there were ponies and plenty of room. The home had a feeling of safety, even without door locks.

Ross asked what keeps the town vibrant.

“In our isolation there has not been a sense that we have to grow,” Fairservis said. “There has been stability among farmers and shopkeepers who are not driven by greed. It is important to teach younger generations that the dream of being a millionaire is not the same as having a good life.”

“Contributing whatever energy, talent and good luck you may have should go into making a better world,” Fairservis said.

Prompted by Ross to consider the future, Fairservis said, “I’m hoping that because so many love the beauty and the trees, they will be making contributions to the Audubon, and getting away from fossil fuel and getting a feel for solar power.”

“I’m not a scholar, but I’m enthusiastic about telling the story of the town,” she said, praising the work of the Sharon Historical Society.

“It’s important to care more about the world as a whole,” Fairservis advised.

Brian Ross is a member of the board of The Lakeville Journal Foundation.

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Meditation on Bach, Brahms and Buxtehude

By Matthew Kreta

SALISBURY — The Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC held its monthly Mid-day Music and Meditation on Friday, Feb. 3, a concert performed by the church's music director, David Baranowski, who played three pieces on organ.

Baranowski started with the first movement of the Brahms Requiem, a famous choral piece that he arranged purely for organ for the sake of the concert. He gracefully navigated the rises and falls of this work with great expression, leaning into the heavy emotion of the piece. Baranowski got the idea to perform this movement as he will be directing the Brahms Requiem with a choir of 100 in May at Manhattanville College.

The next two pieces — Buxtehude's "Prelude, Fugue, and Chaconne in C, buxWV 137" and Bach's "Toccat, Adagio, and Fugue in C major, BWV 564" — were picked for their connection and influence on each other. Both pieces are from the Baroque period, and Bach is considered one of the primary composers of the time. Buxtehude was nearing the end of his life when Bach was a student,



David Baranowski played during the monthly mid-day program at the Salisbury Congregational Church on Friday, Feb. 3.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW KRETA

and held a great deal of influence on Bach's compositional style through his own compositions.

Baranowski played the Buxtehude for last month's presentation, but elected to play it again this month for the sake of comparison with the Bach.

Both pieces required a

steady and practiced hand which Baranowski exhibited with ease, weaving through complex and blindingly fast runs of notes with both hands and feet while still bringing appropriate emphasis to each piece's melodic material. This particular Bach piece is famously difficult for its speed and level of

precision, and was executed flawlessly.

The musical meditations take place on the first Friday of every month at Salisbury Congregational at noon. March will feature flutist Cecelia Burns joining Baranowski for a Bach flute sonata and will feature Baranowski on harpsichord.

Canaan Fire makes fundraising appeal

By Leila Hawken

NORTH CANAAN — In keeping with tradition, the Canaan Fire Company's annual appeal was recently mailed to households in North Canaan and East Canaan asking residents to be generous with their support for the all-volunteer fire company.

Historically, the February appeal follows the election of officers in January and in years past, residents were invited to purchase tickets to the annual Washington's Birthday Ball that would also benefit the fire company. In more recent years the fundraising ball was eliminated.

"It was quite an event back in the day," said Mari-beth Marchi, fire company secretary, commenting on the years when the ball was held as a benefit for the fire company. Residents would purchase tickets for the ball and would often enclose generous additional donations for the department.

This year's letter, jointly signed by newly elected Chief Michael Foley and President Steven Hutchins, indicates that every dollar received is invested in the

fire company, purchasing essential equipment and providing for community outreach programs.

During an interview on Saturday, Feb. 4, Hutchins provided information about the relationship between the town's budgeted support for the fire company (\$86,000 in total) and this appeal. Each has its focus.

"The fire company's expenses are much greater than the town budget figure," Hutchins said.

The appeal is for supplemental expenses, such as equipment that needs to be purchased or to pay into a scheduled major equipment expense.

"The people giving to the annual appeal are contributing toward those supplemental equipment expenses," Hutchins said. Citing an example, Hutchins said that a household flashlight might cost a few dollars in a hardware store, but one built to serve the company's emergency needs costs around \$250.

A constant within the all-volunteer fire company is a need for volunteers. "We're always looking for new members," Hutchins said.

Kent's 38th Annual Polar Bear run set for Feb. 26

KENT — The 38th Annual Lake Waramaug Polar Bear Run is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 26 at 11 a.m.

For 2023 the start and finish line will be relocated to Hopkins Vineyard. The new location provides an ideal spot for spectators to cheer runners into the finish as they race up Hopkins Hill.

The new route will add 0.2 of a mile to the course. The 7.8 mile run loops around Lake Waramaug and passes through three towns: Kent, Warren, and Washington.

All proceeds from the race benefit Guiding Eyes for the Blind, which raises and trains guide dogs to partner with blind and visually impaired people.

Runners will have the opportunity to pick up their numbers in advance of the race on Friday, Feb. 24 from 1 to 7 p.m. at Hopkins Vineyard. Number pick up will also be available race day morning starting at 9:30 a.m..

Register online at www.lakewaramaugpolarbearrun.com or at the race until 10:30 a.m.

Student recital at Salisbury Congregational on Feb. 26

SALISBURY — The Student Open Recital, an annual event featuring music students from the area, is Sunday, Feb. 26, 3 p.m. at the Salisbury Congregational Church.

The lineup includes the Salisbury School Classical Ensemble, the Indian Mountain School Advanced Ensemble, and the Salisbury School Jazz Ensemble, as well as individual performances.



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Our Towns

Screening to show emotional reality of fentanyl

By Alexander Wilburn

MILLERTON—“Mourning the loss of my precious son, Danny, writing has become a therapeutic activity. Words, however, often seem inadequate to describe how his death has affected our family and changed our lives forever.”

This is how Linda Lajterman opens her 2014 memoir, “Life After You: What Your Death From Drugs Leaves Behind.” In the immediate wake of finding her 19-year-old son dead in their suburban New Jersey home after overdosing on heroin laced with fentanyl, Lajterman turned her grief into writing and turned her writing into an ongoing dialogue with other parents.

In the years since, the overdose-related death toll has risen, and heroin and

opiates have tightened their grip on American youth.

“Life After You” has been adapted into an independent film by director Sarah T. Schwab, who penned the screenplay with actress Florencia Lozano, who plays Linda Lajterman.

On Saturday, Feb. 11, the Moviehouse will offer two special screenings of the film at 2 and 5 p.m. After each screening, there will be a talkback moderated by producer Brian Long with Lajterman and Dora Celestino, community prevention educator for the Council on Addiction Prevention and Education.

“We’ve been partnering with independent movie theaters and groups in the Northeast, coming into communities and trying to bring awareness to the issue,” Schwab said from California

during a phone interview.

She was drawn to the rawness of Lajterman’s writing on a terrifying but common reality. “Linda wanted to scare the hell out of kids and make parents aware of what’s happening out there. Danny’s death blindsided her entire family. She didn’t see any signs,” Schwab said.

Drug-related deaths in America have escalated since the death of Danny Lajterman, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reporting an increase from over 47,000 in 2015 to over 100,000 in 2022. Last week in Maine, the state’s attorney general released a year-end assessment reporting 10,000 overdoses in 2022, with nearly 80% of fatal overdoses caused by fentanyl.

“When Florencia Lozano and I cowrote this film together, we decided we really

wanted to tell the Lajterman family’s experience, not Danny’s, and show the process of how each family member grieves differently.” The team made a conscious choice to avoid showing any drug use on the screen, straying from the well-tread point of view of a person in the throes of addiction. “Life After You” focuses exclusively on the effect lethal doses of fentanyl have on the family left behind, as the parents process their emotions in the aftermath of tragedy.

Schwab had the difficult task of not only adapting a book with a brutal topic but depicting real people at the most vulnerable, harrowing point of their lives. “You want to do the family justice, while also bringing authenticity to their story and getting the audience talking about this issue and hopefully elimi-



Florencia Lozano as Linda and Jake Lozano as Danny in the film “Life After You.”

nating the stigma around addiction.”

Showing the film to audiences brings up plenty of emotions for the team behind it.

“The screenings can be

overwhelming,” said Schwab, “even though it’s a beautiful thing that the film inspires people to talk. We have heard from people going through addiction, who have a loved one who is currently suffering, who know someone in recovery, or who have died, and they feel comfortable sharing their stories with us. We want to create a space where they can share or get help.”

History of lawns Feb. 9

SALISBURY — “Bad Grass,” A talk featuring Mike Nadeau and Jeb Breece, provides a history of lawns and shares insights from over 40 years of experience transforming turf grass into native meadows. The event is at the White Hart Inn in Salisbury Thursday, Feb. 9, 5:30 p.m. For tickets, go to www.silvaetpratum.net/badgrass2023. Proceeds go to benefit the Salisbury Association Land Trust.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Region One guest reading

Region One Asst. Supt. Jeanine Rose was one of the guest readers at Read Aloud Day at Salisbury Central School on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Hotchkiss hosts ‘hackathon’ for elementary students

SALISBURY — Area students in grades four through eight are invited to participate in a free “hackathon” for social good with Connecticut-based nonprofit Random Hacks of Kindness Junior on Sunday, Feb. 26, 1 to 4 p.m. at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville.

The goal of the “hackathon” is to introduce students to technology and to show them how it can be used to create solutions that benefit non-profit organizations.

“Participants will be working with high school students from The Hotchkiss School to create technology

for social good,” said Patrice Gans, founder and executive director of Random Acts of Kindness Junior, Inc. This event requires no prior coding knowledge. Using Code.org’s App Lab, students will learn the basics of app design, as well as the ideation and brainstorming process required to build a successful prototype mobile application.

Pre-registration is required. Go to www.rhokjr.org for more information and to register. For more information, please contact Caroline Burchfield at clburchf@hotchkiss.org or Gans at pbgans@rhokjr.org



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Jumpfest 2023 triumphs despite crazy weather

By Patrick L Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Winter Sports Association Jumpfest got off to a frigid start.

The Friday, Feb. 3 night-time activities were canceled due to subzero temperatures and high winds.

Saturday morning, Feb. 4, was still bitterly cold at Satre Hill, with daytime temperatures struggling to get into double digits.

However, the wind died down, allowing for the jumping to proceed.

For fans who needed a break from the cold, the Scoville Memorial Library had s'mores. Around 12:30 two adults and two children were toasting marshmallows outside, prior to going inside for the graham crackers and chocolate bars.

Attendance on Saturday was light with 400 attendees both paid and unpaid (children under 12 were admitted free).

Before the action on the big hill, the 20m and 30m hills were busy with junior competition.

Sunday, Feb. 5 was positively balmy, with afternoon temperatures reaching the mid-40s.

This attracted a much bigger crowd of 1500. The parking lot of Indian Cave Road was packed and fans parked anywhere they could. There were long lines at the concession stands as vendors did brisk business.

The difference in temperatures was most apparent in the attitude of the crowd to the bonfires on either side of the main jumping area.

On Saturday, people got as close as they could, never mind the smoke and occasional flurry of sparks as more fuel was added.

On Sunday, the crowds stayed several yards away from the fire.

A small kid's hill saw very little action Saturday, but on Sunday it was full of young-



Above, Henry Johnstone looked on as the competition took flight at the Big Hill in Salisbury. Right, a jumper prepared to launch down Satre Hill during Jumpfest.

Photos by John Coston, Patrick L. Sullivan, Lans Christensen, Randy O'Rourke, and Tom Brown



Will Coffin competed in the Salisbury Invitational on Saturday, Feb. 4. The jumper placed first in the U14 K30 competition.

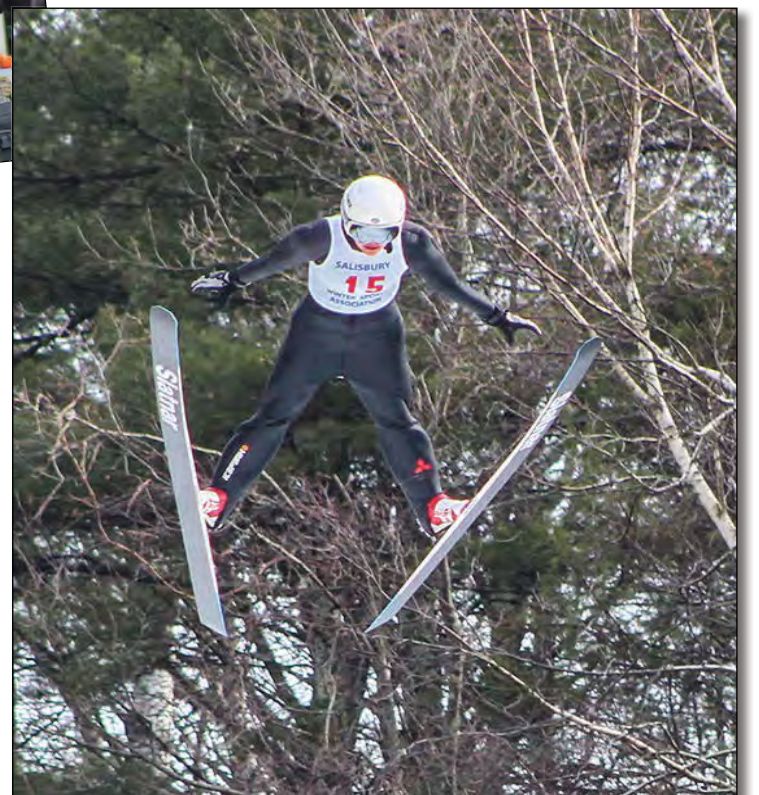


SWSA's Islay Sheil placed first in the K20 Open Female competition on Saturday, Feb. 4. Jhala Gregory from Hanover School won silver and SWSA's Carley Bannerman took bronze.

Fans stayed warm around the ever-burning bonfires situated on each side of the Big Hill.



A group of youth jumpers posed with the United States Eastern Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined flag after a cold day of flying down the hills.



Kai McKinnon took flight as she soared down Satre Hill and had the longest jump of the day on Saturday reaching 65.5m.

Braving the cold to win the gold

By Riley Klein

Jumpfest 2023 featured a series of competitive events, each with subcategories full of youth jumpers who put their soaring skills to the test.

During the Salisbury Invitational on Saturday, Feb. 4, jumpers were split into U20 female and U20 male categories.

New York Ski Educational Foundation's (NYSEF) Kai McKinnon dominated the U20 female group and had the farthest jump of the day with 65.5 meters. After tallying the judges scores and style points she finished with 200.3 points. In second place for U20 females was Caroline Chor of Ford Sayre, totaling 63.1 points from judges and a 38-meter distance on her longest jump. Kerry Tole from the Andover Outing Club placed third with 22.9 points and a long jump of 30 meters.

For U20 males in the Feb. 4 Salisbury Invitational, Schuyler Clapp of NYSEF topped the field with 200.9 points. Clapp reached 63.5-meters on his second jump and collected enough style points to finish in first. NYSEF teammate Jack Kroll placed second with 197.5 points despite having the longest jump of the category at 65 meters. In third for the U20 males was Angelo Goodwin of the Lebanon Outing Club who scored 184.5 points with a 61-meter-long jump.

As the sole competitor in the Masters category on Saturday, Cooper Dodds scored 206.9 points and leaped to 64.5 meters in his longest jump.

During the Eastern Championships on Sunday, Feb. 5, four groups of jumpers faced off on the big hill: U16 males, U20 females, U20 males, and Masters.

U16 males was won by Max Fey of NYSEF who scored 177.4 points from judges with a 60-meter best jump. His teammate Jack Kroll placed second after laying down a 66-meter jump and receiving 177.3 judges' points. In third was Angelo

Goodwin with 170.2 points and a long jump of 57.5 meters.

In U20 females, Kai McKinnon laid down another series of monster jumps, leaping to 62.5 meters and a score of 160.5. In second was Caroline Chor of with 58.3 points and a 37-meter jump. Third place belonged to Celia Osborne from Ford Sayre, who scored 10.4 points with a 28-meter-long jump.

The U20 male category was won by Schuyler Clapp as he leaped to 61.5 meters and scored 194.6 points. In second place was Ford Sayre's Eli Mansur with 97.2 points and a 43.5-meter jump. Charlie Forbush of Hanover High School placed third after jumping 41 meters and receiving 90.4 points.

For the Masters jumpers, Henry Johnstone achieved the longest jump of the weekend as he soared to 67 meters, winning the group with 222.7 points. Cooper Dodds placed second with a 64-meter jump and 82.1 points.



Eli Larkin competed in the Salisbury Invitational on Feb. 4.



The cook shack crew served up burgers and brats.



Above, Jai Gregory competed in the Salisbury Invitational on Saturday, Feb. 4 and the Eastern Championships on Sunday, Feb. 5.

Angelo Goodwin of the Lebanon Outing Club placed third among U20 males in the Salisbury Invitational on Feb. 4.



SWSA President Ken Barker didn't seem to mind the cold on Saturday.

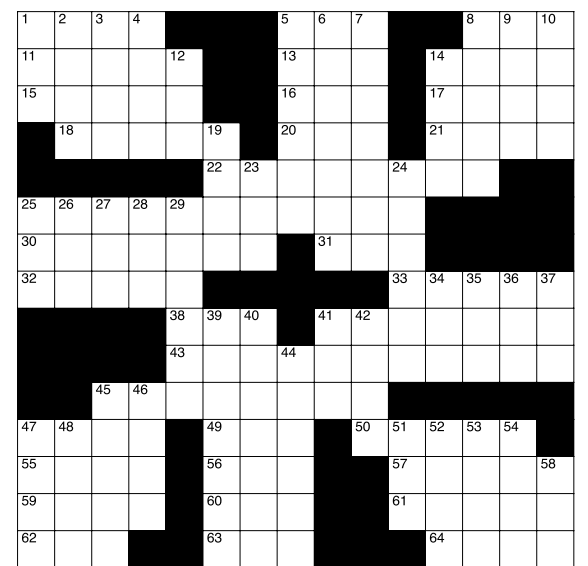
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Functions
5. Records electric currents associated with contractions of the heart
8. Trigonometric function (abbr.)
11. Secret political clique
13. Type of gibbon
14. Nocturnal S. American rodent
15. Famed American playwright
16. Mesopotamian goddess
17. Abba __, Israeli politician
18. Long ridge of gravel and sediment
20. A place to stay
21. Actor Idris
22. One who behaves in a rebellious way
25. A way to measure movement
30. Distinguish oneself
31. Type of drug (abbr.)
32. Basketball great Baylor
33. Masses of salivary matter
38. Calls balls and strikes
41. Plant that grows along the ground
43. A recreational activity in the air
45. Consumes too much
47. Island nation
49. Pistol
50. Mixtures of soul and calypso
55. Ancient Greek City
56. Similar
57. Roughly trimmed tree trunk used in a Scottish game
59. Semitic fertility god
60. Born of
61. Frogs, toads, tree toads
62. School in the northeast (abbr.)
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. "___ the Man" Musical, baseball player

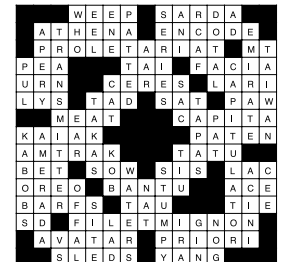
CLUES DOWN

1. Fiddler crabs
2. Discount
3. Partner to "flows"
4. Ethnic group of Laos
5. Beloved "Seinfeld" character

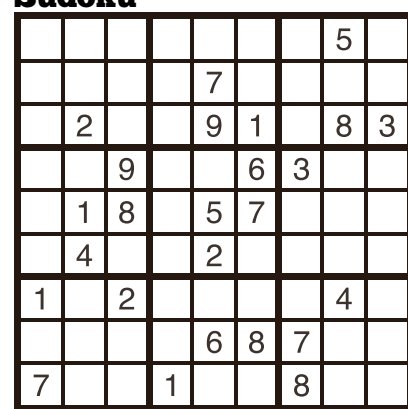


6. Book of tickets
7. The last name of "Hermione"
8. Type of TV package
9. Helps to heal a cut
10. Town in Galilee
12. Actor Horsley
14. "Hocus Pocus 2" actor Ed
19. Bird-loving group (abbr.)
23. They respond when someone is sick
24. Emerged
25. Midway between south and southeast
26. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
27. Unit of work or energy
28. Indicates near
29. Famed river
34. For each
35. News organization
36. CNN's founder
37. They ___
39. Areas off to the side
40. Satisfies
41. A spare bed
42. Legendary singer Diana
44. Frothy mass of bubbles
45. A kind of sorcery
46. River in South Africa
47. Philippine Island
48. County in China
51. S. American plant
52. Beverage containers
53. Edge
54. Protein-rich liquids
58. Moved quickly on foot

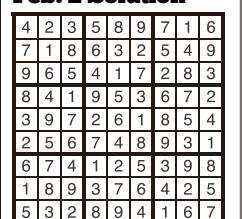
Feb. 2 Solution



Sudoku



Feb. 2 Solution



Level: Intermediate



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EGG PRICES

Continued from Page A1

cent. “An egg may cost three times more, but you can’t charge a customer three times more for a cookie, so we have to raise our prices ever so gently, but we don’t want to lose customers, either.”

Egg prices rose 60% in 2022

Like Freund’s, many businesses dependent on eggs to sell or cook with, including diners, bake shops, farmers and grocery stores, said they are forced to pass the higher costs on to their customers, or find alternative ways to operate.

Avian influenza, which has been ravaging hen houses since an outbreak last year, has wiped out about 10 percent of the egg-producing chickens nationwide resulting in a production decline, heightened consumer demand for the common household staple and supply shortages.

According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), more than 58 million birds in 47 states have been

affected by a new strain of the avian flu, which is highly transmissible and deadly. The USDA further reports that the culling (killing) of infected birds at commercial facilities has led to an average 7.5 percent drop in the nation’s domestic egg supply each month since the outbreak began.

Experts predict that the outbreak, the largest in recorded history, will continue into 2023. Traditionally, avian flu hits during spring migration and then disappears a few months later, but this time, the virus stayed around.

“It’s still here, unfortunately, because it was so intense last year,” said Sunny Kellner, wildlife rehabilitation and outreach specialist at the Sharon Audubon Center. “It will be around for a while, in a concerning way,” she said, fueled by new wild bird migration in the spring.

Compounding the problem, every aspect of the egg industry is under pressure, from the chickens to the feed to the gas and diesel to transport eggs.

Egg prices rose 60% last year, according to the consumer price index, which measures inflation. Egg producers and food economists suggest the bird flu outbreak has compounded into a major supply problem at a time of peak demand and rising transportation and feed costs.

And late last month an estimated 100,000 hens died when a devastating fire tore through a barn at Hillendale Farms in Bozrah, one of the country’s largest egg producers. The cause remains under investigation, and the



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Rachel Freund with a fresh-baked tray of scones.

Connecticut Department of Agriculture said it did not expect the fire would affect either the egg supply or cost of eggs.

was selling them for about \$4.99 a dozen.

“Over the past 10 months, prices were up crazy, especially during the holidays.

The market went so whacky that the organic Egglands Best eggs were the same price as the conventional eggs, and Egglands Best couldn’t keep up with product demand.”

The supply shortage, he said, was not linked to hoarding by customers. “The prices were so high that they only bought just what they needed.”

Rising grain costs hitting farmers

At Q Farms in Sharon, a small livestock farm with a flock of pasture-raised chickens co-founded by Linda and James Quella, a dozen eggs sells for \$7.

“We started seven years ago at \$6 a dozen and kept the price there until last year,” said Linda Quella, “That reflects many years of no increases.”

Demand from customers, she said, has remained steady. “We just have our loyal customers who know our eggs and the quality. Many people haven’t yet sought out new places.”

The rising cost of grain is impacting farmers like the Quellas.

Q farms buys its grain from Stone House Grain, in nearby Hudson, New York. “The one thing we focus on is sourcing local. It’s important to our model to support other farmers,” said Linda Quella.

She explained that her grain prices rose from \$520 a ton in 2021 to \$593 a ton in 2022, a 14% increase. This year, she said, the price is expected to rise another 11% to \$657 per ton, representing a 26% increase overall.

“A big increase, but probably not as dramatic as the centralized industrial agriculture,” she noted.

James Quella noted that small, local farms are more stable than large-scale, industrial producers, which face major global pressures and pass on higher costs to consumers.

“It shows how important our local food systems are,” he said. “We are more resilient to those kinds of supply cost shocks.”

Drought impacted grain supply

Lynn Mordas of Dashing Star Farm, a commercial egg producer in Millerton with a flock of 300 hens, said the while avian flu has severely impacted large egg operations outside of New York, farms in New York faced another major issue that impacted the price of eggs: two successive years of drought, resulting in grain price increases to farmers.

“We provide a supplementary non-GMO and organic grain mix to our hens.

Compounding the problem, every aspect of the egg industry is under pressure, from the chickens to the feed to the gas and diesel to transport eggs.

‘We can’t sell a scone for \$8’

At Sweet William’s Coffee Shop and Bakery in the heart of Salisbury, co-owner Jason Young said it’s not just the rising price of eggs that is delivering shell shock, “everything across the board has gone up dramatically.”

Butter prices skyrocketed, cold cups for iced coffee became almost impossible to find during peak demand last summer, and he had to “scour the internet” to find a certain brand of baking powder used in the shop’s pastries.

“There is no shortage of eggs yet, we can still get them,” said Young, who goes through about 60 dozen of eggs per week. “We just have to pay twice as much for them.”

As a result, he recently raised prices on baked goods. “We couldn’t absorb the price increases. Most people are understanding.”

Young is hoping that egg prices will stabilize.

“I don’t think they will get any higher, I don’t see how they could. But we would adjust if we have to” he said, by baking in smaller batches to cut down on waste, and asking customers to pre-order large quantities.

It all boils down to how to best to pivot, he said. “We can’t sell a scone for \$8.”

At nearby LaBonne’s Market in Salisbury, store director Eric Siperas said he has seen a slight dip in the price of eggs in recent weeks. At the height of the holidays, one dozen large, Grade AA white eggs was priced at \$5.40 a dozen, but as of early February, he said, the store

Online memes to crack you up

As was the case with the toilet paper shortage in 2020, rising lumber costs in 2021 and skyrocketing gasoline prices in 2022, the 2023 egg shortage has hatched endless memes.

“Back in my day there was so much toilet paper and eggs that we would throw them at the houses of our enemies!” reads one post.

And then there is this fitting comment: “Welcome to 2023, where the price of eggs will cost you more than a gallon of gas.”

In another post, people

pretend to be doling out eggs in plastic baggies, like drug dealers.

Someone got clever creating a meme showing a single carton of eggs ensconced with a security device.

In a tribute to Valentine’s Day, a couple is enjoying a romantic dinner date in a supermarket egg aisle with the quote “Take me somewhere expensive.”

And then there is the image of a closed carton of eggs with the comment: “Just two more payments and it’s all mine.”

— Debra A. Aleksinas

ROGERS

Continued from Page A1

The cost of that feed has gone up 100% over the past two years.”

As a result, said Mordas, her farm’s Grade AA eggs rose in price by \$1, from \$8 to \$9 per dozen.

“This is a far cry from what could make up for our increase in grain costs. Granted,” she said, “other producers have increased their prices by a much greater proportion.”

Dashing Star Farm’s customers are a combination of direct retail — from the farm or at the Cold Spring or Beacon Farmers Markets — and wholesale — through Farms2Tables for numerous restaurants within a 100-mile radius, Good Farmers for their home and business delivery customers and locally at Silamar Farm in Millerton.

Beware pitfalls of raising backyard chickens

The high egg costs may tempt people to raise a few chickens in their backyard, but Kellner at Sharon Audubon warned that could be a huge investment with big risks for the novice.

“Especially people getting chickens for the first time. They may not be aware of what is required to keep them safe,” not only from wildlife predators but from the deadly bird flu. “A lot of people don’t realize it’s labor intensive and requires a huge investment.”

Theresa Freund recalled how devastated she and her daughter were when one of their white chickens got snatched by a swooping hawk.

“We literally watched it happen. People who think they are going to raise free-range chickens outside don’t realize they need wildlife dogs who hang out with them and protect the flock.”

Keeping surroundings sanitary is critical, said Kellner. Wild birds, particularly ducks and geese, are notorious for spreading the bird virus through their droppings during spring migration. The deadly virus spreads easily through wet ground conditions and cross-contamination.

For that reason, staff and volunteers at Sharon Audubon wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when caring for the birds at the center, and perform rigorous sanitizing afterwards, something she expects will be necessary moving forward into 2023 and beyond.

“It’s our new normal.”



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

The family of Marcus Rogers joined together and looked toward the heavens in remembrance of Marcus before the game against Tri-town on Feb. 4. Rogers, 16, was tragically killed in a head-on collision while on his way to hockey practice on Tuesday, Jan. 31.

emotional face-off occurred before the official start of the game, during which cheers of “Marcus Rogers” filled the arena while Goguen held the puck in center-ice through a 20-second countdown.

Once the chanting from the crowd subdued, the game commenced as scheduled. Housy played with passion and pride, but Tri-Town prevailed in the end with a

final score of 6-2. Housatonic’s goals both came in the third period; one from Kobe Brown and the other from Sean Mercogliano.

After the match, Housatonic’s season record stood at 2-8 and Tri-Town advanced to 6-6-1. Housy returns to Stockdale Arena on Saturday, Feb. 11, when they host the Bethel-Brookfield-Danbury co-op at 3:15 p.m.

CONSOLIDATION

Continued from Page A1

ical-surgical unit on the second floor has 28 beds, and the average census is 10 patients. The ICU on the first floor has nine beds with an average census of between three and four patients.

What Nuvance wants to do, she said, is move the ICU upstairs and combine the two units into one, called a progressive care unit.

“Everything we do in ICU will move to the second floor. It’s a unified approach.”

She said some of the rooms on the second floor are visible from the nurses’ station. Windows have been added to the doors of the rooms, and for those patients located out of eyeshot of the nursing station, Nuvance has introduced “virtual sitting.”

Rooms have a camera and several rooms can be monitored by a technician, who also can communicate directly with the patient. Mc-

Culloch noted that there are privacy safeguards in place.

McCulloch said the new unit will have the same staff as currently exists.

McCulloch also said that, contrary to rumor, the Emergency Department at Sharon Hospital is open and operational 24 hours a day. She said the hospital had received phone calls asking if the ED was open.

To watch the Feb. 15 hearing, the Zoom meeting ID is 828 7732 3149, and the password is 347949. To reach the meeting by phone, the number is 1 646-876-9923.

To comment, log onto Zoom at 2 p.m. to sign up. Public comments begin at 3 p.m.

To submit written comment, email CONComment@ct.gov and refer to docket number 22-32504-CON by Feb. 14.



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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

WELLNESS: ELIAS SORICH

The Yoga Studio Where You Come To Breathe

To cure a 5 a.m. wake-up, there was no better balm than an 8 a.m. slow yoga class with Nina Embiricos at Riga Yoga.

The hour-long session centers around what Embiricos calls “a precise framework.” Meaning attention to anatomy, spacial and bodily awareness, and a willingness to provide gentle correction to form to ensure no one injures themselves. The studio space itself is well-balanced and well-appointed, and gets beautiful morning light — so it is the perfect environment to get limber and energized before a long day of work.

Located in Salisbury, Conn., Embiricos opened Riga Yoga to the public in December of 2022—and though the business is in its beginning stages, Riga is already holding classes every day of the week. Ranging from prenatal yoga, to more standard Vinyasa, and into trauma-informed practices — Embiricos has set out to provide a space that is both welcoming to newcomers and in which more seasoned yogis would find opportunities to learn and grow.

“It’s a place for people to learn techniques. Whether you’re new to yoga or you’re experienced, you can come and refine your technique.

“But I also wanted Riga to be something more holistic than a fitness studio. I wanted it to include the breath and the mind. Where people could get peace for a little bit! We’re in a fight or flight mode all day long, responding to emails, and working. I wanted Riga to be a place where you can come for an



PHOTO COURTESY OF RIGA YOGA

hour, unplug, and be with yourself.”

It was clear to see that Embiricos is deeply thrilled to be a yoga instructor and excited to provide a space where yoga instructors and casual practitioners alike can find community. Having grown up in France and moved to New York City in her 20s, finding a regular yoga practice was revolutionary to Embiricos, and also involved a degree of trial and error.

“As someone who was really anxious in my head, it was a way to disconnect from those feeling and get centered and calm. To find a space within myself that felt safe and happy... And I was like, wow, this is life-changing!”

“So what I wanted to do was offer a yoga practice to people that they can sustain. That just feels like it’s a longevity practice, that’s sustainable and joyful, and brings them

centering and health in the long term. Where you can come, and then go back to your life, and there are no frills. That’s what I wanted for myself when I was a student and couldn’t find, and I’m hoping to offer that to people.”

The opening of Riga Yoga was preceded by years of hopping between studios and teaching extensively throughout the Tri-State area. Exiting that period of movement, and laying down roots in Salisbury was a simultaneously difficult, and clarifying experience for Embiricos — from which the positives have already begun to arrive in droves.

“The community here has been amazing. I opened the studio and they came, they showed up... That’s what I’m most proud of — the community we have managed to build in such a short time. I see the same faces every week, if not every day, and a



PHOTO BY ELIAS SORICH

lot of them tell me about the heightened sense of well-being they experience after taking a class. That makes it all worthwhile.”

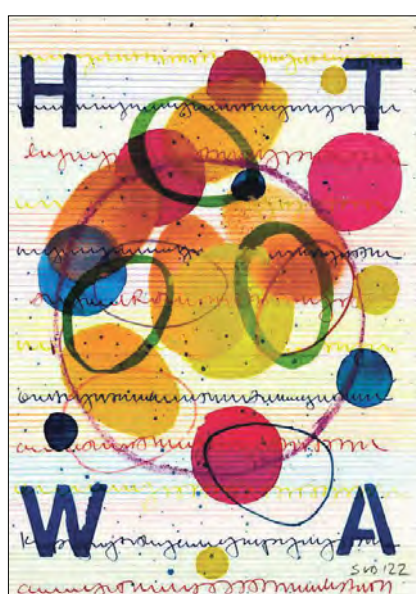
Embiricos is committed to expanding Riga Yoga’s offerings as she builds the business, and

emphasized the importance she places on bringing experienced, and curious instructors into the fold. Riga currently houses roughly four teachers that specialize in different yogic approaches, including Vinyasa, Hatha, Katonah,

and prenatal, and trauma-informed practices.

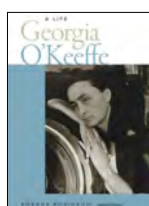
“That’s an amazing thing, right? I’m the owner and I get to learn from the people who come through the doors. Personality-wise, they’re amazing people. And then they have really clear teachings to offer. And they’re curious. We all come to each other’s classes, and we all learn from each other... I think the community is going to be so happy to have them.”

For more information on classes at Riga Yoga go to www.rigayoga.com.



SALLY VAN DOREN
TANGLED LANGUAGE
 February 11 – April 15, 2023
Opening February 11
4:00pm – 6:00pm

At 4:30pm there will be a reading during the event by Sally Van Doren & guest writer Roxana Robinson.



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ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

The Art of Words With a Poet Turned Painter

Sally Van Doren is the Walt Whitman Award-winning author of three volumes of poetry whose carefully chosen words tempt readers toward interpretations, but as an emerging painter, her work is purposefully inscrutable.

"All of my work relates to asemic drawings, that's the source I draw from," Van Doren said during a phone interview from her home in Cornwall, Conn.

Free from linguistic context, asemic writing is an avant-garde expression of movement and writing without communication. This illegible form of calligraphy invites us to rethink the relationship between writing and drawing and has been used by artists like Mirtha Dermisache, Brion Gysin, and perhaps most famously by American painter Cy Twombly. Asemic writing in art has often been about capturing the frenetic movement of the pen in hand, leaving the viewer with motion, but not meaning.

For nearly 20 years Van Doren has started her day with this meditation on paper. "I do it every morning, so I now have thousands of pages of this asemic writing. I

have always written in journals, but at a certain point I no longer cared if I could read them, and as my handwriting became increasingly sloppy, I began to like

that my writing was illegible. Eventually, what I realized is that I was not writing, I was drawing."

Well-known in the area as a poet, in 2017

Van Doren unveiled her visual work to her New England community at a gallery show held at The Cornwall Library. "That show was the first time I liberated this asemic

"I have always written in journals, but at a certain point I no longer cared if I could read them, and as my handwriting became increasingly sloppy, I began to like that my writing was illegible."

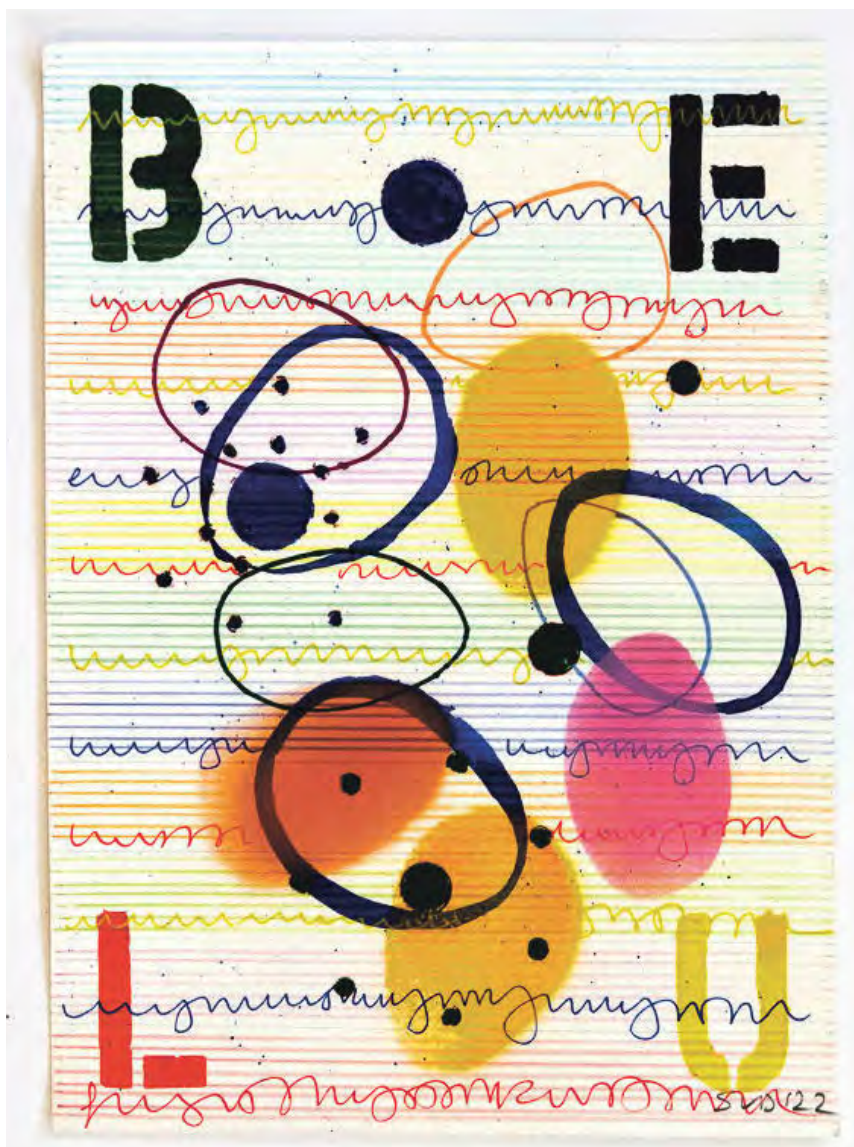


PHOTO COURTESY THE ARTIST

BELU by Sally Van Doren

drawing from the pages of my notebook and put it out into the world. I was nervous about it then, a few years later now I'm much more comfortable and confident in this artistic exploration."

Since the library showcase, Van Doren's work has been seen at Cornwall's annual Rose Algrant art exhibition and at the Longview Farm House Art Gallery in St. Louis, Mo. She enrolled in an undergraduate art program at Hunter College in New York City and now has a dedicated art studio in West Cornwall.

"Having a studio space has had a big impact on both the work I have been making and my increased visibility as an artist. It has enabled me to have studio visits with artists, collectors, curators, and sometimes lost tourists. I've done commissions for private collectors and just finished a large public print commission."

New works by Van

Doren will be unveiled at her upcoming solo show at Furnace - Art on Paper Archive in Falls Village, Conn. Curated by gallerist Kathleen Kucka, paintings in "Tangled Language" combine Van Doren's signature scrawling with blocky, stenciled letters reminiscent of Cecil Touchon, floating out of order as shapes to be seen, but not read.

"My art is a liberation from the poet's pressure of being specific with the use of words. In my painting I look for a freedom I don't have in poetry."

"Tangled Language" opens on Feb. 11 at Furnace - Art on Paper Archive in Falls Village, Conn. Van Doren will also read from her upcoming collection "Sibilance," and will be joined by Cornwall, Conn., author Roxana Robinson reading from the 2020 edition of "Georgia O'Keeffe: A Life." For more information go to www.furnace-artonpaperarchive.com

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Send arts calendar events to compass@lakevillejournal.com

Bard Professor's Newest Translation at Oblong

Frederick Hammond, Irma Brandeis Professor of Italian Culture Emeritus at Bard College, will read from his new English translation of "Sette e Mezzo" by Giuseppe Maggior, originally published in 1952, at Oblong Books in Rhinebeck, N.Y., on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. "Sette e Mezzo" or "Seven and A Half" has been compared to Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa's novel of Sicilian high society, "The

Leopard." Hammond's publications include an edition and translation of "Scarlatto Alessandro e Domenico: Due vite in una" by Roberto Pagano, and editing "Ambiente Barocco: Life and the Arts in the Baroque Palaces of Rome" published by Yale University Press for the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts. RSVP is required for this event. For more information go to www.oblongbooks.com

Winter Weekend Art Classes

Collette Hurst will lead three February classes in ink drawing and watercolor painting at The Cornwall Library in Cornwall, Conn. Classes are limited in size and are \$75 for the full package. Each class will meet on Saturday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 11, 18 and 25. For registration go to www.cornwalllibrary.org

Short Story Writing Workshop

The David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn., will host a fictional writing workshop, "Crafting The Short Story" with crime and mystery novelist Shelley Costa on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 4 p.m. Costa's work has been nominated for the Edgar Awards and the Agatha Awards, and has received an Honorable Mention for The Pushcart Prize. To register email dmmhuntlibrary@gmail.com

Berkshires Bulb Show

Berkshire Botanical Garden will present their annual Bulb Show at The Fitzpatrick Conservatory in Stockbridge, Mass., from Feb. 24 through March 10. The Bulb Show will feature thousands of bulbs in dozens of varieties, each one identified, including an evolving collection of traditional New England favorites such as narcissus, tulips and grape hyacinths together with hardy varieties new to the show. For more information go to www.berkshirebotanical.org

Illustrator Nora Krug at Norman Rockwell Museum

The Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass., will host an artist talk to unveil the opening of the new exhibit "Nora Krug: Belonging" on Saturday, March 18 at 4:30 p.m. Nora Krug is a German-American author and illustrator whose drawings and visual narratives have appeared in publications including The New York Times, The Guardian and Le Monde diplomatique. Her collaboration with historian Timothy Snyder, a graphic edition of "On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century" was named a Best Graphic Novel of 2021 by The New York Times. To RSVP go to www.nrm.org



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48 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY

Young Locals Board Game Nights

On the third Thursday of the month Kent Memorial Library in Kent, Conn., hosts Young Locals Board Game Night for attendees 21 to 30 years old. The next game night will be Thursday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. For more go to www.kentmemoriallibrary.org.

EDITORIAL

Still here, thanks to all our donor support

Since 2019, this newspaper has found its viability not only from advertising and sales of newspapers (on paper and online), but also in the extremely generous donations that have come in from our readers and supporters. So many have given so much, even before The Lakeville Journal Foundation attained non-profit status, to keep local journalism alive throughout the pandemic and its current reality now.

Please see the donor listing that is published in this edition of your newspaper. Those who support us come from all groups in the region, full and part-time residents, newcomers and people whose families have been here for generations, and people from every economic situation. The range of gift amounts is very wide, and some donors give one-time gifts, some give monthly to make their support last all year round. Either way, and no matter the amount, it all adds up to salvation for this local nonprofit community weekly newspaper group.

Knowing how much our work means to our communities gives all of us the impetus to continue it and seek out others in our communities who wish to take part in it as well. That has been a time consuming project, but one that is so worthwhile. If you have read any articles that particularly caught your attention over recent months, from new or long-time writers, please do let them know how their work affected you.

Also, make suggestions to reporters and editors for any stories you would like to see in The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News or Compass Arts. Our goal is always to inform our readers of what is happening in their communities, and surrounding towns, that will affect their lives, whether positively or negatively.

We are too well aware that without local journalism, there are many things happening in a region that can go unnoticed or only be observed through a lens of inaccuracy. We will try our absolute best to stay on top of all the local news and delve into it more deeply to help our readers understand their environment as well as possible.

Many, many thanks once again to all who supported these local publications during the current annual appeal campaign, which began October 15 when the donor list timing begins, and through the previous ones. Without you and your engagement and support, The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News, and all the additional publications we produce (Compass, TriCorner Real Estate, special sections and our online presence) would not be here.

Our unique area is one that makes it clear its residents want coverage of local news in their towns. These publications will continue to maintain that well into the future, with more staffing and reporting, due to your support.

PCU will work for all at Sharon Hospital

I am a clinical navigator at Sharon Hospital and a proud member of the Sharon community, writing to share my support of Sharon Hospital's proposed establishment of a Progressive Care Unit. I hope that this letter will help some of my friends and neighbors better understand the proposed plan and join me in believing this is the right direction for our local hospital. In my 30 years at the hospital, I have witnessed how healthcare delivery continues to evolve, and how the demands of hospitals, their facilities, and their staff continually change. The proposed plan to centralize critical care and medical-surgical services into a unified Progressive Care Unit will enable our leaders to meet these demands by assigning our staff and resources more efficiently, while providing continuity of care for our patients. The Progressive Care Unit will continue delivering critical care with our same talented team, in a new lo-

cation within the hospital, just up the stairs from where these services are offered today.

The transition to a Progressive Care Unit is designed to have minimal impact on the patient care currently provided while creating a more sustainable model that will serve Sharon Hospital well into the future. Care teams will continue providing the same level of care offered today. Centralizing critical care and medical-surgical services into a unified location is a more contemporary care model for our patients and our teams.

This transition is an integral component of our transformation plan to allow our hospital to remain a vibrant part of our community for years to come. I stand with many members of the Sharon Hospital staff who support this plan, and know it will serve our hospital, patients, and community.

Jim Hutchison
Norfolk

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Accepting financial support does not mean we endorse donors or their products, services or opinions.

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



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

The sun sets on another Winter day

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It took a community to find Dulce

I would like to express my deep gratitude to all those who helped search for our dog Dulce de Leche on a very cold January night.

When she arrived here in 2020, a rescue from Georgia, Dulce was timid and fearful of people, but with dogs she played with wild joy. One of her favorite playmates was Lisa Sheble's golden doodle, Posey.

Dulce disappeared from the Salisbury rail trail at around 4:30 on an icy Friday evening. I had just seen her racing over a rise where kids sometimes jump their bikes. She always comes when I call, but this time she didn't. The light was fading; the temperature dropping. Something was very wrong.

I phoned my husband, Charles Church; he was immediately on his way. I called Lisa Sheble and she managed to reach our vet in Millerton even though they were closing. They immediately posted Dulce's picture and our info on Facebook.

Meanwhile, a couple I

had met earlier on the trail, came along. When I told them Dulce was lost, they set off bushwhacking through the woods searching for prints and any sign of her. Dulce doesn't bark, and with her caramel and white fur she's very hard to see in winter woods.

I knew she was trapped somewhere. I couldn't stop nightmare images of coyote attacks or falling through thin ice or her collar caught on bushes.

I ran to Amy Lake's house where Dulce and I had stopped earlier. I thought Dulce might have gone back to see Amy's dachshund Sammy. To my great relief, Amy's daughter Nataly, a vet tech, opened the door.

By then it was dark. Nataly and I set out in different directions to search. Charles and I called and called and searched and searched. At around 9 p.m., we drove home to a sleepless night.

At first light, we went back to search. I was terrified of what we might find, or that we wouldn't find anything

and would never know what happened. Lisa soon arrived with Dulce's playmates Posey and Jolly.

I was on the phone with Jen Shumbris, a dog recovery volunteer, when I thought I heard Lisa call, "There she is!" I dropped the phone and ran. I saw a flash of movement about 100' uphill. Dulce! She was racing back and forth behind an 8' wire fence, trapped. I scrambled through the brush till I reached it. Finally, I found a gate. Oh the joy when she raced out! She was unharmed. She leapt into the car and we drove to Amy and Al's house where Nataly checked her over. Then we all watched Dulce and Sammy snuggling by the blazing wood stove.

Thank you Lisa, thank you Posey, thank you Nataly, Alex, Kathy, Beth, Lee, Amy, Al, Jen and everyone who came out to search or posted online. I am so grateful to you all and to this wonderful, caring community.

Anne Makepeace
Lakeville

New Salisbury sidewalks now and in the future

You may recall a recent letter to the editor that appeared in late November thanking the town for the newly-laid sidewalk at the west end of Main Street and commenting on the number of people enjoying the new path. Others have commented that the sidewalk goes nowhere. Ah! Perhaps we need the big picture: past, present and future.

Past — In 2014, the Town of Salisbury formed the Salisbury Pathways Committee to "investigate walking access within and among the village centers." In its first years the committee assessed the needs of the town, working with other town committees and the public, to prepare a list of priorities. A top priority was to connect Salisbury and Lakeville with an all-weather accessible sidewalk.

In 2016 the committee applied for and received a grant through the state's Community Connectivity Program to address the first step in meeting this goal: a sidewalk connecting Salisbury Central School to the Lakeville Hose Company, the defined emergency evacuation route for

the school's students. After working through the various stages of design, engineering and approvals, this project is currently out for bids. The sidewalk, which will be on the north side of route 44, will include a pedestrian bridge over Petee Brook and a lighted crosswalk at Brook Street, connecting the sidewalk to the fire department.

Present — Concurrent with this first project, the committee worked closely with the town to realize the stretch of sidewalk that was completed in October. The natural next step will be to connect these two walkways, providing a safe pedestrian path from Salisbury to Lakeville. The committee is actively researching funding for this next piece.

Our town is intent on improving pedestrian options for our citizens. An all-weather sidewalk connection between Salisbury and Lakeville will enhance our community's attractiveness and promote a closer community. Whether it is school students walking home, elderly citizens eager to exercise by walking,

thrifty households looking to save on gas or individuals concerned about the environment, all can benefit from and appreciate a safe pathway.

Future — Additional projects are in the works. Pedestrian options are planned for both route 41 north to Cobble Road, and route 44 west to Lions Head, connecting Sarum Village, Noble Horizons and Lions Head to the town center. These two routes present different challenges which will require creative solutions. In Lakeville, there is a need to provide a safe walkway for students and residents from the intersection of routes 112 and 41 at The Hotchkiss School to Lakeville center, as well as pedestrian access to busi-

nesses and the Town Grove from route 44 east.

In August 2022, an astute reader pointed out that in May 1901, "real sidewalks" were mentioned in an editorial titled "What All Would Like to See". One hundred years later, there is still work to be done. We are laying the foundation. More walking options in Salisbury and Lakeville will help our population stay healthy, enhance our community's cohesiveness and encourage all to enjoy our beautiful surroundings.

Chris Williams,
Pat Hackett, Jerry Stanton,
Natalia Smirnova,
Kathy Trahan
The Salisbury Pathways
Committee
Salisbury

More letters next page.

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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

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TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — February 1923

If you have not had or are not at present having one of the prevailing colds you are totally out of style. But don't get excited there is time enough yet for you to have a cold and be fashionable.

Mr. George Shontz has returned to his home in Sharon, Penn., where he has secured a position.

50 years ago — February 1973

A bill to compel regionalization of all school districts with fewer than 2000 students has been killed.

The Salisbury Bank & Trust Co. will move to its new building on the west side of Main Street in Lakeville the weekend of March 10.

25 years ago — February 1998

Beanie Babies have taken the country by storm, including the Northwest Corner. Eleven students in one fifth grade class at Salisbury Central School have a combined total of 193.

Ask Polly Fitting how long she has worked at the Douglas Library and why she has decided to retire and she will give the same answer to both — 34 years. "I think it's time I stopped working. I'm getting old and I've been here a long time."

These items were taken from The Lakeville Journal archives, keeping the original wording intact as possible.

Viewpoint

From Beirut to the Berkshires

I would've never believed that after years of living in Beirut, Lebanon, one of the most fanciful countries in the Middle East, which from my childhood unfortunately has been the battleground of religious warfare, civil wars and street gunfights, that I would somehow be transported to a magical place, somewhere in the southern skirts of the Berkshires, and settle down right in this beautiful town called Lakeville.

My journey, starting from the roads of Beirut to the breathtaking landscapes of the Berkshires, might seem like it was a magical tour. But in reality to reach my final destination I have had to travel through unknown paths, at times, bewildered and not sure where I would end up and not knowing if I would ever find my final destination and call it home.

There were moments of uncertainty and adventure. Lots of soul searching and struggle and phases of trial and error and at the end, it was pure luck! Now, I can't even describe my joy when instead of listening to the alarming sound of an approaching bomb I am hearing the innocent bark of the neighbor's dog, and when the blast of a building is replaced by the relaxing sounds of a wind chime coming from the

I AM WIDE AWAKE VAROUJAN FROUNDJIAN

backyard.

But I guess when you had a traumatic childhood where every minute of the day was consumed by a constant sense of fear, insecurity about what the next day would bring, total unpredictability about the future and ongoing street fights that always ended up with someone being shot to death, it is very hard to suddenly let go of all those deep-rooted feelings and emotions and walk around like Prince Charming in the fairy tale of Sleeping Beauty and expect life will be all roses and rainbows.

And of course the news from all around the globe is not helping me to enjoy my newly found relief from tragic acts taking place at this very moment. From the bombardments and killings of innocent people in Ukraine, to most recently the ongoing skirmishes between Israelis and Palestinians and right here in our own country when a man opens fire inside the State Ballroom Studio and kills 10 people on the Lunar New Year's Eve,

makes us accept a reality that is far from being safe and secure. Our days are filled with, simply said, bad news. Just imagine that there were 40 mass shootings so far in this year. It is almost unfathomable to think about how one can survive, go through everyday tasks and carry on normal conversation, enjoy nature and the wonderful landscapes, the lakes and the brooks we are surrounded by when so many tragic events are taking place right around the corner.

And this is when I feel that a whole lifetime of my journey from Beirut to the Berkshires was not a journey at all. It was just a long and endless walk going nowhere. And after miles and miles of traveling and crossing oceans and changing passports, I have as the saying goes, "spun my own wheels", ending up in the same place I have started.

Now, as I look around, and witness all the atrocities being committed here and all over the world, I come to the conclusion that the cliché is true: history repeats itself. And that we as humans are simply thrown into the center of a cyclone or heading to nowhere in particular other than causing harm and destruction to each other. Oh, by the way, speaking of history, pretty soon, depend-

ing on what state you live in, your history might be very much different from what we thought was our collective history.

This is when, as I was on one of my regular walks during warmer times on the rail trails of Lakeville, I thought that watching the trees and listening to the birds might provide the only relief I can hope for. And for sure it is much more pleasant than hearing the sounds of falling bombs, to hear the enchanting high-pitched peeps and full-throated croaks of the frogs from the neighboring ponds.

This is when a lady walking just a few feet away from me told me, "You know sir, the sounds that the frogs are making are calls for mating." Oh, mating. What's that? Mating. What a great idea. That might be something to consider. And that's when I thought that yes, one of the most important things I learned from moving to the Berkshires, is that yes, I should listen to the frogs more often, because, oh those silly frogs, they make lots of noise, but they do have all the answers and they do know how to live.

Varoujan Froundjian is a digital artist and writer. He can be reached at: varlink3050@gmail.com.



Sharon Hospital board supports the PCU

We are members of Sharon Hospital's Board of Directors. We serve on our hospital's community Board because as residents of this region, we understand the importance of Sharon Hospital to the communities it serves. We are also patients, and some of us are current or former medical and clinical staff members. We write today in firm support of the proposed establishment of a Progressive Care Unit (PCU) at Sharon Hospital.

It is important to understand that this plan is not reflective of a major revision to the care currently offered at Sharon Hospital; instead, it is mainly a change in name and location to reflect the level of care that the hospital currently provides. For example, we all find comfort in knowing that the hospital has resources like ventilators and cardiac monitoring equipment. We will still have access to these resources in a PCU, with the key difference being that we will receive this care upstairs from where it is currently, in a single unit as opposed to two separate units.

Our community should continue to come to Sharon Hospital for all care needs. Sharon Hospital's Emergency Department is open 24/7, and will continue to serve as the community's first stop for care. Sharon Hospital's skilled staff members will continue to accept, treat, and triage all patients just as they do today, determining whether a patient is best served by remaining at Sharon Hospital or by being transferred for more intense inpatient care.

For us as patients, the impact of the transition to a PCU will be limited, but for the trusted caregivers working at the hospital, the centralization will allow increased flexibility and more supportive resources. When planning for the future of Sharon Hospital, there were many discussions about the need to adopt a more contemporary and efficient model for inpatient care. Our Board and the hospital's

leadership team agreed that engaging the staff who work in the hospital every day would be crucial to ensuring the plan was right for both patients and staff.

The proposed PCU is a result of this work, informed by input from a group of staff and hospitalists (the physicians who oversee inpatient care across the hospital). This team feels strongly that establishing a PCU is the best way for the hospital to continue providing high-quality care to our community, with added efficiency. We trust leadership and these caregivers, as they are the most familiar with the process already used to decide whether a patient is best served by remaining at Sharon Hospital or moving elsewhere. This successful process will continue to be used if the CON is approved. If patients are transferred, they will return home to receive follow-up care locally once they are discharged, just as they are today.

This centralization of resources will allow Sharon Hospital to embrace a more sustainable model to serve our community into the future. We urge our neighbors to join us in asking the Connecticut Office of Health Strategy to approve this application.

- Rick Cantele**, Board Chairman, Salisbury
- John Charde, MD**, Lakeville
- Margaret Coughlan, MD**, Millbrook
- Randall Dwenger, MD**, Lakeville
- Pari Forood**, Lakeville
- Hugh Hill**, Kent
- Joel Jones**, Falls Village
- Mehrdad Noorani**, Sharon
- Kathryn Palmer-House**, Dover Plains
- James Quella**, Sharon
- Ken Schechter**, Salisbury
- Mimi Tannen**, Millbrook

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who's on first and where the heck are we?

Reporter Question: "Is it bigger than a breadbox?"

Pentagon Spokesman: "That's classified."

Question: "Is the balloon spying on our nuclear facilities?"

Answer: "That's classified."

Question: "Can you tell us where it presently is?"

Answer: "Where's Waldo..?"

I tell ya ... coming on the heels of our top elected leaders [of both parties] being found to be incapable of returning their overdue library books [top secret classified government documents], with this new international aerial spying kerfuffle and Pentagon press briefing, our country seems to be going through an extended period of intra-agency Abbott and

Costellos' "Who's on First?"

It seems that really important things like top secret classified government documents and spy balloons from across the largest ocean on the planet keep popping up in unexpected places, and we the voting public, are left to figure things out from mere scraps [or heaven forbid - social media].

Mystery and secrecy are

neck-'n-neck and leading this race by a mile — in high-end residences searched, electro-magnetic wavelengths gathered and nautical measurements taken, leaving an ill informed voting public as the stumble-bum also-ran. Anyone into conspiracy theories as their meat and potatoes of applied citizenship is feasting.

I suggest that our world superpower government take a hint from the best storyteller of the human condition ever, William Shakespeare, and hold a mirror up to nature — their nature. Or in this latest case, at least — a mirror ball-balloon. This, so we can all go on to have another conspiracy ball ourselves — at the next election — "PART-AY!"

There was a wonderful TV show I saw way back in my childhood. It was a send up of the omnipresent heman westerns on TV at the time. It was called 'F-Troop' with four fine lead comic actors — Ken Berry, Forrest Tucker, Larry Storch and Frank de Cova.

It centered around a wilderness out-posting of a group of U.S. Cavalry. There was a Native American tribe nearby that was also in on the comic send up. They acquired their tribal name from becoming totally lost in the wilderness and out of sheer exhaustion finally decided that their tribal name should reflect their travails — "Where the heck are we?" They were thenceforth known as the 'Hekawi'.

At the risk of straying, with my short trip down memory lane, from the straight and narrow path to the promised land of the fully woke, I join with my fictional Native American brothers and sisters in lamenting our present fate "Where the heck are we?"

Michael Moschen
Cornwall Bridge

More letters previous page.

Superbowl party

I wish that I loved football, I swear to God I do;

I wouldn't have to feign this Colgate smile if it weren't true!

Oh, but I'd give anything; that pressure so intense, those bodies lunging down the field; I wish it all made sense.

Sweat glistening on their tattooed arms, sun glinting off their cleats, the fans are all hysterical and leaping from their seats.

Those golden girls with silken thighs, cavorting on the side, have long since lost their voices but their pom poms shake with pride.

Girls here, at home, shake golden hair, and alpha guys galore, with frothy ale in frosty cans, hope — later — they will score.

Out come the bowls and baskets, with

the chicken wings and chips; arteries start hardening, at the thought of blue cheese dips.

Old referees, like zebras, are scrambling to keep pace, I watch one apoplectic coach turn purple in the face.

Someone tries to tell me what they mean by a "conversion," (I guess it's not the time I should confess to my aversion.)

The crowds have all ceased breathing, all glancing at the score, as half the fans, up in the stands, prepare for that last roar.

The team's exchanging fist bumps with the guy who always kicks; then, yes — the ball soars over — that cross bar on two sticks!!

Betsy Sprague

Salisbury



Anoush Talks by Anoush Froundjian

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Being a part of last week's Summit on Housing and Conservation sponsored by the Connecticut Land Conservation Council was excellent. There were representatives from most of the towns in NW CT on both the land trust and affordable housing side of the issue. The central point throughout the day was that both parties have a common interest on how to ensure better futures for their communities. And the key to that future begins with land trusts and housing groups working collaboratively together to provide both additional conserved lands and adequate housing for their towns. For more information, here is a link that summarizes the Summit and that offers more resources: ctconservation.org/resources/resources-from-the-summit-on-housing-and-conservation.



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Sports

Taft edges past Kent in nail-biter

By Riley Klein

KENT — During their second matchup in just two weeks, the Taft School Rhinos narrowly defeated the Kent School Lions with a 52-48 victory on Wednesday, Feb. 1., in front of a packed house.

Kent had their work cut out for them with starter Phoena Dadson out of the

game due to illness. Early on, Kent's senior guard Charlotte Miller caught fire as she scored 12 of the Lions' 18 points in the opening quarter.

When Taft sent the double team to Miller, senior forward Ruby Santos picked up the mantle and closed out the first half with eight points for Kent. The harmonious duo ran a silky-smooth give-and-

go and combined for 22 in the first half.

With a 31-23 lead to start the second half, the Lions relaxed their pace and slowed down the game. Taft seized the opportunity by capitalizing on a few key turnovers and cutting Kent's lead to five when they entered the final quarter.

As the Rhinos inched closer, Kent Coach Jason

Coulombe amped up the tempo and applied full court press in the fourth.

"Get up there! Pressure!" Coulombe shouted from the sideline. "Stay with 'em!"

Taft navigated around the swarming Lions and managed to keep finding good looks up-court, depleting Kent's buffer in the process. Taft took the lead with three minutes remaining in the game.

Fans roared as the game turned into a back-and-forth rally and both sides nailed crucial baskets with time ticking away.

Down by three with about 30 seconds to go, Miller put up a long 3-pointer that bounced high off the back of the rim and fell into the hands of Taft. This proved to be Kent's last gasp.

The once high-octane contest crawled to conclusion with both sides trading intentional fouls in the final seconds. Taft closed out the game on the free throw line, clutching onto a four-point lead when time expired.

The result put Kent's season record at 13-3 while Taft advanced to 10-5. A third matchup between these two teams may loom ahead as the postseason approaches and both squads vie for a playoff spot in the Founders League.

The Lions will be back on the Kent court Wednesday, Feb. 15 when they host Westminster School. Tip-off at 4:30 p.m.



PHOTOS BY TOM BROWN



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Kent guard Charlotte Miller ran the Lions' offense and led her team in scoring during the game against Taft School on Feb. 1.

Gilbert girls defeat Housy 45-33

Above, Housatonic sophomore forward Khyra McClennon fought for a loose ball during an HVRHS loss to Gilbert on Friday, Feb. 3.

Right, Mountaineer junior center Anne Moran went in for a layup vs. Gilbert. Housatonic lost the home game 45-33. After the game, Housy's record stood at 5-10 while Gilbert climbed to 9-7 with only a few regular season games remaining on the schedule.



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With thanks to those who serve.

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