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The Lakeville Journal

TriCornerNews.com

14 PAGES IN 2 SECTIONS VOLUME 125 NUMBER 30

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THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022 \$2.00

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

Doctors in the region who are associated with Sharon Hospital have expressed outrage at what they consider to be dishonesty on the part of Nuvance.

State begins investigation of Nuvance; doctors speak out

By Cynthia Hochswender

SHARON — The Connecticut Office of Health Strategy (OHS) has begun a new investigation into Sharon Hospital's parent company, Nuvance.

An earlier investigation was started last October. The new in-

vestigation was launched on Feb. 2 and cites "discrepancies between the conditions described in the 4/19/21 Settlement Agreement and Sharon Hospital's statements and actions as well as comments from members of the community," according to Tina Hyde, Manager of External Affairs for OHS, in response to a query from The Lakeville Journal.

The state has sent a list of 33 questions to Nuvance, with many of them focusing on the nonprofit hospital group's efforts to recruit new staff for the labor and delivery unit.

In response to a query about the investigation, Dr. Mark Hirko, president of Sharon Hospital, sent the following statement: "The Office of Health Strategy (OHS) recently notified Nuvance Health that it is investigating Sharon Hospital's compliance with the 2019 settlement agreement regarding the affiliation of Western Connecticut Health Network, Inc. and Health Quest Systems, Inc.

"We appreciate OHS's close attention to these matters and are

See NUVANCE, Page A4



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Matthew Kreta of Sharon, when he's not pursuing his musical career, is covering stories for The Lakeville Journal.

Kreta joins Journal as freelancer

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — Matthew Kreta is working at the Lakeville Journal as a freelance reporter.

Kreta, 24, a native of Sharon, graduated in 2020 from the College of St. Rose in Albany with a B.A. in music, concentrating on vocal performance. He sings tenor with Albany Pro Musica.

Kreta said one of his goals is to be a professional singer. But he has other interests, including video game design and acting.

Kreta's father John is priest-in-charge at All Saints of America Orthodox Church in Salisbury. His mother Evelyn is a former attorney. He has a sister and a brother.

Kreta is covering a variety of different subjects for the Journal.



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Warm days, winter sports

PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN (ABOVE) AND RANDY O'ROURKE (RIGHT)

Winter sports were on display Sunday, Feb. 27 with cross-country skiing action in Cornwall; athletes participating in the Polar Bear Run around Lake Waramaug donned warm weather gear.



Region One drops masks

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — As of Tuesday, March 1, masks and/or face coverings were no longer required for students and staff in Region One schools.

The announcement from Region One Superintendent Lisa Carter came on Thursday, Feb. 24.

Carter wrote in an email: "While continuing to be recommended, face masks/coverings will no longer be required while students and staff are in school and/or participating in athletic and/or other extracurricular activities."

Carter noted that "staff will not be monitoring students who are sent to school with masks. Students and parents/caregivers will be responsible for their own choices."

This includes masks on school buses as well. On Feb. 25 the Centers for Disease Control announced that it will no longer require the wearing of masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, leaving the decision up to school districts.

There are other changes in policy. "Individual case investigation and contact tracing will be discontinued as the focus on virus man-

agement shifts to clusters of cases and less on individual investigation of positive cases."

And "social distancing will not be required; however, where possible, all Region One schools will continue to maintain their classrooms

See MASKS, Page A8

Learn about Putin to understand Ukraine

By John Coston

SALISBURY — Keith Moon, a teacher of Russian, English and history at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, will conduct this year's Noble Horizons series of eight weekly talks on Russian leader Vladimir Putin, the president of Russia who last month shocked the world with his invasion of Ukraine.

This series starts on Wednesday, March 23, at 2 p.m. and is free and open to the public. It will guide readers through an examination of Putin, beginning with the book "The New Tsar: The Rise and Reign of Vladimir Putin," by former New York Times Moscow Bureau Chief Steve Myers.

"Putin remains the man of the hour," Moon said in an interview last week. He noted that he began the Noble Horizon series in 2012

See TRASH, Page A4

See PUTIN, Page A4

Connecticut's Waste Crisis:

Where Do We Go From Here?

NEWS ANALYSIS TERRY COWGILL

landfills or incinerators similar to MIRA's crippled plant in Hartford.

But before answering that question, it's worth asking whether the Lamont administration's refusal to consider the rebuilding of the plant is a wise move. It's worth considering the cost of spending the \$330 million to upgrade the plant versus the cost of trucking all that waste out-of-state over that same period of time.

As yours truly observed in an op-ed last year for CTNewsJunkie, shortly after the Lamont administration announced it was washing its hands of MIRA's woes, "some of the costs associated with the re-

building of the MIRA plant could be bonded out over 30 years, with the remainder passed on to member towns."

There are obvious environmental costs in sending our trash out-of-state to sit in landfills, where it produces methane, as opposed to burning it here and generating electricity. Furthermore, as Thomas Swarr, an ad-hoc member of the MIRA board, wrote in The Hartford Courant, the garbage going to the out-of-state landfills will surely produce methane leaking from containment systems.

Methane, a notorious greenhouse gas, adds 34 times the impact of CO2 emissions to global warming, without the benefit of generating enough electricity to power 150,000 homes, as MIRA's

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In The Journal this week

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Three-day forecast

Friday.....Cloudy, high 32°/low 9°
 Saturday.....Snow, 38°/18°
 Sunday.....Rain, 43°/30°

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Apply for scholarships in the healthcare field

The Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association now has two new scholarships for healthcare professionals, managed by the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation.

The SVNA Educational Enrichment Program Scholarship supports current healthcare professionals seeking to expand their knowledge and capability within health care (with the exception of pre-med). Three \$10,000 scholarships will be awarded annually. These scholarships are renewable for up to four years. Recipients must currently be working in health care and demonstrate financial need. The application deadline is April 1.

The SVNA EMT/EMR Scholarship is an educational assistance program designed to provide scholarships for Emer-

gency Medical Technician, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, Emergency Medical Response certifications, as well as other employment related health-care certifications, up to \$1,000 each. This program is designed to support individuals beginning or elevating their careers in health care. The EMT/EMR scholarship is a rolling open invitation with no close date.

Eligibility for these scholarships is restricted to individuals who reside in (or who is a dependent of someone who resides in) the towns of: Canaan/Falls Village, Cornwall, Goshen, Kent, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon and Warren.

For more information, and to apply, go to www.northwestct.org/scholarship-applications.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC AUCTION

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, a public auction consisting of miscellaneous personal property, furniture and household goods will be held at Stor-It-All, Inc., 325 Ashley Falls Rd and 13 Clayton Rd, Canaan, CT 06018 at 1:00 PM on Friday, March 25, 2022. Stor-It-All, Inc. reserves the right to cancel a sale at any time, for any reason.

Since due notice has been given to the owners and all parties known to claim an interest therein, you are each notified your personal property will be sold unless all storage and related charges are paid in full.

13 Clayton Rd:
 2 - Scott A. Von-Richthofen
 5 - Scott A. Von-Richthofen
 78-Benjamin T. Salamone
 99 - Eric C. Hodge aka Eric Carroll Hodge
 191- Scott A. Von-Richthofen
 325 Ashley Falls Rd:
 583 - Caroline Hallas
 Items to be sold as is, no warranty is expressed or implied. Items to be more specifically described at time of sale. Terms of payment: CASH or CERTIFIED CHECK.

Stor-It-All, Inc. P.O. Box 1105, Canaan, CT 06018.
 03-03-22
 03-10-22

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application #2022-0160 by Cassidy & Teti for a change of use to hotel and a use rendering a lot more than 30% impervious in the Aquifer Protection Overlay District at 9 Academy Street, Salisbury, Map 54, Lot 74 per Sections 205.2 and 403.4.c of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The hearing will be held on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 5:45 PM. There is no physical

location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The application, agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at www.salisburyct.us. Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to aconroy@salisburyct.us. Paper copies may be reviewed Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
 Martin Whalen, Secretary
 02-24-22
 03-03-22

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application #2022-0163 by Lime Rock Park II, LLC for land filling/grading/excavating in the Flood Plain Overlay District at 497 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville, Map 4, Lot 16 per Section 401 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The hearing will be held on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 5:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The application, agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at www.salisburyct.us. Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to aconroy@salisburyct.us. Paper copies may be reviewed Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
 Martin Whalen, Secretary
 02-24-22
 03-03-22

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town

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.

Swerved to avoid deer

On Feb. 21 at approximately 5:30 p.m. on Lime Rock Road in Salisbury a 2019 Ford Ranger driven by Joseph Trotta, 78, of Sharon swerved off the road and struck a fence, damaging the property of Avela Conlogue. Trotta was avoiding a deer in the road. He was issued a written warning for failure

to maintain the proper lane.

Intersection collision

On Feb. 22 at approximately 3 p.m. at the intersection of Route 126 and Route 7 in Falls Village a 2021 Hyundai Tucson driven by Susan Mildred Watson, 58, of Terryville, Conn., was struck by a 2011 Peterbilt 386 truck driven by Paul Bablington, 33, of Mount Vernon, N.Y.

The Hyundai had driven through a stop sign at the intersection. Bablington was uninjured and the truck was able to be driven from the scene, but the Hyundai had to be towed and Watson was transported to Sharon Hos-

pital. Watson was issued a written warning for failing to obey a stop sign.

Car struck in LaBonne's parking lot

On Feb. 24 at approximately 6:15 p.m. on Academy Street in Salisbury a 2006 Toyota Highlander driven by Melissa Jack, 54, of Salisbury was parking in the lot at LaBonne's Market and struck a 2018 Honda CRV driven by Linda Sproule, 74, of New York, N.Y. Jack was issued a verbal warning for failure to drive at a reasonable distance apart.

Disorderly conduct

On Feb. 24 Abbiegail Sierra Rosier, 26, of North Canaan was served a warrant and charged with disorderly conduct. She was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on that same

day.

DUI

On Feb. 26 at approximately 3:30 p.m. Troop B responded to a report of a single car accident on Route 7 in North Canaan. The driver, Derek Westfall, 41, of Warren, Conn., failed a standardized field sobriety test. He was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on March 11.

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 cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com.

Correction

In a news analysis on page A1 in the Feb. 24 Lakeville Journal, "Why we're shipping our trash elsewhere," it was reported that the Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station's "recyclables were turned over to a company that hauled them away." In fact, such has not been the case for years. The station uses its own trucks to take trash and recycling to MIRA's regional transfer station site in Torrington.

Little League registration open

NORTH CANAAN — Registration for the Northwest Connecticut Steve Blass Little League is open to boys and girls 4 to 15 years old from North Canaan, Falls Village, Salisbury, Sharon, Cornwall, Kent and Norfolk.

Go to <https://northwest-ct-steve-blass-little-league.sports-signup.com/site/> to register. Registration ends Thursday, March 17.

Register now for kindergarten

SALISBURY — Salisbury Central School kindergarten pre-registration for the 2022-23 year is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, and Wednesday, April 6.

All children born during the calendar year 2017 should register. Call Pat in the school office at 860-435-9871 to schedule an appointment.

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

Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.

Don't Miss This Week's Special Inserts! Sales and more!

Check them out inside.

• AARP

Town rallies to help fire victims

By Patrick L. Sullivan

Canaan.

NORTH CANAAN — A house fire at 121 Lower Road in North Canaan Thursday night, Feb. 24, resulted in no injuries.

The home was severely damaged on one side, Canaan Fire Company Chief Brian Allyn said in a phone interview Saturday, Feb. 26.

Allyn said the cause of the blaze is under investigation.

Allyn said the North Canaan, Falls Village and Sheffield fire departments responded, and the Lakeville Hose Company provided stand-by service for North

The homeowners, Shawn and Melinda Mullen (who have two small children), were the beneficiaries of donations of clothing and other necessities, organized by neighbors and promoted on social media.

A GoFundMe fundraiser had netted \$3,365 as of Sunday morning, Feb. 27. To donate go to www.gofundme.com and type "Shawn and Melinda" in the search box.

Gift cards may be dropped off at Great Falls Brewing Company at 1 Railroad St. in North Canaan.

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The State of Connecticut opens an investigation into Nuvance's action regarding the closure of the ICU.

In a letter dated 3 February 2022 from the Office of Health Strategies (OHS) Deputy Director, Kimberly Martone, to Nuvance Health VP Planning, Sally Herlihy, regarding Sharon Hospital's Compliance with 18-32238-CON, Ms Martone concludes:

"Given the apparent inconsistency in the Hospital's actions and statements concerning its compliance with the Settlement, OHS is hereby initiating an investigation into this matter to gather and review additional information relevant to assess the Hospital's compliance with applicable statute and the Settlement."

How will our community hospital board respond?

The Committee in support of a full service low volume Hospital

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Our Towns

Coltrane, Debussy and an original composition at student recital

By Matthew Kreta

SALISBURY — The Student Open Recital returned to the Salisbury Congregational Church Sunday, Feb. 27, after missing last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The recital included students between the ages of 8 and 18, as well as the Salisbury School's classical and jazz ensembles.

The concert started off with a strong opening by young pianist James Leonard Byrne, who played "Great Smoky Mountains" by David Carr Glover.

Pianist Bella Fisher followed with "The Farewell" by Johann Friedrich Franz Burgmüller. Callista An then performed a cello piece, "Bouree" by W.H. Squire.

Lucas Liu Wang performed a classic in the pianist's repertoire, "Piano Sonata No. 16 in C Major, K. 545 Allegro" by Mozart.

Jayden Lee played his own original composition, but surprised the audience by switching his intended "Prelude" with a waltz.

Lee made excellent use of tremolo, key changes and tempo changes throughout the piece to keep the audience engaged throughout. "I feel like the waltz was a better



PHOTO BY MATTHEW KRETA

The Salisbury School jazz group closed the Open Recital at the Salisbury Congregational Church Sunday, Feb. 27, with songs by John Coltrane and Miles Davis.

example of what I wanted to play," Lee, age 13, said after the concert.

The Salisbury Classical Music Ensemble dedicated their performance to the former leader of the group, performing "3/8 Dolce" and "4/4 Allegro" by G.P. Telemann.

Soren Peacock gave a beautiful rendition of Debussy's "Clair de Lune," another pianist's staple.

Lucca Montondeaux Pea-

cock gave a cool and steady performance of "Tres Piezas para Guitarra" by Bartolomé Calatayud on the guitar.

The concert shifted into a focus on jazz starting with Julian Schwartz, who played renditions of "When you Wish Upon a Star" and "It's Almost Like Being in Love."

The concert ended with the Salisbury School Jazz Ensemble, performing "Equinox" by John Coltrane and

"81" by Miles Davis. Each member of the ensemble got a chance to shine, as the trumpets (Niko Valcin and Konrad Heinrich) traded solo lines off each other. The bassist, Latham Billingsley, kept steady and interesting basslines as the drummer, Noah Frankel, displayed excellent syncopation and rhythm. The band's director, Peter McEachern, joined the band on the piano.

Selectmen consider visits from BETTY, the mobile care van

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — An option for providing primary health care to area residents was heard by the Board of Selectmen at their regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 15. If approved, a mobile health-care van could visit weekly to offer services in one or two locations in town.

Representing Community Health and Wellness of Torrington, CEO Joanne Borduas outlined the federally supported program, presently located in facilities in Torrington, Winsted and soon in North Canaan. In conjunction with the program, a mobile van with the acronym "BETTY" (Bringing Exceptional Treatment To You) is prepared to visit Northwest Corner towns.

The presentation was arranged by Selectwoman Janet Carlson, who had learned of the program and wanted to explore its potential to serve Cornwall.

The focus of the program is to serve underserved populations, Borduas explained, offering primary care, dental

care and prescription services, with licensing in process for mental health care.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway noted that 30 years have passed since there has been a doctor's office in town. He asked whether the concept is a walk-in clinic on wheels.

Borduas explained that it is consistent with a walk-up service. "We are not an emergency service," she added.

Discussion envisioned a partial day when BETTY would be parked in West Cornwall and then perhaps move to Kugeman Village in Cornwall Bridge/Warren, where the van could also offer convenient access for residents of Kent who are presently lacking a primary care option.

Ridgway commented that one after-effect of the COVID-19 pandemic is that many residents have deferred their health care.

Speaking of COVID-19, Borduas said that her organization has received a supply of home test kits and that the van could also offer vaccinations.

Real estate raises taxable Grand List in Cornwall

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — The Board of Selectmen submitted the proposed municipal 2022-23 Cornwall budget to the Board of Finance at a meeting on Thursday, Feb. 17.

Property revaluation is proceeding this year, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reported, adding that there has been a 15% growth in the Grand List over the past five years. The town's Grand List represents the total value of taxable property.

State aid to municipalities is expected to remain steady, Ridgway said, noting that 5% of the town's budget is supported by those state funds.

"Ours is one of the lowest annual budgets in the state," Ridgway added.

As proposed, the selectmen's budget shows a total expenditure of \$2,278,920, an increase of \$113,934 over the current year, or 5.26%. However, reductions are anticipated in the debt service and capital expenditures to reduce the anticipated amount of increase to \$38,356.

Finance board Chair Joseph Pryor discussed the Grand List, asking whether the increase is due to new construction, home renova-

tions or the active real estate market of the past two years.

Treasurer Richard Bramley clarified that the Grand List is based more on "value" of the home, not the purchase price. While the purchase price can be involved, the tax assessor uses her knowledge of properties to assess the ultimate taxable value.

Commenting that other area towns are facing a need to provide support for ambulance services, Ridgway said that Cornwall is one of the few towns to offer volunteer ambulance service at no cost to users.

"We probably spend the least amount for winter road maintenance because we use our own sand," Ridgway added. Speaking of the 60 miles of town roads, Ridgway reported that the town sweeps up the road sand each year for reuse the following winter, finding that the town's use

of sand is safer for motorists.

Ridgway reported that Optimum will wire the town with cable and offer each home access to that connection.

"We do have to keep our town current; we don't want to be a black hole in the internet," Ridgway said.

On the subject of an anticipated big increase in the cost per ton of getting rid of solid waste from town residents, Ridgway reported that local interest in composting of food scraps to reduce tonnage may be costlier than supposed.

Collection of food scraps is estimated to cost five times more per ton than the cost of disposal as part of the regular trash tonnage, the first selectman said.

A better alternative may be to seek to reduce the volume of waste in general, Ridgway said.

Woman's Club raffles quilt

SHARON — Raffle tickets are currently on sale for a handmade quilt made by a Sharon Woman's Club member. The 60-by-60-inch quilt is on display at Town Hall in Sharon. Tickets can be purchased for \$5 each. The drawing will be in May at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Individuals do not need to be present as long as there is a name and phone number on the ticket. Tickets can also be purchased by calling Kathy Fricker at 860-364-9890. Contributions are always welcomed.

The basics of Medicare, over Zoom on March 22

KENT — The Kent Memorial Library will offer a free Zoom workshop on enrolling in Medicare on Tuesday, March 22, from 6 to 8 p.m.

You will learn about eligibility, how and when to enroll, when you can make changes, and the insurance options available to you; review and compare what services are covered/not covered under Medicare Parts

A, B, C, and D; detail the costs associated with medical and drug insurance; explore and evaluate Original Medicare, Medicare Supplement Insurance, Prescription Drug Plans, and Medicare Advantage Plans.

Residents of all area towns can sign up. You must register in advance to receive a link to the webinar. Go to www.kentmemoriallibrary.org for more information.

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NUVANCE

Continued from Page A1

confident that OHS will find no wrongdoing in its investigation. The independent monitor approved by OHS and retained by Nuvance Health to assess our compliance twice yearly continues to report that we are fully compliant with the settlement agreement, with the most recent positive assessment reported in December 2021.

"Sharon Hospital's plans to phase out Labor & Delivery services and to consolidate our ICU services into a new, modernized Progressive Care Unit continue in compliance with OHS requirements. We remain committed to our Sharon Hospital transformation plan, which will ensure Sharon Hospital's long-term stability and allow us to continue to best meet the needs of our community into the future."

Doctors say they see dishonesty

Nuvance, which was still known as Health Quest at the time, promised the state in 2018 that it would keep the labor and delivery unit at Sharon open for five years.

Without waiting for the state to approve the plan, Nuvance has already announced that it will close maternity in Sharon this year.

Doctors at Sharon OB/GYN say that Nuvance has sent letters to their pregnant patients telling them they will have to deliver their babies at another hospital and that Sharon's unit will close in spring.

Doctors in the region who are associated with Sharon Hospital have expressed outrage at what they consider to be dishonesty on the part of Nuvance, and efforts to actively make it difficult for doctors and staff to care for patients.

Last October, members of the regional medical community voted 25 to 1 to oppose Nuvance's plan to close labor and maternity; to close the intensive care unit; and to limit surgery to daytime hours.

The doctors then sent a letter to the state's OHS in December with a list of concerns about "Nuvance's response, dated Nov. 22, 2021, to your questions, dated Oct 29, 2021, about possible non-compliance with the CON of Nov. 2, 2018.

"We believe that many of Nuvance's responses are misleading or inaccurate."

At that time, most of the doctors did not want to be interviewed on the record about their concerns.

Last week, by contrast, several doctors asked to be interviewed and to be allowed to share their concerns.

It's not possible to convey everything that was said in three interviews (one with two physicians in person, two with two physicians by phone) with this reporter, but there is a general sense among the doctors that Nuvance is not living up to its promises to serve the community; that the company is rushing ahead to close sections of the hospital without waiting for the state's permission to do so; that if Nuvance is allowed to go ahead with its stated intentions the community will suffer badly; and that a solution must be found.

Labor, maternity and OB-GYN

One of the first to comment about his concerns was Dr. Howard Mortman.

Mortman has been with Sharon OB/GYN Associates since 1991. He and his family live in Sharon, and he is passionate about the need for Sharon Hospital to maintain its maternity unit to protect the safety of mothers and children in the Tri-state region.

Mortman particularly objects to Nuvance's claim that

it's unsafe to deliver babies at Sharon Hospital because the staff is small at Sharon OB/GYN. Mortman points to the many babies delivered safely through the years here.

Nuvance commissioned a study last spring by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Mortman believes they were hoping the study would support their claim of unsafe conditions.

"That blew up in their faces," Mortman said. "ACOG gave us a perfect chart review, which is very rare. And they said we provide a vital service to this community, that Nuvance should do everything in its power to support us, that we are a gem."

Mortman also says that Nuvance is talking about the closing of the labor and delivery unit as a done deal. In fact, he said, the state's OHS has to give Nuvance permission to do so — and that permission has not been given yet.

Nuvance first tried to close labor and delivery three and a half years ago. There was an enormous public outcry in opposition to the plan. At that time the company wanted to take on Danbury Hospital as well, and Mortman believes that OHS told Nuvance they would not be given permission to buy Danbury unless they kept maternity in Sharon open.

Labor and maternity remained, but Nuvance has continued to say it will be closed. Mortman said this has led to maternity nurses leaving to seek more stable employment elsewhere; he also said that "within the last year, Nuvance has tried to recruit our most vital labor and delivery nurse — our nurse manager — away from Sharon Hospital to Danbury Hospital."

Delivery rate remains stable at Sharon

Nuvance's stated plan to close maternity has not discouraged mothers from planning to give birth in Sharon. Mortman said that three and a half years ago, when the first announcement was made that maternity would close, deliveries dropped to 180. But in the year following, it rose to 210 and has remained there.

"Our numbers are stable even though in COVID there are fewer babies being born," Mortman said. Nuvance's own dashboard of statistics shows that Sharon Hospital has the highest scores for safety and patient satisfaction among the seven Nuvance hospitals, he said.

"And that's with no public support from the company for our unit."

Recruitment of high-quality doctors

Nuvance has also said that new doctors can't be recruited for labor and delivery, making it unsafe to deliver babies in Sharon. But Mortman points to the hiring this year of Dr. William Schweizer, who comes to Sharon with decades of experience at and training from New York University.

"He's a superstar, and we were able to recruit him even

though Nuvance is saying they're going to close maternity," Mortman said. "We have a rotation of five OB-GYN doctors; that is an abundance of providers."

However, he said, it will in fact become unsafe to deliver babies in Sharon if the maternity unit is closed.

At the moment, Nuvance is training the emergency department doctors in how to deliver babies in situations where a mother can't be transported in time to Nuvance hospitals in Danbury or Poughkeepsie.

Pediatric and obstetric emergencies

Mortman's decades of experience as an obstetrician have taught him that any delivery can suddenly take a bad turn in any number of unexpected ways.

"ER doctors are not qualified to be the last person available to care for obstetrics and for children," he said. "It will put children at risk, mothers at risk, doctors at risk and the hospital at risk."

An important partner in every birth is the pediatrician. Edward Kavle is one of three physician owners at Northwest Hills Pediatrics, which has offices in Torrington, Winsted, Avon — and at Sharon Hospital, although the group has no ties to Nuvance.

The group also has a number of RNs and APRNs to assist in care.

"Our only affiliation with Nuvance," Kavle said, "is they employ us independently to cover the labor and delivery unit. Dr. Jason Perkel and I cover the unit usually four out of seven days and two weeks out of each month. The other doctors who cover are Amy Tocco and Suzanne LeFebvre."

Maternity is the gateway department

Kavle has multiple concerns about Nuvance's plan to close labor and delivery, ranging from patient care to a more global concern about the community.

"At every other hospital I work with, there is an understanding that maternity is the entrance into primary care for the community," he said. "When you lose that, the next thing you lose is primary care and then you lose specialty care and the medical options for patients become smaller and smaller."

Kavle noted that primary care options in the region are already severely limited, and there have been no improvements despite Nuvance's promise that they would work hard to recruit new doctors. He agrees with Dr. Mortman that Nuvance in fact seems to be trying to discourage doctors and nurses from remaining and working in Sharon.

"I hear from the primary care doctors who work for Nuvance that they are unhappy with their contracts and their low pay and that they are unhappy that they are only allowed to refer their patients to Nuvance doctors. Nuvance may say they want to help but in reality, people aren't being

recruited."

Within their own practice, Kavle said Nuvance has been unprofessional in the way it handles financial matters. It took several months to renew the practice's contract with Sharon Hospital.

"To get our contract renewed took five months and two or three month-long legal extensions of the previous contract," Kavle said. "I remember calling the administrator on call on a Wednesday night and telling them I could not work after midnight on the final day of the termination of the contract extension. That was what it took to get the contract done."

Nuvance also delays making its payments, Kavle said.

"We are paid monthly by Nuvance. During the past few years while we have covered the unit it usually takes Dr. Perkel multiple contacts with them for us to get paid every month."

Several doctors have also reported small roadblocks thrown into the path of them getting their work done, things like supplies and cleaning of facilities.

Like Mortman, Kavle said he has seen nurses leave Sharon Hospital because Nuvance has been consistently saying they will close labor and delivery, leaving those nurses unemployed.

Nuvance has been paying "traveling" nurses a premium to staff the hospital in recent months. This is not necessarily a bad thing from a medical point of view; he and Mortman agree that many of the "travelers" are highly competent. But that cost adds to the amount of money that Nuvance claims is being lost every year at Sharon.

The dangers of a distant hospital

Northwest Hills Pediatrics will not leave Northwest Corner families without care, Kavle promised.

"Our primary care pediatric practice will not leave Sharon if Maternity closes. We will continue to provide excellent primary care to our patients in the outpatient setting. Remember, we were recruited here when the previous pediatric group — which was employed by HealthQuest — left en masse over difficulties they were having with that administration."

However, he said, once the labor and delivery unit closes, the pediatricians will no longer have hospital privileges.

He gave the hypothetical case of a mother in her 28th week having an emergency delivery. If there is no longer a labor and delivery unit, that delivery will be handled by emergency room doctors who are not specialists in obstetrics.

"An ER doctor trying to deliver a baby is like me trying to treat a heart attack," Kavle said.

Nuvance has said that

mothers can go to its hospital in Danbury, which is a one-hour drive if there is no snow on the road and no traffic.

Kavle points out that if a pregnant woman in, for example, Cornwall is in medical distress, the ambulance will take her to Sharon Hospital and that is where she will remain. The volunteer ambulance can not travel the extra distance to the larger, more distant hospital.

"Once that mom and baby are there, it's hard to move them. That means the delivery will be at the ER in Sharon — with no OB-GYN and no pediatrician there. It's dangerous."

Nuvance cites the example of New Milford Hospital, which no longer has a labor and delivery unit. A similar case is Winsted.

"Those hospitals are different," Kavle said. "You can get from Winsted to Charlotte Hungerford in Torrington in 8 minutes. You can get from New Milford to Danbury in 25 minutes."

In the Northwest Corner, the one hour drive will be challenging enough in summer.

"But in winter? I was only working here for a week before I realized that I had to have snow tires," Kavle said.

A shortage of primary care doctors

It isn't only the maternity-associated doctors who have concerns about Nuvance and its plan to close labor and delivery as well as the intensive care unit, and to reduce surgery to only daytime hours.

The primary care doctors also have concerns about Nuvance and its future plans, and its treatment of the Sharon Hospital medical community.

There is still a thriving OB-GYN practice in the area, and a strong pediatric practice. But many of the primary care physicians are so busy they can no longer take new patients; and many of them are in the early to mid 60s or older and are beginning to contemplate retirement.

Michael Parker is a primary care physician who has had a practice in Sharon for 33 years. He said that Nuvance has been very clear that its goal is to "change Sharon Hospital to a small rural facility of limited capacity."

The hospital would essentially become a hub, with most patients transferred to the company's other, larger

hospitals in Poughkeepsie and Danbury.

"They have made no attempt to make our hospital solvent," Parker said. "And in fact, they hinder our ability."

The doctors are not consulted

Dr. David Kurish, an independent physician who has had a practice in Sharon for 40 years, is similarly concerned.

He concedes that it's expensive to run a hospital and that the maternity unit probably does lose money for Nuvance.

"But it's an essential service."

Like most doctors in the region, he said that even though Nuvance is a medical group and a nonprofit, he trusts them less even than Essent, the company that bought Sharon Hospital in 2002 and converted it to a for-profit entity.

"Under Essent, we had oncology, pain management, a state of the art maternity unit — that they built. I would have stacked our hospital up with any hospital in the country. We had a lot to work with then. But since then, it's been cut, cut, cut. And the doctors have had less and less influence over what happens."

"Now we have no influence."

Dr. Parker agreed, and said that Nuvance has not been honest about its efforts to work with and communicate with the doctors.

"They have not been willing to talk to the medical staff. They've never invited the medical staff to discuss a way forward."

Kurish said, "I hate to see it all destroyed because of dollars."

He leans toward a return to community ownership of the hospital. If it's true that Sharon is losing about \$5 million a year, he said, it might be possible to raise that money from local donors.

He is encouraged that the state is actually looking into Nuvance and whether it is in compliance with its earlier Certificate of Need.

"It's a breath of fresh air that there is a problem, and looking into it."

But Kurish wonders whether the state will have the clout to stop Nuvance from closing the hospital — which he feels will be the inevitable outcome.

"I don't trust Nuvance," he said. "Not at all."



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OBITUARIES

June Rosalie Feathers

NORTH CANAAN — June Rosalie Feathers died Feb. 23, 2022, at the age of 96 while a resident of Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation in North Canaan.

She was born Oct. 1, 1925, in Bristol, Conn.

She was married to John Feathers for 64 years. They raised four children in their home in the Canaan Valley.

Our mom was a quiet, private person and enjoyed passing her time watching her beloved soap operas and sitcoms.

Her family was everything to her. We will miss her quick wit and great sense of humor. Her husband, John, and

son, Todd, predeceased her, John in 2011 and Todd in 1980.

She is survived by her son, John, and his wife, Donna; her daughter, Pam, and her husband, Joe Rieger; and her son, Chad, and his partner, Brenda Segalla VandeBogart.

She is also survived by her sister, Joyce Chrzanowski; as well as 10 grandchildren and many great- and great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be held in the spring at the family's convenience.

Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan.

Natalie Funk

SHEFFIELD — With great sadness, the family of Natalie Funk, 93, share the news of her peaceful passing on the morning of Feb. 22, 2022.

Natalie H. Funk, born Oct. 13, 1928, was the daughter of Polly (Palmer) and William Hall.

She was educated in local schools and graduated from Sheffield High School in 1946. She then attended Russell Sage College from 1946 and 1947.

She married the late James Funk in 1948, which ended in 1983.

Natalie was elected as Sheffield town clerk in 1982 and served until she retired in 1999. During this time she attended the New England Municipal Clerk's Institute at Salve Regina in Newport, R.I., for three years.

She achieved the Certified Municipal Clerk title in 1986 and at the time was only one of 86 clerks to meet this level in the state of Massachusetts. Following her three years of study at NEMC, she was inducted into the Academy of Advanced Education, being one of only 12 clerks in Massachusetts at the time and the only representative of Berkshire County to hold the designation.

While serving as town clerk she served on various committees and was appointed to the Executive Board of Education, where she assisted in formulating the criteria for the other Massachusetts Town Clerks Certification.

She had served as a Justice of the Peace since 1982, appointed by five different governors, and performed over 250 ceremonies during this time.

Natalie was previously employed by the Southern Berkshire Regional School District at Mount Everett. She was active in 4H activities for 20 years, Life Member of Eastern Star and a member of the Canaan Fire Company

Ladies Auxiliary for 35 years.

Natalie was well known in the area for making wedding cakes, bridal attire and catering for years through her business called Custom Bridal.

Natalie loved traveling and one of the most memorable trips was hiking the trail to the top of Mount Vesuvius and gazing down into the steaming caldera. She was also lucky enough to visit Ireland and Italy.

Her greatest joy was being with her family. She is survived by three generations: Jeff Funk and his wife, Linda, of Housatonic, Mass., and daughter Elissa "Penny" Terry and husband Bob of North Canaan. She is also survived by her sister, Priscilla H. Rueger of Ashley Falls.

Natalie was predeceased by her loving daughter Maree Funk, who died suddenly in 2017.

She is survived by her four grandchildren, Maribeth (Weaver) Marchi of North Canaan, Heather (Weaver) Tallon of North Canaan, Gregory Funk of Milford, Conn., and Jeanette Funk-Gillis of Penfield, N.Y. The third generation includes eight great-grandchildren, Brady and Connor Funk, Ben, Anna and Jackson Gillis, Camdyn and Gavin Tallon and Reagan Marchi.

Donations in memory of Natalie can be forwarded to the Ashley Falls Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 87, Ashley Falls, MA 01222; or the Canaan Fire Company, P.O. Box 642, North Canaan, CT 06018.

Marvin Douglas Hill Sr.

AMENIA — Marvin Douglas Hill Sr., 86, a long-time area resident

formerly of Boston, Mass., died peacefully on Feb. 22, 2022, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Mr. Hill worked as a professional security guard for Boston City Hospital in Boston for over 20 years. He retired in 1987.

Born July 14, 1935, in Amenia, he was the son of the late Mildred (Carl) and Frederick Hill.

He attended school in Amenia and enlisted in the United States Army, where he served as a military police officer before being honorably discharged.

Mr. Hill enjoyed biking on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, driving to Boston to visit his relatives, nature walks, playing pool, perusing through family photo albums, attending live venues at the Sharon Playhouse especially musicals and plays, listening to R&B music from James Brown, The Dells and The Temptations, good food and going to car shows. He was known as a man of great wisdom, great sayings and had an infectious sense of humor.

He had a very caring heart and often took care of family and friends that were in need at his own expense. He was of the Presbyterian faith and attended church in Amenia for many years with his family.

Mr. Hill is survived by five children, Wanda Hill and Margaret Hill of Virginia, Marvin D. Hill Jr. of Poughkeepsie, Wakeitha Kunze of Boston and Johneta Lafond and her husband, Hashim, of California; 14 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two sisters,



Fredericka Parker of Poughkeepsie and Barbara Young of Princeton, N.J.; his sister-in-law Jeannine C. Hill of Greenwich, N.Y.; his longtime companion, Beth Rhodes of Boston; his dear friend Kate King; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was also predeceased by his former wife, Helen Hill; his son, Russell Hill; and his brothers, Kenneth, Porter and Gilbert Hill.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, March 4, from 11 a.m. to noon at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton. Funeral services will take place at noon at the funeral home, the Rev. William Mayhew officiating. Burial will follow at Amenia Island Cemetery in Amenia with United States Army Honor Guards in attendance.

Memorial donations may be made to the Millerton American Legion Post 178, 155 Route 44, Millerton, NY 12546; or VFW Post 5444, Route 22, Dover Plains, NY 12522.

To send an online condolence to the family please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

For more obituaries, see page A5

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Northwest CT student scholarships available

The Northwest CT Community Foundation is awarding scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year. Scholarship applications are now available for the more than \$150,000 available to area students. Scholarship guidelines, requirements and applications are available on the Community Foundation website.

Scholarship applications for the 2022-2023 academic year must be submitted by April 1, 2022. The Northwest CT Community Foundation serves Litchfield County with a collection of more than 30 scholarship funds from local donors. These funds provide scholarships to area students throughout the Northwest Corner.

Most scholarships are awarded to residents of the Foundation's 20-town service area. The Foundation serves towns which include of Falls Village, Cornwall, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon.

For a full list of scholarships go to www.northwestcf.org/scholarships

Carl James 'Jimmy' Blair

NORTH CANAAN — Carl James "Jimmy" Blair of Danvers, Mass., passed away Jan. 31, 2022, at Waterbury Hospital 34 days after a devastating motor vehicle accident in East Canaan. He was hit head-on by a FedEx truck whose driver had fallen asleep at 9:30 a.m. in December 2021.

Our precious brother was born 57 and a half years ago on July 4th 1964 in Stoneham, Mass., to our parents Fred and Janice (Coffen) Blair.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 29 years, Linda Kane, two and a half years ago.

He is survived by his parents Fred and Janice Blair of North Bangor, N.Y.; his brother Clayton "Chuck" Blair of North Bangor; and his sisters, Kerrilee Mintz of East Canaan and Debra Blair Johnson of Hope Mills, N.C.; his beloved nieces, Kasey Arnold of North Canaan and Kirsten and Olivia John-

son of Hope Mills; his best friends of 44 years David Desrosiers of Winsted; and Larry Wittmore of Waterbury, Mass.; his wife's sisters, Nancy, Mary, Susan and Sharon Kane; and his uncles, aunts and cousins and many more whom he counted as friends.

He is sadly missed and our hearts are broken.

He graduated with honors in 1983 from the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, Conn. He spent the next 35 years living and working in the north shore of Boston area.

He loved to hike and camp and most recently kayaking.

He spent his life in the service of others and caring for and loving his family. He gave freely of his time and energy to help those in need. He was all about love and service.

Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan.



Worship Services

Week of March 6, 2022

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

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.
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www.salisburyucc.org
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9 South Main, Sharon CT
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.
Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker
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860-364-5260
www.christchurchsharon.org

St. John's Episcopal Church
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
Rev. Paul Christopherson
SUNDAY SERVICE
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)
In-Person and on You-Tube
www.stjohnssalisbury.org
860-435-9290

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
40 Leedsville Road
Amenia Union, NY
SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30
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Rev. AJ Stack
845-373-9161
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Trinity Episcopal Church
484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock
In person services on Sundays
8:00 and 10:30 A.M.
Livestream at 10:30 on www.trinitylimerock.org
The Rev. Heidi Truax
trinity@trinitylimerock.org
(860) 435-2627

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

Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT
Join our virtual Zoom service on Sunday, March 13 at 10:30 a.m.
"The Evangelicals: Where they came from"
For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com
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Sunday Worship - 11am
Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM
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The Lakeville United Methodist Church
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9:30 a.m. Sunday School
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Pastor Joy Veronesi
860-435-9496
Lakevilleumc@snet.net

The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall
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8 AM - St. Bernard
10 AM - Sacred Heart
WEEKDAY MASSES
Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday & First Friday
9 AM - Sacred Heart

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Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

Canaan United Methodist Church
2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT
11 a.m. Worship Service
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"
Rev. Lee Gangaware
860-824-5534
canaanct-umc.com
canaanctumc@gmail.com

All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church
313 Twin Lakes Rd.,
Salisbury, CT
Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
Rev. John Kreta
860-824-1340
allsaintsofamerica.us

Millerton United Methodist Church
6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812
Millerton, NY 12546
Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 A.M.
518-789-3158

Falls Village Congregational Church
16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village
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Do you have a family member or friend in the military who would be interested in the news from home?

Remember

The Lakeville Journal Company offers free online subscriptions to our website, tricornernews.com, for active duty military personnel from the Tri-state region. For more information or to set up a subscription, contact Sandra Lang at circulation@lakevillejournal.com or 860-435-9873, ext. 301.

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Made possible by an ARPA grant from the Town of Sharon.

Our Towns

OBITUARIES

Jim Charlton

LAKEVILLE — Jim Charlton of New York City and Lakeville died on Feb. 13, 2022, from complications of the seasonal flu. He was 82. A longtime fixture in the West Village, he liked to say he lived only a few blocks from where he was born: St. Vincent's Hospital in 1939. However, his baseball-formative years were spent in Chicago, making him a lifelong Cubs fan. He graduated from New Trier High School and Western Michigan University. He also had strong childhood ties to Lakeville, spending time here with his grandmother and attending third grade at Salisbury Central School. Coming back to the area as an adult brought him immense pleasure.

Jim spent his professional career in publishing, beginning in the 1960s as a book salesman at Doubleday and rising there to editorial director in the book clubs. He left in 1978 to become editor-in-chief of Quick Fox Publishing. In 1982 he formed James Charlton Associates and over the next three decades he packaged, agented, edited and wrote books on a wide range of subjects with a particular passion for baseball history. From 2002 to 2008 he was also the Publications Director for the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), a perfect profession-

al match. He was a board member of the Pushcart Press and a member of The Century Association.

Jim was treasured by everyone who experienced his generosity and warmth, his intelligence and humor, his optimism and kindness. He loved music and wine and the print edition of just about anything. But nothing delighted him more than bringing together his beloved family and friends for lively conversation.

He met his wife, Barbara, in 1978 at a Sunday afternoon jazz party in Greenwich Village; they married in 1982. She survives him along with their daughter, Meg Charlton; his children Anne Russell, Kevin Charlton and Tim Charlton; their spouses Jeff, Amy and Dominique; and his seven grandchildren, Tyler, Sarah, Sam, Harry, Will, Spencer and Preston. He also leaves Peter Schmidt-Nowara, who was like another son; his niece and nephews, Kris, Mike and Brian Mackerer; his cousin, Catherine Charlton; and countless friends from all corners of his life and countless corner barstools.

Donations can be made to the Pushcart Press and to the Western Michigan University Seita Scholars Program.

A memorial service will be held at a future date to be announced.

For more obituaries, see page A5

Salisbury seeks input on future

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission is conducting an online survey to gather input from residents, property owners and other stakeholders to inform the commission's update of the Town Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

This survey provides an opportunity for people to identify concerns and suggest future priorities.

The survey can be accessed from the home page of the town's website at www.salisburyct.us; it can also be accessed directly at www.surveymonkey.com/r/Salisbury_POCD_Survey

For those who do not have access to a computer or smart phone, paper copies of the survey will be available in the lobby at Town Hall, where they can be completed and left in the drop box.

Michael W. Klemens, chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission, said, "It is important that participants understand their responses are anonymous, so they should feel free to answer questions not only about the future, but also how the town has performed in addressing these challenges over the last decade."

The survey will be open for responses through Sunday, March 13. For additional information, contact landuse@salisburyct.us.

A show of work by Judith Wyer

NORTH CANAAN — Judith Wyer, known for harmonious colors and an unceasing fascination with wide-ranging subjects, currently has a solo exhibit at the Douglas Library in North Canaan.

The show continues

Inspiration has its own timeline

By Matthew Kreta

FALLS VILLAGE — One artist didn't begin working on art until her retirement, and the other artist found himself teaching math.

Garth Kobal interviewed Marsha Altemus and Roger McKee on Saturday, Feb. 19, about their art works currently on display on the ArtWall at the David M. Hunt Library. The interview was conducted online; Kobal is the curator for the ArtWall shows.

After showing images of the art, Kobal asked the artists how their jobs and interests inspired their art.

Altemus, a retired weaver with 25 years' experience, said she used to mix custom dyes for her clients, and cited this as one of her main inspirations.

She said she worked at art in high school and college, but it wasn't until she retired that she decided to apply her sense of color to art.

"I'm still, in my opinion, a novice," Altemus said, chuckling. "Believe me, I have a pile of rejects."

McKee, who teaches art at Salisbury School, discussed how an open and growing mindset has helped him with his art.

Despite his training in painting, drawing and print making, McKee spent his first few years at the school teaching math. "The needs of the school kind of prevented me from focusing on [art]," he said.

However, he found new inspiration as the school added new programs, such as woodworking and boat making.

Kobal asked how the pandemic has affected the artists and their work.

While both artists agreed that they prefer to work in solitude, Altemus described a large bout of artist's block. While she thought art would provide a retreat for her, she found it very difficult to work instead and feels she is only just getting back into a working habit.

The artists were then asked about their learning



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Roger McKee's "Leviathan" is one of the works currently on display at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village.

process.

Altemus said she is mostly self-taught from books and YouTube videos. "Other than that, it's just doing it," she said.

McKee used an example of a boat making class he taught, and said he found inspiration in observing

different boat building techniques. Watching other people at work is always helpful, he added.

Kobal inquired about future projects from the artists.

Altemus said she would like to try abstract art, and actually hasn't used her initial medium, colored pencils,

in a while. She also has an interest in experimenting with physical textures, such as textured paper.

McKee said has no set plan, but plenty of tools at his disposal. "If something strikes my fancy, I will hang on to it," he said. As examples, he listed interesting looking rocks and plants, and even dead animals.

Kobal closed the presentation by saying he hoped the library would be able to hold in-person receptions for artists again in the near future.

"You can't just look at pictures on the screen. You need to get in a room with art to experience it," he said.

Marsha Altemus and Roger McKee: Works in Pastel, Pencil and Assemblage" is on display at the library through March 11, and can be viewed online. For more information go to www.huntlibrary.org.

Sharon commits to MIRA contract for trash

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Following a brief discussion, the Sharon selectmen voted unanimously at their regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 22, to sign the five-year municipal waste disposal contract offered by MIRA (Materials Innovation Recovery Authority) in Hartford.

By their action they are joining other area towns

who have now committed to the contract by which the town's solid waste will be transported to another state for disposal in a landfill.

The selectmen agreed that they saw no other alternative but to sign the MIRA contract, which will remain in effect until June 30, 2027.

"Obviously, things will be changing in the future," First Selectman Brent Colley said.

Sharon residents will con-

tinue to bring their trash to the shared Salisbury Sharon transfer station in Salisbury.

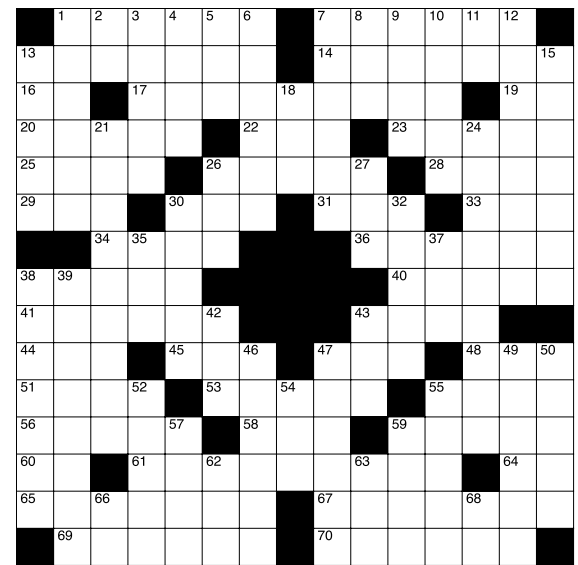
That trash had been taken to MIRA up to now; but the facility there is in too great a state of disrepair and will be closed.

As an alternative the towns that had used MIRA have been asked to commit for five years to a plan to ship the region's trash out of state.

Brain Teasers

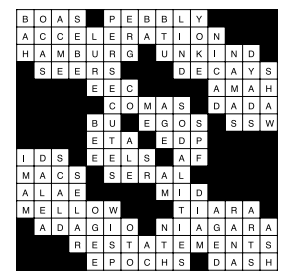
CLUES ACROSS

1. Neckwear
7. Fish parts
13. Cooking
14. Quality
16. Rural delivery
17. Popular superhero
19. Partner to Pa
20. Shivering fits
22. Wrath
23. Linguistics pioneer
25. Large integers
26. A way to prepare food
28. Group of badgers
29. Peyton's little brother
30. Rock out
31. Danish krone
33. Take from with force
34. Baroque musical instrument
36. Zodiac sign
38. Hebrew alphabet letter
40. Independent member of a clone
41. Type of garment
43. Satisfy
44. One point south of due east
45. A way to wipe out
47. Moved quickly on foot
48. Bar bill
51. An idiot
53. Performed with the voice silent
55. Body fluids
56. Rhythmic patterns
58. "___ my i's"
59. Type of wrap
60. It shows who you are
61. Carousel
64. Type of college degree
65. Molding
67. Closes again
69. Verses
70. Surface



12. Smallest interval in Western music
13. Box
15. Cheese dish
18. Make a mistake
21. Done by all people or things
24. Circumference
26. Chum
27. Electrocardiogram
30. Sandwich chain Jimmy ___
32. Showed old movie
35. Important event on Wall St.
37. Where wrestlers work
38. Free from contamination
39. Eastern Canada coastal region
42. Slang for gun
43. High schoolers' test
46. Fathers
47. Call it a career
49. Productive
50. Musical groups
52. Yellowish-brown
54. Lowest point of a ridge
55. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
57. Fill up
59. Cardinal number that's the sum of 5 and 1
62. Frost
63. Jewel
66. Atomic #45
68. Top lawyer

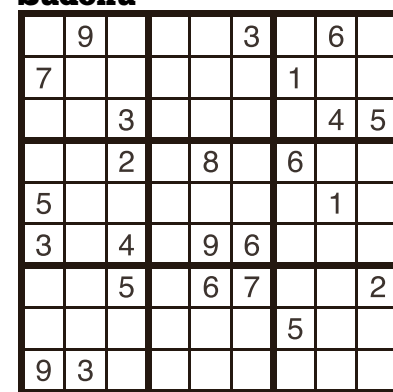
Feb. 24 Solution



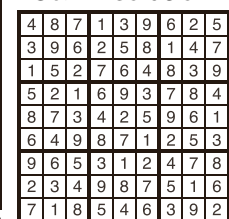
CLUES DOWN

1. Short, thick stick
2. Rhode Island
3. Animals of the horse family
4. Very important persons
5. Folk singer Di Franco
6. Boredom
7. Long speech
8. Footballer Newton
9. Expression of sorrow or pity
10. Linear accelerator
11. One quintillion bytes

Sudoku



Feb. 24 Solution



The Lakeville Journal Celebrating Our 125th Anniversary

April 22, 1937
Our advice to snowbirds headed through the Southwest in the 1930s? Pack masks in case of dust storms--so common in those days, the area became known as The Dust Bowl.



The great dust bowl of the Southwest is preparing for recurrence of the disastrous dust storms and residents of the threatened localities are acquiring masks. These are effective protection from the dust, but lovers find them inconvenient, as may be seen in this photograph.

The Lakeville Journal celebrates 125 years of continuous publication.

Watch this space for a look back through our reporting history.



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Sports



PHOTO BY HUNTER O. LYLE

William Sanders led the field throughout the Polar Bear Run around Lake Waramaug on Sunday, Feb. 27. Sanders, age 34, finished the 7.6 miles course in 39 minutes 10 seconds.

Return of the Polar Bear Run

By Lans Christensen

NEW PRESTON — Sunny skies greeted the record number of runners who came to Lake Waramaug for the Polar Bear Run on Sunday, Feb. 27.

After last year's event was canceled, 626 runners were eager to race the 7.6 mile Lake Waramaug course again.

The course, mostly flat with a few gentle hills, runs along the shoreline of the lake and passes through Washington, Warren and Kent. The sun helped modify the temperature, and many runners were dressed in summer-weight outfits.

The course is relatively flat and manageable despite its distance. William Sanders of Marlborough, Conn., the 2020 winner, once again triumphed, completing the course in 39 minutes 10 seconds.

The beneficiaries of this event are the Guiding Eyes for the Blind dogs. There was a group of the grateful pups in attendance. Participants, organizers, volunteers — all were thrilled, and happy to have the event back in place.



PHOTOS BY RANDY O'ROURKE

Sandra Sproch competed in cross-country skiing Sunday, Feb. 27.

Junior Nationals competition makes it through wild weather

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Despite the wrong kind of precipitation and wildly fluctuating temperatures, the Junior Nationals ski jumping and Nordic Combined championship events were held in Salisbury and Cornwall Feb. 22 through Feb. 26

Willie Hallihan from the Salisbury Winter Sports Association said, "Weather was definitely the lead story.

For Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, the stories were ones of woe: rain, record warmth and, on Friday, a snow storm.

"But the men and women of SWSA, working most of Wednesday night and all day Thursday, put everything back together again so that Thursday and Friday nights as well as Saturday morning the conditions were excellent at Satre Hill, as were the course conditions at Mohawk Mountain Ski Area."



PHOTO BY HUNTER O. LYLE

Russell Sears, a senior from Sharon, dished a last-second assist into the paint to Austin Bayer. Sears led the Mountaineers in scoring with 10 points during the 88-41 loss to Shepaug.

Mountaineers bring tough season to a close with home losses

By Hunter O. Lyle

FALLS VILLAGE — To finish off their season, the Housatonic Valley Regional High School boys basketball team played their last two games at home.

The Mountaineers faced off on Thursday, Feb. 17, against Shepaug Valley High School, losing 88-41.

After a scrimmage vs. The Gilbert School Feb. 22, the team dropped its final game against visiting Wamogo, 60-44, to finish at 1-18.

The Mountaineers have had a difficult season, with the team's lone win on Tuesday, Feb. 14, in a 62-57 overtime game at Gilbert.

"It was nice to have the pressure off," said head coach Kurt Johnson, who took over as head coach of the Mountaineers this season. "The boys were as happy as they could be. It felt like we reached a milestone."

On Feb. 17, the Spartans set the tone early with iron-clad defense. After scoring on the first possession of the game, the Spartans enforced a stifling full-court-press which resulted in Housatonic turnovers on four out of the first five drives.

Despite struggling to make it past half court on multiple possessions, the Mountaineers had their largest scoring quarter in the second, where they notched

15 points before the half. The Spartans maintained a lead by way of fast break layups and fluid ball movement to open shooters. Going into the break, Housatonic was down 51-24.

"We knew [Shepaug's full-court-press] was going to come. We weren't surprised by that one," said Johnson. "When we did what we were supposed to do we got fast break points out of it, but that was few and far between. There were too many times where a guy wasn't in the right place or a pass was made in the right place."

In the second half, Shepaug's shooters turned up the heat and pushed the deficit. The volume shooting, matched with the constant pass-plucking full-court-press, gave the Spartans a 69-33 lead with two-and-a-half minutes left in the third.

When the final buzzer rang, the Mountaineers had been defeated, 88-41.

"[We need to] get back together as a team, control things offensively, get comfortable," said Johnson on what his team needed to do to finish out the season on a positive note. "Simple stuff really."

Note: The HVRHS girls basketball team began post-season play at home Tuesday, March 1. If victorious, they will play again at home Friday, March 4.

Karl Thompson (in orange) and Thomas Miller battled during Junior Nationals competition Sunday, Feb. 27.



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Grassroots anti-asphalt group expands its mission

By John Coston

EAST CANAAN — Residents fighting a proposed asphalt plant here have a new name, a broader mission and a dedicated funding source.

The Blackberry River Valley Protection Alliance, Inc. (BRVPA) is the new name for Stop the Asphalt Plant (STAP). With a wider focus and newfound funding, it plans to expand its years-long battle to stop the plant on conservation and environmental fronts.

BRVPA also has become a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization with hopes to bolster fundraising and support its new mission to protect “the air, the land, the aquifer, wildlife, and the health and general quality of life of area residents and visitors” in the Blackberry River watershed. The group has received a grant to retain an attorney,

Dolores Perotti, a local resident and president of BRVPA, said the organization’s current focus is stopping B. Metcalf Asphalt Paving, Inc., from producing asphalt on industrial-zoned

land in the neighborhood. Perotti notes that there are many homes and businesses as well as family farms along this stretch of Route 44 between Lower Road and Furnace Hill Road, including a nearby U.S. Post Office branch and the North Canaan Congregational Church.

“We don’t know what he’s going to do next,” Perotti said. “We’re kind of waiting. But our mission is to protect this valley and the whole area.”

Ben Metcalf and the Blackberry

That Blackberry River watershed covers thousands of acres in towns in the Northwest Corner, including North Canaan and Norfolk. The river originates in Norfolk and flows westward into the Housatonic River at North Canaan. It is a major tributary of the Housatonic, which now is under renewed consideration for Wild and Scenic River status in legislation being drafted in Congress.

“None of what I’m proposing is going to have any effect on the river,” said Ben

“We don’t know what he’s going to do next. We’re kind of waiting. But our mission is to protect this valley and the whole area.”

Dolores Perotti, president of BRVPA

Metcalf, owner of the business located at 235 East Canaan Road. He added that “nothing that I would use as an ingredient would have any deleterious effect on the river.

“I’m in support of anything that supports natural resources,” he said, adding that he considers himself a conservationist who also supports farmland preservation. Metcalf said he wants to create his own facility to produce new materials that are sustainable and eco-friendly, pointing out that warm-mix asphalt production uses 40% less fuel than hot mix.

In 2010 and 2011, the state Department of Transportation conducted pilot projects to gauge the effectiveness of warm asphalt on road surfaces and concluded that, after a few years, various mixes performed well.

Warm-mix asphalt is pro-

duced at lower temperatures than the hot-mix variety. The state’s final report also concluded that warm asphalt is fast expanding in the U.S. and that its production offers benefits: “reduced fuel consumption during production, reduced exposure to fumes due to the reduction in temperature during production and placement, and as an aid to achieving adequate compaction in the field especially with mixtures containing polymer modification.”

“Every day the technology gets better,” he said. “When I get the technology, then I’ll move ahead.”

History of litigation

Both parties have been at loggerheads for years. Metcalf has taken town zoning officials to court three times. While the neighborhood group’s opposition has been steadfast, its efforts to intervene in the litigation failed.

In May of 2018, when Metcalf submitted a site-plan application to produce warm-mix asphalt, North Canaan zoning officials declined to accept the application and returned his check, saying that asphalt production was not an approved use under town regulations. However, because 65 days then passed

without any action on his application, it was considered approved under terms of state law. North Canaan zoning officials passed an amendment in May of 2019 prohibiting asphalt production in all zones, though such a move did not apply retroactively to Metcalf’s case.

A year later, in April of 2020, Superior Court Judge John D. Moore ordered town zoning officials to issue an approval of the 2018 site-plan application, leaving the residents still with the prospect of a warm-mix asphalt operation in their back yard.

Metcalf pressed to overturn the town’s 2019 amendment, claiming that his company was aggrieved because possible future use of the property could fall under nonconforming uses. The court decided last summer that the injury Metcalf claims has not yet occurred.

BRVPA preparing for future battles

Last month, BRVPA mailed letters to thousands of residents in North Canaan and surrounding towns in an appeal to expand membership in the new organization. Its campaign will involve discussions with administrators and government to ensure proper application of laws and regulations, including legal action to seek compliance with laws and regulations.

“When B. Metcalf Asphalt Paving returns to resume their legal battle with us, we will be ready. We have local

funding in place and we have lawyers on retainer,” Perotti says in the letter.

Connecticut state law prohibits the location of an asphalt plant in an area that is less than one-third mile from hospitals, nursing homes, schools, areas of critical environmental concern, watercourses, or areas occupied by residential housing. BRVPA says the asphalt plant’s proximity to the Blackberry River and to homes would violate the one-third mile rule. The group further claims that the plant site risks contaminating the underground aquifer, would pose a health hazard to the community from potential fumes from the plant, and would result in reduced home values.

Metcalf said, “I want to be a good neighbor and supply customers who want a sustainable product,” he said.

BRVPA’s 501 (c) (3) status will enable tax-deductible contributions. The group has allied with the Coalition of Sound Growth of Norfolk, which will act as a fiscal sponsor, permitting donors to make gifts restricted to BRVPA. The William and Mary Greve Foundation of New York and Norfolk is providing the grant to retain legal counsel. The foundation also supports many environmental groups, including The Wilderness Society, Norfolk Botanical Gardens Foundation, Scenic Hudson Inc., The Trust for Public Land and Great Mountain Forest.

“None of what I’m proposing is going to have any effect on the river. Nothing that I would use as an ingredient would have any deleterious effect on the river.”

Ben Metcalf, owner B. Metcalf Asphalt Paving, Inc.

TRASH

Continued from Page A1

plant does. And of course, the out-of-state transport plan likely will include a fleet of dirty diesel-powered trucks that will log perhaps thousands of miles per day.

We have yet to see a cost-benefit analysis of the state and 49 towns shelling out hundreds of millions of dollars to bail out the embattled MIRA, versus the transportation and tipping costs associated with the out-of-state shipping plan. Nor have we seen an analysis of the environmental implications of the added truck traffic, and the loss of the MIRA plant’s electricity to the grid.

“We are actually in a waste management crisis — really not only in the state of Connecticut — but in the nation,” Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker told NBC-CT’s Christine Stuart last year.

So where do we go from here? The Lakeville Journal editorial board — hardly a body given to hyperbole or intemperate rhetoric — agrees with Knickerbocker. The board has correctly pronounced the Northwest Corner’s waste management crisis “dire” and the alternatives “hard to swallow.”

Most Northwest Corner towns have decided to hold their collective noses and stick with MIRA.

As he and his colleagues prepared to sign the agreement with MIRA at a meeting earlier this month, Falls Village Selectman David Barger summed up the feeling of resignation: “I’m hesitant, to say the least, in signing this, but I’ve done my due diligence and don’t see an alternative.”

If, as expected, the MIRA trash-to-energy plant shuts down for good in five months, then it goes without saying that the first step would be for all of us to produce less trash. That means we need to start by upping our game on recycling and throw away fewer biodegradables.

But that’s easier said than done. Many residents and renters don’t have room on the properties to compost, and those who do, don’t want to attract bears and other nuisances by storing garbage in their backyards.

The Salisbury-Sharon

Transfer Station has long had one of the best recycling rates in the state. And last year, station manager Brian Bartram and Transfer Station Advisory Committee Chair Barbara Bettigole started a pilot project to direct household food waste from the garbage stream to a commercial composting facility.

This is a much-needed first step, but we all know it won’t be enough because there are some people who are either indifferent or just don’t care. Unless towns want to lose even more money on their transfer stations than they already do, they’ll need to raise the fees for vehicle stickers.

Try as we might to reduce the amount of food waste and recyclables that go into the waste stream, there are some who will resist, either actively or passively. They need an incentive to reduce the volume of refuse they put into the garbage hopper.

“Pay-as-you-throw”

Perhaps the most effective program is the so-called “pay-as-you-throw” (PAYT) system, whereby consumers and commercial haulers pay by the volume of waste they dump. PAYT is still relatively rare in Connecticut (only a “handful” of towns use it, according to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) but it has been a common practice for decades in nearby New York state. In localities where it’s been implemented, the volume of garbage generated has declined significantly and, in some cases, dramatically.

According to DEEP, which has rebranded PAYT as Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART), the volume of garbage generated per person in Connecticut averages 740 pounds. The town of Coventry, which uses SMART, produces 500 pounds of trash per capita, nearly two-thirds of the state average. The town of Stonington adopted SMART in 1991 and has seen \$7 million in savings since then. According to a study by the Northeast Waste Management Officials Association, communities that implement SMART reduce waste by 40% to 55%.

“Pay-as-you-throw has done what the city had hoped,” DEEP quoted the general services director of Concord, N.H. as saying. “Recycling rates are up, trash volume is down and the city is spending fewer tax dollars to get rid of it.”

And there are revenue opportunities that could be explored. Some transfer stations that use SMART are open to other communities that lack facilities. This is true, for example, in the resort community of Lake George, New York, where the Queensbury transfer station is open to all comers who are willing to pay the per-bag fee, which ranges from \$3 for a small kitchen bag to \$10 for a large 90-gallon bag. The recycling of paper, plastic and glass is free.

Invite other towns?

The per-bag price is slightly higher than the actual cost of disposing of the garbage, so the program is a revenue generator that also helps fund the operations of the transfer station itself.

Back in Salisbury, there is another revenue stream that is ripe for the picking.

A stone’s throw away from the Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station lies the village of Millerton and the surrounding town of North East, New York. The town and village have been without a transfer station for decades, so residents must hire private haulers or drive 15 minutes south on Route 22 to Azenia, where a commercial transfer station is operated by Welsh Sanitation.

If the Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station were to adopt SMART, the station could be open to residents of towns not served by transfer stations, thereby providing an additional revenue stream to help reduce the operational costs to taxpayers in Salisbury and Sharon.

Though many quotations attributed to him are apocryphal, Albert Einstein did, in fact, observe that, “In the midst of every crisis, lies great opportunity.” That maxim applies here. Even those who object to pay-as-you-throw will have to acknowledge that the old way of thinking will no longer suffice.

PUTIN

Continued from Page A1

focused on Putin, who at the time had just returned to the presidency after four years as prime minister. “Putin has been president for 22 years, if you count those prime minister years,” he said.

Referring to the audience at Noble Horizons, he said, “These are folks who have all watched him [Putin] evolve and know very well what it was like in Russia or in the world in 1999 when he first came along.

“All of the kids in my class at Hotchkiss were born after Putin became president. The Noble Horizons folks have a perspective that our Hotchkiss kids just don’t have.”

The rise from unknown

Moon said that when Putin became prime minister in the summer of 1999, he was not a known quantity. Instead, he was someone with “something like two percent name recognition” in Russia.

“He was a gray figure in the mayor’s office of St. Petersburg,” he said. By New Year’s Eve, when then-President Boris Yeltsin resigned, Putin became acting president and then won the election in 2000.

“He skyrocketed in terms of name recognition and national recognition and was really considered quite successful.

“From the perspective of Russians, he was a savior. Russia was in real trouble in the late 1990s. Economically, politically, socially. There was violence everywhere. Putin came along and settled all that down. Then, of course, what we’ve witnessed in the last few years — he’s just gotten more and more carried away.”

Realizing that last week’s invasion of Ukraine by Putin spikes the talks with urgency, Moon said, “What I’m hoping to offer is some background. Steve Myers does a good job of building up his upbringing and his psychology. What kind of young man he was. What kind of adult he was.

“He does have this streak in him of challenging whatever the world’s expectations are. The way he behaved as a high school student or a college student or a KGB agent — he liked to be out front and outdo everybody’s expectations. I think we’re seeing that again.”

MASKS

Continued from Page A1

and public spaces such that students are at a minimum of three feet from one another.”

In a phone interview Sunday, Feb. 26, Carter said “we have been reassured by public

Moon also noted that there are six students at Hotchkiss who either live in Russia or whose parents are from Russia or Ukraine, so they’ve got grandparents who are either in Russia or Ukraine.

Moon, a graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard University, has lived and studied in the former Soviet Union and has been teaching at Hotchkiss since 1989. He first traveled to the former Soviet Union in 1983 and has since made 20 visits to Russia and two to Ukraine. Moon also is a board member of Special Olympics Connecticut and serves as the Salisbury representative to the Region One Board of Education.

The series runs Wednesdays from 2 to 3 p.m. Initial discussions will be via Zoom but will move to a hybrid format in April. The free series is open to all area residents; register at www.noblehorizons.org.

health officials that this is appropriate at this time.”

For more information on the Region One COVID-19 response go to www.region-1schools.org.

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

COOKING: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

What We Mean When We Talk About Pudding

Most Brits have at least heard of Coronation Chicken and have probably eaten it at least once. For those who haven't, it's kind of a curry-based cold chicken-with-sauce that was invented in 1953 for Queen Elizabeth's coronation luncheon. It was created by garden writer Constance Spry and Cordon Bleu London instructor Rosemary Hume, and was officially known as Poulet Reine Elizabeth.

This year marks the queen's 70th year on the throne. A Platinum Jubilee is being planned.

As far as I can tell this is the first regal celebration (since 1953, when Coronation Chicken was invented) when a bespoke recipe is being developed: Earlier this year, the famed Fortnum & Mason announced that it's having a Platinum Pudding Competition, which is in mid-bake right now.

On Feb. 21, the panel of eight judges selected five finalist recipes. From March 14 to 21, the baker/chefs will meet up



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Fortnum & Mason is holding a contest to create a dessert to honor Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. The famous Coronation Chicken, in this photo, was created for the queen in 1953.

in London at Fortnum & Mason to make their creation, just like on the Great British Baking Show.

Adding to the TV Cookoff Ambience: One of the judges for the Platinum Pudding Competition is GBBS judge Dame Mary Berry.

If you want to follow along with the excitement,

you can go to www.fortnumandmason.com/platinum-pudding.

An essential question the website answers is one that perplexes many non-Brits: What exactly is a pudding?

SO MANY KINDS OF PUDDING
In America, when we talk about pudding it usually means some type of custard.

The Fortnum & Mason pudding page explains that, "Although the term 'pudding' has become synonymous with dessert in Britain, not all puddings are desserts, while all desserts are puddings in the modern sense of the word."

The page then goes on to explain the history of puddings and the differences between puddings: boiled and steamed; baked; bread; batter; milk; and "jellies" (which in the U.S. we would call

gelatin or Jell-O).

For the Platinum Pudding, entries are expected to be sweet, not savory; easy enough that the average person can make them at home; attractive and delicious; and they should have a story or history that makes them more than a bunch of ingredients.

HOW TO MAKE CORONATION CHICKEN

Returning to Coronation Chicken, a history of the recipe can be found at www.cordonbleu.edu/london/coronation-chicken/en. It doesn't specify that curry was used in honor of the link between India and England, probably because India had earned independence six years earlier, in 1947. But despite any official link between the two countries,

Continued on next page

CORONATION CHICKEN

Adapted from "A Week in the Kitchen"

by Karen Dudley

Serves eight

Eight boneless, skinless chicken breasts; salt and pepper to taste; olive oil; lemon juice

Two yellow onions, peeled and chopped; 2 tbsp. cooking oil; 4 tbsp. mild curry powder; 1 tsp. ground cumin; 1 tsp. turmeric; 1/2 tsp. chile powder; 1 cinnamon stick; 5 crushed cardamom pods (about a half teaspoon of powder); 1 bay leaf

4 tsp. tomato paste; 1/2 cup chicken stock; 2 tsp. sugar; salt and pepper to taste; 2/3 cup mayonnaise; 2/3 cup (150 grams) thick Greek yogurt; the juice of one fat lemon; 2 tbsp. chutney (you can use a winter compote of dried fruit or some marmalade instead)

Optional garnishes: toasted almond slivers; fresh coriander/cilantro

Preheat your oven to 325 degrees. Season the chicken breasts with olive oil, lemon juice and salt and pepper to taste. Bake for about a half hour, until they're done. You can also poach the chicken in a bit of water, and then use the broth in your sauce.

Sauté the onions in the oil until they're translucent, about 10 minutes on low to medium heat.

Add all the spices and cook at medium heat for a few minutes; then add the tomato paste, chicken stock, sugar and salt and pepper. Cook for about five minutes, until the flavors blend and the spices are no longer powdery.

Let the sauce cool. Let the chicken breasts cool (you don't want to slice them while they're hot or they'll fall apart).

When the sauce is cool, add the mayonnaise and yogurt, lemon juice and chutney/compote/marmalade.

Arrange the chicken slices on each plate and add the finished sauce over half the meat. Garnish if you like.

I personally think roasted carrots and potatoes make a nice side, to help absorb the heat. Rice would work, too. Traditionally, Coronation Chicken is served with some kind of cold salad.

CALENDAR

All entries can be found at www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar.

ART

Kent Art Association, 21 S. Main St., Kent, Conn. www.kentart.org
Kent Art Association presents A Celebration of Women's History Month, March 4 to 26; Reception, March 3, 6 to 8 p.m.

BOOKS

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. www.hotchkisslibrary.org
The Fresh Eggs Daily Cookbook, March 3, 7 to 8 p.m. (online).

DANCE

Sharon Playhouse, 49 Amenia Road, Sharon, Conn. www.sharonplayhouse.org
Radio Days, March 5, 7 and 9 p.m.

MOVIES

The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. www.themoviehouse.net
The Batman, opens March 5; Compartment No. 6, opens March 11; The Outfit, opens March 18; The Lost City, opens March 25.

MUSIC

Barrington Stage Company, 122 North St., Pittsfield, Mass. www.barringtonstageco.org
10x10 New Play Festival, Feb. 24 to March 13.
Berkshire Theatre Group, www.berkshiretheatregroup.org
The Black Legacy Project, March 6, 7 p.m.

TALKS

The Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. www.cornwalllibrary.org
Impact of Invasive Insects in Connecticut Forests with Rob Clark, March 5, 4 p.m. (online).

THEATER

TheatreWorks, 5 Brookside Ave., New Milford, Conn. www.theatreworks.us
"The Extremists" by C.J. Hopkins directed by Francis A Daley, March 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, April 1, 2.

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Featuring five Connecticut Artists

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Tina Puckett (fiber arts) * Heather Neilson (painter) *
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Artwork by Pam White

Reception Friday March 4, 2022 6 - 8 pm
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ART: SARI GOODFRIEND

Luminous Landscapes by Photographer Nick Jacobs

Nick Jacobs has been a fixture in Cornwall, Conn., for many years. Never seen without his camera, he often bops around town with his manual portable typewriter in his Volvo station wagon. Speak with Nick for a moment and you'll feel like you've been let into a new way of seeing the world. He has an appreciation for the absurd and the ironic, but is also deeply sensitive to the beautiful banalities of life. His subjects often seem basic: a vintage kitchen fan, the chrome typewriter handle reflecting sunshine, clouds, the top branches of a tree catching the late-day light, but the way Nick sees turns everything into works of art.



PHOTO BY NICK JACOBS

A new show of work by Nick Jacobs is at the library in Cornwall, Conn., until April.

A new exhibit of his photographs at the Cornwall Library is an opportunity for us to view the world with new eyes. The show opened Feb. 26 and

remains on display until April 9.

The images in this exhibit are predominantly landscapes taken in

two places: the Coltsfoot Valley in Cornwall Village and under the concrete spandrel highway bridge that crosses the Housatonic River in Cornwall Bridge.

Like many Cornwall artists, Nick finds peace in the stunning nature of the region. He writes, "Often at sunset I walk in the Coltsfoot Valley ... and I've shot many photos there, in sunshine and shadow and in the serpentine fogs that can roil their way slowly

north from where they originate at the far end — very possibly the result of descending katabatic hillside winds."

Jacobs has worked as a commercial photographer in New York City, with emphasis on fashion and jewelry; and, later in Connecticut as a garden and human interest photographer for White Flower Farm and various magazines.

He has worked as a photojournalist in Brazil, France, Ireland and Ukraine — photographing children suffering from the after-effects of the Chernobyl disaster. Locally, he has taught at the Brookfield Craft Center. He lives in Cornwall Bridge.

The name of this new show is "The Isles of Langerhans," which is not actually a geographical region, rather a biological one. It's where endocrine cells live in the pancreas, named for the German doctor who discovered them. As previously mentioned, Nick sees the world in a unique artistic way and decided to employ this poetic-sounding title for his "body" of images.

The show can be seen during library hours. To learn more, go to <https://cornwalllibrary.org>.

A 'MASKED' PARTY AND A FOOD TASTING

Just as it looks like the mask mandates might end soon in Connecticut, the Warner Theatre in downtown Torrington has decided to celebrate the de rigueur accessory of the past two years by hosting a "masked" ball.

Well, it will actually be a masquerade "party," but it does feel that the word masquerade should be followed by the word "ball."

The celebration will be held at the theater on Friday, March 25, from 7 to 9 p.m. The main

event will be the annual Wine & Food Tasting, with a dozen vendors from the area expected to participate.

General admission tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of the event. VIP tickets are \$75; they provide early access at 6 p.m. and entree to the VIP Room in the Nancy Marine Studio Theatre, where there will be specialized catering, chocolate samplings, private tastings of premium wines and spirits and live entertainment.

FIERSTEIN AND JUSTIN VIVIAN BOND, IN CONVERSATION

Tony Award-winning performer and author Harvey Fierstein and transgender performer and artist Justin Vivian Bond will have what promises to be a lively conversation onstage at Olin Hall at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y.

The focus of the evening event (Friday, March 11, 8 p.m.) will be Fierstein's new book, "I Was Better Last Night," due out in March.

The book reveals

never-before-told stories of the actor/writer's personal struggles and conflicts, of sex and romance, and of his fabled career.

Tickets are \$38 and include a signed copy of Fierstein's book. To purchase or reserve tickets, go to www.fishercenter.bard.edu, call 845-758-7900 (Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.), or email boxoffice@bard.edu. This event is presented in partnership with Oblong Books.

...pudding

Continued from previous page

it does seem that curries make up a large part of the diet of many Brits, if BBC television programs can be believed.

I test cooked some Coronation Chicken this week and found it extremely scrumptious and hard to stop eating.

I ended up using a recipe from a cookbook by a famous South African restaurant ("A Week in the Kitchen"), which uses the curry sauce as a dressing on the side of sliced chicken breasts. Most recipes mix it all together in a kind of chicken salad.

I'll warn that this

recipe is hot and spicy; if you want it milder, leave out or decrease the chile powder. If you don't have cumin, cardamom and turmeric in your spice collection, ignore them and/or increase the curry powder to compensate.

This dish is extremely fragrant, and will leave your entire home smelling like curry for about 18 hours.

The recipe calls for eight chicken breasts; you can make as much chicken as you want with no problem. I haven't tried to do the math to decrease the sauce quantity.

A HISTORY OF THE SHEPAUG RAILROAD LINE

Fans of Connecticut rail history can tune in to a Zoom presentation co-sponsored by the Gunn Historical Museum and the Danbury Railway Museum on Monday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m.

"The History of the Shepaug Railroad" will be presented by Col. Donald A. Woodworth Jr., USAF (Ret.).

The Shepaug, Litchfield and Northern Railroad was a short independent railroad that brought local products to market, including ice from Bantam and granite from Roxbury. The railroad carried

milk from nearly every station — particularly Washington Depot — and transformed it into a regional dairy center, as well as a country retreat for city-dwellers.

Much of the line remains in place as rail trails for walking and cycling; the presentation will give visitors a new appreciation for the line that they traverse.

Register for this free program at www.gunnlibrary.org/gunn-museum/upcoming-programs. Call 860-868-7756 or go to www.gunnmuseum.org for more information.



PHOTO COURTESY GUNN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Learn about the Shepaug Railroad line, which transformed Washington, Conn., into a dairy center as well as a country retreat, in a Zoom talk on March 21.

The FRIENDS of the Pine Plains Library presents **COMMUNITY ART EXHIBIT**

Community members of all art abilities are welcome to submit a painting for exhibit in the LIBRARY.

A Welcome to Spring is the general theme.

Watercolor, oil, acrylic, ink, pastel, mixed media - landscape, still life, abstract - all will be considered.

The deadline for applications is March 15



Opening with a Coffee/Tea Reception April 1 • 5 - 7 p.m.

ARTISTS, see: www.pineplainslibrary.org for details

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Viewpoint

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We need a peaceful world, with neutral nations

Who might be interested in this appeal?

Some imaginative world citizen or diplomat probably from a Scandinavian country

sitting in an office in Bern, Lausanne or Geneva Switzerland or in Athens Greece

or at The Hague Netherlands

or in Tokyo Japan or in Berlin Germany or in _____ ? and/or _____ ? (YOU can start this!)

It will take 2 or 3 hours to call 10 or 12 friends

from 7 or more smaller democracies to get together so that this day by day 365 days a year planet-saving process

can get started NOW.

Reasons for any genuine democracy to make the invitation to some local diplomats for an exploration of the possibilities for a GOOD (Global Organization Of Democracies):

Finally start the process of universal nuclear disarmament with inspections. Finally build a workable plan for local well regulated militias to be the forces of last resort replacing standing armies globally

To save vast amounts of money now devoted to war preparations, standing armies, actual wars over resources, etc. etc. Enlighten and unite as many countries as possible toward

using the best practices of "regenerative agriculture," "permaculture" and "restoration of species diversity via global reforestation programs," which could stop viral pandemics and sequester great amounts of carbon simultaneously. Show that any small democracy can lead the world in good directions for everyone. Taking modest but effective steps toward stopping both "genocide" and "terrorism" forever.

Strengthening the rule of law both locally and globally until "Natural world" processes can replace "legal world" bureaucracies in local communities. Illustrating the efficacy and practicality of "open source intelligence" gathering. Creating forums where all issues are open to discussion in theory and in practice.

It is a consistent way to publicize and promote "best practices" of all kinds.

Putting steady pressure on the United Nations to reform its structure and processes.

Putting steady pressure on all non-democracies to reform, co-evolve, decentralize.

To move past the "U.S. veto," the "China veto," the "Russia veto," etc. at the UN.

To support International Courts in every non-violent way possible.

To save huge amounts of money now devoted to war preparations, standing

armies, actual wars over resources, etc. (in this list 2xs for a reason = debts/inflation!)

To put steady pressure on big powers against immoral and illegal acts of aggression

Enable a conversion to sustainable peacetime local economies, societies/cultures worldwide that can never become fascistic or imperialist because they are small.

I'm sure you can think of many more GOOD reasons for doing GOOD. As far as I can tell there aren't any good reasons for not doing this,

just agree many world-weary and somewhat cynical people who have either lost their faith in any sustainable future for humankind, or who believe, foolishly, that present trends continuing, we will somehow muddle through to a just, peaceful and sustainable future for Humo ludens collaborators and millions of other species.

Please send your "reasons" for a GOOD and any "revisions" of this page to ckeil, Box 511, 06039 USA.

Charles Keil

Lakeville



Cartoon to the Editor by Pat Moore, Lakeville

Barking ballyhoo, the nasty sideshow reigns

Continued from page B4

the world. So in this time of danger and brutality it is startling to encounter the brazen "clowns to left of me, jokers to right" (Bob Dylan) — here stuck in the middle with renegade American media and politicians.

The closing of Barnum and Bailey's circus in 2017 removed grand entertainment, under the big top showcasing extraordinary feats of rare talent, exotic animals, glamour and glitz. We are left with the dregs, crass sideshows with barkers hawking absurd proclamations of "genius", Putin

passion, attributing conflict causality to Western leaders and international collaborative institutions, of course blaming Biden.

Let's be clear, Putin didn't invade Ukraine simply for grievances but for advancing his grandiose goal of reestablishing the USSR, the Russian Empire. Pre-invasion, American media and politician clips were the tastiest of tidbits on Russian television — propaganda for Putin, free, heartfelt from a flock of freaks — a nasty sideshow.

The ballyhoo of this cadre of the GOP, Fox and other media barkers left many of them spinning full tilt day-to-day, first describing the

Ukraine-Russia situation as a border dispute and American's foreign policy as hating Putin. These barkers insisted pre-invasion that the U.S. stay out of this benign situation, break with NATO. Days after the invasion the barkers' ballyhoo radically transformed to disgust with Putin — he started this war — he fired the first shots — mixed with disdain for President Biden, weak for not instituting stronger, strangling sanctions back weeks ago before the invasion when they, the sideshow talent, were doggedly for avoidance, for Putin.

Differences, expressing differences, is democratic. Barking a ballyhoo of un-

truths, coddling a known tyrant, an ardent enemy, is at the least freaky. One longs for the era in which circus was a thrilling extravaganza not a derogatory descriptor. One longs for statesmen diligent enough to prevent land raids and pillage, longs for those claiming to tell the news, telling it straight.

When the politicians complain that TV turns the proceedings into a circus, it should be made clear that the circus was already there, and that TV has merely demonstrated that not all the performers are well trained.

— Edward R. Murrow

Kathy Herald-Marlowe Sharon

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

Continued from page B4

— A television field unit of the National Broadcasting Company slipped into the Northwest Corner Tuesday and spent Wednesday filming a report on school busing in the six-town regional school district. A Cornwall student at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Laurie Trager, will be featured in the interviews made at the school, as will Principal Edward Kirby and District Superintendent Frank Samuelson.

— Falls Village town officials are dismayed by the Hollenbeck Club's refusal last week to lease 10 acres of land for use as a sanitary landfill site. First Selectman Miles Blodgett told The Lakeville Journal that the club's rejection of the proposal had been something of a surprise and was "very disappointing." Mr. Blodgett informed the Journal that the present site is adequate "for the moment," but that the town must work quickly to find another area.

— Norfolk surrendered its option to buy the Boscardin block at a special town meet-

ing attended by 20 citizens Monday night. The town acquired the option some years ago when the property last changed hands. The meeting's action clears the way for purchase by a party as yet unnamed, who reportedly intends to continue its use as a commercial block.

— The Penn Central Railroad and a West Cornwall laundromat operator have been charged with violating state public health codes and were served with cease and desist orders on Feb. 11 by Town Sanitarian George Senseney. The cease and desist order served on the railroad states that the toilet used by a tenant in the West Cornwall railroad station is "discharging raw sewage into a brook which flows into the Housatonic River," while the owner of the laundromat is cited for having waste from a 10 washing machines flow into a small brook, which discharges into the Housatonic River, also in violation of the same health codes as the railroad.

— The "driven snow" of northwest Connecticut may not be as "white and pure"

as we'd like to think. Some ecology students at Kent School have discovered that the white stuff contains, of all things, cyanide. In random analyses of snow samples from the area, traces of cyanide persistently appeared. Instructor Robert Riedman is "mystified as to where it came from," and hastens to add that only minute traces were found. "You'd probably have to eat a ton of snow to feel any ill effects," he said.

25 years ago — 1997

SALISBURY — The battle of the sandwich boards was brought to a close Monday, when the Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously voted to eliminate the two-sided portable signs from downtown. Shopkeepers with businesses that are not visible from Main Street have used the signs as a way of attracting business. The decision to eliminate the sandwich boards was primarily to avoid a later proliferation of the signs. In order to help merchants who believe that their businesses may suffer from the ruling, the commission is interested

in erecting a common sign at a downtown site that may direct tourists to a number of shops.

FALLS VILLAGE — At last weekend's Class S championship wrestling meet in Colchester, Tom Presson added the honor of Class S runner-up at 275 pounds to his strong second season wrestling for Housatonic Valley Regional High School. His finish moved the Mountaineer matmen up into 15th place out of 22 teams.

CANAAN — Battle lines have been drawn once again over a proposed affordable housing development on Sand Road. Phoenix Horizon Corp. submitted an application to the Land Use Commission Monday night for construction of a 73-home community, a portion of which would be available to first-time home buyers who meet income guidelines.

These items were taken from The Lakeville Journal archives at Salisbury's Scoville Memorial Library, keeping the original wording intact as possible. Go to www.scovillelibrary.org for more.

Make Less Garbage, Part II:

Zero Waste

Last month, food waste diversion was the focus of "Make Less Garbage."

Getting wet and heavy food scraps out of the garbage stream is a noble and necessary pursuit as Connecticut and other states must address the rising costs and environmental damage of garbage disposal. There is, however, much more to the big picture of waste reduction. Take a look at the concept of Zero Waste, a lofty goal which includes many things you might already do, or many things that were simply common sense generations ago. As a case in the latter point, I'll share these observations from long-ago visits to my grandmother in Honesdale, PA.

My husband and I usually met my grandmother, great aunt, and a few of their friends at Kreitner's Restaurant, where the coffee mugs of regular customers were kept on shelves, and the food was tasty but often more than the 80 year-olds could eat for lunch. At the end of the meal, as if an alarm bell went off, the ladies simultaneously opened their purses and pulled out a bag or container to take their leftovers home. Their habits were driven by a brand of frugality along the lines of "waste not, want not" but achieved the present-day goal of reducing and reusing. We have become an increasingly convenience-driven society — grabbing coffee in take-out cups, handing out single-use plastic bottles of water to athletes in competitions, and using disposable plates, cups, and utensils for picnics, tailgates, and parties. As much as possible, with some awareness and planning (and yes, possibly a smidgeon of inconvenience), we can avoid single-use products. The Zero Waste movement follows the same principle, but adds in other stakeholders so that manufacturers and consumers alike make a goal of reducing the volume of garbage.

Zero Waste is essentially a philosophy and a design principle. According to the Zero Waste International Alliance (ZWIA), the waste prevention strategies revolve around the conservation of resources through responsible behavior in "production, consumption, reuse and recovery of all products, packaging, and materials, without burning them, and without discharges to land, water or air that threaten the environment or human health." Note the term waste prevention rather than waste management. Prevention begins with producers of consumer goods, product designers, and distribution systems; management of waste comes at the end of the pipeline.

According to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), there is a hierarchy of priorities in strategizing for waste prevention: Redesigning the current, one-way industrial system into a circular system, creating products and packaging that are durable, can be reused, or can be recycled; providing waste-based business opportunities to create jobs from discards; recognizing the importance of producer responsibility; aiming to eliminate or prevent waste rather than manage it; and enabling reused and recycled products to compete with products using virgin materials. Of these strategies, producer responsibility, is most actionable, and, in fact, exists for some products.

In 2007, the State of Connecticut passed legislation to go into effect in 2011 requiring Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to ensure that producers of electronics (computers, monitors, televisions, audio and stereo equipment) were responsible for the end life of the products they manufacture. EPR for mattresses and paint followed soon after. Under the stewardship of the producers, there is no cost to taxpayers to transport these products from transfer stations and other collection sites. Strong and persistent voices have been pushing for additions to the current list of product stewardship programs, including the manager of the Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station and your local legislators. Next in line are gas cylinders, tires, and smoke detectors. Other states are moving in the same direction; some have taken further action, including Maine, the first state to enact EPR for packaging.

Other good news includes the development of businesses committed to waste prevention. One example is the proliferation of businesses providing and managing reusable containers for take-out orders at their partner restaurants. Unfortunately, for now, those businesses exist in high-density population centers, including New York City, Boston and San Francisco.

During the pandemic, the volume of take-out orders has created an opportunity for companies like DeliverZero and r.Ware to make the idea of reusables an economical advantage for restaurants. Restaurants in our corner of Connecticut should take note, though, and explore the reusable container idea. There are plenty of restaurants and many customers who order take-out meals; maybe there is an opportunity for an enterprising soul to hop on the Zero Waste wave. You can find more information about that wave at wastezero.com and upstreamsolutions.org.

Barbara Bettigole is Chair of the Transfer Station Advisory Committee, and a certified UCONN Master Composter. She lives in Lakeville with her husband Rob.



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The Town of Salisbury is currently going through a review and update of the 2012 Plan of Conservation and Development, which happens every 10 years, per State mandate. This is required for a Town to qualify for the State's discretionary funding for the next 10 years, so it is very important. To learn more on Municipal Plans for Conservation and Development, please visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/IGPP/ORG/Conservation-and-Development-Policies-Plan/Municipal-Plans-of-Conservation-and-Development>. To review Salisbury's 2012 POCD, please go to: <https://www.salisburyct.us/planning-zoning-commission/>. And finally, there is a survey online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Salisbury_POCD_Survey to voice your vision of Salisbury, which will be open to the public until March 13th.



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EDITORIAL

Time to take strong action on the hospital

Anyone who has lived in the region serviced by Sharon Hospital in northern Litchfield County, Conn., and eastern Dutchess County, N.Y., for any length of time knows how critical it is in times of need. Every family has those times, whether it is for the emergency department when children need broken bones set, or the labor and delivery unit when a mother is giving birth, or the intensive care unit when an older generation is struggling with compounding serious health issues.

The way that Nuvance has handled the strategy for the hospital, however, since it became a nonprofit owned by them, would make it seem they have no awareness of the need for such care. Why would that be? Is it simply disregard for a rural area that has less population than the more densely inhabited areas served by their hospitals in other parts of Connecticut and New York? Or is it just more of the nationwide trend toward disrespecting rural areas and cutting back services for them as common policy?

See the front page story this week by Executive Editor Cynthia Hochswender for in-depth coverage of the position Sharon Hospital is being put in by Nuvance. She has multiple doctors on the record about the duplicity of the hospital's ownership in pushing ahead with changes that have not been approved by the state of Connecticut. Accordingly, the state has launched an investigation into Nuvance's actions. But what are the repercussions for Nuvance for such actions? Have they weighed the possible outcomes and decided it might be worth it to pay the state fines rather than keep the services in place they had promised to do in their original 2018 agreement?

The concerns of the physicians interviewed by Hochswender are the same as those we all see in the planning for the hospital. As services diminish, the experience of those who enter the hospital in times of emergency and crisis will also diminish correspondingly. Those medical professionals who are still at Sharon Hospital will surely do their level best to care for those who seek their help, as they do now. That, however, will become more and more difficult as their numbers decrease and their tools to do their jobs are taken away. The failure of the hospital will become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

There are opinions on the actions by Nuvance in this week's Opinion section from readers who represent the citizen's group Save Sharon Hospital, which has been working tirelessly to advocate for the integrity of the hospital and the need in the community for its services. Read Hochswender's front page article as well as the commentary on these pages, and bring yourself up to date on the situation as it is at this moment when it comes to the health of our community hospital.

Then act yourself if you see the urgency in this trajectory toward minimum care at Sharon Hospital. Take the steps suggested in his letter to the editor by Victor Germack, and email the state Office of Health Strategy at ohs@ct.gov and contact the area's elected representatives to strongly oppose such cuts in service.

Pray for Ukraine, democracy and the world. And support Ukraine through their own independent English language news outlet at www.patreon.com/kyivindependent, and at www.voices.org.ua/en/donat/ (Thank you, Mary Close Oppenheimer, for these links.)

Nuvance must not ignore its obligations

In late September 2021, Nuvance stated its intention to close the maternity unit in 8 to 12 months and to replace the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Sharon Hospital with a lower intensity Progressive Care Unit. There appeared to be no wiggle room in its statement, and Nuvance gave the impression that there was no way to appeal. What Nuvance failed to mention, however, was that just 2.5 years earlier it had agreed, in writing, to maintain both of these services for at least five years. When Nuvance was formed by the merger of N.Y.-based Health Quest and Western Connecticut Health Network on April 1, 2019, it signed a Certificate of Need (CON) agreement with the CT Office of Health Strategy (OHS), including the provisional agreement that it would not close vital hospital services, including the maternity and critical care units, for five years. Taking action to close

these vital services is a direct violation of the agreement that Nuvance had struck with the regulators.

Our group, Save Sharon Hospital, along with members of the medical community, have submitted several letters to OHS to fight for the maintenance of Sharon Hospital as a full-service hospital. (The published letters can be found at www.savesharonhospital.org/ohs-letters.) Our evidence-based filings have not gone unnoticed. On Feb. 3, 2022, OHS opened an official investigation into Nuvance's possible noncompliance with the CON obligations outlined in April 2019, stating: "Information received from the community and Hospital suggests that key discrepancies persist concerning the Hospital's compliance..." and OHS "shall have the power to administer oaths and take testimony related to the matter of the investigation."

The state of Connecticut

has decided it is not going to sit back and watch as large, profit-motivated hospital corporations circumvent its regulations and attempt to close the healthcare services relied on by residents of rural communities. In fact, in response to the premature closure of maternity services at Wyndham Hospital without OHS approval, OHS fined Wyndham Hospital's corporate owner, Hartford Healthcare, the maximum civil fine of \$1,000/day, totaling \$65,000, thereby demonstrating its willingness to enforce critical regulations.

Large hospital corporations such as Nuvance Health and Hartford Healthcare should not be permitted to ignore state regulations and instead must adhere to them. Their primary purpose is to care for people, and it is distressing when hospital administrators seem more focused on acquiring more hospitals and increasing profitability. I am still stunned

that Nuvance would attempt to close the Sharon Hospital ICU in the middle of a pandemic when ICU beds have often been in short supply. Nuvance must not be allowed to close our vital hospital services prior to the end of the five-year CON requirement. Instead, Nuvance should work with the community and use the remaining time to find sustainable solutions to maintain Sharon Hospital as a full-service operation, with maternity and critical care services intact.

Lydia Moore
Save Sharon Hospital, Inc.
Sharon

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

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



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

Ice fishing and strolling on Lakeville Lake

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hospital should be full service

Nuvance Health wants to eliminate maternity, replace the ICU with a lower intensity unit and discontinue after-hours surgery at Sharon Hospital. The elimination of these vital services would have devastating impacts on our community. Alarming, without waiting for the required approval by the Office of Health Strategy (OHS), its state regulator, Nuvance has already taken major steps in its "transformation" plan, claiming it must — because Sharon Hospital has lost approximately \$41 million over the past five years.

My colleagues and I, from Save Sharon Hospital, Inc. a local nonprofit formed to preserve Sharon Hospital as a full-service hospital, have examined Nuvance's publicly available financial statements and the consulting report Nuvance commissioned from Stroudwater Associates in 2021. We also met with Nuvance management. As a result, we can state conclusively that Sharon Hospital did NOT lose \$41 million over the past five years. In fact, its losses were considerably less and it is possible that Sharon Hospital's operations may have broken even.

When decisions of this gravity are made based on the numbers being reported, it is vital to the public interest to examine the financial accounting in detail. Our analysis found that the Stroudwater report showed that in 2019, Sharon Hospital should have been given a systems credit for \$5.3 million in procedures ordered at Sharon Hospital but performed

at other Nuvance hospitals; in addition, \$1 million in tests should also have been credited because Nuvance had closed the lab at Sharon.

Projecting these credits for the four other years provides an additional savings benefit of \$25.2 million. We also found that Nuvance did not credit Sharon Hospital with the CARES Act benefit of \$7.5 million and charged Sharon Hospital \$5 million in one-time reimbursement for prior years' corporate overhead expenses in 2021. These overhead expenses were not fully explained to us nor, in our view, supported.

When we presented our preliminary analysis to Nuvance, they acknowledged that the stated losses of \$41 million should be reduced by \$10.5 million or by 26% in system benefits. This supports our contention that the losses were dramatically overstated. We believe that Nuvance's stated losses are still too high and that the benefits contributed by Sharon Hospital to Nuvance are still considerably understated. Only a detailed independent forensic audit would truly ascertain the correct number.

My background is in corporate finance and my associates are also financial experts: a retired partner from a "big four" public accounting firm and an experienced business executive. Given our findings, Nuvance's decision to close and curtail Sharon Hospital's essential services is wrong, based on a fundamentally flawed analysis.

We urge everyone to

email OHS at ohs@ct.gov and contact your local elected representatives to oppose these cuts in service.

We have engaged a healthcare lawyer, and we will continue to keep local residents informed, and in turn, we ask for your financial and moral support.

Victor Germack
Save Sharon Hospital, Inc.
Sharon

Sideshow ballyhoo

Listening backstage (March 2016), Trump demanded to know the identity of the congressman trashing him. A few minutes later, Pompeo concluded, "It's time to turn down the lights on the circus."

— Susan B. Glasser, The New Yorker, 2019

I remember the Cuban missile crisis, the fear of existential tragedy in 1962, my brothers and classmates were subject to the draft. Earlier, as a kid there were terrifying duck-and-cover drills under the desk at school. Fear of nuclear conflict. But since the end of the Cold War, armed conflicts had been diminishing across the globe — not extinct but fewer. Then today, war in Europe is at a massive level, thousands of miles away on peoples of another nation — a brutal invasion — it is personal and petrifying.

The resiliency of Ukraine isn't surprising nor is the steadfast alliance of most of

Continued on page B3

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — 1922

SALISBURY — Mrs. William Blanchard Rand last week was awarded the Carol H. Beck gold medal for her portrait of Hon. Donald T. Warner, by the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. This portrait was judged by the painters' jury to be the finest portrait in oil shown at the exhibition. The Beck medal was offered by James M. Beck, the well known lawyer in memory of his sister, Carol H. Beck, who died in 1908.

— Miss Sarah K. Everts has resigned her position as teacher in the Seymour School and is with her father here in Salisbury.

— March came in with a blast of cold weather, the mercury recording 5 to 8 above. The blue birds and robins have retired to don their felt boots and heavy coats.

LAKEVILLE — Miss Mary Stanton has resumed her duties at the post office after being ill with grippe and quinzey.

— Miss Annie Chipman, who went to the Winsted Hospital in December for treatment for an infected finger, has recently had the finger amputated.

50 years ago — 1972

In the face of pressure from the Connecticut Department of Health, the Kent Nursing Association plans to join a New Milford agency on a trial basis, severing ties with the W. Bradford Walker Nursing Association in Cornwall.

— A new financial institution came to Lakeville this week as the Litchfield Savings Bank opened its branch office, complete with drive-in window, in the Lakeville Professional Building on North Main Street. Henry C. Stocking, executive vice president of the Litchfield Savings Bank, will be in charge of the Lakeville branch. He reported steady business on the first day, including the opening of more than 30 new accounts.

— Mrs. Betty Shepard of Ellsworth, Sharon, has accepted the position of Welcome Wagon Hostess for seven villages in Northwest Connecticut. She will greet new families in Salisbury, Lakeville, Sharon, Cornwall, Kent, Canaan and Falls Village. Mrs. Shepard will continue as Sharon correspondent for The Lakeville Journal.

Continued page on B3

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

(USPS 303280)

An Independent Connecticut Newspaper

Published Weekly by The Lakeville Journal Company
Owned by The Lakeville Journal Foundation; Noreen Doyle, Chair
64 Route 7 North, Falls Village, CT 06031
P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039-9989
(860) 435-9873 • www.tricornernews.com • editor@lakevillejournal.com

Volume 125, Number 30

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mission Statement

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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Janet Manko
Publisher and Editor-In-Chief
James H. Clark
Chief Operating Officer
Libby Hall-Abel
Advertising Manager

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A. Whitney Ellsworth
1936-2011
Managing Partner
Robert H. Estabrook
1918-2011
Editor and Publisher Emeritus

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Olivia Montoya, graphic designer.

DRIVERS: Chris Palmer; William Thomas; Geoffrey Olans.

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Subscription Rates - One Year: \$82.00 in Litchfield County, \$98.00 outside county
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ESTATE MANAGER'S ASSISTANT NEEDED: Looking for a motivated, reliable person experienced with tractors, chainsaws etc. to work two days weekly from April through November. Competitive compensation. Contact Jeffrey at 860-824-0233.

EXTRAS AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM: located in Salisbury, CT is looking for a Program Director/Head Teacher for our school-age program. We are open after school, early dismissals, some no school days, and several weeks during the summer. School year hours average 25 hours per week and summer hours are 40 hours per week. Annual income starting at \$25,000 based on experience. Requirements for the position based on CT OEC guidelines. Vacation time available after a year. For more information or to submit a resume please email us at extrasprogram@gmail.com.

EXTRAS AFTERSCHOOL/SUMMER PROGRAM: Located in Salisbury CT is hiring staff members to work with our school-age children from 2:45-5:30 pm daily. Additional hours are available. Sign-on bonus given after 6 months. Contact us at 860-435-9926 for more information. To apply send a resume to extrasprogram@gmail.com.

FULL-TIME GARDENER POSITION: Established Sheffield based landscape company seeking to hire for the upcoming season. Experience preferred, but will train right individual. Must have valid driver's license and be able to lift 50#. We offer competitive wages, health insurance, paid holiday and end of season bonus. Payscale \$18-\$30/hr. Please email resume to biasinlandscape@gmail.com or call 413-229-2375.

GARDEN CREW FULL TIME POSITION AVAILABLE: Garden bed installation & maintenance, seasonal trimming/pruning, planting and transplanting etc. Pay based on knowledge and experience but willing to train the right individual. Call or text 860-248-0381.

SUMMER CAMP EMPLOYEES: At this time the Town of Amenia is accepting applications for a Summer Camp Director, EMT, Lifeguard and Camp Councilors for the Amenia Day Camp. Applications may be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office during regular hours or by emailing dmkingner@ameniany.gov. Applications are returnable to the Town Clerk until March 31, 2022 at NOON.

HELP WANTED

ISABELLA FREEDMAN JEWISH RETREAT CENTER: is a year-round 120-person retreat facility that is located in Falls Village, CT. New employees are eligible for a signing bonus of \$1,000. At the time of hire, the new employee will receive \$250. After 45 days, provided they have no active disciplinary issues, the new employee will receive the remaining \$750. Want to work at a beautiful, peaceful location, with great people? This is the place to be! We are currently seeking an Executive Chef, Hospitality Specialists, Dishwashers, and Retreat Services Associates. For more details please visit our website at <https://hazon.org/about/jobs-internships/> and email a copy of your resume to jobs@hazon.org.

LANDSCAPE COMPANY OFFERING FULL TIME POSITION SEASONAL MAINTENANCE: Spring and Fall cleanups, lawn mowing and trimming, including operating and servicing zero turn mowers. Pay based on knowledge and experience. Call or text 860-248-0381.

LOOKING FOR A FRIENDLY, KNOWLEDGEABLE AND ENERGETIC PERSON: to manage perennials sales at Old Farm Nursery. Full or part time from April-November. Starting pay is \$25-\$30/hour depending on experience. Work involves maintaining and selling perennials in the beautiful setting of Old Farm Nursery. Call 860-435-2272 or email to oldfarmnursery@aol.com.

LOOKING FOR A FRIENDLY ENERGETIC PERSON TO JOIN OUR LANDSCAPE CREW: Must have clean driving record and landscape experience. Ability to drive a truck and equipment a plus. Full time between March and December. Starting pay \$25-\$30/hour depending on experience. Apply to Old Farm Nursery at 860-435-2272. oldfarmnursery@aol.com.

SMALL ANGUS FARM SEEKS P/T HELP: Duties include feeding, cleaning, fence repair, moving hay and grain daily. Will train the right person. 860-364-5019.

THE TOWN OF SHARON SEWER AND WATER COMMISSION: is seeking to fill the part-time position of Commission Clerk. Hourly rate commensurate with ability. The successful applicant must be proficient with QuickBooks, MSWord and MSExcel, as well as adapting to other industry specific programs. Tasks include but are not limited to bookkeeping A/R & A/P, schedule commission meetings, taking meeting minutes, customer service, payroll, maintaining customer accounts & database, producing documents as required, project tracking, filing and other general office duties. Attending monthly meetings is required. Please send resume and application to sharonswc@sbcglobal.net More information can be found at <https://www.sharonct.org/sewer-water-commission>.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE: Equal Housing Opportunity. All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1966 revised March 12, 1989 which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap or familial status or national origin or intention to make any such preference, limitation or

REAL ESTATE

discrimination. All residential property advertised in the State of Connecticut General Statutes 46a-64c which prohibit the making, printing or publishing or causing to be made, printed or published any notice, statement or advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, physical or mental disability or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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News Editor The Lakeville Journal

The Editor will be primarily responsible for editing and writing articles to serve the readership of The Lakeville Journal print community weekly newspaper, and content feeds that go to www.tricornernews.com from the Northwest Connecticut region. Duties include planning the content of each week's issue, ensuring there is a balance of quality stories and photos, and that deadlines are met weekly. Work is hybrid, with deadline coordination happening remotely, but some time spent covering events or interviews and the ability to use the office in Falls Village, Conn., when necessary. Full time, medical, vision and dental benefits, 401(k) plan. Vaccination against COVID-19 required.

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Janet Manko, publisher@lakevillejournal.com.

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*Bonus (\$) paid at end of summer should you sign-up, submit paperwork & commit by May 1st

(To work pls. provide: CT-W4; Fed W4; VSCIS-19; copy of AC driver's license; direct deposit bank name, account #, routing; ARC certification)

Contact: ericstoer@gmail.com

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Millbrook School

Millbrook School, a private boarding high school located in Millbrook, NY is seeking the following positions:

GROUNDSKEEPER Full time, benefits eligible

The groundskeeper will assist in maintaining all campus grounds and athletic fields. Responsibilities include:

- Maintaining the campus grounds, athletic fields, equipment, and campus vehicles.
- Responsible for mowing and landscaping including treatments of lawns, trees, and shrubs; lawn renovations; lawn irrigation; pruning, propagation, and transplanting.
- Using and maintaining power tools and other equipment.
- Working ice rink rotation during winter months, operating the Zamboni.
- Responsible for assisting in snow and ice removal.
- Raking, blowing & vacuuming leaves.
- Operating heavy equipment and utility support for building mechanics

Qualified candidates should possess a basic knowledge of gardening and grounds maintenance. Knowledge of use and maintenance of hand & power tools and heavy equipment required. Familiarity with common plant species, landscaping, and cultivation required. Candidates must have a high school diploma and a valid & clean driver's license.

MAIL ROOM ASSOCIATE Part Time

The Mail Room Associate will work approximately 20 hours per week, when school is in session. This position involves keeping the mail, packages and mailroom organized in addition to interacting with students, employees, and vendors. It also involves a fair amount of physical activity. Responsibilities include:

- Drive to the Millbrook Post Office each day to pick up and drop off mail and packages.
- Drive to the bank, when needed.
- Put postage on outgoing mail using postage machine and prepare mail for pick up.
- Sort and distribute student & faculty packages in a timely fashion.
- Clearly and neatly label all packages and place packages on shelves in an orderly fashion.
- Complete forms for carrier packages (USPS, UPS, Fed Ex, Amazon, etc.)
- Assist students & faculty with sending or returning packages & with sending international packages.
- Maintain shipping & receiving materials.

Qualified candidates should have a high school diploma, a clean & valid driver's license, and basic computer skills (Word, Excel, Outlook). Must have the ability to multi-task, problem solve and prioritize. Must be able to lift packages up to 45 pounds.

Millbrook School employees must be fully vaccinated against COVID19.

Interested candidates may submit a letter of interest and resume to: Millbrook School, Attn: Human Resource Department, 131 Millbrook School Rd., Millbrook, NY 12545 or email to pstarzyk@millbrook.org.

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