

The Lakeville Journal

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



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Dicky Riegel, at right in photo, is part of a new ownership group that purchased Lime Rock Park from owner Skip Barber, who is at left in this photo from last spring.

Looking back: 2021

A quieter and more secure future for Lime Rock Park

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LIME ROCK — In March, Lime Rock Park (LRP) owner Skip Barber reached an agreement to sell a majority interest in the race track to a group of investors.

This group, led by Dicky Riegel, Charles Mallory and Bill Rueckert, "are the right guys," Barber said.

Riegel is the former president and CEO of Airstream and is chair of the Board of Trustees at Salisbury School; Mallory is the founder of the Greenwich Hospitality Group; Rueckert is chair of the Board of Trustees of Teachers College at Columbia University.

All three are frequent users

of Lime Rock Park — a fact not lost on Barber.

"I became concerned seven or eight years ago about who would be the steward of Lime Rock Park down the road," he said.

Riegel, the new LRP chief executive officer, gave the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission an outline of future plans for the track at the commission's Aug. 16 meeting (held online).

He began by saying that the new ownership team wishes to establish a good working relationship with the town and the commission.

He said LRP would address

See LIME ROCK, Page A6

Looking back: 2021

There will be a reckoning in 2022 about our trash

By Patrick L. Sullivan

As 2021 drew to a close, two towns — Falls Village and Sharon — still had not committed to the state Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority's (MIRA) five-year plan to ship municipal solid waste out of state for disposal.

MIRA Chair Don Stein said in a Nov. 1 interview with The Lakeville Journal that addressing Connecticut's solid waste management will require action from both the executive and legislative branches of the state government.

MIRA President Tom Kirk said in the same Nov. 1 interview that the immediate problem is that the trash-to-energy facility in Hartford (where Northwest Corner towns send their trash) is going to close on July 1, 2022. The Hartford facility serves 49 towns. It burns municipal solid waste and converts it into electricity.

The facility is outdated, and in 2020 the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) rejected a proposal to spend \$330 million to redevelop it.

Which means for the short term the garbage will be

See TRASH, Page A6



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Expansion at Geer Nursing is delayed by soaring costs

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — Skyrocketing building material costs have halted the planned construction of an 80,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art nursing facility on the campus of the Geer Village Senior Community.

The cost of the project, originally estimated at between \$20 million and \$25 million, has seen a double-digit increase since 2019, when the state issued a Certificate of Need (CON) in the amount of \$22 million, according to Geer CEO Kevin O'Connell. Now, with a pandemic raging and building costs rising, the clock is ticking on the 5-year certificate, which expires in 2023.

"You can't pick a worse

See GEER, Page A6



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Price increases for building supplies as well as supply shortages have put construction on hold of a much-needed new nursing and rehabilitation center at Geer.

DPH eases license rules for out-of-state health care workers

By Debra A. Aleksinas

Citing concerns over a shortage of health-care professionals as COVID-19 hospitalizations rise, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has temporarily waived license requirements for out-of-state health care professionals, including those who provide mental health services.

The order by DPH Commissioner Manisha Juthani came on Dec. 22 as the state's case positivity rate surged past 8% and amid the emergence of the new, rapidly spreading and highly contagious omicron variant. By Dec. 30, the state's positivity rate soared past 20%, a record high, and hospitaliza-

tions closed in on last winter's peak.

"This order offers some immediate relief to support Connecticut's health care infrastructure by authorizing licensed health-care providers from other states to immediately work in Connecticut," said Commissioner Juthani. "The professions authorized include those who provide critical mental health services which are in high demand."

The suspension period is

"The professions authorized include those who provide critical mental health services, which are in high demand."

staffing shortages everywhere, exacerbated by omicron.

Marshall estimated that one half of all employees currently out sick are out sick with COVID-19. "So, I think the likelihood of being able to pull from other facilities is low, because everyone is short on staff."

The omicron variant, Marshall noted, is highly contagious and can invade the immune system in people already vaccinated and even those who have had the booster shots. But the silver lining, said the Sharon physician, is that vaccinated individuals are less likely to become seriously ill from the virus, which is why it is "absolutely essential" to get the jabs.

Norfolk family wins court battle against Siting Council over wind turbine

By Willard Wood

NORFOLK — The Connecticut Siting Council, which has broad authority over the siting of telecommunications and energy infrastructure in the state, is rarely overturned in its decisions, but on Nov. 30, a Superior Court judge in New Britain, Conn., vacated the council's approval of a wind turbine in Colebrook, citing irregularities in the decision-making procedure.

The suit was brought by Julia and Jonathan Gold, landowners in Norfolk, whose farm on the Norfolk-Colebrook line is adjacent to the parcel where the turbine was to be built. They were joined as plaintiffs by another abutting landowner, the Grant Swamp Group, a nonprofit environmental organization, FairwindCT and the Town of Colebrook.

A wind turbine in their backyard

For the Gold family, the saga

began in mid-January 2020 when a local reporter called for their reaction to the planned construction of a turbine a few hundred feet from their property line. They thought it couldn't happen. They'd bought their land in 2018, knowing that a third turbine might eventually be added to the nearby Colebrook windfarm, joining the two built in 2015. But the permitted third turbine was not any closer to them than the others. Besides, there was a

37-acre strip of land just across the Colebrook line that would serve as a buffer.

What the Golds were learning, although from unofficial sources, was that BNE Energy was proposing to buy that strip of buffer land, put a large, next-generation turbine there, and have the Siting Council approve it as a mere modification to the original windfarm ruling issued in 2011. From BNE's

See TURBINE, Page A6

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In The Journal this week

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Three-day forecast

Friday.....Snow, high 28°/low 19°
 Saturday.....Sun, 27°/18°
 Sunday.....Snow, 39°/25°

POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

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

Left the scene of an accident

On Dec. 21 at approximately 5:15 p.m. on Page Road in Falls Village a 2012 GMC Savana driven by Joseph Matalote, 53, of Orange, Conn., was struck by a 2018 Ford Fiesta driven by Dora Duplessis, 68, of Falls Village that was making a sudden turn onto Page Road. Duplessis then evaded the scene of the accident. Police action remains pending.

Struck a tree

On Dec. 22 at approximately 5:30 a.m. on Route 7 in Cornwall a 2019 Toyota Rav4 driven by Kaniz Azad, 29, of Jamaica, N.Y., drove into a tree. Azad was issued a written warning for failure to maintain the lane.

Drove into traffic

On Dec. 22 at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Salisbury Road in North Canaan a 2003 Honda CR-V driven by Katherine Libby, 33, of Cornwall veered into the wrong lane and into oncoming traffic, striking a 2004 Subaru Impreza driven by Robin Roraback, 57, of Salisbury. Roraback was transported to Waterbury Hospital for injuries. The collision remains under investigation, police action is pending.

Struck a Tesla

On Dec. 26 at approximately 12:45 p.m. on Route 7 in North Canaan a 2012 Subaru Forester driven by Zachary Thomas Grappone, 25, of Watertown, Conn., rear ended a 2018 Tesla driven by Charles Melcher, 56, of New York, N.Y., which was stopped at a stop sign. Grappone was issued a written warning for following too closely.

Rear ended

On Dec. 28 at approximately 4:45 p.m. on Sharon Road in Salisbury a 2016 BMW X5 driven by Eric Macaire, 59, of Salisbury struck the rear of a 2019 BMW X5 driven by Erika Hansen Matt, 58, of Cambridge, Mass., which had stopped for traffic. Macaire was issued an infraction for following too closely.

Drove into traffic

On Dec. 29 at approximately 9:30 a.m. on Canaan Road in North Canaan a 2015 Mercedes Benz Sprinter driven by Jarad Seery, 21, of Holyoke, Mass., traveled into the wrong

lane and drove into oncoming traffic, striking the front of a 2012 Volkswagen Jetta driven by Carl Blair, 57, of Danvers, Mass.

Seery's Mercedes Benz then struck a utility pole following the collision, splitting the wooden pole and causing it to fall into the roadway. Both drivers were extracted from their vehicles by the fire department. Blair was transported to Waterbury Hospital for serious injuries. Seery was transported to Fairview Hospital. Police action is pending.

Violation of release

On Dec. 29 James Jamieson, 51, of Salisbury turned himself in on a warrant and was charged with violating the conditions of his release in the second degree. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on Dec. 30.

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.

Wilson art show opens on Jan. 8

CORNWALL — There will be an opening reception for a show of work by Mark Wilson at the Cornwall Library on Saturday, Jan. 8, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Wilson is a long-time West Cornwall resident and a digital art pioneer. His show, "Mutable: An exhibition of ink jet prints on canvas," will be on view through Feb. 19.

For more information, go to <https://cornwalllibrary.org/art-exhibits/>

FAMILY & FRIENDS

North Canaan Elementary School honor roll

NORTH CANAAN — North Canaan Elementary School has released its list of honors for the first semester of the 2021-22 school year.

Fifth Grade Highest honors

Lainey Diorio, Lyla Diorio, Carter Finney, Ryan Hinman, Katelyn Holst-Grubbe, Elexis Petkovich, Justin Sorrell

Honors

Sophia Bascetta, Connor

Crane, Destini Dingee, Sophia Funk, Ava Humes, Riley LaPlante, Tyler LaPlante, Autumn McKone, Sofia Paz-Cortez, Roshwen Rivas, Mason Routhier, Owen Simmons, Olivia Simonds, Julian Swanson, Abigail Veilleux, Scarlett Visconti, Kaylea Wolfe

Honors

Prestyn Handlowich, Aliha Massey

Sixth Grade Highest honors

Caitlin Devino, Abigail Perotti

Honors

Luca Bascetta, Paige Bee-man, Peyton Bushnell, Teah Fredenburg, Giovanni Solorzano-Lemus, Sierra Szymanski, Camdyn Tallon, Erick Trotta, Federico Vargas, Collin Walsh

Seventh Grade Highest honors

Adelyn Diorio, Emeline Krauz

Honors

Olivia Claydon, Natasha Dennis, Lydia Fleming, Sydney Howe, Braylan Lopez-Gonzalez, Gustavo Portillo, Carson Riva, Ivy Zheng

Eighth grade Highest honors

Katherine Crane

Honors

Wesley Allyn, Christopher Crane, Richard Crane, Alexa Meach, Cole Simonds, Lauren Sorrell

Honors

Caiden Brewer

Funds for local food pantry

NORTH CANAAN — Coordinating grants totaling \$7,500 have been awarded to Fishes and Loaves Pantry to be used for general operational support by two area foundations. A grant in the amount of \$5,000 was made possible by the Khurshed Bhungara Fund and Northwest Connecticut Philanthropy Fund, funds of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation. A grant for \$2,500 was awarded from the Northwest Corner Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

The funding will allow the pantry to purchase items that

have become less affordable and reach out to the growing number of households in need of assistance.

A mission of the North Canaan Congregational Church, Fishes & Loaves serves food-insecure residents of North Canaan and Falls Village. Distribution times are Tuesday from 4 to 6 p.m. and Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. at 30 Granite Ave., North Canaan.

For more information, call Louise Riley at 860-824-7232, email fishesandloavespantry@gmail.com or go to www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org.

Major grants for arts groups

Substantial grant funds were awarded to numerous Northwest Corner arts organizations in December from CT Humanities.

The grants were part of \$16 million in general operating support grants to help the state's museums, cultural, humanities and arts organizations maintain and grow their ability to serve their community and the public, connect K-12 teachers and students to strong humanities and arts content, and improve their information technology and digital infrastructure.

The grants were administered by CT Humanities, with funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts from the Connecticut State Legislature.

Canaan Falls Village

• Canaan Historical Society, \$7,300

• Music Mountain, \$28,800

Cornwall

• Cornwall Historical Society, \$10,300

Kent

• Connecticut State Historic

Preservation Office/Eric Sloane Museum, \$5,000

• Kent Art Association, \$8,300

• Kent Historical Society, \$11,800

• Kent Singers, \$6,900

Salisbury

• Crescendo, \$12,500

• Salisbury Association, \$29,100

• Salisbury Forum, \$6,800

• The Northwest Music Association, \$6,400

Sharon

• Sharon Historical Society, \$12,100

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Dear reader,

When this newspaper made a plea to our readers for support in 2019, The Lakeville Journal Company, publishers of The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News and www.tricornernews.com, was at a crossroads. Then, we were looking at drastically cutting costs in order to survive.

Two years later, after two highly successful appeals to our readership for contributions that saved your local community newspapers, this small media company is in a very different place. Your generosity kept us alive, even during a worldwide pandemic, and we were able to apply for and receive tax-exempt status from the IRS as a public charity. Your contributions to The Lakeville Journal Foundation are now tax deductible to the extent permitted under the law. Now it is time to regroup again and make a new plan to take this media company into a successful future.

During COVID-19 shutdowns and restrictions, this company was able to obtain two PPP grants from the U.S. government, which, combined with our readers' generous support, helped us remain in place to report the news of your communities. Your wish for local news is what drives our mission, which publishes in the newspapers every week:

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

We sincerely ask you to be a Community Contributor, donating whatever you can to support local news, to The Lakeville Journal Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. Unlike the last two years, your donations are now tax deductible within the limits of the law.

Thank you for keeping track of your local news in our publications, and profound gratitude for your support that kept The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News and www.tricornernews.com here for your communities.

Noreen Doyle

Noreen Doyle, Chair

Janet Manko

Janet Manko, CEO, executive director

The Lakeville Journal Foundation, Inc.

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Our Towns

Looking back: 2021

Navigating the pandemic with aplomb in Cornwall

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — With neighbors being there for neighbors, the town dealt with COVID-19 while enjoying an increase in population numbers as out-of-town residents sought refuge in their weekend homes, enjoying all that the Cornwall way of life offers. The food bank served more local residents than usual and managed to keep supplies replenished. Volunteers were generous with time and funds. West Cornwall gained strength in numbers of new

businesses. Plans for a wastewater treatment facility that could make it possible to have more new business ventures are awaiting a decision on whether federal funding will be granted. Fans of the Cogswell Road bridge found a reasoned solution to what neighbors felt were major aesthetic problems. A solution involved removing the top beam and replacing it with a wooden rail painted forest green (to mute the gleam of the steel). After monthly task force meetings, a couple of forums and a public hearing, the town's

Affordable Housing Plan was written and approved — ready for submission to the state in advance of the state's deadline. The plan has no regulatory teeth, but it will serve as a guide for discussion by the Planning and Zoning Commission during the coming months.

Looking back: 2021

FV grapples with affordable housing

FALLS VILLAGE — Falls Village Housing Trust's efforts to build an affordable housing complex on River Road was the front-and-center issue in Falls Village in 2021. The hubbub died down, at least temporarily, when the trust's Jandi Hanna informed the Board of Selectmen on Oct. 18 that the group had not received a state Community Development Block Grant. Such grants were an issue in the affordable housing discussions, with questions raised about the town's liability if a grant was received but the housing was never built. To comply with a state mandate for towns to create an affordable housing plan by summer 2022, a "task team" was formed, led by regional planning consultant Janell Mullen. The group produced a report — which the selectmen accepted over the objections of some of the group members, who said there were numerous factual errors. The selectmen agreed to allow for revisions and corrections. The selectmen thanked the group for their work and then disbanded it, saying the funds were exhausted and the work completed. There were also objections to this.

— Patrick L. Sullivan

Looking back: 2021

In Kent, health care and infrastructure were priorities

By Leila Hawken

KENT — Despite COVID-19 and its disruptions, the town made measurable progress in 2021 on several fronts. Early in the year, the town agreed to engage with the SustainableCT program, appointing a team to pursue the goals leading to certification. Meeting those goals may make the town eligible for funding to support town environmental initiatives. The team's work will continue into the new year. The historic Swift House re-

ceived attention to its roof and chimney, both of which had been in serious need of repair. The projects were completed before the end of the year, protecting against further weather damage to the landmark building. The closing of Kent Primary Care was a huge concern for the town this year, as selectmen weighed various options. By the end of the year, the best option appeared to be providing reliable transportation for those who need medical care. Emergency Management Services (EMS) staff evaluat-

ed what would be needed to bring the town into compliance with state regulations requiring that each town have a viable current plan. The selectmen agreed to use ARPA funds to support the work of updating the existing plans and adding a mandated pandemic plan, as well as equipping EMS space at the firehouse. Training for volunteers is also included for maximized readiness. Use of ARPA Funds was also approved to install equipment for hybrid meetings in the Town Hall meeting room.

Looking back: 2021

Sharon feels the impact of regional issues and concerns

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Sharon residents led the way in 2021 on protests to cuts in services proposed for Sharon Hospital. An area of particular concern for the "Save Sharon Hospital" group was the planned elimination of labor and delivery.

A large group turned out Nov. 6 on the Sharon Green for a protest rally. Veterans' Field gained a new playground in 2021, and soon afterward a memorial bench was added, with a shade tree. Speeding and overuse of recreational areas in residential

neighborhoods remain active concerns throughout the town and the region. Two townwide forums were held at Veterans' Field to gather input. The issue continues into the coming year. Plans for expansion of the Town Hall parking lot are moving ahead, looking toward work being done in the coming year.



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

The Hotchkiss Library is likely to remain at the Herbert Klebes American Legion Hall until renovations of the library building are complete, possibly in January 2023.

Same story: Construction costs delay renovation at library

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — With fundraising nearing the \$3 million goal, anticipation is growing for residents who are awaiting the start of construction and interior restoration work at the historic Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, serving the community since 1893. A well-attended groundbreaking ceremony on Aug. 7 celebrated a robust capital campaign that succeeded in raising \$2.7 million toward a project that will handsomely expand the present building to provide access for handicapped patrons and restore and preserve the historic interior. The remaining \$300,000 is earmarked for the library's endowment. Executive Director Gretchen Hachmeister provided an update on the construction schedule, issuing a statement on Wednesday, Dec. 22, detailing reasons for an apparent delay. The revised schedule calls

for work to begin in March 2022 and to be completed nine months later, in January 2023, Hachmeister said. "Fencing will be erected to surround the site in the spring when construction begins in earnest, but we hope that some interior restoration work could begin during the winter," she said. Widespread community support for this project continues. Residents who embrace the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon and its contributions to the community, are invited to contribute any amount to help to move the fundraising to its final goal in the coming weeks. While awaiting the construction, the library is comfortably situated in temporary quarters at the American Legion Hall at 15 New St. Information about the project and individual donation options can be found at the library or on the website at www.hotchkisslibrary.org.

"The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon had originally hoped to begin restoration work on the existing library and the new addition this past September. However, as the start date approached, construction costs began to spike while the availability of materials shrank, and we were advised by our construction professionals that it would be prudent to reschedule the start of construction for the coming spring. This advice is also consistent with our continuing commitment to be good stewards of the funds our community is investing in the project," Hachmeister said. Hachmeister joined with Library Board President Tom Trowbridge in December to request funding from the boards of selectmen and finance. Both boards were persuaded to approve unanimously \$50,000 in town support to help the library reach its goal.

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Our Towns



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Looking back: 2021

Solar light to cast its glow on church roof

SALISBURY — In early December, workers began removing the roof of the Salisbury Congregational Church for the installation of solar panels. The church is embarking on a “net-zero” refitting of its heating and cooling systems. The new roof is now in place; the solar panels have not been added yet.

— Patrick L. Sullivan



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Downtown North Canaan has had a business boom, with shops and restaurants thriving despite roadwork.

Looking back: 2021

New businesses (and a parking shortage) in North Canaan

NORTH CANAAN — Despite disruptions and delays caused by COVID-19, the long-awaited state road construction project finally got underway downtown on Route 44, near the railroad depot/brewery. The work will include improvements to the sidewalks and railroad crossing.

Coincidentally, the town’s commercial center bustled with new businesses opening — and attracting customers in such numbers that adequate parking has become an issue.

— Leila Hawken

Looking back: 2021

Lakeville’s housing plan approved — and challenged

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Housing Committee’s application to build an affordable housing apartment building at 11 Holley St. in Lakeville was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission on May 17, with numerous conditions and after three separate and lengthy sessions of a public hearing.

Opponents of the housing proposal, represented by attorney Daniel Casagrande, filed a lawsuit on June 8. Nobody involved has said anything publicly since.

On July 12, the Board of Selectmen voted to extend by one year the lease on the town-owned 11 Holley St. property to the Salisbury Housing Committee. The vote was unanimous.

Interest in the Salisbury Housing Committee proposal and in affordable housing in general was high. On Jan. 27, a special meeting of the Affordable Housing Commission on Zoom ended abruptly because the online format could not handle the number of people who wanted to sign in.

— Patrick L. Sullivan

Looking back: 2021

A new restaurant (and a need for more parking)

SALISBURY — On Dec. 13, the Planning and Zoning Commission approved the application of Firehouse Place LLC to change the use of the former firehouse on Sharon Road (Route 41) to an Italian restaurant.

Much of the discussion during the public hearing and commission deliberations centered on parking in what is now going to be a restaurant-heavy area.

The current tenant, Leslie Eckstein, who runs the Green Cafe and the Studio Lakeville fitness center, was not ready to discuss her plans for the future as of press time.

— Patrick L. Sullivan

Looking back: 2021

Lakeville cell tower has been approved

SALISBURY — The Connecticut Siting Council, the state entity responsible for approving cell tower placements, approved a tower at 106 Sharon Road in Lakeville (on the property of the Wake Robin Inn) on Aug. 26.

The approved tower will be 94 feet tall. At the moment the carrier on the tower will be AT&T, with the possibility of “other public or private entities to share space on the proposed tower.”

During a Siting Council public hearing June 29 (held online) there was only one comment from the public. Property abutter Matthew Asinari said the tower would harm the natural beauty of the neighborhood, harm property values, and use radio waves that are harmful to human health.

— Patrick L. Sullivan

A new town clerk for Falls Village

FALLS VILLAGE — The Board of Selectmen appointed Johanna Mann as the new town clerk at a special meeting Monday, Jan. 3.

Mann will serve a six-month probationary period, with reviews every two months.

If that goes well, she will be appointed for a one-year term.

Mann is also required to complete necessary certification requirements. She replaces long-time town clerk Mary Palmer.

— Patrick L. Sullivan

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OBITUARIES

Helen Anne Ballantyne

MILLBROOK — Helen Anne Ballantyne, 81, of Fairfield, Conn., passed away peacefully after a brief illness on Jan. 1, 2022, at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

She was born in New York City on Jan. 20, 1940, the daughter of the late Helen (Mulholland) and James T. Aspbury Sr., and grew up in Millbrook, developing a lifelong love of horses and riding.

After completing high school, Helen attended Marymount College in Tarrytown, N.Y., graduating as a double major in English and drama (another lifelong passion). She moved to Baltimore, Md., completed her master’s degree in English at Johns Hopkins University and began working at Baltimore Center Stage in its early days. From there Helen moved to a job at the Baltimore Sun as a theater and film critic and interviewed such legendary actors as Myrna Loy and Robert Mitchum. It was also at the Sun that Helen met her husband, Ed, with whom she had 55 years of incredibly happy marital adventures.

A longtime resident of Suffern, N.Y., prior to her recent move to Fairfield, Helen was beloved for her formidable intelligence, humor, energy, warmth, vibrancy and devotion to her family and friends. She was an active member of the liturgical team at the Church of the Presentation in Upper Saddle River,

N.J., and acted in a number of community theater productions.

Helen is survived by her husband, Ed; her daughters, Jessica Gerber and Leslie Ballantyne; her grandchildren, John and Gillian Gerber; her brother, Herb Aspbury; and a large and loving extended family. She was predeceased by her brother, Lt. Col. James T. Aspbury Jr.; and her

grandson, Teddy Gerber. A private service was held on Jan. 5 at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Fairfield, with a larger memorial to take place in the spring at the Church of the Presentation.

Donations in Helen’s memory are requested to St. Baldrick’s — Team Teddy; <https://www.stbaldricks.org/events/mypage/108/2022>.

Arrangements are under the care of the Spear-Miller Funeral Home in Fairfield.



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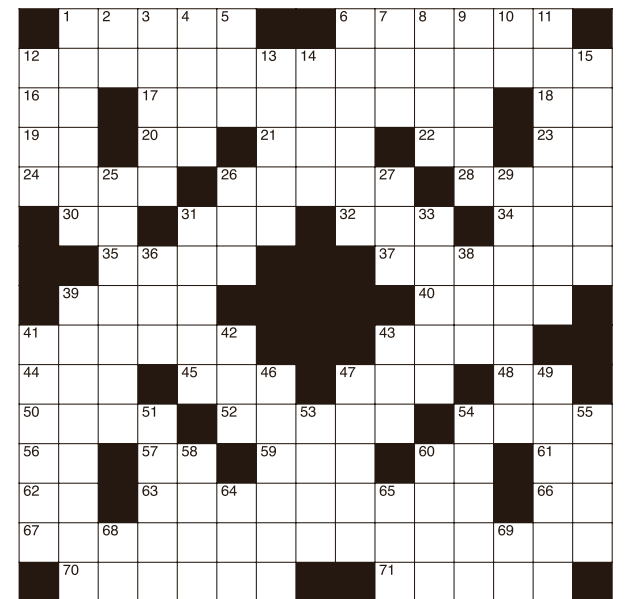
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- Educator’s helper
- Healthcare pro
- Atomic number 28
- Extinct flightless bird
- Mystic syllable
- College sports decision maker (abbr.)
- Edible mushrooms
- Venerable English monk
- Surrounded by
- Forming fractional numbers from 4 onwards
- Eastern France river
- Short cry or yelp
- Brew
- Ornamental box
- In a way, surfaced
- Attired
- Peculation
- Netted
- It shows you paid (abbr.)
- Payroll firm
- Antidiuretic hormone
- Japanese classical theater
- The first two
- Ancient burial chamber
- Type of card
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Hectoliter
- Morning
- NYC subway dweller
- Law enforcement
- Sodium
- Elevated subway
- Facility where wild animals are kept
- Integrated circuit
- Seaman’s tool
- Drink to
- Small group

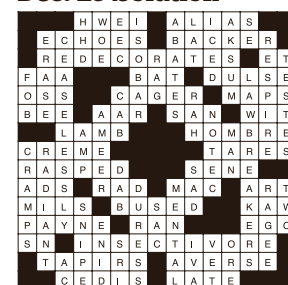
CLUES DOWN

- Poem
- Everest is one (abbr.)
- Olympic legend Jesse
- Portable tent
- When you hope to get there
- Unwavering
- Back muscle
- Within
- Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- Six
- Involved as a necessary part
- 2002 Liotta, Patric film
- Living thing

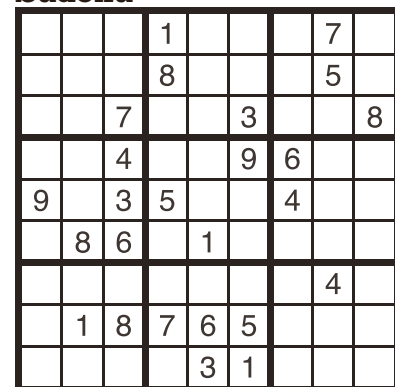


- Type of gin
- Moved around in pursuit of fun
- Makes light bulbs
- Story of one’s life
- Small island in a river
- A type of bliss
- Genus of large herons
- A way to make dry
- One’s grandmother
- Vocal style
- Pronunciation mark
- American Indian chief or leader
- Insecticide
- Go bad
- Capital of Zimbabwe
- Polish river
- Cast out
- People of India and Sri Lanka
- Cleaning fabrics
- Very skilled
- Pouches
- Restaurant must-have
- Native Americans from Arizona
- Remaining after all deductions
- Fleece
- Dorm official
- It cools your home

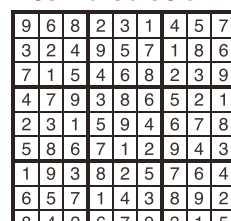
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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

Gingerbread Houses That Are Adorable and Earnest

Gingerbread season is over for now, but the memories and calories linger on. Perhaps the happiest use for these delicious cookies — for those of us who worry about gingerbread overload on our hips — is the decorative gingerbread house that can be admired but must not be eaten.

The town of Kent, Conn., wrapped up its gingerbread festival at the end of December. For photos and a list of the winning entries, go to www.kentct-gingerbreadfest.com.

Salisbury, Conn., hosted a smaller-scale gingerbread house competition through its recreation commission. The entries were adorable and earnest. The following prizes were awarded:

- First place: Anra Armillo and Molly Gochman for The Snowy House
 - Second place: Aeven, Oona Mascavage and Nana, for The Gingerbread Village
 - Third place: Emily, Aman and Carmela Egan for Egans A-Frames.
- Cynthia Hochswender



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Not every gingerbread house has to be a mansion. Perhaps it's even more appropriate to make a ski chalet, as the Egan family members did for the Salisbury, Conn., gingerbread competition.

STREAMING: ED FERMAN

Movie Musicals: 'More Stars Than There Are In Heaven'

The Golden Age of MGM musicals began about 1935 with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers in "Top Hat" and ended around 1958 with Vincente Minnelli's "Gigi." Covering this cornucopia of treasures is beyond the scope of this column. Fortunately, MGM did it for me in this 1974 film celebrating its 50th anniversary with highlights from its musicals: **"That's Entertainment."**

Your hosts are Frank Sinatra, Gene Kelly, Liz Taylor, Jimmy Stewart, Fred Astaire, Bing Crosby, Mickey Rooney and others, who stroll around MGM's shabby backlot, where many of the movies were made.

Here is a brief sample of the more than 85 musical numbers they introduce:

- Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald, "Indian Love Call"; Debbie Reynolds, "Aba Daba Honeymoon"; Esther Williams, "Million Dollar Mermaid" — couldn't sing or dance but she was beautiful and could hold her breath for

three minutes.

- Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Manshin, "New York, New York" from "On the Town"; Bing and Frank, "Well, Did You Evah" from "High Society"; Maurice Chevalier, "Thank Heaven for Little Girls" from "Gigi."

- William Warfield, "Ol' Man River" from "Showboat"; Donald O'Connor, "Make 'Em Laugh" from "Singin' in the Rain"; Judy Garland, "Over the Rainbow" from the most popular movie in film history, the first in Technicolor, the enduring "The Wizard of Oz."

- The incomparable Fred Astaire, dancing with Ginger, with Cyd Charisse, "Dancing in the Dark," from "The Band Wagon," with a hat rack in "Royal Wedding," and with Eleanor Powell in an amazing tap dance from "Broadway Melody of 1940," after which Sinatra remarks: "You can wait around and hope, but you'll never see the likes of this again."

The finale is the beauti-

ful "An American in Paris Ballet" with Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron.

"That's Entertainment" can be seen on HBO Max. Two sequels are also available, from 1976 and 1994. Hollywood musicals are still made of course, although they are quite different from the MGM movies, which projected pure happiness. These stories are more complicated, touching, even tragic.

Most folks loved "La La Land" (2016), including me. Some dissented, arguing that the stars weren't big enough. Maybe, but Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone are charming and graceful enough to pull off Damien Chazelle's almost-Oscar-winning film.

It opens with a terrific MGM-style production: Young dreamers stuck in traffic jump out of their cars and dance on the freeway. Then it settles into a melancholy tale of an aspiring actress and a jazz pianist who fall in love. Justin Hurwitz's score won many awards, as did his

songs "City of Dreams" and "The Fools Who Dream."

Stream "La La Land" on Hulu or rent it on Amazon.

Bradley Cooper's 2018 remake of "A Star Is Born" is an even better musical, mainly due to Lady Gaga, a true star who can really sing. Cooper isn't bad either.

This is the story of a doomed marriage between country singer Jackson Maine and his singer-songwriter wife, Ally. Ally is on her way up and Jackson on his way down. Is there a sadder scene in film than the one of Jackson's dog, Charlie, lying in front of the garage door?

Stream "A Star Is Born" on HBO Max, rent it on Amazon.

Each of the above films cost about \$40 million to produce. The budget for the 2007 film "Once" was about \$150,000. It was later produced on Broadway, winning the 2012 Tony for Best Musical. It tells the story of two struggling musicians in Dublin, played by Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova. They also wrote the music, and their song "Falling Slowly" won the 2008 Oscar for Best Original Song. Do not miss this small treasure.

"Once" can be seen on Amazon.

A LOVELY NEW BOOK TO READ BY THE FIRE

The delightful but hectic mania of the holiday season is now over and we can return to quarantining peacefully in our own homes, perhaps enjoying a cup of tea by the fire while reading a good book.

Perhaps all the books you received as gifts were in an audible or digital format. That's lovely but not quite as homely and

old-fashioned as a printed tome. In particular, printed books that are wonderful to curl up with by the fire are ones that were written by your friends and neighbors.

We are featuring a few such titles in these special articles, in which we also welcome a new and we hope better year.

— Cynthia Hochswender

LOCAL AUTHORS: HUNTER O. LYLE

The History and the Thrills of Ski Jumping in New England

Every February, the Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA) hosts Jumpfest at Satre Hill in Salisbury, Conn., a weekend-long competition for ski jumpers. While she will not be competing in the event's 96th rendition in 2022, seasoned jumper Ariel (Picton) Kobayashi's book details the winter sport and its impact on the Northeast.

Kobayashi, whose new book is "Ski Jumping in the Northeast," is no stranger to Jumpfest. While she had been skiing since she was 3 years old, Kobayashi's jumping career started when she attended Jumpfest at the age of 9.

Part of the attraction for her, even at that young age, was Salisbury.

"It's an awesome community and it was great to be a part of that community. You really get to know everyone."

Kobayashi started competing throughout the Northeast and even competed in Anchorage, Alaska, and Steamboat Springs, Colo., during the Junior Olympic competitions in 2003 and 2004 — events which are now called Junior Nationals and Junior Championships. This year's Junior Nationals will also be held in Salisbury, at Satre Hill, from Feb. 22 to 26.

Eventually, however, it just became too difficult for Kobayashi to get training and practice time.

"Ski jumping is largely a volunteer-run sport

in New England," she explained. "You need volunteers to get the hills ready. Most of the coaches are also volunteers."

Eventually, she said, "the only time I was able to get time to practice was on the weekends. It became really hard to advance in the sport."

Although she had been a very successful jumper, Kobayashi took a hiatus when she was 15 — but returned to the sport several years later, while living in Vermont. She began to watch jump competitions and her love of the sport was rekindled.

She decided to return to the Northwest Corner of Connecticut in 2016, to coach young Salisbury jumpers. She stuck with it for four years, but then moved to New Hampshire and started a family.

"Ski Jumping in the Northeast," began as a senior project while she was a student at the State University of New York at Purchase. Over the years, it developed into a history of the sport here in New England, with nitty gritty details of the competitions.

"I hope this book inspires more people to get involved in ski jumping, as a volunteer or as a jumper," she said. "It's a tight-knit but welcoming community to be a part of. I think that's why I love the sport so much."

The book will be useful for the many fans of ski jumping in the Tri-state region — but perhaps it will be most valuable to those people who have never come out to the hill in Salisbury to watch the annual jump competition. This year's Salisbury Winter Sports Association Jumpfest will be held from Feb. 11 to 13. Keep an eye on the website at www.jumpfest.org for the schedule and for details on COVID-19 precautions.

"Ski Jumping in the Northeast" by Ariel (Picton) Kobayashi can be found at Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com and can be ordered through local bookstores.



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LOCAL AUTHORS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Newts, Salamanders and the Dangers of Human Over-Development

Anyone who is either a careful reader of The Lakeville Journal or an attentive student of life in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut has probably heard the name Michael Klemens before — perhaps as an expert on the elusive bog turtle, perhaps as the strict-but-fair chairman of the Salisbury, Conn., Planning and Zoning Commission. He has also been a member of Connecticut's Siting Council, which has final say on the location of monoliths such as cell towers and wind turbines. Before coming to Connecticut, he was the director of program development for the Wildlife Conservation Society, which operates New York's Bronx Zoo.

There is much that we know about Michael Klemens but much more that most of us have yet to learn — including the depth of his knowledge of herpetology.

Klemens is a polymath who knows a great deal about a lot of things, but probably the topic he knows most about is the study of reptiles and amphibians.

There have been times in the past decade or so when Klemens has been called to offer an expert opinion on the possible presence of bog turtles (you can see one in the photo above) in an area where someone wants to



PHOTO FROM CONSERVATION OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS IN CONNECTICUT

build something. Opponents of a building project will often cite the presence of the federally protected and adorable reptiles as a reason why building can't continue. The bog turtle is as powerful a deterrent to construction in this part of the world as archaeological remains might be in another region.

But Klemens knows about much more than just the furtive lives led by the tiny turtles. He has written books, studies and management plans on these and other creatures for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies — including, now, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, which has just released a 305-page study of the "Conservation of Reptiles and Amphibians in Connecticut."

Klemens is the lead author on a team that also includes Hank J. Gruner, Dennis P. Quinn and Eric R. Davison.

While the topic might sound specialized, and it is, the main message of the book is one that impacts us all. In his decades of study, Klemens discovered that, more than anyone had realized before, human activity and building has a startling impact on the health of all creatures small (turtles, snakes, frogs) and great (humans). What's bad for the animals that creep through our vernal pools and fens is bad for the "greater" animals that build houses and roads that destroy breeding grounds, migration patterns and habitats.

While acting as a catalogue of every species in the state (salamanders, newts, skinks and snakes, turtles, frogs and more), the book also points out the dangers to their habitats and suggests ways in which humans can not only reduce their negative impacts but perhaps even be helpful to the creatures that contribute so much to the beauty of this part of

the world.

"Since human activities so profoundly affect the natural world, why can't the human intelligence and technology which drive destructive trends in land use, be better applied or retooled through education and information to create human landscapes that are more in harmony with the natural world?" he asks in his introduction to the book, which was published in late 2021.

"In my work, I often describe the problems that have occurred because I believe that to change how society deals with its responsibilities to the natural world it must first come to understand the problems that past land-use patterns and practices have created. Only from the confidence that is engendered by that understanding can the impetus to create better models of sustainability and stewardship find solid footing."

The book can be ordered online from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection bookstore, <https://www.ctdeepstore.com/Conservation-of-Amphibians-and-Reptiles-in-Connecticut-882.htm>. The cost is \$54.95 and money from sales of the book help protect amphibians and reptiles. The lessons presented in the book are also relevant, of course, to areas outside Connecticut.



BOOK COVER COURTESY CLARION

Jacquie Lynn of West Cornwall, Conn., has written "Space Matters" to help young children understand that there is more to the world than meets the eye.

LOCAL AUTHORS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Accentuate the Negative — and Learn About Space

Architects and designers often talk about the "negative space" in a room or in a house — not in the sense of "Gee, there's so much negative energy here, we'd better do some feng shui sage burning," but more in the sense of "every room is a combination of positive space (where there are things) and negative space (where there is nothing but air and, well, space)."

For creators of buildings and interiors, the negative spaces are just as important as the positive spaces, in the same way that blacks and whites are just as important to a painter as colors. If you think about it (but not so hard that your head hurts), it's obvious that every room and every building must have empty/negative space as well as full/positive space in order for it to be hospitable to humans.

Jacquie Lynn is neither an architect nor an interior designer, and she also isn't actually a children's book author, but none of that stopped her from writing a new book for children about how to think of space. A resident of West Cornwall, Conn., Lynn (who some will know by her married name, Jacquie Schiller) defines what it is to be an artist: She is constantly exploring new ideas from new angles, and sharing those ideas through a

variety of different media: photography, jewelry, parties, a book for children.

"Space Matters" is an introduction to the idea of negative space, which will no doubt open the minds of some young readers in the same way that psychedelic drugs might unlock the minds of adults. In my opinion, this is a wonderful thing; it's never too soon for children to realize that the world is much more interesting than they had at first realized.

Developmental psychologists offer fascinating insights into how the brain develops and how babies and toddlers learn about, for example, object permanence (which they experience when someone plays peek-a-boo with them). For the brain that has only recently learned that if a child crawls to the edge of a table, it might drop a few feet down to the ground, there is no doubt that a book about negative space, no matter how cute and adorable, will be deeply and wonderfully mind altering.

Reviews of "Space Matters" praise it as playful and witty, not just in the text but also in the illustrations by Lydia Nichols. It is widely available from vendors as diverse as Amazon.com and Target to the Wish House gift shop in West Cornwall (www.wishhouse.com).

LOCAL AUTHORS: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Because Everyone Loves Lawyer Jokes: A Lawyer Writes a Comic Novel

Tom Morrison of Salisbury, Conn., an attorney, has produced a sequel to his comic legal novel "Torts 'R' Us."

The new book, "Please Pass the Torts," contin-

ues the saga of the Peters brothers, Patrick A. (known as "Pap") and Prescott U. (aka "Pup").

This time around the Peters do legal battle with the Russians and the owners of strip clubs, among others.

As before, Morrison has fun with names and acronyms. Readers will be introduced to the Committee on Drugs, Alcohol, Firearms, Tobacco and Yogurt (CODAFY), stripper Lydia Lowlace, and primatologist Klint A. Kwak, who does business under the sobriquet "Dr. Doolittle."

"Please Pass the Torts"

is available at the Salisbury General Store, Oblong Books in Millerton and from Amazon.

On Wednesday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m., Morrison will give a talk sponsored by Noble Horizons and the Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury. He will be interviewed by television newsman Bill Littauer of Salisbury, on Zoom. More information and a Zoom link can be found at www.noblehorizons.org.

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Send items to calendar@lakevillejournal.com. All entries can be found at www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar.

ART

The Clark Art Museum, 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. www.clarkart.edu
Competing Currents: 20th-Century Japanese Prints, through Jan. 30.

Eckert Fine Art, 1315 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, Mass. www.eckertfineart.com
Gate Keeper: The Art of Hunt Slonem, Nov. 11 through Jan. 8.

BOOKS

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. www.hotchkisslibrary.org
American History Book Club: A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir by Donald Worster, Jan. 19, 10 to 11 a.m. (online).

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. www.scovillelibrary.org
Library Book Group led by Claudia Cayne, Jan. 8, 4 to 5 p.m. (in person and online).

MOVIES

The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. www.themoviehouse.net
The Tragedy of Macbeth, opens Jan. 7.

Stanford Free Library, 6035 Route 82, Stanfordville, N.Y. www.stanfordlibrary.org
Documentary Film Series: Contemplating Contemporary Art & Culture, every 4th Thursday of the month, meet and greet at 6:45 p.m., film begins at 7 p.m.

MUSIC

Close Encounters With Music, Great Barrington, Mass. www.cevm.org
Folk and Baroque Concert, Feb. 26, 6 to 7:45 p.m.

TALKS

Roeliff Jansen Library, 9091 Route 22, Hillsdale, N.Y. www.roelijanlibrary.org
History Webinar: Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Jan. 19, 6 to 7:15 p.m. (online).

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EDITORIAL

What should we wish for in the Northwest Corner?

This is the time of year for new beginnings, when it's not only advisable but crucial that we look back at what happened during the past year or more and try to look forward to find solutions to problems. We have often compiled wish lists for each of our towns, thinking about the individual challenges facing them and targeting those things that are at the top of our list to be addressed and resolved however possible in the new year.

For 2022, however, there are multiple issues that, while they have been discussed in these pages over time, need revisiting and should become priorities for answers. In January, we will look first, below, at a wish list for each of the Northwest Corner towns. Then, in the ensuing weeks, we will look more in-depth at ongoing problems that have had an impact on the region. Because of the shared quality of the way these concerns affect all our towns, it is important now, as ever, to see the area as a whole, rather than a cluster of municipalities functioning within their own bubbles.

For Salisbury, there is a problem that is now in need of immediate attention, in that the Planning and Zoning Commission has approved a new restaurant for the former firehouse building, and current gym, café and more, in Lakeville center. This makes Lakeville the restaurant capital of the region. But it's mystifying that in considering the Holley Block affordable housing project one of the major objections has been parking availability, yet in approving another restaurant that will take many more parking spots than the housing, there was only peripheral discussion and no solution defined. Now is the time to solve parking in Lakeville, and the steps to do that will have to be bold, creative and show evidence of flexibility.

In Falls Village, there has been an ongoing dispute over the encroachment of the former firehouse into the property of the adjacent Falls Village Inn. It may only be a few inches that the building overlaps into the Inn's property, but it is a hindrance to the sale of the firehouse. First Selectman Henry Todd said at last month's selectmen's meeting that there had been some interest expressed in the property, but nothing can be done until this is resolved. Now is the time to do that, as Falls Village is having a real renaissance and such interest may wane later if an agreement isn't reached soon.

Cornwall should receive the federal funding that will accommodate the West Cornwall Wastewater project, which has been long in the planning. This will make a big difference to the opportunities for activity in West Cornwall. The sooner it can be started and completed the better for this center that has been a major destination for visitors and residents for business, recreation and of course viewing the Covered Bridge over the years. And, speaking of destinations, happy 75th to Mohawk Ski Area, which remains a draw for ski enthusiasts of all ages and should prosper for its next 75 years.

Sharon's challenges will only be helped by a satisfactory solution to the NuVance/Sharon Hospital service changes. So much of what makes up the fabric of this town, from downtown businesses to homeowners and the school population, is related to the health of the hospital. We also wish that those driving through Sharon abide by the posted speed limits, which would make their appreciation of this town's Green and center a lot easier.

North Canaan is going through its own revival, and the road work done at the railroad tracks this past summer and fall has contributed to it. Now, there should be careful consideration of the next steps for continued development of the commercial district in order for its current growth to remain successful. Part of that success, as in Lakeville and Kent, will be controlling traffic effectively and finding solutions to the parking dilemma in the town center.

Kent has been moving forward on its StreetScape project, and its progress and completion will make a major difference to this vital town center's continued success. The Kent Chamber of Commerce has been a model of effectiveness and cooperation for other towns in the region. It should continue on that path, and here's hoping its new leadership and board will find the best way to keep its attention on the achievement of shared goals for its downtown. Kent's town government has also been effective through COVID-19 and before, and its planned installation of a hybrid meeting system in its Town Hall will continue that tradition.

In future editorials, we will look at the regional issues that should be solved by cooperation among the towns. The answers won't be easy but they should be definable as long as communication continues among regional town leaders and state legislators.

As we look at goals for our towns and region this month, we welcome your input in letters to the editor to express your views on what priorities for towns should be for 2022.

Happy New Year to all our readers.

Deadline for letters is Monday at 10 a.m. Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com. No more than 500 words. Please include a phone number where you can be reached for confirmation by the editor.

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



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

A gray day at Lake Wononscopomuc

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The true meaning of all those numbers

"Do not worry about your difficulties in mathematics. I can assure you mine are greater."

—Albert Einstein

It is seemingly a numbers game, an endless counting and displaying percentages as pictures of reality...cause for excitement or a prod for despair. You may disagree with what I present and conclude, you may select and explain quite differently — I invite you to delve.

Oft-reported percentages include: 71% of Republicans don't believe Biden is a legit U.S. president, 60% of Republicans are not vaccinated, 17% of independents and 17% of Democrats are not vaccinated. Fox is the highest rated cable news outlet, and their 9 p.m. prime-time host is often #1 in cable viewers (@ 2.9 million with a MSNBC host close behind — sometimes in the lead). Importantly 66.8% of U.S. citizens 18 and over voted in the 2020 presidential election with Maine reporting the highest turnout of 79.2% of its registered voters, Connecticut a touch above U.S. average with 71.1% turnout, Oklahoma the lowest at 55%

turnout. In 2020, 158.4 million Americans voted, a significant 7% up over 2016 at 139 million voters. Biden won 7 million more votes in the Presidential election: 51.3% of the popular vote vs. Trump's 46.8%.

How significant then are these numbers in portraying the U.S.? How reflective of U.S. adult behavior/opinion? Pew and Gallup put Republicans at somewhere between 22% to 29% of U.S. registered voters, Democrats at about 29%, independents 40 to 45%. So 71% of 29% of registered voters (Republicans) don't accept Biden as president translates to about 20% of the overall U.S. voter population. The depicted opinion landscape looks a bit different when the entire population is the canvas vs. segmentation by political affiliation.

As for media reach/influence, Fox cable news has 2.9 million prime-time viewers, while in comparison Lester Holt is #1 on network nightly news at 8 million viewers daily, PBS News Hour is 2.7 million daily. This is not surprising when one considers that 65% of Americans get their news from network newscasts, 38% of adults from cable news. The

top three cable news networks have a primetime viewership of about 5 million — maybe 2 or 3% of eligible voters. Kevin Costner's "Yellowstone" gets 7.5 million viewers an episode.

"Being the Ricardos", a recent movie about Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, jolted me — 60 million watched "I Love Lucy" while Fox struts its 2.9 million prime-time viewers. That media has big impact isn't debatable. No question the Big Lie is Big, fueled by disinformation — it is rampaging the nation like the pandemic with a potentially equal injury to our democracy as COVID has to the nation's health. Inaccurate and illegal tales being spread need to be abruptly confronted and shown as false. Congress must do its duty — disclose truth — with numbers and actions.

In the meantime, keep numbers in perspective. There are many differences across this nation, yet there is still much in common.

"It is not in numbers, but in unity, that our great strength lies."

— Thomas Paine

Kathy Herald-Marlowe
Sharon

When enough is finally enough

Why is it great men like Jonas Salk can find a cure for polio and Louis Pasteur can discover antibiotics?

Now we have over paid chemists who work for selfish and greedy pharmaceutical companies who I believe can't devise a compatible vaccine that works effectively.

We spend billions on putting men in space and allowing

cell phone companies to store our information to scrutinize our way of life and our very existence.

Then there is the DNA that supposedly can tell you about ones' self.

But, now, this COVID-19 and variances are causing astronomical paralyzing paranoia and worldwide animosity feeding weak-minded Americans

like Trump did.

Now, it's a fact that Americans don't trust our government with acts of mending dilemmas.

Enough is enough.

Michael Parmalee
North Canaan

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — January 1922

ORE HILL — W.B. Crane is having an ice house built on his property here.

LAKEVILLE — Ward Finkle is off duty with a sprained right ankle. His brother John is substituting as chauffeur for Col. Churchward.

The young people have had great sport the past two weeks in coasting down the hills of the village. With the large number of autos still running it has been somewhat remarkable that no accident has happened.

Peter Flynn has purchased a two-ton Nash truck of the Salisbury Iron Corporation.

Ice eleven inches in thickness is being harvested at Porter Ore Bed by the Bryant Chapman Milk Co.

50 years ago — January 1972

Northeast Utilities' plan to build two additional nuclear power plants in Connecticut will not make the company more dependent upon the proposed Canaan Mountain pumped-storage project, NU Vice President Charles R. Bragg said Tuesday. The plan disclosed Monday for the two new plants is based on a projected doubling of electrical demand by 1981, with annual increases in consumption of approximately eight percent.

Continued on next page



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

The Great Falls in full January run

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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

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Papers offer balance, not bias

In mid-December, Bret Stephens, one of The New York Times' conservative columnists, wrote a piece headlined, "Biden Should Not Run Again, and He Should Say He Won't."

This caused quite a sensation. Such a sensation, in fact, that Bret Baier, the anchor of the 6 o'clock news on Fox, reported that, "the Times said Biden shouldn't run again."

The Times said no such thing, of course. One of its opinion writers did and Baier, considered one of Fox's more reputable journalists, should have known better — and surely did.

Had the Times actually published an editorial saying Biden shouldn't run again, it would have been a major news story.

There is, of course, nothing new about readers being confused by a newspaper offering a mixture of news and opinion without making it clear which is which. In fact, the practice is older than the nation itself.

In Colonial times and during the 18th and early 19th centuries, newspapers were usually partisan tracts. The news almost always gave the reader the publication's opinion in the same story, with the emphasis more often on the opinion.

For example, the New York Post, the first daily newspaper still being published, was started in 1801 by Alexander Hamilton to give the Federalist Party of Washington, Hamilton and Adams a platform for attacking Thomas Jefferson, the first Democratic-Republican president. (The Hartford Courant, the oldest newspaper, was founded in 1764, but as a weekly.) Many other newspapers were devoted primarily to expressing the opinions of their owners and investors.

Most journalism histories credit Horace Greeley and the New York Tribune he founded

in 1841 with being the first to separate news and opinion writing. He did it by printing the latter on a page he labeled "the editorial page." And one of his earliest editorials, "Go West, Young Man," encouraging western expansion, is still considered one of the best, up there with the New York Sun's

IF YOU ASK ME DICK AHLES

"Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus" and William Allen White's indictment of politics in his home state, "What's the Matter with Kansas," in his Emporia Gazette.

This may come as something of a surprise to its critics, especially those who don't read the paper, but some of the best conservative columnists of the past century have been found on the opinion pages of The New York Times.

The New York World, which progressed from being one of the founders of sensational, yellow journalism, along with Hearst's New York Journal, into one of the nation's finest papers, was among the first to print signed columns by talented journalists like Heywood Brown and Franklin P. Adams.

But the World ended in 1931, a casualty of the Depression, and the next year, Adolph Ochs, the owner of the Times, assigned his Washington bureau chief, Arthur Krock, to write a signed opinion column for the paper's editorial page as an experiment. The experiment lasted until 1966 when Krock retired as a major voice of conservatism in America and the only winner of four Pulitzer honors. Krock was considered a stern critic of the Roosevelt

New Deal and a firm conservative "in matters political, social and economic" throughout his long column-writing career.

He would have many notable conservative successors at the Times. One of the best was William Safire, a former Nixon speechwriter who is also remembered for temporarily making Vice President Spiro Agnew look clever and witty by having him describe the anti-Republican media as "nattering nabobs of negativity."

Safire was as popular as his more liberal colleagues James Reston and Tom Wicker in the latter half of the last century.

He added to his luster as the author of "Safire's Political Dictionary," his exhaustive study of the words and phrases of the language of American politics — everything from A to Z, "the Abominable No Man," a tribute to Eisenhower chief of staff Sherman Adams and his ability to take the heat for his boss, to "Zero Based Budgeting," the claim of starting from scratch when making the federal budget.

The Times — and many other dailies — enhanced the diversity of the opinions they offered by establishing, in the 1970s, on the page after the editorial page what came to be known as the Op-Ed page. The Washington Post, another great paper with a center to left editorial page, has regularly featured two conservative icons on its op-ed page, the late Charles Krauthammer and George Will.

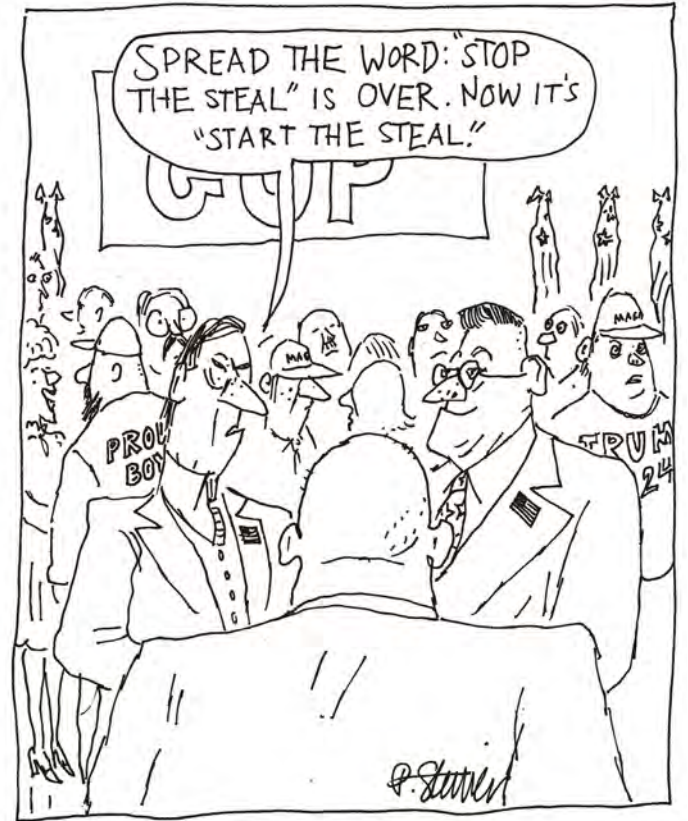
Today, the editorial and op-ed pages of the Times and many other dailies are both labeled opinion pages and are dominated by signed opinions by writers representing the left and right and sometimes even the middle. In addition to Stephens, a former Wall Street Journal columnist, conservative opinion is regularly offered

by contributors and columnists like Ross Douthat and David Brooks, a protégé of the late godfather of modern American conservatism, William F. Buckley.

The reduction of editorials in the Times and other dailies and their replacement by signed opinion pieces have gone largely unnoticed in the American press.

When, in fact, I was gathering information for this column, I googled "disappearing newspaper editorials" and found just one article — by me in this newspaper. It did not enhance my research.

Simsbury resident Dick Ahles is a retired journalist. Email him at rahles1@outlook.com.



Has labor found its mojo?

Workers in America are rethinking who they are and what they want. For the first time in decades, the stars have aligned to give the labor movement a much-needed lift. Will this prove to be a flash in the pan or something more lasting?

The share of American workers who claim union membership has been declining for years. There are many reasons for this decades-long decline. U.S. legislation and the court system has created enormous challenges to forming unions. The transfer of jobs to low-paying countries overseas has also devastated union membership. Labor membership can also be expensive with high monthly dues. In the past thirty years of declining real wages, most workers were grateful to just keep their jobs.

Everything changed with the arrival of COVID-19. The pandemic ushered in massive unemployment, huge safety risks for employed workers in essential sectors, and a wholesale movement toward work-at-home solutions. And from the ashes a new attitude toward labor was born.

Workers employed in "essential industries" who showed up to keep the country running were no longer taken for granted. Nurses, truck drivers, food industry workers and more became the new American heroes. The White House honored and featured ordinary laborers, who made extraordinary efforts in our time of crisis.

The pandemic forced many Americans to rethink their relationship to work overall. We are, for example, one of the few nations where health care benefits are dependent on your employment. As health care risks and unemployment sky-

rocketed simultaneously, holes in our private health insurance became readily apparent.

Many Americans' obsessive belief that "work first, ahead

THE RETIRED INVESTOR BILL SCHMICK

of everything else" as life's preeminent goal needed to be re-examined. Work issues such as safety, benefits, wages, and more rose to the surface. Burnt-out workers decided to resign or retire rather than remain at their jobs. Others are taking a more aggressive approach to the workplace.

Unionization, for many, has been perceived as a viable instrument for change. In 2020, union membership ticked up to 11%; about half that gain came from the public sector. Union actions increased in 2021. The Department of Labor reported 13 labor strikes in 2021, but they only included strikes of 1,000 workers or more. Under the surface, labor experts say that well over 225 strikes is a more accurate number if you include smaller company workforce actions.

The nation's attention, however, focused on several high-profile union actions. Amazon, Starbucks, John Deere and Kellogg's have been targets of the labor movement.

Amazon, the country's number two employer, fought a massive campaign to defeat union organization in Bessemer, Alabama, this year. The vote to organize was defeated, a major blow to unions nationwide. But soon after, the National Labor Relations Board determined that the company improperly pressured warehouse staff not to join the union. That was no surprise to union organizers. It is a part of an ongoing trend dating back to the 1970s where companies have engaged in unfair labor practices that were largely supported by labor laws favoring employers over workers.

Thanks to the pandemic-induced change in attitude toward workers, positive union sentiment is at a generational high in the U.S., with 68% of

Americans supporting unions, according to recent data from a Gallup poll. The Biden Administration is also supportive of unions, as are many in the Progressive wing of the Democrat Party. The PRO Act, currently being debated in the U.S. Senate, would make it easier for employees to unionize and establish tougher penalties for employers who illegally attempt to stop their efforts. It would also allow gig workers and contractors to organize alongside traditional employees.

These trends, together with the present labor shortage, have strengthened the hand of labor unions going forward. Amazon workers are slated to vote again in Alabama this month. Kellogg's 1,400 workers went on strike Oct. 5, 2021, and settled it on Dec. 21. In Nov. 2021, John Deere's 10,100 production and maintenance workers won their strike with management and signed a new six-year agreement.

Late last year, workers in Buffalo, N.Y., a city with a pro-union history, voted to form a union at Starbucks. It was one of three Starbucks locations in the city that held a vote (the second branch ended in a tie, while the last voted to reject unionization).

Observers are watching these actions carefully, given that there are 8,000 corporate Starbucks locations across the U.S. It is the first successful attempt to unionize an unskilled labor force in the leisure and hospitality sectors. As such, a better, union-negotiated contract could spur more unionization efforts across the country. Whether these union efforts end with a bang or a whimper, bringing the American worker's condition to the forefront of the American agenda is an absolute positive in my book.

Bill Schmick is registered as an investment advisor representative of Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires. Bill's forecasts and opinions are purely his own and do not necessarily represent the views of Onota Partners, Inc. (OPI). None of his commentary is or should be considered investment advice. Email Bill at bill@schmicksretiredinvestor.com.



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

The view on a walk at Sharon Audubon

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

Continued from previous page

William C. Cannon, international lawyer, former law partner of 1924 Democratic presidential candidate John W. Davis and respected local benefactor, died Sunday Dec. 26 at his Lakeville home at the age of 98. He had been a member of the New York Bar for 71 years and a resident of Lakeville since 1927.

Connecticut State Police are continuing an investigation of an attempted burglary Tuesday night of a walk-in vault at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. After knocking the dial off the vault's combination lock but finding the door still firmly closed, the burglars raided three vending machines and walked out with an assortment of small change, according to Cpl. William McMahon, chief investigating officer.

A record turnout of 150 persons made the 1971 Christmas Day Peace Vigil in Sharon the largest ever. Whole families took part, in some cases accompanied by their pets. Many present expressed joy at the impressive show of concern. The joy was tempered though by news of intensified American air raids throughout Southeast Asia.

U.S. Rep. Ella Grasso arrived at Salisbury Town Hall Wednesday afternoon to meet with her constituents, but found none in attendance, due to poor weather and lack of advance notice.

Salisbury's newest and most luxurious restaurant, The Iron Dube, has been written up and illustrated in glowing color in the December-January issue of Connecticut, the state's newest magazine.

Salisbury Selectmen Tuesday night reiterated their ban on automobile and snowmobile use of the bicycle and walking

path along the old railroad right of way between Lakeville and Salisbury. They also decided to post Indian Cave Road, a street leading east from Salisbury village, with a 25-mile-an-hour speed limit following complaints from residents that trucks have been speeding along the road.

Kent Scoutmaster Donald McKinlay reports with pleasure that the sailboat mysteriously removed from Squantz Pond in mid-December, has, just as mysteriously, been returned. Mr. McKinlay discovered that the boat, used by Kent scouts, was back at its usual place on Dec. 29, just two weeks after it was reported stolen.

"Let John do it," is the catch-phrase at the Kent Fire Department this year, as members have elected three men named John to serve as top department officers. John Gaweł was reelected to his third consecutive one-year as fire chief Monday night. John Howland and John Grusauski were unanimously chosen to serve as assistant chiefs.

25 years ago — January 1997

SHARON — Stan Gurell and Ira Levy have sold radio station WKZE to Greenwich attorney Scott Johnson for \$2 million. The sale will be completed after the Federal Communications Commission approves the deal, probably in two to three months. Mr. Johnson will not be buying just a radio station, states a press release from WKZE: "He's buying a carefully crafted culture."

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 historical items in the news.

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Although climate change and sustainable living may not be the top issues here in our protected NW corner, out in the larger world, they are. The first step to address these issues is knowledge and one of the best ways to gather this quickly is to subscribe to Nick Gottlieb's newsletter Sacred Headwaters. Nick grew up here in Sharon and is now in British Columbia actively addressing the complex issues surrounding climate change. His newsletter will help to both understand the issues and the actions to take in building a more sustainable world. Please visit and subscribe to Nick's newsletter at <https://sacredheadwaters.substack.com/about>.



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Our Towns

Cornwall affordable housing plan received by selectmen

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — After months of meetings and forums, capped off by a public hearing and a meeting for final touch-ups to the wording, the Affordable Housing Steering Committee provided a draft of the affordable housing plan to the Board of Selectmen at their regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 21.

The selectmen reviewed the plan with the intent of discussing and acting on the committee's recommendations during the first meeting of the new year, on Tuesday, Jan. 4.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reported that the final draft is posted on the town's website (<https://cornwallct.org/>).

He noted that the final changes made by the steering committee at their meeting on Monday, Dec. 20, were minor changes in wording for clarification.

"We have a road map," Ridgway said of the plan. "Because we are a small town, we were able to move quickly on

it." Another public forum on affordable housing will be held in a year, he said.

As the plan has no regulatory authority, the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) will use it as a guide in proposing and considering any changes to the regulations suggested by the plan.

P&Z Chairman Anna Timell commented on Dec. 20 that the town has been discussing the issue of affordable housing since the 1980s, having identified the need that long ago.

Selectman Janet Carlson agreed that "it was a lot of work by a lot of people over a long period."

Joining with the selectmen in praising the work by planning consultant Janell Mullen, Selectman Priscilla Pavel commented that she had been impressed by Mullen's ability to interpret residents' varied suggestions and convert them into clear text.

The town will hold its annual review of the Town Plan of Conservation and Develop-

ment (POCD) on Thursday, Jan. 27, on Zoom, beginning at 7 p.m., Ridgway announced. The review will include progress reports from local boards and commissions.

Responding to a lawsuit settlement between the fed-

eral government and major pharmaceutical companies, the selectmen appointed Ridgway to act on behalf of the town in joining with other Connecticut towns to benefit from the financial distribution.

Ridgway explained that if

all 169 towns in the state sign up, then the towns will receive a larger portion of the funds being awarded.

He said that in the past year, 100,000 deaths have been attributed to opioid abuse, a 28% increase over the previous year.

The increase is thought to have been brought about by pressures of COVID-19, he added.

The funds will be used to help affected residents to access treatment for addiction.

"Seeing those statistics going up is tragic," Ridgway said.

Looking back: 2021

Even for a fisherman, it was a very wet summer

Wet.

That's the word to describe the fishing scene in 2022.

May The spring stocking of the Housatonic took place when the river was pretty high. Terrific if you're in a boat. Us perambulators had to bide our time and wait for a more reasonable flow. And wait, and wait, and wait.

June For a few days toward the end of June, the extremely high Housatonic River got down to the 600 cfs mark.

Opinions vary, but my rule of thumb for fishing the Housatonic River on foot is to cease and desist when the flow gets over 600 cubic feet per second.

TANGLED LINES

PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Yes, there are places where it's possible to wade safely at flows above 600 cfs. And yes, it is possible to do well at fuller flows by targeting the banks, where the fish go because they don't like struggling against the current anymore than you or I do.

July In early July we got about two months' worth of rain in two weeks. The river reached flood stage twice between July and September.

I was in warm water lake mode at that point, and the extra water didn't bother me. In fact, I think it improved things, as I caught an immense largemouth bass on a cheap Tenkara rod designed for carp fishing. I named it Mongo. A couple nights later I caught Mongo's younger brother, Mingo.

August For a change of pace, it rained some more. I did venture out on the Housatonic with an actual boss fisherman who writes articles for fishing magazines. We thought we could target smallmouth and take advantage of the white fly hatch, without getting swept away.

We got the last bit right, but only just. A post-fishing look at the gauge revealed it had actually gone up significantly during the three hours or so we were fishing, from a little higher than I like (750 cfs) to over 1,000 cfs.

September I spent most of my quality fishing time on the Esopus and associated streams, with steady if not spectacular results.

October The Hous was stocked again, so the spring stockers were joined by still more stockers. That means that if the flow ever comes down, there will be a lot of hungry trout around.

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