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The Lakeville Journal

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

Strongly divided opinions about housing proposal

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The first session of the public hearing on the proposed affordable housing apartment building in Lakeville began on Monday, March 8, with Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Chair Michael Klemens asking each commissioner and alternate if they had already reached a conclusion on the Salisbury Housing Committee's application; were they willing to listen without partiality to the testimony in the hearing; and did they have a financial and/or personal stake on the proposal?

All the commissioners and alternates answered no, yes and no.

This unusual action was in response to a March 2 letter from attorney William Grickis (representing Lakeville business owner Seth Churchill) to the commission. One section of the letter addresses the "possible bias of the

Planning and Zoning Commission."

Grickis pointed out that Commissioner Allen Cockerline is on the board of directors of the Falls Village Housing Trust, and expressed concerns over remarks from other members during P&Z meetings.

(The letter and all other documents pertaining to the Salisbury Housing Committee application are available on the town website, www.salisburyct.us.)

Klemens then reminded the commissioners not to discuss the application in any manner outside of the hearing or commission meeting.

The Salisbury Housing Committee submitted an application for the larger building at the same site (11 Holley St. in Lakeville) last year. (The site is now a parking lot and the small Bicentennial Park.) The organization subsequent-

See AFFORDABLE, Page A8



PHOTO BY TOM BROWN

Rising to the challenge

The Housatonic Valley Regional High School Mountaineers took on Nonnewaug at home on Tuesday, March 9, and eked out a victory, 39-38. Here, Housatonic's Tori Dodge, No. 11, maneuvers around an opponent.

Younger people can now get vaccine sooner
See story page A8

Towns respond to proposal from Desegregate CT

By Patrick L. Sullivan

GOSHEN — Bob Kenny of the state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (and filling in for DEMHS Region 5 coordinator John Field) told the members of the Northwest Hills Council of Governments that increased supplies of COVID-19 vaccine should be arriving in the next couple of weeks.

The NHCOC is made up of municipal leaders from 21 area towns.

Kenny spoke to the NHCOC on Thursday, March 11 (on Zoom).

He said DEMHS is working on a "fixed site" for vaccinations in Bridgeport, Conn., and the agency has requested that two mobile sites be activated.

The mobile sites could be in the form of a bus, Kenny added, but he wouldn't commit to it.

The mobile sites would be used not only for densely populated areas but for "less densely populated" areas, such as the northwest and northeast corners of the state.

Kenny said DEMHS is also working on ways to transport people to vacci-

See PROPOSAL, Page A8

Testimony in Hartford about inadequate internet

By Rob Buccino

Municipal leaders from Northwest Corner towns testified at the state capital in Hartford on Monday, March 8, saying that access to internet services in the Northwest Corner is outdated or absent, with a substantial impact on business, education, telehealth and population growth.

Held by the Connecticut Legislature's Joint Committee on Energy and Technology, the hearing sought public comment on Gov. Ned Lamont's recently introduced legislative bill HB 6442, An Act Concerning Equitable Access to Broadband.

Among area residents testifying in support of the bill were Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) Principal Ian Strever; members of the Sharon Connect Task Force; Sharon First Selectman Brent Colley; JoAnn Ryan, president and CEO of the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce; Falls Village First Selectman Henry Todd; and former state Rep. Roberta Willis (D-64).

Communications firms testifying against the proposal included Frontier Communications, Charter Communications and Cox Communications/

See INTERNET, Page A8

COVID-19 Variant

Two cases found in East Canaan

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — Two confirmed cases of a highly transmissible variant of COVID-19 have been identified in East Canaan, the state Department of Public Health (DPH) announced on Monday, March 8.

In addition, the state reported the first death of a Connecticut resident who was infected with the variant, which originated in the United Kingdom last fall, according to state officials.

As of March 12, 174 cases of B.1.1.7 — or the UK variant, as it is being

called — were reported statewide, with the two cases in East Canaan the only ones in the Northwest Corner.

Despite the rise in cases, Gov. Ned Lamont and state health officials said they are confident that existing vaccines provide adequate protection against new coronavirus variants.

However, "Don't lift your guard," advised Lamont in his coronavirus update on March 8. "The UK variant has gone from in the 40s to 81 in the last week.

"It's not going up exponentially, it's more linear, but it's still something we are paying special attention to."

Robert Rubbo, Director of Health for the Torrington Area Health District (which is the health district for most

See VARIANT, Page A8

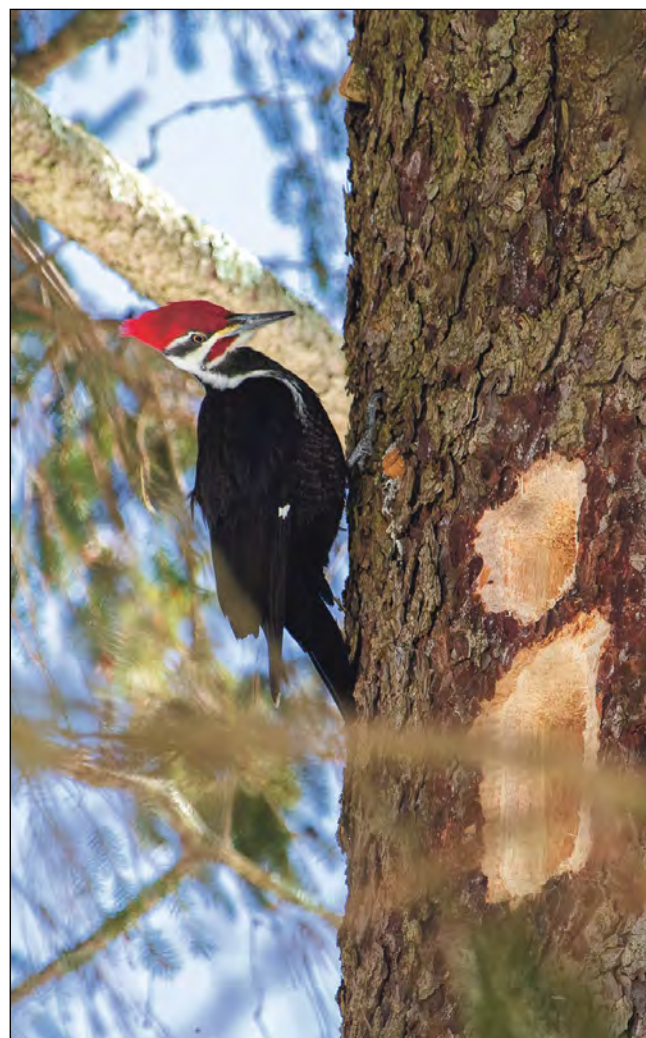


PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Woodpeckers have been making their presence known in recent weeks, in part thanks to the loud hammering noise they make as they search for bugs and begin to seek mates. This pileated woodpecker, spotted recently in Salisbury, carved out two holes in the trunk of an evergreen tree as it captured edible insects.

Woodpeckers reappear as spring nears

By Cynthia Hochswender

In his wonderful song "Night and Day," Cole Porter describes the longing for an absent lover as "the beat, beat, beat of the tom-tom." He could have added to his list of rhythmic triggers the hammering of the woodpecker's bill on the bark of a tree, a sound that is once again resonating through Northwest Corner neighborhoods.

The woodpeckers haven't really been gone, but it does seem that they have been more present in the past few weeks than they'd been through the earlier part of the winter.

Bethany Sheffer is the naturalist for the Audubon Center in Sharon. She said in an interview last week that there are six types of woodpeckers commonly seen in this part of the state, and that only two of them are migratory (the yellow-bellied sapsucker and the northern flicker — although, she said, some of them still hang around here even in the middle of winter).

The seasonal hammering is just ramping up, Sheffer said, and will begin to peak in April, as male woodpeckers start trying to impress potential mates. The drumming itself is meant to be attractive; but the birds are also preparing cavities in trees that a female might look at and decide she'd like to raise a family there.

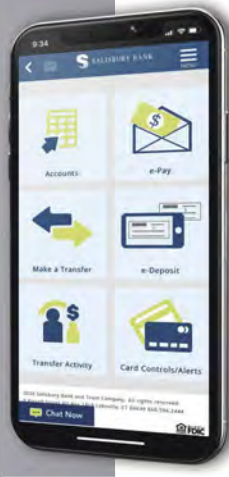
The most distinctive cavity, she said, is the rect-

See WOODPECKER, Page A8



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In The Journal this week

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SHOW THEM YOUR HEART
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Three-day forecast

Friday.....Snow, high 39°/low 21°
 Saturday.....Cloudy, 46°/28°
 Sunday.....Cloudy, 54°/34°

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.

Collision from backing up

On March 2 at approximately 2:30 p.m. at the intersection between Routes 41 and 44 in Salisbury, a 2013 Subaru Outback driven by John Cunningham, 68, of Amenia, N.Y., was struck by the rear of a 2011 International 4000 truck driven by Cesar Delara, 34, of Paterson, N.J., that was backing into a gas station. Delara was issued a verbal warning for unsafe backing and Cunningham was issued a verbal warning for failure to drive at a reasonable distance apart.

Trailer flipped

On March 5 at approximately 3 p.m. on Lime Rock Road in Salisbury a 2012 Ford F350 Super Duty driven by Neal Mitchell Kosciusko, 61, of Cornwall made a U-turn on a gravel road, causing the trailer attached to the truck to turn on its side. Kosciusko was able to flip his trailer back to its upright position. He was issued an infraction for having an unregistered motor vehicle and for carrying an unsecured load.

Driving under the influence

On March 5 at approximately 9:15 p.m. on Indian Mountain Road in Salisbury Sheldon Swart, 44, of Millerton was pulled over by a trooper and declined the standardized field sobriety test. He was charged with traveling unreasonably fast and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol. Swart was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on April 13.

Driving under the influence

On March 6 at approximately 6:30 p.m. on Route 7 and Stein Lane in Falls Village Troop B was dispatched to investigate a 2003 Toyota Camry that had struck a guardrail and collided with a snowbank. Leanna Adams, 22, of Norfolk, Conn., failed a standardized field sobriety test. She was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol and traveling unrea-

sonably fast. She was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on April 13.

Driving under the influence

On March 6 at approximately 8 p.m. on Bunker Road in Cornwall Troop B was dispatched to investigate a disabled motor vehicle. The report states that Myriam Fernandez, 58, of Kent appeared confused and unsure of where she was. Fernandez failed a standardized field sobriety test. She was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol. She was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on April 13.

Manslaughter

On March 12 at approximately 4 p.m. Victoria Merrill, 21, of Salisbury turned herself in on an arrest warrant stemming from a two-car motor vehicle accident that occurred on March 27, 2020, on Route 44 in North Canaan. The collision resulted in the death of Merrill's passenger, Shea Cohn, 16, of Falls Village.

Per the warrant, Merrill was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs (cannabis), operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs with a passenger under 18 years old (two counts for two juvenile passengers), possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of less than a half ounce of cannabis, failure to obey a stop sign, misconduct with a motor vehicle and manslaughter in the second degree while operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs. Merrill was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on April 30.

Child pornography

On March 12 Christopher Brown, 19, of North Canaan was charged with possession of child pornography in the third degree. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on April 21.

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.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Terra McGurk of Kent was awarded a scholarship to attend the Marvelwood School in Kent as a day student.

KCS student awarded Marvelwood scholarship

KENT — The Marvelwood School announced Terra McGurk, of Kent, as the recipient of the 2021 Town Scholarship.

Terra will receive a full scholarship to attend Marvelwood as a day student.

The Town Scholarship is available to a new rising freshman or sophomore day student. Selection is based on the candidate's potential to contribute to and benefit from the Marvelwood experience. Town Scholars are expected to demonstrate good citizenship and solid academic progress throughout their Marvelwood careers.

The award is renewable annually. Six students applied for the Town Scholarship, from Kent Center School, Sharon Center School and Washington Montessori.

Terra is an eighth-grade student at Kent Center School. She is looking forward to participating in Marvelwood's programs that involve animals — riding, ornithology and volunteering at an animal shelter as part of weekly community service.

For more information about Marvelwood, contact the office of admission at admission@marvelwood.org or call 860-927-0047 ext 1011.

Frank McCourt teacher prize seeking nominations by April 15

ASAP! announces a call for nominations for their annually awarded Frank McCourt Prize for Excellence in Teaching. This award aims to recognize teachers whose imaginative assignments and techniques have inspired students to become enthusiastic learners, and to amplify their ideas and practices so they may be adopted by other educators.

The McCourt Prize honors the spirit of Frank McCourt, who was a teacher himself in New York City schools for over 30 years before achieving fame with the publication of his Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir, "Angela's Ashes." Despite the immense success of this book and its two sequels, "Tis" and "Teacher Man," McCourt remained a teacher at heart. As a resident of Roxbury, he gave generously of his time, talents and energy to ASAP! and other local causes. He was instrumental in establishing ASAP!'s Celebration of Young Writers, which uplifts the voices of lo-

cal writers through a juried selection process and annual celebration.

Nominations may be placed through ASAP!'s website by April 15. Nominated teachers must complete a brief application by April 29 in order to be considered for the prize.

ASAP! is a social profit organization recognized as the place for high quality and innovative learning experiences. Serving nearly 10,000 students throughout Connecticut each year, ASAP! promotes equality, diversity, and inclusion in all its programs. To learn more about ASAP! go to www.asapct.org.

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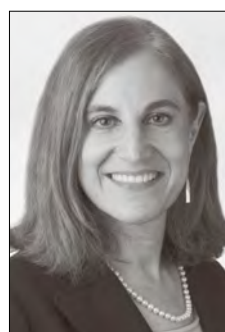
Check them out inside.

• CVS

THE SALISBURY FORUM

Where Ideas Matter

CHINA — IS COEXISTENCE EVEN POSSIBLE?



If anyone knows, it's **Bonnie Glaser**

Senior advisor for Asia and Director of the China Power Project at Center for Strategic and International Studies will discuss "The Next Chapter: US-China Relations — Biden vs. Xi Jinping"

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021 7:30 P.M.

Go to www.salisburyforum.org for a link to this **free** webinar.

This event is made possible in part by a grant from **Andrew Gates/Houlihan Lawrence Real Estate Broker**

Find us on

www.salisburyforum.org

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Grant for Falls Village CSA

FALLS VILLAGE — Berkshire Agricultural Ventures (BAV) announces its first agroforestry grant to Adamah Farm located in Falls Village.

This grant is a first step in promoting and funding agroforestry practices, or the intentional integration of trees onto farms, in Northwest Connecticut, Berkshire County and Dutchess and Columbia counties.

A priority area for BAV, agroforestry is a way to grow food while yielding environmental conservation benefits like water and air quality, habitat, soil health and more.

Adamah Farm operates a 3-acre organic vegetable operation with a sliding scale CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) model, a food access project, goats, chickens, herbs, fruit, and a fellowship program that teaches regenerative ways of living with the land in the context of an intentional Jewish

spiritual community.

The BAV grant will assist Adamah in transforming a 25-acre parcel of sloping grass into a food-producing orchard centered around Chinese chestnuts, a blight-resistant variety of chestnut increasingly popular in the Midwest and Northeast region due to its demand and productivity as a tree crop.

Adamah plans to host public planting parties and tours in April of this year, as well as a farmer-focused agroforestry workshop in June with Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development, USDA, NOFA Mass and the Regenerative Design Group.

For more information about BAV go to www.berkshireagventures.org or contact Glenn Bergman, interim director, at 413-645-3594.

For more information on Adamah Farm go to www.adamahfarmcsafallsvillage.weebly.com/the-farm.html.

China, the U.S. and the future

SALISBURY — Bonnie Glaser will give background on China-U.S. relations and whether there is a danger of a new cold war with the Asian giant, in a talk sponsored by the Salisbury Forum on Friday, March 19, on Zoom at 7:30 p.m.

Glaser is a senior adviser for Asia and the director of the China Power Project at the Center for Strategic and

International Studies (CSIS). At CSIS she works on issues related to Asia-Pacific security with a focus on Chinese foreign and security policy. She is currently a member of both the Council on Foreign Relations and the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

To register for this free talk, go to www.salisburyforum.org.

Send Family & Friends announcements to editor@lakevillejournal.com



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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF JOHN PRAUSE Late of Salisbury AKA John G. Prause (21-00065)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated March 2, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is: Marianne Prause c/o Ellen C Marino Ellen C Marino 596 Main Street Winsted, CT 06098 Megan Williams Assistant Clerk 03-18-21

INVITATION TO BID

The Region One Board of Education located in Falls Village, CT invites bids for the replacement and repair of masonry at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

Signed and sealed bids will be received at the Business Office, Region One School District, 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, CT 06031. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope bearing the full name and address of the company, plainly marked BID - HVRHS. Bids must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. Thursday, April 15, 2021. A mandatory walk-

through will take place on Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. The Region One Board of Education reserves the full and unqualified right to award the job, waive any and all proposals conditions or formalities, award the job to other than the lowest proposal, award the job to other than the submitted companies, reject any and all proposals received, or divide the award, should they deem any of the foregoing to be in the best interest of the school district. Dated at Falls Village, CT, this ninth day of March 2021.

03-18-21

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF DAVID CHASE, JR. Late of Sharon AKA David R. Chase (21-00089)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated February 26, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is: Stephanie J Chase c/o William Jeffrey Manasse William J. Manasse, PLLC 27 No. Main Street P.O. Box 460 Kent, CT 06757

Megan Williams Assistant Clerk 03-18-21

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Our Towns

Sharon town budget plan ready for BOF

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Following several budget workshops, the Board of Selectmen approved their proposed 2021-22 town budget plans at their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 9, conducted in person at Town Hall for the elected officials and by Zoom for the public.

First Selectman Brent Colley reviewed the final proposed budget numbers, announcing net budget totals increasing by \$112,427 over the previous year, a 2.7% proposed increase for next year. The fiscal year begins July 1.

Proposed total expenditures for municipal spending are \$4,217,597 for the coming year, up from \$4,105,179 in the current year's budget.

Colley commented that the selectmen scrutinized every budget line during the workshops.

"We did our job," Selectman Dale Jones said, terming the result a "responsible budget." He added that the budget just represents the cost of running a town.

"It never seems to get cheaper," Selectman Casey Flanagan observed.

An anticipated new expenditure of \$35,000 will cover installation of safety guardrails along town roads.

Household waste disposal is slated for an increase of \$9,900 for the transfer station budget.

The historic clock tower is in need of mortar work and of minor repairs to the clock itself, requiring an increase of \$6,000.

The Sharon Connect internet task force would receive an additional \$27,000 to fund an engineering plan.

The Sharon Historical Society is receiving additional funding in the amount of \$11,886 for chimney repair, electrical upgrade and replacement of a pump.

A request from the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon for \$36,794 in support of their plans to construct a library addition was not supported by the selectmen on the grounds that the town is already anticipating major improvement projects in the coming months, including the Town Hall parking lot and proposed sidewalk work. The Community Center is also on the list of town buildings in need of attention.

"We need to focus on our projects," Flanagan said.

Jones agreed, although he praised the library's presentation during the budget process.

He added that the funding requested did not seem to be critical to the work anticipated for this year. He said that there might be another budget opportunity in a different year.

The budget was scheduled for presentation to the Board of Finance during the next week.

A separate special town meeting to consider the purchase of a Volvo loader is scheduled for Friday, March 19, at 6 p.m. in person at the Town Hall and also by Zoom. Taxpayers wishing to attend and vote by Zoom must contact the town clerk no later than 11 a.m. on the day of the meeting.

Her dream fulfilled, Sharon's social services director is moving on

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SHARON — When Miriam Jones relocated to the Northwest Corner from Washington State to be with family following the death of her husband six years ago, she wasn't sure at the time whether it was the right move.

As it turns out, said Jones, who has served as Sharon's director of social services and veterans' representative for nearly two years, the decision was one of the best of her life.

So it is with a heavy heart, said Jones, that she will be stepping down from her position effective May 1.

Jones submitted her resignation to the Sharon Board of Selectmen at its March 9 meeting. The selectmen thanked Jones for her service to the town, wished her well in her future endeavors and have begun the search for a new director.

"Sharon has captured my heart, but it took something bigger to drag me away from Sharon: a wonderful gentleman has also captured my heart and I'm getting married and moving to Utah," Jones revealed in a telephone interview March 12.

"I now have the opportunity to be swept off my feet and ride into the sunset," she said.

In addition to packing and planning for an April 1 wedding, Jones said she will assist with the selection process for her replacement and a smooth transition.

"I'm making it easier for the next social service agent," she explained, by streamlining duties involving veterans' services. Her replacement, she said, "will pass on applications to the Veterans Affairs Office in Waterbury, and they will take over from there."

Embedded in the community

After relocating to the Northwest Corner a half dozen years ago, Jones, who grew up

in Salisbury, said she bought and renovated her sister's home in Sharon and immediately became involved in her new community.

"I was baking cookies and bringing them into town hall, and the transfer station" and meeting new friends, she recalled.

She spent two years working for the Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association, "and then had an opportunity to serve as Sharon's military representative," recalled Jones, who by then had become active as a church member as well as joining numerous civic groups, including the Sharon Woman's Club, the ambulance and as an assistant registrar of voters.

In late 2019, Jones succeeded long-time social services director Ella Clark. Before long, the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, and with it an unprecedented need within the community. "I came at a time when residents faced great challenges with the pandemic."

Assisted during 'a horrific time'

In the days since announcing her resignation, Jones said she has been approached by many well-wishers asking how the town is ever going to fill her shoes. Her response: It was an extraordinary time, unprecedented in recent history.

Early on in the pandemic, food and medications needed to be delivered to shut-ins; she and volunteers performed regular wellness checks on residents, and assisted with rides to testing sites.

Then came vaccine sign-ups, and her office was inundated with requests from seniors who were unable or had difficulty navigating the appointment portal, or traveling to their scheduled vaccination.

"I worked five or six days a week, seven hours a day," not because she had to, said Jones but because it was her moral

responsibility.

"I can't think of anyone who went without," thanks to efforts from countless, caring volunteers, she said. "It was the community that pulled together to get through a horrific time."

First Selectman Brent Colley said Jones had gone "above and beyond" what was required of her during a challenging chapter in the town's history. "She helped so many people. She changed lives." Once the pandemic hit, Jones went into overdrive, said Colley.

"There were people who didn't want to leave the house," for food and necessities due to COVID-19, said Colley, who recalled that Jones would call him requesting help with pickups and deliveries of truckloads of food.

"Then there is the veterans side of things, which is something no one will ever know ... how difficult it is to get vets the things they deserve," noted the first selectman. "The folders are 6-inches thick. It's almost as if the system is configured to say no. But being a veteran herself,"

Jones was not to be deterred, said Colley. "She even went on all the ambulance calls. I told her the other day, 'I am beginning to think that God must have sent you.'"

A dream fulfilled

After graduating college, Jones said she had two career goals: to be a social worker or a physical therapist. She has accomplished both. "It's wonderful that I ended up coming here so I could fulfill my long-time dream of being a social worker and helping people," she said. "What a wonderful opportunity. All my dreams have come true."

Her advice to those who are new to Sharon: "Get involved with the community. If you don't you will be missing out on a lot of love and respect and togetherness. You'll never feel alone."

Jones said she will be involved in the selection process for her successor, and intends to do what she can to ensure a smooth transition. "I'll be following from afar."

Tatge and Lasseur honored with Warner Award on March 26

FALLS VILLAGE — The Housatonic Youth Service Bureau (HYSB) will honor Cornwall's Catherine Tatge and Dominique Lasseur with the Donald T. Warner Community Service Award in an online celebration on Friday, March 26, at 5:30 p.m.

The virtual cocktail hour and video awards presentation will honor Tatge and Lasseur for their inspiring work engaging young people in the Northwest Corner in the democratic process and civic life through digital storytelling, as well as their ongoing support of local institutions throughout Region One. The pair are Emmy

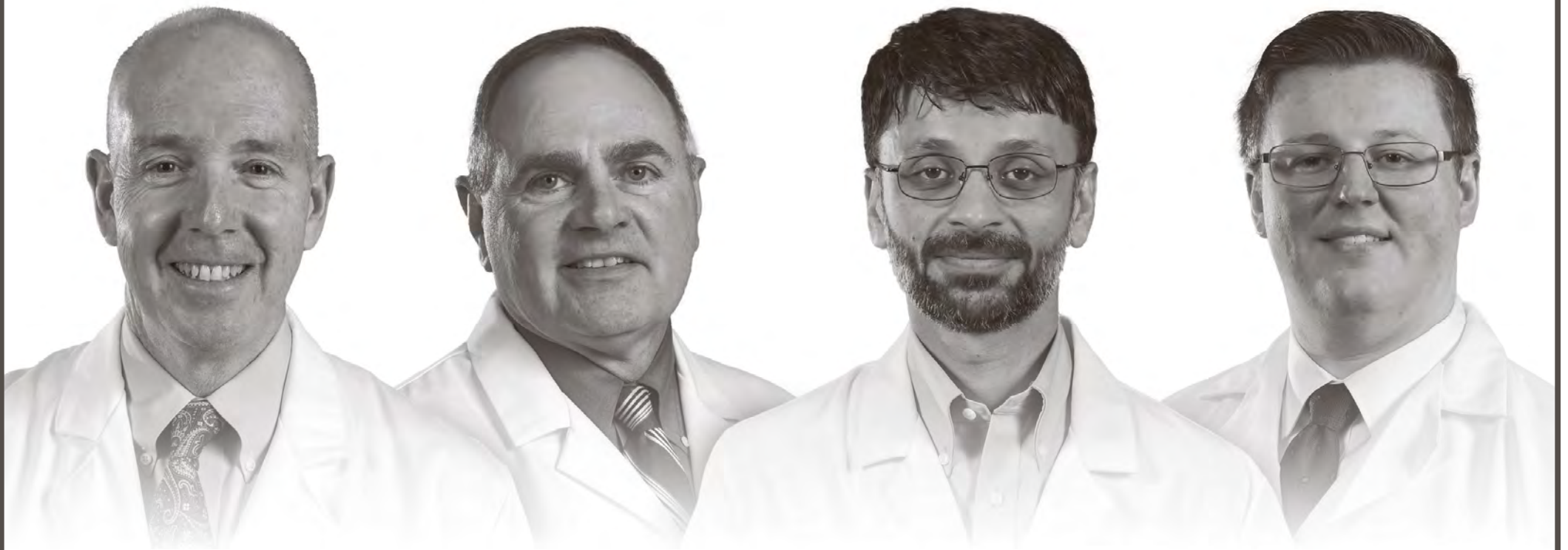
Award-winning documentary filmmakers and educators, and the founders of the Civic Life Project.

For 30 years, HYSB has provided free behavioral health services and empowerment programs in partnership with public schools, local organizations, donors and volunteers. As a result of the ongoing pandemic, the organization's caseload continues to increase as the community's youth navigate feelings of isolation, loss, and anxiety.

To register for the event, or to make a donation to support HYSB's mission, e-mail Kelly Parker at kparker@hysb.org.

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Our Towns

Kent selectmen consider how to handle summer visitors to Housatonic River

By Leila Hawken

KENT — With the promise of spring in the air, the balance between welcoming seasonal visitors seeking to enjoy the Housatonic River and seeing that they behave responsibly was discussed by the Board of Selectmen at their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 9. The meeting was conducted by Zoom.

Selectman Chris Garrity said that Kent Falls State Park is now open and will remain open for the summer. As the state park attracts many summer visitors and is equipped to serve their needs, Garrity felt that, for the town, Bull's Bridge is more of a continuing concern because the town owns only the road, but nothing else in that area. The waterfall there has been very attractive to an overflow amount of visitors and

it has for many years been difficult to monitor and control the behavior of visitors.

The Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) has held a series of focus group meetings within the area towns that provide river access, from New Milford northward. Kent First Selectman Jean Speck said that the HVA has also met with town officials, who found common concerns.

"We want to be open to visitors, but we need to clamp down on litter," Speck said.

Current HVA plans include doubling the number of River Stewards, who will seek to educate and inform the public, Speck said.

Another option being considered by the HVA is an outreach program to determine where the visitors are coming from and to try to educate them in advance. Swimming

prohibitions also need to be enforced, Speck said.

"Hopefully, we can get some solutions in place. It needs human resources and services," Speck concluded.

Garrity said that he would like to know whether the HVA is just looking to patrol the river or are they intending to promote it as a recreational destination.

Speck replied that the HVA is looking to provide support for the river access locations in area towns. She did not think that the HVA is looking to devise a master plan for river recreation.

In other action, the selectmen voted to use funds from the Emily M. Hopson Trust bequest for a needed roof replacement at the town-owned Swift House this year.

The 2002 bequest specified that the funds were to benefit the Swift House. The balance in the fund stands at \$38,000, agreed to be more than enough for the project.

With its work completed, the Swift House Task Force was officially disbanded. The selectmen agreed to assemble a new committee to oversee the roofing project.

Scouting continues, for boys and girls

NORTH CANAAN — In a world where children are mainly hearing NO, as in no sports, no vacations, and no field trips, Scouting in North Canaan is doing everything in its power to provide a YES!

The Leaders and committee are doing everything possible to make sure the boys and girls of Pack 22 are having as much fun as possible.

The Dens are having outside COVID-safe meetings every other week to keep the scouts up to speed on their advancements.

To offset the COVID world these scouts are stuck in, the Pack has planned some pretty amazing outside-of-the-box events: a Rain Gutter boat race in January, candy bar bingo in February and a Pinewood Derby coming up this month, in March.

These events have been "virtual," but the Pack has tried to keep them upbeat and entertaining, like a television show.

The Pinewood Derby this year will also include families, local businesses, soldiers, farms and a new modified class open to anyone who wants to race.

The Pack has not been able to do their traditional Blue and Gold crossover so far this year, but are planning to send their Arrow of Light Scouts off in style at an early June outside ceremony at the VFW in North Canaan.

The Scouts have come to count on scouting as an adventure in life skills and they need this stability in their crazy lives. Pack 22 in North Canaan is doing everything they can to provide this for them.

Pack 22 can't wait for COVID to be over and for things to get back to normal. In the meantime our Scout family goes on. It takes a Village to raise a Scout and we would be lost without our Scout families and leaders.

— Miriam Deane



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Flowers were left under the sign outside The Woodland restaurant in Lakeville on Monday, March 8, after the burial of longtime chef/owner Robert Peters, who died of cancer on Thursday, March 4.

Woodland has 'no plans to close'

By Cynthia Hochswender

LAKEVILLE — The Woodland restaurant will remain open, according to Manager Michelle Lavertue, following the death on Thursday, March 4, of owner/chef Robert Peters.

"We are all mourning the loss of Robert," she said. "It will take time to transition. But we have no plans to close."

The restaurant is not offering lunch at this time but dinner is available to eat in the restaurant or take out.

Look for Peters' obituary on Page A6 of The Lakeville Journal and look for details on future plans for the restaurant as they become available.

This article originally was published online at www.tri-cornernews.com.

Cornwall internet survey results are in

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — Results of the recently distributed survey of internet service were reviewed by the selectmen at their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 2, conducted on Zoom.

Reporting on behalf of the Cornwall Internet Committee, Chairman Gary Steinkohl said that 275 responses had been received and tabulated. A preliminary report is posted on the town website at www.cornwallct.org. Residents wishing to be sent a hard copy can request one at cornwallinternetcommittee@gmail.com, Steinkohl said.

The purpose of the internet committee, Steinkohl reported, is to bring the best internet service to the town. One step toward that goal was the collection of information through a town-wide survey.

"People seemed somewhat more satisfied with their home internet capability than with their cell service," First Selectman Gordon Ridgway commented.

Steinkohl said that a problem area exists with some residents lacking cell service at their home locations, paired with the almost total lack of cell service outside of the home and around town.

Steinkohl reported that 39% of those responding rated their home internet service as "Fair" or "Poor."

The Internet Committee will hold a town-wide community Zoom forum on Monday, March 29, beginning at 7 p.m. to talk about the survey results and hear comments.

Level budget plan, despite increase in student population

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — After a year of increased enrollment and keeping school open during the pandemic, the Cornwall Board of Education presented a rather level 2021-22 budget proposal to the Board of Finance at a Zoom special meeting on Thursday, March 11.

The Cornwall Consolidated School (CCS) budget proposal shows a 1.27% increase in spending over the current year, amounting to an increase of \$34,153. The proposed budget is \$2,533,404.

Adding to that is the Region One School District estimated cost of \$1,478,567, for a total estimated Board of Education budget total of \$4,011,971.

The regional budget covers Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Pupil Services and special education and the shared office of the regional superintendent.

Nearing the end of her first year as CCS principal, Mary Kay Ravenola reviewed the budget for the finance board, indicating that she feels fortunate to be serving CCS and being welcomed into the community.

She pointed out that CCS has been offering in-person learning without interruption since the start of the school year on Sept. 8. Remote options are also in place for students. She cited remarkable community support for the school.

"The collaboration that occurred was amazing," Ravenola said, including the work of teachers, students, staff and families.

Enrollment grew this year to 113 students, about 25 more than the previous year, Ravenola reported.

An increase being requested is to increase the school counselor to full time, rather than part time in view of an added workload in negotiating students' needs during COVID-19.

Other increases include Anthem insurance costs rising by 1%. CCS is also requesting an increase to purchase additional books and periodicals.

Finance board alternate Si-

mon Hewett praised what he termed "a tight budget."

An informal study of trends in the CCS student population has shown that of the 10 new families who moved to Cornwall from New York City in the past year, bringing 15 children with them, seven of those families (with 11 of the children) intend to stay on. One family with one child has not decided yet. It looks now as if 12 of the 15 children will remain enrolled in the coming year.

"I've talked to a lot of people," First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said. "They are so happy to be in town. The school is in a good position."

Ridgway praised CCS for being able to keep going all year and accommodating more students while being able to keep a flat budget.

The Board of Finance will meet again on Thursday, March 18, at 7 p.m., to discuss the budget proposals. The meeting will be held by Zoom.

Easter fun in NC on March 27

NORTH CANAAN — The North Canaan Recreation Commission will host an Easter goodie bag drive-by giveaway for children 10 and under on Saturday, March 27, from 10 to 11 a.m. or until all the bags are gone.

Come to the North Canaan Town Hall parking lot to welcome spring and wave to the Easter Bunny.

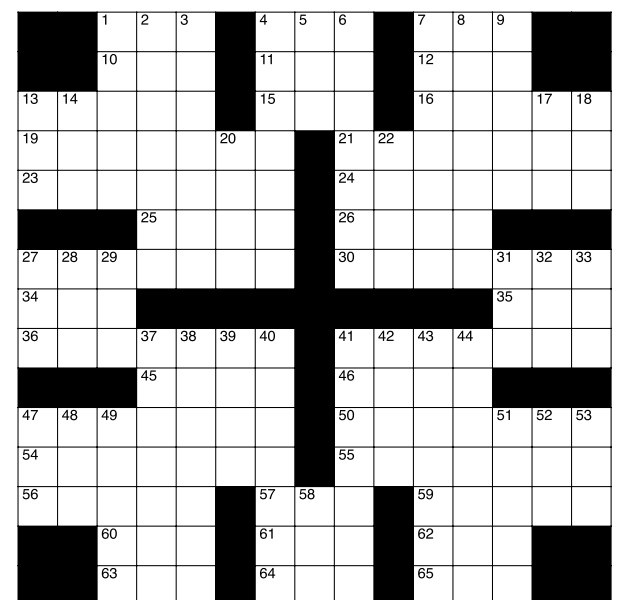
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- ___ fi: popular genre
- Curved shape
- Defunct airline
- Beverage receptacle
- Corporate bigwig
- Belong to he
- They cover cuts
- Cost per mille
- Walk into
- Power-producing machine
- Part of one's character perceived by others
- Emotionally appealed to
- Protected
- Wrestling icon Okerlund
- Thailand's former name
- Muscle weaknesses
- Chooses
- American film studio
- Expression of satisfaction
- Mythical winged horse
- Ballplayers
- Edible seaweed
- Chinese politician
- Tested for fertility
- Glove worn with medieval armor
- Basaltic lavas
- Small shoaling fish
- Surrendered
- Taxi
- Potato part
- Female sheep
- Trouble or difficulty
- Put into service
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- 17th letter of Greek alphabet
- Type of student

CLUES DOWN

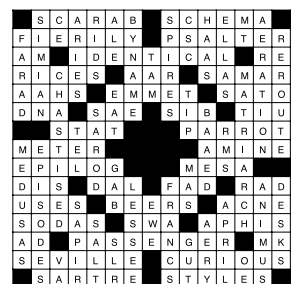
- Frighten
- Partner to corned beef
- Parts
- Agrees to a demand
- Elected official
- Navigator's tool
- Relating to heat
- Attractive
- Wealthy US merchant
- Engine additive
- A passage with access only at one end
- Midway between northeast and east
- Cool!
- Brazilian NBAer
- NW Pennsylvania city
- Young dog
- Mimic
- Large truck
- The NFL's Newton



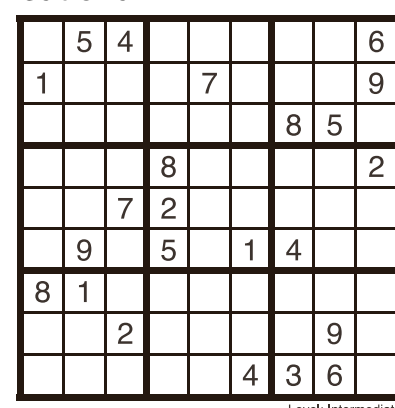
- One and only
- Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- Julie __, actress
- More nourishing
- Compound
- A small carrier attached to the side of a motorcycle
- Object of fear or alarm
- __ Ladd, actor
- Sacred place
- A way to express enjoyment
- Trigonometric function
- A team's best pitcher
- Intersecting points
- Roundishly shaped
- Adam's partner
- God of battle (Scandinavian)
- Human hormone

Look for the solution in next week's issue.

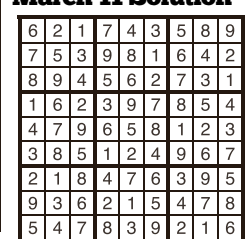
March 11 Solution



Sudoku



March 11 Solution



LAKEVILLE HOSE CO.
LADIES AUXILIARY

Corned Beef Dinner

DATE: MARCH 20, 2021
TIME: 5:00 TO 7:30
PLACE: LAKEVILLE FIREHOUSE

TAKE OUT ONLY
RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE
CALL: 860-833-0505



Adults
\$17.00

Seniors
\$14.00

Children Under 10 years
\$11.00



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HOLLEY BLOCK PROJECT

To the Editor and to my fellow taxpayers in the Town of Salisbury,

I am writing with regard to the Holley Place affordable housing project known as Holley Block that is proposed for the corner of Route 44 and Holley Street. I am a professional investor with experience as a real estate developer. I have invested in both large and small real estate projects, and I am the owner of the Lakeville Manor House on Elm Street where I invested to restore a historic building by developing the property into a market-rate multi-family dwelling.

The Manor House is not competitive with Holley Block, as our rents are substantially higher than at Holley Block, but I do know the costs of building and running a similarly sized development (the Manor house is around 12,000 ft² versus Holley Block at 15,300 ft²), so my experience here is as an expert local professional opinion regarding the financial viability of the applicant's proposal.

I am not making an appeal to kill this project, as we so sorely need affordable housing in this town. But I am making the case for the Town to put a halt to any approval process until the applicant has demonstrably proven that their financial projections are sound and that there are risk adjustments built into both the construction and operating models so that the Town does not get saddled with an insolvent white elephant in the middle of historic Lakeville.

What are the risks of Holley Block?

The immediate risks are based in opportunity cost. Why not use prime Lakeville road frontage real estate to develop a mixed-use building where the applicant provides limited commercial space as well as a clutch of affordable housing units? In such a case, the Town could charge a land lease instead of providing the applicant free use of an endowed historic park thereby creating both lease and tax income for the Town, as well as driving an appreciation in surrounding commercial property value for current landowners in the historic village. Especially with a new developer in contract with the Knife Factory, it would seem that there is an opportunity for mixed-used affordable housing at both locations, Holley Block and the Knife Factory, that could meet or exceed town affordable housing unit goals and could provide new business life in Lakeville's historic district.

The future risks of the proposal, as designed, are risks that could severely damage the Town's finances. These risks range from the risk of a mid-construction failure, when costs balloon due to market price increases of labor and material in a post-COVID economic boom to a built, to a risk that the completed project never runs profitably thus requiring the Town to step in and rescue an insolvent affordable housing development with our taxpayer dollars. The greatest risk with the applicant and its plans for Holley Block is not the concept of affordable housing, but rather that the Holley Block project, as proposed, is financially dead-on-arrival.

A simple objective financial analysis of the proposal that the applicant has submitted shows the revenue projections likely are insufficient to cover the estimated financial and operating costs of the development when using CFHA market rate assumptions for the financing. Quite simply, this project as submitted is not financially viable.

With the projected revenues projected at only a maximum of \$156 thousand for full 100% occupancy, as profiled in the indicative rent pricing submitted in the applicant's proposal, the annual financing costs required to construct an oversized 15,300 square foot building, let alone a oversized building with an underground parking garage and a four-story elevator for residents, will exceed the projected revenues. When one adds to the financing costs both the operating expenses of managing the property and the ongoing cash capital expenditures to maintain the physical plant the financial picture for Holley Block goes only from unprofitable to unbuildable.

To make matters even more financially impossible, the market environment for taking on a new construction project are some of the worst in recent history. Local and national construction costs have soared over 140% in the last 12 months, are projected to increase another 35% this year, and there is no end in sight for future increases as the post-pandemic economy gets fully underway. Most likely, any construction budget composed today will be revised higher in the near future as costs for both labor and building material predictably continue to rise.

Unfortunately, the applicant promoting this project has not been required by the Town to defend the viability of the project. No financial due diligence has been performed by the Town and reviewed by the public. No financial experts have been consulted to support the application process. The applicant has not been asked to provide a working operating model, or a construction budget, or a financing plan.

It is possible that if the project removes such frivolous non-revenue producing features like underground parking and a four-story elevator and reduces the overall size of the building that the project would indeed show itself to be financially viable. If the applicant would focus on the most profitable layout of one-bedroom living units that generate the highest revenue per square foot in a smaller development at Holley Block, then the Town would likely not miss its affordable housing unit goal as any few units removed from the Holley Block development could be added in future developments elsewhere.

For example, construction costs for a 6- or even 8-unit development on a much smaller footprint at the same site would use significantly less capital than what the current proposal for Holley Block requires. No underground parking. No elevator. A smaller development would have a greater chance of success, and, thus, the overall financial risk to the Town's fragile finances would be far less, while still adding meaningfully to new inventory of affordable housing units for the Town of Salisbury. A smaller overall development would be more in character with the surrounding buildings and would better harmonize with the aesthetic of the historic district in Lakeville. Combined with other already planned future affordable housing site developments around town, a smaller project at Holley Block would still meet or exceed our 10-year total affordable housing unit goal.

I am urging our Town officials to step back and analyze this project, and any project where public resources are being committed, using sober financial analysis to ensure its financial viability before any approvals are granted. Please do not be cowed into submission by process fatigue and attempts at public shaming. Please demonstrate your responsibility as elected officials whose duty it is to act as trustworthy fiduciaries of our Town's limited resources and complete in depth financial due diligence before approving the Holley Place project.

For all who are interested in the numbers and the type of exercise that the Town should require this applicant, and any applicant who is benefiting from free investment of taxpayer resources (as is the case with the Town donating Bicentennial Park with no remuneration by the applicant to the Town for the donation), please review the presentation I filed with the P&Z Commission for the upcoming hearing on Holley Block.

Folks also can download the financial analysis presentation here:

docsend.com/view/i7ccpc6ttp7gykam

Respectfully yours,

Will Muecke
 Owner/Operator
 The Lakeville Manor House
 March 14, 2021



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Cohn family is memorializing Shea Cohn, who died in a car crash last year at the age of 16, with Shea Stones.

Stones embody spirit of Shea Cohn, and a hope-filled message

By Leila Hawken

FALLS VILLAGE — Shea Stones is a noteworthy project devised by Shea Cohn's family to memorialize his too-short life and to spread his spirit of adventure out into the world, near and far.

A tragic motor vehicle accident in March 2020 took the life of the 16-year-old Falls Village resident. Those who knew the popular young man and those who only knew of him mourn the loss.

To have known him was to know that Shea collected stones he encountered during his travels. Stones were collected. If they were smooth enough, they were used for skimming. Others were appreciated and carried home as souvenirs of a day's adventures.

During a conversation on Friday, March 12, Shea Cohn's family gathered on Zoom. His parents, Denise and Doug in Falls Village, and sisters Emma and Grace shared memories and stories of Shea. Emma was in Salisbury, Md., where she teaches English to students in the 10th grade. Grace, younger of the two sisters, is studying at the University of South Carolina.

"Shea was always collecting good skimmers," his father said. "And also shells by the seaside," Emma added.

"It all started with my mom," Grace recalled, prompting Denise to explain that she had known of a similar concept created for different circumstances, and remodeled the idea. What emerged was the idea of stones to reflect the uniqueness of Shea, his affinity for small rocks, and his love for travel.

Fittingly, Shea Stones tend to travel.

The concept is simple. Shea Stones can be obtained from the designated website, either pre-decorated or the family will provide a kit with a stone and paints you can decorate, as you wish.

Shea Stones are traveling the world

If someone is having a family gathering anywhere, leave a Shea Stone behind, perhaps providing a photo of the stone so that it can be added to the 350 stones and photos already on display.

When someone finds the stone, instructions on the stone indicate that the stone can be taken and left somewhere else as a remembrance of Shea, with a photo taken in the new location, if the person wishes.

The locations where stones have been deposited are tracked informally on a Google map on the website. So far, map pins indicate that Shea Stones have been deposited in all 50 states, Europe and South America.

In what the Cohns term "moving the spirit along," there are 250 destination lo-

cales where stones have been left in seven different countries around the world. The family indicates that there are many in Falls Village, of course, which counts as one destination.

One of the first stones ever found was one that Grace left at Seabrook Beach in New Hampshire, Shea's favorite vacation spot. She had lost it into the sandy beach. As it turned out the person who found it was named "Shea." That person in turn has placed it somewhere else.

A stone that was placed in Annapolis, Md., made its way to Washington state. Another went on to Guatemala. The stories abound.

Curious, talented and beloved

Remembering her brother, Emma noted that she was eight years Shea's elder, so her relationship was more of a mothering overseer.

"He knew how to make things interesting," Emma said. "His adventurousness challenged us in the best ways."

She described him as very, very bright and an incredible musician, easily learning and surpassing anything she had to teach him about music.

Shea was so musically gifted, the family recalled his eighth-grade graduation ceremony from the Lee H. Kellogg School when music teacher Brook Martinez paid tribute to Shea's piano talents by performing Billy Joel's "Piano Man," with appropriately adjusted lyrics. The audience cheered.

Closer in age to Shea, with four years between them, Grace said that he was an overall good brother, although they messed with each other as much as they could.

Shea could solve a Rubik's Cube in 48 seconds, his dad recalled.

"We knew he would be remarkable." Enjoying a vast circle of friends, Doug said that Shea was bright and curious, and able to converse easily with adults.

"He did his research," his dad said.

"Shea took the time to hear and understand other points of view," his mother added, remembering several instances of Shea's demonstration of innate empathy.

The Cohns are now also involved with the Boston-based New England Donor Services (NEDS), having discovered that Shea had volunteered to be an organ donor, even before he had earned a driver's license. As a result, seven recipients have benefited from Shea's organs and tissue. All seven have received Shea Stones and have placed them somewhere. A Shea Stone now rests by the sign at the NEDS entrance.

To learn more about Shea Stones, go to www.sheacohn.com.

Robert Delano Peters

SHARON — Robert Delano Peters died Thursday, the 4th of March 2021. He was 58. His whole family was caring for him in his home. Robert had a long battle with kidney cancer and stepped up to fight it as best he could.

Robert was born in 1962 in Glen Cove, L.I. NY to Anthony J. Peters and Mary V. Peters. He moved to Manhattan in 1967 with his family and attended Saint David's school. Later he went to Avon Old Farms School in Avon, Conn., and The University of New Hampshire. Because of his father's ownership of Interlaken Inn, Robert spent a lot of summers in Lakeville as a child. He moved to Connecticut permanently around the time The Woodland opened in 1983 and worked as the sous-chef (later becoming the chef). His sister Carol owned the restaurant then with her former husband. In 2004 Robert bought the restaurant from Carol and has been the chef and owner ever since.

Robert renovated and enlarged a small house in Sharon CT with his beloved friend Eugene Wright. He loved this house and often talked about the light in every room at different times of the day. And the light was beautiful only to be appreciated when spending whole days there. He wanted no screens or window coverings so that the outside became as much a feature of the house as

the beautiful inside.

Robert was not only a chef and restaurant owner but an artist. His own drawings, paintings, pottery and collage were on display in his art filled home. He loved house plants, trees, and his gardens, and feeding the many critters who came to his back door. His best buddy, Snowy the cat, aka Boy, was at his side all of the time till the end.

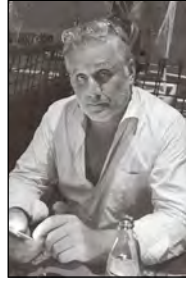
Robert had a biting sense of humor, suffered no fools, loved to drive fast, eat in the best restaurants and visit Jamaica and Miami.

Robert leaves behind his siblings, Mary Ann Giffuni and her husband Vincent Giffuni, Anthony Peters, Patricia Cavanagh and her husband John Cavanagh, Kathleen Peters and her husband Stuart Berman, Elizabeth Mastopietro and John Peters and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Special mention goes to two good friends: Amy Goossens and Michelle McBreaity. He was predeceased by his parents and his sister, Carol Peters.

Robert was deeply loved by all of us.

If you want to honor Robert, donations may be made to The Last Post in Falls Village or The Little Guild in West Cornwall.

Burial was private. Brian Kenny of Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon did a beautiful job handling the green burial.



Costantina 'Tinetta' Sebben

LAKEVILLE — Costantina "Tinetta" Sebben passed away March 7, 2021.

Tinetta was born in Frassene di Fonzaso, Provincia di Belluno, Italy, on May 7, 1928. Her parents were Maria Zucco and Bortolo Sebben.

Tinetta emigrated with her parents to the United States after World War II. During the 1950s and '60s she lived with them in Lakeville. Upon leaving Lakeville she returned to Fonzaso to live. She married her childhood sweetheart, Giacomo Minella. Together they raised their family, two girls and two boys. Giacomo predeceased Tinetta.

Tinetta leaves behind her daughters, Cristiana and Lucia Minella of Fonzaso; her son Roberto Minella, her daughter-in-law Manuela Siabone and grandson Andrea, of Arten, Italy; and her son Stefano Minella, daughter-in-law Melania and their children Mattia and Sara, of Dublin, Ireland. She is survived by her brother, Pierro Sebben and his spouse, Lucille, of Clifton, N.J., and her nephew, Robert Sebben of Carteret, N.J. She was also predeceased by her sister Santana Sebben.

Tinetta was gracious, generous, warm-hearted and fun-loving. She always welcomed, with open arms, members of the extended Sebben family; the Marcons of Larchmont, N.Y., and Flat Rock, Mich., the Possidentes of North Haven, Conn., the Stantons of Hamden, Conn., and the Britts of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., who traveled to Fonzaso to visit her and her family.

Many of these family members gathered in her honor when she last visited Lakeville.

Tinetta was justly proud of the majestic Dolomiti valley in which she raised her fam-

ily. She was known to set an inviting table replete with traditional piatti Dolomiti. Her Italian-style braised *coniglio* was a favorite. But her signature offering was a one-of-a-kind basil infused homemade *grappa*. No meal at Tinetta's was complete without it. It was lauded by New York City *grappa* cognoscenti, and discerning Vermont anglers.

She was a beacon of familial love and heritage for her visitors. She resided with her family in a home built and lived in by past generations of the Sebben family. A visit with Tinetta was a walk-through in real time of family history and lore.

She helped in the preparation of the recently published work of biographical fiction, released on International Women's Day 2021, "Under the Light of the Italian Moon," written by Jennifer Anton. The book depicts life in Fonzaso between the World Wars and the resilience of Italian women living under fascism. Tinetta herself was witness to Nazi atrocities in Frassene at the end of World War II.

Tinetta was a communicant at the Church of the Nativity of Mary in Fonzaso. And she was the sexton at Our Lady of the Assumption chapel in Frassene. She helped tend the family vineyard, and kept a textbook garden. There were always a few resident chickens to provide eggs for omelets, which she sometimes made with wild asparagus.

She kept her English skills current by listening to BBC radio. She never missed a word in a conversation with her English-speaking, Italian-language-deprived, relatives.

She was known for her wit, kindness and patience. She will be sorely missed.



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OBITUARIES

In appreciation:

Robert Peters

Rob Peters was a man who had a clear drive and sense of purpose. Rob had a deep sense of right and wrong. He wasn't afraid to support important issues, hence his public opinions of our last president!

He had a whip-smart sense of humor. It was like he had an inside joke and was one step ahead of you. His knowledge of architecture, art, and of course food and wine was intimidating.

He also had respect and

kind attention to nature. Until his last days, he fed opossums on his porch.

His legacy is huge. Many tried to emulate him but when they made him, they broke the mold.

In his honor, I am making a donation to the Audubon Center.

I miss you, Rob. Thanks for the awesome memories and advice, Mr. Fox! :)

Zelina Blagden

Sharon

Preventing falls

KENT — Kent Memorial Library and Care One Security present a free 30-minute presentation on home safety and fall prevention in and around the house.

The online talk will be on Thursday, April 8, at 10 a.m. and will cover: the statistics, risk and cost of falls and their impact on the quality of life; six steps to prevent a fall; household preparation: 18 steps to fall-proofing your home. Register for this talk at the Kent Memorial Library.



Worship Services

Week of March 21, 2021

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

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.
30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!
Online worship, Sundays at 10am
www.salisburyucc.org
Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy!
(860) 435-2442

Falls Village Congregational Church
16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village
10:00 a.m. Family Worship
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!!
860-824-0194

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

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon
9 South Main, Sharon CT
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM
Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker
All welcome to join us
860-364-5260
www.christchurchsharon.org

North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC
Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people
Pastor Savage Frieze
172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT
Worship services Sundays at 10 am
AT THE PILGRIM HOUSE
30 GRANITE AVE, CANAAN: FISHES & LOAVES Food Pantry and CLOSETS for clothing
Tuesdays from 5 to 7 and Thursdays from noon to 2
www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational

Greenwoods Community Church, MA
355 Clayton Road, Ashley Falls, MA
Sunday Service 10:30 AM
Kidz Connection
K-6th grade (during Sun. Service)
Nursery Care All Services
Pastor Trip Weiler
413-229-8560
www.greenwoodschurch.com

The Sharon United Methodist Church
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits
10:45 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care
No Sunday School in Summer
The Rev. Margaret Laemmel
860-364-5634
sharonumc5634@att.net

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
40 Leedsville Road
Amenia Union, NY
SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 ONLINE
Visit our website for links
Rev. AJ Stack
845-373-9161
www.stthomasamenia.com
A Community of Radical Hospitality

Promised Land Baptist Church
29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT
Where you will find: A Warm Welcome!
Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow!
Sunday School - 10am
Sunday Worship - 11am
Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM
(860) 824-5685
VISITORS WELCOME!
www.promisedlandbaptist.org

Trinity Episcopal Church
484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock
Virtual Sunday service 10:30 AM
Trinity Lime Rock Facebook page
Virtual Coffee Hour & Bible Study
Rev. Heidi Truax
trinity@trinitylimerock.org
(860) 435-2627
www.trinitylimerock.org

The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall
Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9am
Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mngates125@gmail.com
for an invitation to the Zoom service
If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.
We hope you will join us!

Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT
Join our virtual service on Sunday, April 11 at 10:30 a.m.
For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com
All are Welcome

The Smithfield Presbyterian Church
656 Smithfield Valley Rd.
Route 83, Amenia, NY
Services every Sunday 10 a.m.
www.thsmithfieldchurch.org
21st Century Theology in an Historic Building

The Lakeville United Methodist Church
319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"
The Rev. Margaret Laemmel
860-435-9496
Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

Sharon Congregational Church
25 Main Street, Sharon, CT
Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online sermons.
Bible Study Guides also available by request: info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org
Or contact us at 860-364-5002

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Our Towns

The upside to beavers, a valuable rodent

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Ben Goldfarb, author of “Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter,” told a Zoom audience of more than 150 people that beavers and their activities are highly beneficial to the environment. Goldfarb’s talk, sponsored by the Scoville Memorial Library, was on Saturday, March 6.

The beaver is a rodent, Goldfarb explained. The animals typically weigh between 40 and 50 pounds.

They are semi-aquatic, and can stay underwater for as long as 15 minutes.

The most prominent feature — the large, flat tail — is a “multi-purpose tool,” serving as rudder, fat storage system, “kickstand” and internal climate control mechanism.

Beavers eat almost any deciduous tree, and assorted grasses and other vegetation. Goldfarb said the animals are “choosy generalists.”

And of course beavers use trees as construction material, building lodges and dams.

A beaver lodge houses between two and eight beavers in a family unit. By the second year of their lives, beavers leave home and strike out on their own. Beavers are generally monogamous and mate for life.

Why do beavers build dams? On land, Goldfarb said, a beaver is a “fat, slow, smelly package of meat.”

But in water the beaver moves easily, avoiding predators.

So the dams create ponds and marshy areas, where the beaver is safe.

Beavers are also prolific diggers, creating canals to travel through and get to more trees.

Fur trapping in the Colonial and early United States was an enormously important business. Beaver pelts were especially valuable, so much so that the Oregon Territory issued a coin equal to the value of a beaver pelt.

But the trapping took its toll, and by the end of the 19th century the beaver population plummeted from a pre-Colonial high of perhaps 400 million animals to almost none in the lower 48 states and a rela-

tive handful in Canada.

Goldfarb said this near-extirpation had serious environmental ramifications. Describing the beaver as a “keystone species,” he noted that the habitats beavers create also serve waterfowl and fish species, and serve as firebreaks and filtration systems for water.

The importance of beavers was recognized by the early 20th century and beavers were reintroduced across the continental U.S.

One effort in Idaho, in 1948, saw 76 beavers in special boxes attached to parachutes dropped into remote areas. Of the initial group, 75 survived the experience. (Goldfarb said one beaver, alas, managed to get out of the box a little too early.)

In just a year the beavers had created ponds and wetlands.

“It was very successful,” Goldfarb said.

Coping, not killing

Contemporary beaver management sometimes involves killing them when they cause problems — flooding of roads or yards, for instance.

But there are plenty of non-lethal methods. Goldfarb noted one site in Colorado where landowners installed fencing around trees they wished to protect from beavers, while leaving unwanted, non-native trees unprotected. The beavers obligingly ate the unwanted trees.

There are other methods, such as running pipes through beaver dams, thus “creating a leak” and preventing backups that flood roads and yards.

And beavers are regularly relocated, and the people doing the relocating often build the animals lodges to get started with.

Looking forward, Goldfarb contrasted a photo of a free-stone mountain brook (“looks like something in a fly-fishing catalog”) with a photo of a swampy area, with trees in standing water.

The latter vista doesn’t appeal to people accustomed to thinking of wetlands as undesirable.

“So we have to remember what our lands are supposed to look like.”

Outdoor shop for area ski and bike enthusiasts to open in summer

By Hunter O. Lyle

CORNWALL — As the health and safety restrictions from the pandemic are leading more and more people to enjoy the great outdoors, Three Guys Ski and Ride, an outdoor recreation shop, hopes to become the new one-stop-shop for everything from skis and snowboards to camping gear and mountain bikes.

Three Guys Ski and Ride, which is expected to open in early to mid summer, is the passion project of three men who have spent years in the sports and recreation business.

“This is something I’ve been working toward for four or five years,” said Michael Carr, one of the three owners. “There has been a lot of research on my end, sitting at the computer for hour after hour after hour.”

Carr, Jim Shockley and Adam DeMuth have all worked at Mohawk Mountain Ski Area. Together they came up with the plan to open a retail store for outdoor enthusiasts, initially with a focus on skiing and snowboarding.

While they do offer rentals, “They don’t retail skis over at Mohawk,” Shockley said.

With outdoor sports growing in popularity in Litchfield

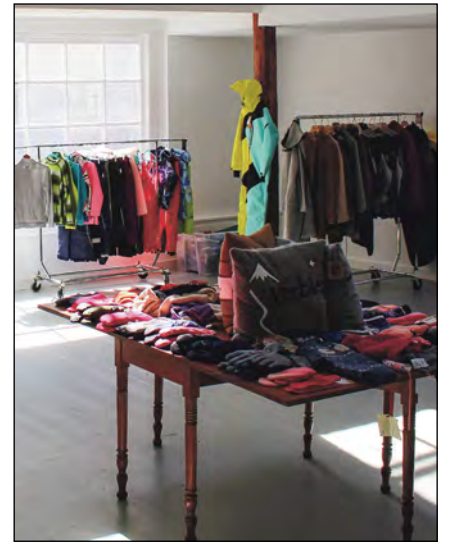


PHOTO BY HUNTER O. LYLE

Turning what used to be the Cornwall General Store into an all-season outdoor sport and recreation shop, Three Guys Ski and Ride will offer apparel, skis, snowboards and boots.

County, they felt the time was right to offer athletes a nearby shop to buy higher-end gear as well as apparel.

DeMuth has been a manufacturing representative and has a knowledge of and a network of suppliers for soft goods like clothing and apparel. Carr and Shockley focus on the hard goods such as skis and snowboards — Three Guys Ski and Ride looks to provide complementary shopping options to the community.

“We don’t want to take any business away” from other shops, Carr said. But they

hope to fill in niches and offer a place to shop for people who live (and ski) nearby.

Three Guys Ski and Ride will not only sell equipment, but will also offer services such as waxing and tightening for skis. In addition, the shop will focus on equipment for other seasons, eventually bringing in mountain bikes, rental kayaks and other outdoor gear.

Located at 406 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike in West Cornwall, in what used to be the Cornwall General Store, Three Guys Ski and Ride is less than 10 minutes from Mohawk Mountain

Ski Area and less than an hour from both Butternut Ski Area and Catamount Mountain Resort. The shop is also surrounded by hiking and biking trails as well as the Housatonic River, in what the owners said was the perfect location for an outdoor recreation shop.

“I think we have the opportunity, within this area of Mohawk State Forest and the Appalachian Trail, we have an opportunity to not only grow outdoor sports,” DeMuth said, “but also to help people get outside and get healthier.”

The audacity of the Blackwell sisters

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — Barred from becoming physicians in the early to mid 19th century, women were believed to be unsuited to the study of medicine.

The Blackwells — Elizabeth and younger sister Emily — challenged and changed that perception by becoming the first and third women to receive M.D. degrees in the history of the United States.

Janice Nimura will tell the story of the Blackwell sisters’ struggles in pursuit of their medical degrees and throughout their practice of medicine in a Zoom talk sponsored by the Cornwall Library on Saturday, March 20, 4 p.m.

Eventually, the sisters founded and funded a New

York City hospital staffed entirely by women. Nimura will talk about her new book, “The Doctors Blackwell: How Two Pioneering Sisters Brought Medicine to Women and Women to Medicine,” in conversation with Cornwall resident Fran Taliaferro.

“There will be two voices, but Janice Nimura has a great story to tell and she will do most of the talking,” Taliaferro said, anticipating the program’s format. She was reached for comment on the upcoming program on Monday, March 1.

The two parties to the conversation have kept in contact with one another since Nimura’s student days at The Brearley School in Manhattan, where Taliaferro held the post of college advisor and member of the English department. Both now live in Northwest Corner towns; proximity has promoted regular contact.

Taliaferro remembers Nimura as a “lively and delightful student.” She adds, “It’s a pleasure to hear from Janice on just about any subject.”

“Janice is a storyteller who

brings history vigorously to life. She views the world with a keen analytical eye and relishes colorful detail.”

Taliaferro also credits Nimura with possessing a keen sense of humor.

Fans of Cornwall Library programs will recall Nimura’s talk about her first book, “Daughters of the Samurai,” the critically acclaimed story of three 19th-century women who came to study in America at a young age, navigating difficult cultural seas in the process. In Nimura’s work

about the Blackwell sisters, Taliaferro says that questions are raised about “science and academia, the lives of women and the power of institutions.” She adds that it also shows the power of “gumption.”

Recognized for her thoughtful writings about women’s history, in this work Nimura examines the norm-shattering story of the Blackwell sisters as they fought against the medical field’s male establishment in an era that saw emerging women’s rights, scientific discovery and Civil War.

Town meeting online March 23

FALLS VILLAGE — There will be a special meeting of the Board of Selectmen online on Tuesday, March 23, at 10 a.m.

The selectmen’s special meeting is in lieu of a town meeting, where these agenda items would normally be handled.

On the agenda: To receive, review and act on the annual auditor’s report for the fiscal year 2019-2020; to receive, review and/or act on the annual report of the Town of Canaan

for the fiscal year 2019-2020; to approve the appropriation of \$5,551 to install alarms and emergency lighting at 107 Main St.; to approve supplemental appropriations of \$15,000 and \$26,276.73 for a new truck for the town highway department, with the funds to be restored to the town upon receipt of a state grant of \$41,276.73; and to approve adding \$4000 to the budget line for the assistant town clerk for fiscal year 2020-2021.

— Patrick L. Sullivan

Bridges, roads and railway line repairs

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — Bridge work projects to be done this summer were discussed by Roger Kane, bridge consultant to the selectmen, at the selectmen’s monthly meeting on Thursday, March 2, conducted on Zoom.

Kane said that he anticipates four small projects that are not replacements, just rehabilitating repairs to preserve small bridges and get more life out of them.

The Cogswell Road bridge may be able to be altered by removing the topmost bar to arrive at a more attractive solution to last summer’s project, in response to concerns raised by residents.

“There are some opportunities to do something a little different,” he said.

The long-term project to consider altering the traffic pattern at the Cornwall Bridge triangle where Routes 4 and 7 intersect was discussed by Ridgway who reported that he had spoken with Rick Lynn at the Northwest Hills Council of Governments.

“There is quite a bit of public interest,” First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said, “and not all opinions are the same.”

A Zoom special selectmen’s meeting has been scheduled for Monday, April 12, beginning at 7 p.m. to hear comments on the proposed preliminary plan. Ridgway said that the public meeting would provide

a chance for the town and the selectmen to provide input to state officials.

Lynn would assist the town in providing the input to officials at the state Department of Transportation.

The Housatonic Railroad Company has recently provided its 12-page annual vegetation control plan to the town for 2021, Ridgway reported.

The first selectman observed that a number of dead trees still stand along the tracks.

“They took some down last year,” Ridgway acknowledged, “but left some dead trees — trees that are now even more dead.”

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AFFORDABLE

Continued from Page A1

ly withdrew the application, modified the proposal, and submitted the new application last month.

P&Z questions on the new plan

The application was presented by Jocelyn Ayer (speaking for the Salisbury Housing Committee), architect Jon Tunsy and traffic engineer Joseph Balskus.

The building is 15,300 square feet (compared to 16,400 square feet in last year's withdrawn application).

The original proposal had 13 apartments: eight one-bedroom, two two-bedroom and three three-bedroom, on three floors.

The new proposal is for 12 apartments: seven one-bedroom, four two-bedroom, one three-bedroom, on three floors.

The building has a substantially different look from the original proposal.

Ayer said that 12 apartments represents the smallest number of units that is economically feasible.

The commissioners had a few questions for the applicant: lighting in the parking lot, laundry facilities for residents, drainage, fire lanes, where do children get on the school bus, where do people put their bi-



ILLUSTRATION FROM SALISBURY HOUSING COMMITTEE

Strong opinions for and against have been expressed about the Holley Block housing proposal, in illustration above.

cycles, what will the impact of construction be on the neighborhood, and parking.

The commission took a five-minute break and then started hearing from the public.

Concerns about parking

Grickis reiterated his concerns about possible commission bias. He also said his client has made "substantial investments" in the Lakeville village area with the understanding that satellite parking, including the parking lot at the 11 Holley St. site, was part of the deal.

Balskus, the traffic engineer hired by the Salisbury Housing Committee, energetically defended his traffic analysis from last year and reiterated his opin-

ion that the apartment building will not create traffic or safety problems.

Public comment continued, with opinions about evenly divided between the pro and the con.

Parking was a recurring theme. Some said there is not enough parking now, and the loss of the 11 Holley St. lot will have a negative impact on nearby businesses.

Others said there is plenty of parking now and the apartment building will help revitalize Lakeville.

There were concerns about cutting down trees at Bicentennial Park. Another person said there is no shortage of trees in Lakeville.

INTERNET

Continued from Page A1

Atlantic Broadband. Comcast Corporation, which provides internet services in North Canaan, Falls Village, Sharon and Salisbury, was not recorded as testifying, but announced (see below) on the same day that the company was launching gigabit speed internet connectivity in these towns, among others, in the state.

Goal: increase download speed

The stated goal of HB 6442 is to establish universal access to broadband internet download speeds averaging one gigabit per second (equivalent to downloading all data on a typical DVD in approximately 40 seconds), and broadband

internet upload speeds averaging 200 megabits per second, throughout Connecticut.

The proposed legislation calls for mapping current internet access across the state, creating metrics that will define well-served, adequately served and underserved communities.

Town-owned networks

One important and controversial part is called One Touch Make Ready. It would help communities establish municipally owned fiber optic cable networks faster and less expensively by simplifying the process of adding new cables to public utility poles. Some Northwest Corner towns, notably Norfolk and Sharon, are

already investigating the possibility of owning their own networks.

Other provisions of the bill would amend Connecticut statutes regarding public utilities.

State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64), who attended the hearing, praised the part of the bill that called for a "real mapping," one that documents the absence of coverage, and for making clear what the challenges are in building out infrastructure and access.

Comparing navigation of potential legal and legislative challenges of HB 6442 to "threading a needle," she nevertheless voiced confidence that "there is a way for the State to play a part" in expanding broadband access. She also is calling for increased staffing for the state Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to help improve the state's expertise in broadband issues, citing knowledge gaps there.

Northwest Corner is 'unserved'

Much of the testimony from Northwest Corner residents focused on lack of adequate internet access and impact of these gaps on education, telehealth, working from home and ability to attract businesses and new residents to our area.

"Our local elected officials and town residents have tried unsuccessfully for more than a decade to convince Comcast to wire unserved portions of town," testified representatives of the Sharon Connect Task Force at the hearing. The group added, "Sharon is now being forced to explore spending millions of dollars to build a municipally owned fiber-optic network. We have been losing population for years, but have an opportunity now — with reliable, universal high-speed internet — to attract families and build a robust local economy."

Former state Rep. Willis also called the region's broadband infrastructure "outdated" and described a "digital divide" and "economic opportunity gap due to significant areas that were either underserved or unserved by high speed broadband internet."

Willis said that during her tenure at the state House, conversations with incumbent internet access providers made it "clear that there would be no further significant build-outs or future investments in infrastructure to bring us into a rapidly changing technology-driven world."

Addressing the pandemic's impact on education, HVRHS Principal Strevler's testimony described the broadband access proposed by the bill as

One commenter said he believed the concern about parking was overblown. Another wanted financial information that would guarantee the apartment building would not require taxpayer funds. Another wanted to know if the construction would use local contractors. Another individual wanted to know why affordable housing couldn't be built on the Pope property instead. Someone else said affordable housing should be built at both locations.

At around the three-hour mark the public comments were done and the question was: Should the hearing be continued on Monday, March 22, as originally planned, or should it be pushed back two additional weeks?

Attorney Daniel Casagrande, representing a group of Lakeville residents who have petitioned for intervenor status, fervently expressed his wish for the extra time, saying he needed it to be fully prepared and to deny it raised questions of due process for his clients.

But the commission stayed with the original schedule. The applicant will respond to the questions raised on March 8, at the hearing on Monday, March 22, 5:30 p.m. on Zoom.

This article appeared first online at www.tricornersnews.com.

VARIANT

Continued from Page A1

Northwest Corner towns), said he has been informed by both the Centers for Disease Control and the state Department of Public Health that "current vaccines are effective against the new variants out there," including those from the UK, South Africa and Brazil.

The Department of Public Health has notified the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about the cases. Officials also reported on March 8 that a second confirmed case of the variant, which originated in South Africa, had been identified in Connecticut.

"The UK variant is widely assumed to be more highly transmissible than other strains of the virus," said Dr. Deidre Gifford, Connecticut Public Health Acting Commissioner, who noted that not everyone who tests positive will know whether they have this particular strain of the virus, "so it is imperative for people to continue to follow all the public health guidance" about masking, social distancing and isolating.

According to state officials, the specimen collection data for the 15 newly identified UK variant cases, which includes the two residents from East Canaan, are from between Jan. 29 and Feb. 17, and the individuals involved range in age from 15 to 55.

A surge is possible soon

Responding to the two confirmed cases of the UK variant in Northwest Connecticut, Dr. James Shepherd, an infectious disease consultant at Yale New Haven Hospital and a resident of Sharon, said they are not isolated instances.

"There are more cases of the UK variant in Litchfield County than we have detected. To find them the viral samples from swabs have to be processed and sequenced in a special laboratory and we only do this infrequently," said the epidemiologist.

Shepherd said it is unlikely that the UK variant was responsible for the surge in COVID-19 cases late last fall. "The UK variant was expanding rapidly in southeastern England from September onward, but was only detected in December." Other variants were also spreading around

WOODPECKER

Continued from Page A1

angular one that can be made by the largest woodpecker seen in the Northwest Corner, the pileated woodpecker with its flat red head. That cavity isn't necessarily meant to be a family domicile, however, and is most likely just the outcome of the bird's efforts to find tasty bugs.

Based on her observations here in the area, Sheffer says she believes the second largest types in our region are the red-bellied woodpecker and the northern flicker.

The one that most people see at their bird feeders, she speculated, is the red-bellied, which tends to step up and take charge of the available seed.

"When a red-bellied comes in, the other birds generally clear out," she said. "They're large and have a formidable bill so no one tries to compete with them."

Although woodpeckers are happy to eat seed, she said, what they really like to dine on is suet — a good tip for anyone who'd like to attract some of the birds to their feeders (keep them out of reach of bears!).

The bill of all woodpeckers

that time frame, possibly a bit later, he said.

"The surge in COVID we experienced starting in October and accelerating through Thanksgiving and Christmas and peaking in early January was fueled by the season and the holiday travel and mingling indoors," said Shepherd.

"The variants from the UK, South Africa, Brazil and our own homegrown varieties may fuel a surge over the next two months."

Even more dangerous than the original

He further explained that the UK variant, which has been studied closely by British epidemiologists, "does seem to be more transmissible and more virulent. This means that it spreads more efficiently and has a higher disease-causing capability and risk of death compared with the variants circulating last summer."

Shepherd said the increased transmissibility of the UK variant compared to other variants will "predominate quite quickly if the community spread is increasing."

However, if community spread trends downward, then the variant may not dominate before the weather warms up, enough people are vaccinated and general viral spread slows down like last year, he noted.

While there may be some reduction in vaccine protection against all the new variants, "it does not seem to be drastic," Shepherd said.

"The vaccines still protect you from severe COVID illness."

He noted, however, that the virus continues to evolve as it travels through an increasingly hostile immune environment. "Future variants that we haven't detected yet," said Shepherd, "may have more resistance to vaccines — although we hope not."

According to a statement issued by the CDC, studies so far suggest that antibodies generated through vaccination with currently authorized vaccines "recognize these variants. This is being closely investigated and more studies are underway."

New positive cases of COVID-19 continue to be reported in area towns. For updates, go to the state website at portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus and click on "data tracker."

Younger people can now get vaccine sooner

Gov. Ned Lamont announced on Monday, March 15, that the schedule for eligibility for vaccines is expected to accelerate.

The governor announced that supplies of the vaccine are coming more quickly and in larger quantities and that, as a result, the revised schedule will be:

March 19: Scheduling opens to all individuals age 45 to 54

April 5 (tentative): Scheduling opens to all individuals age 16 to 44.

Appointments must be made in advance for vaccinations, but they can only be

made after your age group becomes eligible. You can go to and request enrollment in the government VAMS (Vaccine Administration Management System) program at www.dphsubmissions.ct.gov/OnlineVaccine.

It also helps to register with Hartford Health Care and Walgreens, both of which offer vaccinations in the Northwest Corner.

According to the press release from the governor's office, "Connecticut continues to rank among the top five states in the nation in the percentage of population that has been vaccinated."

PROPOSAL

Continued from Page A1

nation sites.

Michael Criss, first selectman of Harwinton and the chair of the NHCOC legislative committee, sounded the alarm on several bills that are getting public hearings in the state House and Senate during the week of March 14.

The bills concern housing and related issues and are largely the result of proposals from a group called Desegregate CT. Criss said the bills are not "fair or equitable" for small towns and would contradict long-standing environmental regulations (especially those concerning water quality).

He said a better starting point would be to discuss the state's goal of municipalities having 10% affordable housing.

Donna Hamzy from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities opened the meeting with a report on how

that organization has met with Desegregate CT and agreed on some changes to the language used in some of the bills.

Criss made many of the same points he made during his legislative report later in the meeting.

NHCOC Chair Don Stein (of Barkhamsted, Conn.) asked if the legislation would override local zoning. Hamzy said that issue didn't come up.

Criss continued to press the issues, noting that a proposed requirement for training for members of planning and zoning commissions would represent a burden for small towns who have trouble finding volunteers for such boards already.

He said such requirements would make local planning and zoning commissions "obsolete," and wondered aloud if the goal is to replace local boards with regional or a state-wide approach.



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And To You

whether you fit into a category above or are doing your part to keep our communities safe and healthy by wearing masks and abiding by current CDC or state recommendations

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BOOKS: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Losing Time With the Author Of 'Call Me By Your Name'

At the one-year anniversary of the start of the pandemic, we have become unwitting experts on the subjective nature of time. In joy, hours escape us, when waiting in expectation the second hand stands still, and when we have nowhere to go and nothing to do for a year, we reconsider what time means to us. When you think back on your year spent at home, you'll remember not just what you did, but what you wanted to do instead, what you had missed and missed out on, and all you dreamed of doing once this ordeal met its end.

This blending of the emotional and temporal is central to the writing of André Aciman. The distinguished professor at the Graduate Center of City University of New York is the author of the memoir "Out of Egypt," and is

best known for his 2007 novel which inspired the 2017 Best Picture-nominee and Best Adapted Screenplay-winner "Call Me By Your Name," as well as the novel's 2019 sequel, "Find Me."

In a joint online presentation on Wednesday, March 10, between House of Books in Kent, Conn., and Kent Memorial Library, historian and biographer David Nasaw joined Aciman to discuss his new collection of essays, "Homo Irrealis." An ode to the transportive and tricky nature of time, Aciman takes on the irrealis mood, a minor grammatical expression that accounts for an event spoken of which has not yet, and may never, occur — and turns it into a condition of living.

"Most of us spend ... I don't know what percentage of our time... thinking of the future, of what our fantasies are, our past fantasies, the ones we never realized in the past and that continue to reverber-

ate on us," Aciman said to Nasaw. "In other words, the things that we never did have acquired their own memory. So they haunt us just as much as the things that we did."

Many will associate Aciman with the idle summer atmosphere of Italian director Luca Guadagnino's adaptation of "Call Me By Your Name," but crucial to the novel is the young narrator's anxious relationship with what might be. His mind is a dance between his lusty daydreams of the future and the fear that time will run out before they are ever realized. As Aciman said of his fiction, in which most of the story's "action" occurs within his characters' longing, romantic minds, "There's a very unsteady foothold in reality."

This willingness to escape the concrete is what makes Aciman such a tender observer of human desire — the excited fever and pangs of loss it can stir in us at once. "Homo

Irrealis" recounts moments from across Aciman's decades and travels, from Egypt to Rome to Manhattan movie theaters to see Éric Rohmer's French films, but what happens in the darkened theater, or on a crowded bus as a teenager when he feels a stranger press against him, is so illusory it is almost incidental.

What Aciman is keenly interested in is not recounting exact events, but our relationships with those lost yearnings, as well as the art that colors our perceptions. Writing on everything from Sigmund Freud to Julia Child to James Joyce's "The Dead," Aciman understands the way art reshapes our own views of love, sex, growing older and even entire cities.

As in one essay, as he described seeing the 1960 film "The Apartment": "The film was about me. All great art invariably lets us say the same thing, 'this was really about me.'

And this, in most cases, is not only a consolation, it's an uplifting revelation that reminds us that we are not alone."

Much of "Homo Irrealis" exists in the speculative, and Aciman is above all an observer of speculative desires. He writes of our hope to connect and the pieces of art that we borrow along the way to better chart the grammar of our own searching hearts.

As he said to Nasaw, "You can never see Nice again, you see Matisse in Nice. You never see the cathedral in Rouen, you see the cathedral that Monet painted. You're always seeing things through the artist. And of course you can never see Dublin in snow without thinking of Joyce."

Personalized signed copies of "Homo Irrealis: Essays" are available through House of Books in Kent. For orders and more information go to www.houseofbooksct.com.

WORK BY PRENTICE AT ALDRICH MUSEUM

Tim Prentice, a beloved artist/architect whose work is created and often seen in Cornwall, Conn., where he has lived for decades, has a new show of work at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield, Conn.

The two-part solo exhibition showcases 20 indoor works, five outdoor works and a video portrait of the artist. The indoor exhibition will be on view from March 29 to Oct. 4 and the outdoor installation will be on view from Sept. 19, 2021, to April 24, 2022.

Artist David Colbert, also a Cornwall resident, has assisted Prentice for more than 30 years and his role in the artist's practice cannot be overestimated. Increasingly, Colbert has become a true collaborator in all details of the studio's output, and he is working closely with The Aldrich on the realization of the exhibition.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a 28-page catalogue featuring an essay by the exhibition's curator, Richard Klein.

To learn more about the show, go to www.thealdrich.org. To learn more about Prentice and his work, go to www.timprentice.com. To learn more about Colbert, go to www.davidcolbert.com.

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STREAMING: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The Cream of the Crop for British Cop Shows

Almost the only fiction I read is crime fiction. I refuse to read most contemporary fiction, often written in the present tense, about youngish people who live in Manhattan and find life gray.

Same goes for television. I am not interested in superheroes, high-dollar English soap operas, or programs in which young, fit people go to a desert island and eat worms.

Here are five decent TV mystery series. I have excluded foreign language programs because it's hard to nap to them, and if the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that napping is critical to the full enjoyment of television.

I have also excluded American shows because I'm going to do another listicle on that subject.

MIDSOMER MURDERS

There are 21 seasons and dozens of episodes to choose from. The setting is reminiscent of the Northwest Corner, except our crackpots aren't as



PHOTO COURTESY IMDB

The characters in "Foyle's War" are keeping calm through World War II, while solving all manner of crimes in the seaside town of Hastings, England.

cracked and our population not nearly so blood-thirsty. You can choose between the somewhat wheezy John Barnaby asking about "the lettahs" and make bets on when

his wife, Joyce, will complain about her husband abandoning her while he searches for serial killers. "Oh, Tom, it's the Saint Swithin's Holiday Fete and Badminton Tournament

and you promised to go with me!"

Or you can watch the newer, younger Barnaby, who is frankly less interesting and who likes to talk to his dog.

LINE OF DUTY

A British series focusing on a police anti-corruption unit. Solid acting and writing; doesn't go in the weeds. Avoids many cop show clichés; I can't remember anyone whizzing by, receiving an instruction and saying, "I'm on it." Nothing fancy, just good storytelling.

THE BROKENWOOD MYSTERIES

Set in New Zealand, it uses the Midsomer motifs of picturesque scenery and an eccentric, murderous citizenry. The main detective likes country music and drives an old car. Bonus points for New Zealand accents, which almost qualify as a foreign language. Example: "Detective" in English is "ditictive" in New Zealandese.

GEORGE GENTLY

Set in the 1960s in the north of England, George Gently is an old-school cop saddled with a headstrong young sergeant who, by the end of the series, has let himself go so far as to grow sideburns.

Long, unfortunate sideburns. Interesting look at a rapidly changing nation.

RUMPOLE OF THE BAILEY

Admittedly, this is an oldie. Written by John Mortimer, who also turned the scripts into short stories and novels.

Leo McKern as the grumpy, disheveled Rumpole is the performance of a lifetime, and the supporting cast is terrific. You can't nap to this one; the dialogue is too good.

FOYLE'S WAR

SWM, 60-ish, seeks SWF, late 20s-early 30s, with engaging personality for one-sided conversations in which SWF asks a lot of questions and SWM says things like "Hmm" and "Right." Must be able to sustain high level of dramatic tension and historical accuracy for what amounts to a series of 90-minute feature films. Also accepting applications for idealistic yet somewhat embittered young man with one false leg, and for rustic persons who chew things and spit.

PASSOVER: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Passover, the Original Gluten-Free Holiday

I've finally given up any hope of baking giant discs of handmade matzo, in the shmura style, at home — after more than a decade of giving it my best shot.

Matzo is very simple, with only three ingredients (flour, water, salt) — but the method of preparing it is so exacting and difficult, it's almost like a challenge you'd see on a television cooking show.

We eat matzo to remind us of the flight of the Jews from Egypt: There was no time for the flour and water to do that magical thing they do when they're combined, which is to become alive and ingest air bubbles and become leavened.

To make authentic handmade matzo, you have to exactly count the seconds that your flour is exposed to your water, so that no leavening can occur. It's like a challenge you might see on a television cooking show ("The clock is ticking!").

Then you have to perforate the dough, which is not impossible. What is impossible for most home cooks, however, is the baking. I finally learned this week that the reason my homemade matzo tastes nothing like an authentic delicious shmura matzo made by professionals is that I can't crank my oven up to between 600 and 800 degrees.

I accept defeat. And in this year where Amazon has been able to get nearly everything I order to my doorstep in two or three days, I went ahead and ordered some shmura matzo (which is very hard to find

Coconut macaroons for Passover are delicious, gluten-free and very quick and easy to make.

outside of Brooklyn). I am not observant, so it won't matter to me if I don't get an unbroken crisp circle of shmura matzo, which is needed for the Passover seder. I'm ordering it simply because I like the way it tastes, and you can only get it once a year.

But enough about what we can't cook. What can we make for the High Holidays, while observing the rule that we can't eat leavened grain products?

I don't know enough to instruct you on dietary dos and don'ts but one thing I know is that coconut macaroons are a Passover tradition. These are not to be confused with the light, delicate French macarons cookies, although they're also wheat free and in theory qualify as a Passover treat. They're fairly challenging to make, however.

But coconut macaroons are wonderfully simple, and can be made by anyone, even a child (with supervision for the part that involves an electric mixer).

The recipe that I used is from Ina Garten and is far from low-calorie, but if you're going to eat a cookie, you might as well make it a good one. You can find the original of this online from Food Network.



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

INA GARTEN'S COCONUT MACAROONS

Adapted from the Food Network recipe

Makes about 24 cookies

Whites from two large eggs, at room temperature (an excellent way to use fresh, local farm eggs)

1/4 teaspoon good table salt such as Diamond Crystal Kosher Salt

14 ounces of moist, tender shredded coconut from the baking aisle, not the harder coconut flakes you'd buy to snack on

14 ounces of sweetened condensed milk (one can; be sure not to get evaporated milk by mistake)

1 teaspoon good-quality vanilla extract

Preheat your oven to 325 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper (it's easier to drop your cook batter onto the paper if you trim it to fit the baking sheets; otherwise the edges blow into the air as you're trying to work).

To whip up the egg whites, you'll want your mixer bowl and beaters to be perfectly clean, with no grease or residual butter on them. The best way to super clean them is with a wipe of vinegar.

Your eggs should be at room temperature. Use large but not "jumbo" eggs, which tend to have a higher risk of salmonella (again, farm eggs are easy to find around here and give you beautiful whipped whites).

Add the salt to the whites.

The mistake most of us make when whipping egg whites is to treat them with kid gloves and to underbeat them. The longer you beat your whites, at high speed, the stronger they'll become (up to a point, of course).

For this reason, if you can, you want to use a stand mixer not a hand mixer. If you beat them for about 20 minutes, you'll get glossy whites that are smooth and creamy; when you turn the beater upside down, the whites should droop nicely into a little elf cap.

While the whites are beating and the oven is heating, combine in a very large bowl (I used my favorite extra wide ceramic salad bowl) the coconut, condensed milk and vanilla.

After your whites are nice and glossy and strong, gently add them to the coconut mixer and gently fold them together, using a sturdy spatula to reach under the mixture and fold it up and over, repeatedly, turning the bowl after each turn.

Then take two large spoons, or one big spoon and an ice cream scoop. My ice cream scoop doesn't have an auto eject

feature, it's just a deep spoon, but it worked fine. The trick to making nice scoops, which I learned from Dave Cadwell from the former Cadwell's Corner in Cornwall, is that you have to tamp down the ingredients in the one spoon before scooping them out with the other spoon. This gives you nice sturdy cookies.

Don't delay unduly in getting your cookies onto the sheet and into the oven, or the liquids will start to separate and leave a milky residue around your cookies.

Each cookie should be about the size of a golf ball.

Bake them for about 25 minutes, until they're lightly browned on top. Take them out and let them cool completely before you try to move them or they'll break apart.

If you want to top them with chocolate sauce, wait until they're cool. Put the warm or room temperature chocolate sauce in a bowl and dunk the top of the cookie into the sauce and turn it until you get as much coverage as you'd like.

Refrigerate them quickly so the chocolate "sets."

You can store these in a plastic container at room temperature for a week or so.



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BLACK LIVES: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Finding John Brown's Birthplace, Right Here in Torrington, Conn.

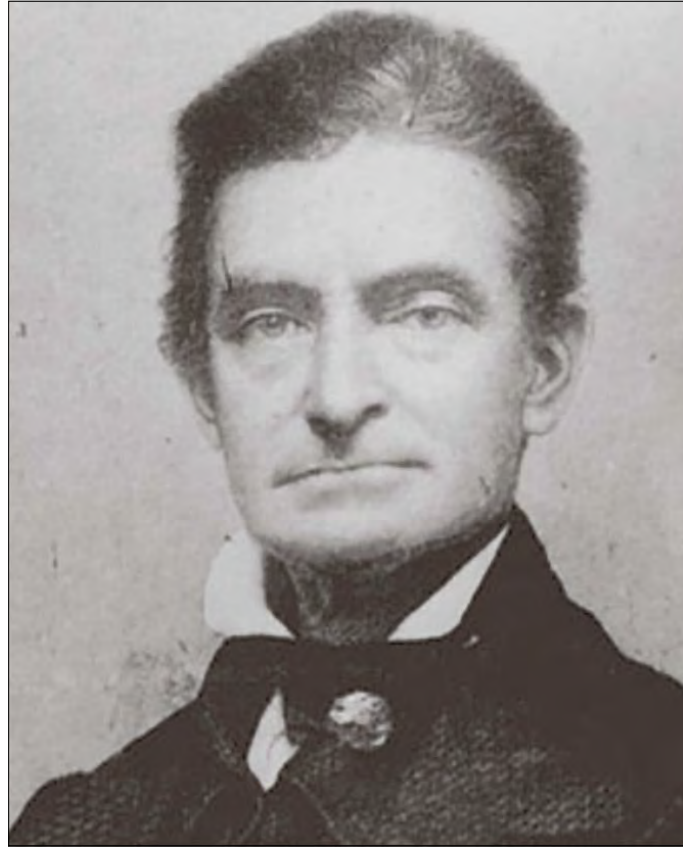
Most of us associate abolitionist John Brown with Harpers Ferry, Va., where he led the famous raid on a federal armory in October 1859. The complex of buildings had 100,000 guns that Brown planned to use to help Black slaves to escape and find freedom.

He was hung that year in December for this and other crimes related to his lifetime dedication to ending slavery.

Brown is also famous for his raids and abolitionist activities in Kansas.

Brown traveled widely across the United States during his lifetime, but he was a native of New England and mostly lived in Connecticut and New York state.

Anyone with even modest interest in local history knows that Brown was born in Torrington, Conn. The home where he spent the first five years of his life was adjacent to the site of the University of Connecticut's Torrington branch (which is now owned by the Five Points Gallery).



IMAGES FROM THE JOHN BROWN BIRTHPLACE

A PDF and video from the Torrington Historical Society explains the life and work of abolitionist John Brown, and his connection to Litchfield County, where he was born and spent the first few years of his life.

In 2002, state archaeologist Nick Bellantoni and a team of volunteers began an excavation of the site where the Brown family home had once been.

A description of what they found and a history of Brown's life is now available in PDF form and in a short video from the Torrington Historical



Society. To find them and other articles of interest about this part of Litchfield County, go to www.torringtonhistoricalsociety.org.

BRINGING 'PETER PAN' TO LIFE VIRTUALLY

The Goshen Players in Goshen, Conn., will present an online reading of "Peter Pan," the play, on Sunday, March 21, at 7 p.m.

The one-hour family friendly production was adapted and directed by Joe Guttadauro; the cast includes 15 actors and actresses performing the parts of

Peter, Wendy, John, Tinker Bell, Captain Hook, the Lost Boys and the other beloved characters brought to life in the story by J.M. Barrie in his 1904 play and 1911 novel.

The live stream is free but donations are requested. Go to www.showtix4u.com/event-details/47816 for tickets.

A LOOK AT POSTWAR CONSERVATIVE THOUGHT

Keith Moon, a teacher of Russian, History and English at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Conn., has selected Rick Perlstein's "Reaganland" for his annual Noble Horizons book course.

The free class will meet weekly online from 1 to 2 p.m. beginning Friday, March 19, and continuing until May 14.

"Reaganland" is the

fourth and final volume of Perlstein's massive, sweeping history of American conservatism in the postwar era.

Moon holds a B.A. in Russian language and literature from Dartmouth College and an A.M. in Russian area studies from Harvard University. To register for this free class, go to www.noblehorizons.org and request the Zoom link.

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Support the arts coverage you find each week in Compass. Your ad dollars help us tell readers about artists who continue to create and entertain during the pandemic.

DAYDREAMS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Prince Edward Takes Us on a Tour of English History

Perhaps you were swept away by "The Dig," the new film released at the end of January on Netflix, starring Ralph Fiennes, Carey Mulligan, Lily James and the archaeological dig at Sutton Hoo in England.

Perhaps you've been transfixed by "The Crown," and its semi-documentary recounting of several generations of the British Royal Family.

Or maybe your first post-COVID dream is to travel around England and poke around in some of the magnificent "homes" that are the setting for so many wonderful British films, modern and costume.

If those conditions apply, you might enjoy a documentary series that you can stream for free on what YouTube calls its Documentary Base.

The series is "Crown and Country: A History of Royal Britain" and it was produced by and features Edward, the youngest of the four children of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

This is the part where I confess that my attention was never really captured by "The Crown," so I don't know to what degree Prince Edward and his lovely wife, Princess Sophie, are featured in it. I think one of the notable accomplishments of this royal couple is that they've done a remarkably good job of staying out of the headlines; perhaps this is why Town & Country magazine claims that Edward and his wife are Queen Elizabeth's favorites: They are dependable, reliable and discreet.

I'm not a huge Royal

Watcher, so I have no idea how Edward is generally perceived. I do know that he takes a lot of abuse about the documentaries he produced during his nine years at the head of Ardent Productions, which he founded and then retired from in about 2002.

I personally don't care. I think this is a really enjoyable series and I'm perfectly fine that Edward is not as funny and lively as, say, Graham Norton. He's certainly as personable a tour guide as the popular Rick Steves, whom I also like.

Five seasons were produced, beginning in 1998. In each 25-minute episode, the prince takes us on an informative tour of a famous site in England.

In the first episode, we travel to and learn about Sutton Hoo, site of "The Dig."

The British press are pretty vicious about Edward and his work. I came to it not knowing about the scorn and I have to say that I found Edward to be a good story teller and a good historian. I've watched a lot of tours of England on the internet, and I'd rank this series at the top. There are maybe a few too many Dramatic Recreations, but they're brief and they stay largely in the background.

And yes, Edward does have a noticeably posh accent, but it didn't bother me. In fact, it reminded me of the way the actress Honeysuckle Weeks speaks in "Foyle's War," and I find her diction to be very easy on the ears.

In the 30 episodes on YouTube you learn about famous properties includ-



IMAGE FROM WWW.ROYAL.UK

Among the many famous buildings and sites in England that Prince Edward toured in his "Crown and Country" series was Sandringham House in Norfolk, which is one of two properties owned by the Royal Family (the other royal residences are owned by the Crown).

ing White Hall and Hampton Court and Kensington.

When Edward describes the fate of their residents, you do feel as though he feels a connection to these great people, these historic events and these fabulous (and sometime excessive) examples of English design and architecture.

After all, Edward has lived in some of these houses and if he wasn't related to all these kings and queens, he certainly has more in common with them than I do.

And every now and then he or someone will make a subtle joke about his royal status.

"Not to make too fine a point of it, but this is what your lot did to my lot," one historian says as he shows Edward the graves of paupers and criminals

at Sutton Hoo; their bodies were mangled or disfigured during or before burial.

If you're interested in English history and houses, give "Crown and Country" a look on YouTube (Amazon Prime also has a few episodes).

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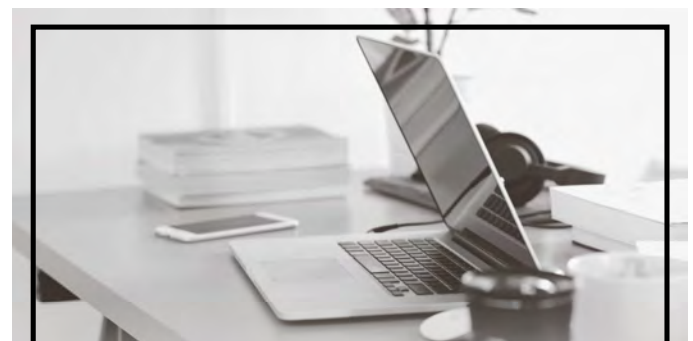
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EDITORIAL

Let the sunshine in, to better inform the public

The state of Connecticut has a complicated relationship with those of its citizens and leaders who push for government transparency. They have found some support in the decades since the middle of the last century, but also powerful opposition that has resulted in steps backward for open information. Luckily, though, there are still plenty of those open information advocates, and they don't give in easily. The effects of a pandemic don't deter them.

Now is a good time to look at the history of open information in Connecticut: It's Sunshine Week. Since 2005, the American Society of News Editors, now the News Leaders Association, has sponsored a week every year to promote and celebrate access to public information, and to highlight what such openness means to communities across the United States. That also makes it a good time to look at the history of access to governmental information in our state and gain insight into the current climate.

In 1955, the Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information was founded by newspaper editors and publishers as an arm of the Connecticut Daily Newspaper Association to organize their efforts to make government accountable and open. Then, in 1975, the state's Freedom of Information Act was passed through the General Assembly unanimously in the shadow of the Watergate scandal that brought down the Nixon White House. To enforce and administrate that act, the state's Freedom of Information Commission was put in place. It has had to approach its mission differently during COVID restrictions, like every other state agency, but has continued to accept appeals and engage in its ombudsman program. In 1991, the Connecticut Foundation for Open Government was begun by citizens from the media, academia, the law, business and government with a mission to educate policymakers and the general public in the need for open and accountable government.

These entities continue to fight for open government, and to sponsor virtual programs that inform the public about its right to know what its leaders are doing behind closed doors. With Zoom meetings now the norm for municipal government, it should mean greater access for all citizens. Yet it also means there is a kind of digital wall between those who govern and those who are governed. And for those without easy access to online communication, an ongoing problem in the Northwest Corner, that wall can be insurmountable.

This is where Northwest ConneCT comes in. It is a public advocacy organization comprised of elected representatives and volunteer citizens with two duties: orchestrate a 21st century communications infrastructure in the Northwest Corner and promote economic development made possible by such an infrastructure. Sharon and Cornwall are two towns strongly affected by lack of good internet access, and each has a group of volunteers working to improve their situation. Follow the Sharon Connect Task Force and the Cornwall Internet Committee to find out how you can improve your access in these towns. And keep track of state legislation (see page A1 for a story on Gov. Lamont's legislative bill HB 6442) through state Rep. Maria Horn's (D-64) updates each week. Could the state have universal broadband access by 2025? It should, as we have learned during a year of COVID what a communication gap lack of internet service creates, and that is part of what pending legislation is proposing.

Annual state budget cuts have affected the watchdog agencies in recent years, making it harder for them to fulfill their missions statewide. That means local government must be even more diligent in its own approach to openness. The Northwest Corner towns have maintained open communication as possible during the pandemic's online governing, yet also moved forward with votes as necessary to keep towns functioning. All those who are part of the leadership should be aware of the way they are handling information that should be open and available to the public: Make the assumption that the information someone is asking for should be released, not that it should be kept secret.

Happy Sunshine Week.

Could it be? Deeper look

Some opponents of the Holy Block affordable housing proposal have hired an expensive litigator described proudly on his firm's website as the "Giant Slayer."

Could the concern for windows, sidewalks, parking, bus stop, trees, traffic patterns all be "false flags"?

Could it be that the design of the windows or the children waiting for a school bus or having a sidewalk to go to the Grove needed defense from a "Giant Slayer"?

Could it be this is called "elitism" or something far more offensive?

Could it be that the people behind those windows or those children may have darker skin than theirs?

Could it be that they worry that those children would ride

the bus or swim at the Grove with their children or grandchildren?

Could it be that the muddy parking lot and old stone wall is truly an important "park" worthy of saving for future generations by means of expensive litigation?

Could it be that some among us would rather live in an exclusive, gated community and close out "the other"?

Could it be that quiet voices of reason and conscience will prevail over the slayer of giants? Could it be? I hope so.

Matthew 25:40 "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Philip V. Oppenheimer
Lakeville



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Lakeville: Awaiting the thaw

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More information, and detailed reasoning, on affordable housing

Some of us who have created affordable housing in Connecticut would like to submit the following to correct recent misinformation published in this paper.

Affordable housing is not forced upon a reluctant population by a remote government to relocate a group of outsiders. It is a tool that our home-grown commissions and nonprofit organizations use to keep and attract residents we need and want: our children and parents (or someone else's) with skills and experience we can use.

The original impetus for affordable housing programs in our region was real estate costs that skyrocketed generations ago, conditions that have persisted and have been exacerbated by COVID-19. The pandemic has generated another property boom, vacuumed up available houses, modest or otherwise, and had a devastating economic effect on those whose jobs can't be done safely or remotely.

Support: Over the last 20 years local governments, businesses, schools and civic organizations have increasingly supported affordable housing in our towns, recognizing that a diverse citizenry contributes human and economic value to the community.

Oversight: Local volunteers with a stake in the communi-

ty guide the planning, construction and management of any project. It is they who choose the sites, consultants, and architects. It is they who shepherd projects through town regulatory bodies, hire the builders and management companies. Developers interested in heading off to the Caymans rarely try to create affordable housing; there is not enough profit in it to get them as far as Orlando. The local nonprofit is wholly invested in our towns and interested only in making affordable housing work for its residents and the entire community.

Residents: Applicants are carefully vetted for financial means and responsibility, personal and criminal backgrounds. The majority of new tenants come from the region or are moving closer to family or jobs. They may work in education, essential services or local businesses, or live on pensions or Social Security. Some have lost houses to disability or illness, or may be downsizing from homes they can no longer manage or afford. Once accepted, residents of affordable housing contribute to town life in the same way as any other person: besides holding jobs, they may volunteer on boards and commissions or join emergency services; their children may boost declining school en-

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — March 1921
SALISBURY — Mrs. Frank Wright has sold her residence to H. Roscoe Brinton. Mrs. Wright will occupy rooms over the Garage, and Mr. Brinton will move his family into his new home about the middle of April.

ORE HILL — Mrs. John O'Holloran has had a telephone installed in her house.

SALISBURY — Mrs. Ellen Pulver is having her residence wired for electricity.

— Today is St. Patrick's Day, dear to every good Irishman's

heart.

— Bluebirds, robins, housecleaning, bees flying, muddy roads and that tired feeling are sure signs that spring has sprung.

50 years ago — March 1971

In a heartening show of cooperation, the first selectmen of Salisbury, Sharon, Canaan, Falls Village and Cornwall met with the Recycling Committee of the Housatonic Audubon Society Feb. 11 to devise means for instituting a Glass Bottle Recycling Project to serve the area towns on an ongoing basis.

SALISBURY — Thanks to the late Miss Margaret Williams and her principal heir, Miss Lucy Drummond, the Salisbury Association and through it, the entire Town, has received a priceless gift. According to Rodney G. Aller, attorney for Miss Williams' estate, her beautiful, early 19th century house opposite the Salisbury Bank and Trust Company in Lakeville and its contents have been bequeathed to the Salisbury Association with life tenancy for Miss Drummond.

Miss Drummond, in turn, waived her interest and this week signed a quit claim deed signing over house and contents to the Salisbury Association. She has even added to this treasure the full set of inaugural china plus some crested crystal which had belonged to her ancestor, Governor Alexander Hamilton Holley.

— A westbound tractor trailer belonging to Allied Grocers of Torrington went off the side of Route 44 Tuesday morning near the Taconic road. The accident, which took place at about 8:15 a.m., caused no injury to the driver, Donald Nelson of Torrington, but resulted in moderate damage to the truck, and forced a re-routing of traffic.

— The Ecology League announced this week that a letter had been sent to the selectmen of Salisbury asking them not to locate the town's sanitary landfill dump near the Housatonic River or any other river or stream.

25 years ago — March 1996

SALISBURY — Dr. Bruce Janelli, a general practitioner with an office in Canaan, is reported to have fallen off the roof of his house, breaking his leg in three places. He will apparently not be able to practice for an extended period of many weeks. He was a patient in Sharon Hospital but has been discharged.

— While last week's storm had weather forecasters around the state proclaiming snowfall had surpassed 100 inches, Norfolk had long since passed that mark. According to the National Weather Service, 132.3 inch-

Continued next page

Deadline for letters is Monday at 10 a.m. Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com. Letters are no more than 500 words.

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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

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Good solutions need more discussion

To David Berto and Sam Giffin: Thank you for reading my first article on Modern Times in Small New England Towns. Not to put too fine a point on it, you didn't claim that I am misinformed, or did you? Was that alliterative headline yours?

Please help me understand how I mischaracterized your presentations, set me straight. When I asked you in an email follow up about the appropriate use of charrettes, Mr. Berto, you answered "What you (Daly) indicate about working together is what we do with projects we are involved in, and DOH is generally aware of this." So, we are good there, Mr. Berto, no mischaracterization?

I want to know where I was off, let's talk! Oh right, we can't because when I asked you in my email for a conversation, you responded "I have to decline any discussions with you because of my working with groups in Litchfield County, including Falls Village. I could only talk to you if they arranged it, participated and approved this."

Now, I can only guess you are referring to Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOG) who hired you to

present the webinar we are discussing, am I right? Did they also arrange, participate and approve of your joint letter with Sam Giffin to the editor critiquing my characterization?

I am a member of the Falls Village Affordable Housing Plan (FVAHP), one of three State funded, town authorized programs which I believe paid for your presentations at the webinars. So why can I not talk with the speakers without the NHCOG's permission and oversight? It's confusing.

You ask that my readers "think twice before taking what (I) say at face value." I say amen to that, and to all information about public funding and especially affordable housing. Let us all "think twice" before accepting at face value what we hear or read; like the oft repeated claim that Sec 8-30g requires our small towns to have 10% affordable housing, or that if our towns want smaller projects that the state will not be interested in helping us fund them. I encourage us all to go further than thinking twice; get the facts, and have your authorities put their facts in writing in TLJ for inspection by the community and the fact checkers.

Let me be clear, I think

Too much is changing

What has happened to my country? I can no longer have a wonderful breakfast with Aunt Jemima, and the Indian princess from Land O Lakes can't bring me any more butter.

And now Dr. Seuss is not even allowed to read me a bedtime story. I'm even getting worried about the future of Betsy Ross and Lady Liberty.

If we destroy the past, we shall have no future. If we don't stand for something we will fall for anything.

Allen Blagden

Lakeville

Another letter next page.

Where does your trash go when you throw it away?

Climate change will not be solved by solar panels and electric cars alone. It will not be solved until we all realize that there is no “away” to throw things. We need to rethink our relationship to stuff.

The self-storage industry has exploded in the U.S. over the last decade. We have accumulated so much stuff that it no longer fits into our homes. Our attics, basements, and garages are all full so we rent space to store the overflow. And, as often as not, we leave it there to become fodder for reality TV shows. And then what? All that stuff does not cease to exist.

The pressure to buy new cheap everything is relentless. And for far too long we have been willing to fuel the race to the bottom; buying the cheapest rather than the best. But as consumers we must push back. We must think about what we are purchasing and what happens to it after we are done.

My iPhone is six years old. It works just fine. I was hoping to get many more years out of it, but Apple will stop “supporting” it soon as they have done with earlier models. No more security fixes. I will be

forced to replace a perfectly good device so that one of the richest companies in America can become even richer. And we all go along with it.

Recycling, as it stands, is a fig leaf. We are getting better at separating out “recyclables” from trash: a necessary first step. But there is no one willing to take the recyclables and actually recycle them now that China no longer buys them. It is not cost-effective, without slave labor, to process the materials we collect. We cannot rely on “market solutions” to solve our recycling dilemma.

Worse still, we deny the rest of the world the chance to reuse our castoffs. Well-meaning officials have outlawed shipping any non-working goods to Africa in order to stop the dumping of e-waste. That means that countries that thrive on reuse and repair are denied the materials they need to continue ecologically sound practices.

Corporations should be held responsible for the end of their products. They should

pay for the costs of recycling their goods. They will be incentivized to build goods that last longer, can be repaired, and will eventually be dismantled usefully.

Dell computers already does this. They collect and repair old computers and resell them. Everyone wins. We need to expand this to all manufacturers. You built it, you have to help dispose of it.

Madewell, Patagonia, Eileen Fisher and Arc'teryx are experimenting with refurbishing used clothing and reselling them. That is a good beginning, but we are running out of time. The stuff we buy doesn't disappear in a puff of smoke when we are done with it. It doesn't disappear when we give it to Goodwill. It doesn't disappear at all.

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

BUT THEN AGAIN ...

LISA WRIGHT

Navigating supply chain chaos

Americans are used to purchasing products, either on credit or cash, and having them delivered within a week, at the latest. Repairing those products such as a household appliances may take a little longer, but not by much. The pandemic has changed all that.

Now, I am not talking about toilet paper. That was last year's problem. No, it's about some large appliances and the accessories and parts that are crucial to their inner workings. Take my nine-year-old refrigerator for example. The water dispenser on the outside door doesn't work. It's a problem that has been going on for a year now, and the part needed to fix it is “on back order.”

Then there are my broken gas fireplace fans. The fans gave up the ghost just in time

for the winter season. Ordering the parts was easy, but here it is the beginning of March and maybe, just maybe, the fans will be delivered and installed just in time for summer.

And then there is the mystifying disappearance of one of my cooking staples of convenience, minced garlic. For years, it was a ubiquitous purchase that I rarely thought about, until suddenly it was no longer in its usual place above the potatoes and loose onions counter. The guy in the vegetable department said they were out of stock and were uncertain when or if they would be getting any more of it. I finally found a few small jars hidden away in a corner of another supermarket.

Those are just a few personal examples. I came to realize that the coronavirus has upended the world's supply chains in ways that we rarely think about. The pandemic forced certain changes in our habits. Many of us stayed at home. Few outlets existed to spend money,

so we stayed at home and spent money on our home goods. Instead of restaurants, we had to learn to cook. That meant

stocking up on food and the freezers and refrigerators in which to hold it. We didn't need dry cleaners because we are all wearing sweats and working from home. But we do need washers and dryers.

At the same time that demand for these appliances exploded, the factories in countries that produced them were forced to scale back or shut down production entirely as the coronavirus decimated their workforce. This has created shortages. Exactly what appliances and other products depends on the supply chain of the individual good. It becomes a question of who makes the individual parts that together comprise so many appliances.

The facts are that certain important parts, items such as magnetron tubes for microwaves, compressors for refrigerators and freezers, for example, are made by a mere handful of overseas manufacturers. Most of these companies are in Asia.

Some of the product categories that have been really hurt by supply chain disruption might surprise you. The FDA is monitoring certain medicines and prescription drugs, especially some generic brands, since certain ingredients are manufactured in China and India. A number of consumer electronic products, solar panels, auto parts, air conditioners, toys and games, vaping devices, and even tee shirts and socks are included.

As for my beloved minced garlic, 70% of the garlic consumed in the U.S. is imported from China. Prices have risen by more than 30% since the pandemic began, so I'm guessing that minced garlic is getting too valuable to simply mince and stuff into a jar. To tell the truth, I'm finding that while convenient, the canned flavor lacks the pungency of mincing garlic myself. I guess that might qualify as a silver lining in the present supply chain chaos.

Bill Schmick is registered as an investment advisor representative of Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires. His 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 him at bill@schmicksretiredinvestor.com.

THE RETIRED INVESTOR

BILL SCHMICK



On being deceived, perceived and politic in the public forum

Vulgus vult decipi — The Mob wants to be deceived
Esse est percipi — To be is to be perceived

I have been trying to write a memoir, which always strikes me as a ME-Moir, and concentrate on my time in Drama School. But whenever I sit down to write, I go way back in my MEMory and don't seem to get to Drama.

I go back to my study of Latin and two phrases, one which translates as, “The mob wants to be deceived.” If you doubt that truth, there's always January 6 to dispel your disbelief. Today Senator Ron Johnson, one of the more stultifying troglodytes in Congress, said he was not frightened when the Capitol was stormed because he knew that the thousands were lovers of this country and would never break the law, broken windows, smashed doors notwithstanding.

He added that if the roles had been reversed and Trump had won (is he admitting Trump lost?) and the demonstrators were Black Lives Matter people and Antifa, then he would have been “concerned.” As long as they're white, alright; but Black, watch out for the pack.

Former Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri, who was defeated in her re-election bid by Josh “Raised Fist” Hawley, was told by a commentator that these guys, Cancun Cruz among them, know better. They know The Big Lie. Good Dad Cancun, who famously said, with his Harvard Law pedigree,

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

Continued from previous page

es of the white stuff had fallen on the town as of last weekend, earning Norfolk the unofficial title of “snowiest town in Connecticut.”

“It's a dubious distinction at best,” remarked First Selectman Arthur Rosenblatt.

SHARON — Leah C. Shull is joining radio stations WKZE, AM and FM in Sharon, as sales and marketing executive, the station announced this week.

These items were taken from past issues of the paper in The Lakeville Journal archives at Salisbury's Scoville Memorial Library, keeping the original wording intact.

that he wouldn't work with anyone for the “lesser Ivies.” (Take that, Cornell and Penn!) She shot back: “Not Johnson. I served alongside him in the Senate and I don't think he does know better.”

She was being politic, but I won't be. He is as dumb as a box of rocks. Well, 2022, in the great state of Wisconsin. Let's see if the northern Cheesehead voters know curds and whey from rocks.

The second Latin phrase, which translates as, “To be is to be perceived.” Perceived. Deceived. Hmmm.

Or perhaps the mob wants to be perceived; to be is to be deceived. Surely, the bozo who posed with his feet on Speaker Pelosi's desk wanted to be perceived. The jamoke carrying the Confederate flag through the Capitol wanted to be perceived.

And the pathetic woman who took Pelosi's laptop, who now says she doesn't know where it is, well, maybe, just maybe, she didn't really want to be perceived. My guess is that she's a bit brighter than bozo and jamoke. The women usually are.

But do bozos/jamokes/pathetics know they want to be perceived? Are they marginally less dumb than Johnson? And should we give them \$174,500 a year and free parking at National airport? Or is it called Ronald Reagan Airport? The Shining City on The Hill.

The Hill is also Congress. It's where not one Republican voted for the Biden/Harris National Recovery Act. Yet one Republican, Sen. Roger Wick-

er of Mississippi, was praising parts of the bill in his home state, essentially saying that he was for the bill before he voted against it. (I hate to remind us that sounds like John Kerry who was for the Iraq War before he was against it. But I am an Equal

Opportunity critic.) Be assured there will be more Trumpicans who praise the bill before they attack it. Or attack it before they praise it. Trump now calls HR 1 “A MONSTER that must be defeated”, as if he has even READ it. Talk about To Be is to Be Perceived.

And kudos for Beth Moore. As “The Week” puts it: “Beth Moore has left the Southern Baptist Convention.

“I am still a Baptist,” the prolific Bible study author said in an interview with Religion News Service published Tuesday, March 9, ‘but I can no longer identify with Southern Baptists.’ The import of this departure, as many have observed, is difficult to explain if you don't already know who Moore is. She's something like the book club leader version of Reese Witherspoon for conservative evangelical Christians.”

Because Beth Moore cannot abide Trump. She wants to be perceived, but not deceived.

Vulgus vult decipi; ergo decipiatur.

The Mob wants to be deceived? Let it be deceived. Back to my Latin. And soon, perhaps, my ME-Moir.

Lonnie Carter is a writer who lives in Falls Village. Email him at lonniety@comcast.net.

SOVEREIGN STATE

LONNIE CARTER

Some of the product categories that have been really hurt by supply chain disruption might surprise you.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

An absence of thunder

“The thunder, Wing'd with red lightning and impetuous rage, Perhaps hath spent his shafts, and ceases now To bellow through the vast and boundless deep.” — John Milton

Though snow may yet fall and blanket us, Spring with her early, pelting light enters like a lion as 2 million vaccines a day are delivered to American upper arms tattooed or not, in the usual medical places and innovative ones — sports stadiums may never again be so useful.

Amazing how quiet are the wheels, hands, mechanisms and genius that get things done. The loud thrashing of ineptitude has been silenced as people with sincere intent, knowledge and willingness to work take on the troubles of the day. 45, under a fake Presidential seal, begs in two “me” sentences that all remember he is to be credited with the delivered COVID vaccines, which have been advancing in labs for three decades. On the anniversary of a world-wide pandemic, 45 struts his bombastic ignorance— research breakthroughs don't emerge on his command. Undoubtedly Katalin Kariko will receive a Nobel Prize for her research on mRNA begun in Hungary in 1970. The miracles of science are not fast food.

Thanks to bans on deceit in social media, the thunder of lies and blaze of denials have all but disappeared from daily life — is it Mar-Go-Latte where penalties eradicate disloyal GOP politicians and befool the party's national institutions? Since January 21, the rant, rave and low rhetoric of the highest office has been obscured by ardent language, effort and successful achievements of government officials focused on stopping a pandemic denied for a year while reestablishing an economic foundation for all. Many now sleep nights and welcome days cleared of the sludge and fog of the past four years.

45 is off court, barred from the game, thundering in a social quarantine. Perhaps number 45 will forever be retired on sports jerseys, of all ilk.

The birds are back — they fill the air.

Kathy Herald-Marlowe

Sharon

More letters previous page.

Realtor® at Large

With the large amount of home renovations ongoing, it is good for new owners to know that Connecticut provides a lot of incentives to increase the efficiency of homes. A great place to start is at the website of www.energizect.com. There are programs both to assess your current homes efficiency for free and to provide many solutions, such as energy efficient lighting, insulation etc. To access these resources, go to energizect.com and click on the icon for home solutions. This will help to save money both now and into the future.

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HELP WANTED

SECRETARY: Part-time, 1-2 days per week. Sharon. 860-364-1115.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A SUMMER JOB?: Pine Plains Recreation Department needs you! We are hiring for the camp and beach 2021 season. If you are motivated, hardworking and interested in being a recreation assistant, lifeguard, or camp counselor, please apply! Applications can be found on the town website under recreation, at the Pine Plains town hall, or email Jen Chase (jenchase@hotmail.com). All applications are due on Friday, April 2, 2021 to the town hall. Interviews will follow. We can't wait for summer!

CARPENTER: Experienced carpenter wanted for renovation and new construction. Company specializing in all phases of construction and renovations. Experience required and pay to commensurate. Must have good references and reliable transportation. Call Scott at 860-309-5290.

IRVING FARM LOOKING FOR A TALENTED PREP COOK: Join our team at our Millerton, NY cafe. Roles and Responsibilities, Day-to-day: Responsible for the preparation of all menu ingredients used in the kitchen, including making soups, sauces and salads. Preparing and portioning back up. Keeping the kitchen well-stocked and organized. Following all food safety standards. Assist Kitchen Lead with food ordering. Assist with receiving, checking and putting away food orders. Step in to assist the Line if needed, and work at least one Line shift per week. Responsible for working five scheduled shifts a week, as needed and scheduled by the store Manager. Requirements: At least 2 years of professional Kitchen Experience. Must be able to read and follow recipes. Must be able to use a meat slicing machine. Must be able to stand for long periods of time. Must have basic knife skills. Full Time. Compensation: \$16 per hour. Expected start date: March 22, 2021. Send resumes to kathy@irvingfarm.com.

HELP WANTED

FULL TIME UNIVERSAL BANKER I: Responsible for generating business and deepening customer relationships. Must possess strong customer service and sales skills and be detail oriented. Previous cash handling experience is important. Responsible to adhere to policies, procedures, and ensure operational soundness. Must have full working knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite; Outlook, Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Must be able to work extended hours and must work Saturdays. Competitive wages and incentive programs. Apply in person at the Lakeville office of Litchfield Bankcorp, 326 Main Street, Lakeville. EOE/AA/M/F/D/V. Gardener Wanted: Looking for hard working, motivated, dependable team players for this upcoming season, including a crew leader. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. Have own transportation. References required. Knowledge of Plant material is a plus. Call or text 860-248-0195.

LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATE: Seeking a motivated individual to support our Landscape division. Duties include landscape maintenance, construction, and safe operation of small and large equipment. Drivers license and clean driving record required. Pay based on experience and performance during trial period. Opportunity for advancement. Please email resume to office@mattslandscapingct.com or call 860-824-1188 for more information.

LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATE: Seeking hard working individuals to join our Lawn Maintenance division. Duties include lawn mowing, trimming, and spring and fall cleanups. Experience with zero-turn mowers preferred, gardening experience a plus. Drivers license and clean driving record required. Pay based on experience and performance during trial period. Opportunity for advancement. Please email resume to office@mattslandscapingct.com or call 860-824-1188 for more information.

HELP WANTED

ISABELLA FREEDMAN JEWELRY RETREAT CENTER: Is a year-round retreat facility located in Falls Village, CT. We serve 6,000 guests per year. We are currently seeking: Prep Cook (Full time); Porter (Full time). 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.

LAWN MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR: Seeking experienced individual to manage our Lawn Maintenance division. Duties include personnel management, scheduling lawn cleanups and weekly mowing, and lawn equipment maintenance. Drivers license and clean driving record required. Competitive pay based on experience. Please email resume to office@mattslandscapingct.com or call 860-824-1188 for more information.

LOVE TO BE OUTDOORS? PLAY IN THE DIRT?: Looking for hard working, motivated, dependable team players for this upcoming season. Work with a great group who actually like each other and have fun at work. Reliable transportation, some basic gardening skills helpful, but willing to train. Seasonal, hourly position. Part-time and full-time available. Join the Sweethaven Team. Email or call Noreen 860-309-7132 or sweethavenfarmct@gmail.com.

LAWN MAINTENANCE & LANDSCAPING: Well established business seeks full-time & part-time employees. Driver's license, Ability to drive truck & trailer, Experience with Zero-Turn mowing equipment. References required. Quality work ethic a must. Competitive wages based on experience. 860-824-0053.

HELP WANTED

NORTH EAST COMMUNITY CENTER: Seeking an organized Senior Administrative Assistant to provide high-level support to the Admin unit. Must have experience with data systems and software, 4 years office experience, and be bilingual/Spanish speaking. Submit resume and cover letter to info@necmillerton.org. Full position description available at www.necmillerton.org.

PAINTERS WANTED: Full time, experienced painters wanted with a minimum of 5 years experience. Must have transportation, must be reliable and have a neat and clean appearance. We offer a 401K Plan and pay with payroll company. Starting pay \$17 per hour. Please respond to illpaintit@yahoo.com with name, experience, desired salary and contact information. 4 positions available.

SCOVILLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY SALISBURY, CT: Looking for a friendly, helpful person to interact with people of all ages at our service desk. This job requires multitasking, attention to detail, excellent computer and communication skills, patience and flexibility. A love of books and reading is a plus. This is an hourly position paying \$18 per hour. Tuesday-Friday and some weekends. Benefits include paid time off plus health insurance. Please send a letter of interest and a resume to ccayne@biblio.org.

SKILLED CARPENTERS, HANDY MEN AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS: needed for quality local construction company. Join our excellent team and work on exciting quality projects. Contact prutting@prutting.com.

HELP WANTED

THE INTERLAKEN INN: A historical Inn located in Lakeville, CT is looking for help to grow our team. PT Housekeeping positions, with the opportunity to become FT are needed. Our flexible hours are perfect if your looking for some extra income or weekend employment. Applicant should have reliable transportation, take pride in your work, and be a team player. If interested, please call 800-222-2909 or email chrisie@interlakeninn.com.

THE TOWN OF SALISBURY: Seeking a part-time clerical assistant in the Land Use office, 15 hours per week; must have advanced computer skills in MS Office. For more information or to send cover letter and resume, please email: townhall@salisburyct.us. Applications must be received by April 2, 2021. The Town of Salisbury is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

THE TOWN OF SALISBURY: Seeking a full-time Assistant Town Clerk. For more information or to send a cover letter and resume, please email: townclerk@salisburyct.us. Applications must be received by April 9, 2021. The Town of Salisbury is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

GARDENER WANTED: Looking for hard working, motivated, dependable team players for this upcoming season, including a crew leader. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. Have own transportation. References required. Knowledge of Plant material is a plus. Call or text 860-248-0195.

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A1 HOUSE CLEAN-OUTS: Items removed and trucked away from homes, garages, barns, etc. Call Bill 860-364-4653.

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REAL ESTATE

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 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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