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Daylight Saving
Time begins March 14
Clocks move forward

The Lakeville Journal

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

COVID-19 Vaccine

New sites sought, but hospital will continue

By Patrick L. Sullivan

Dr. Mark Hirko, president of Sharon Hospital, said in a phone interview Friday, March 5, that the hospital does not plan to get out of the COVID-19 vaccination business. There had been rumors last week that hospitals would no longer be giving vaccinations.

He did say that the hospital's physical layout is not ideal for providing vaccinations to large numbers of people, and that the hospital staffers are stretched thin.

Hirko said that, since December, the hospital has provided 1,800 first doses and 1,100 second doses of vaccines, mostly the Moderna version.

Currently the hospital is working on the remaining second doses.

But with roughly 150,000 people in the vicinity still requiring vaccination, Hirko said, "We can't be the point on this."

Hirko said the hospital is willing to help set up vaccination sites elsewhere. "We need to look for a venue suitable for high volume."

COVID-19 vaccination volunteers needed. See page A6 for more information.

In the meantime, the hospital will also help provide vaccinations at schools, nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities.

State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) said Friday, March 5 (by phone), that the immediate problem is an inadequate supply of vaccine.

She said there are about 130,000 doses available for about 500,000 newly eligible people. (It is worth noting that the vaccine situation is changing rapidly.) On Monday, March 1, the pool of eligible vaccine recipients grew to include the Over 55 age group, as well as teachers and health-care workers.

Horn said she expected the supply situation would be "alleviated" in the next two weeks.

She is working on setting up additional vaccine sites.

See VAX SITES, Page A6

Geer Dial-a-Ride offers rides to vaccine appointments

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — For many seniors in the Northwest Corner, the challenge of getting an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccination has been exponentially increased by the scarcity of nearby options, especially with limited availability at Sharon Hospital and the High Watch clinic in downtown Kent.

Thanks to the Dial-a-Ride program at Geer Village Senior Community, area residents have been able to get to their vaccine sites and get their first and/or second shot.

Ivana Powers, Geer's Director of Transportation, and scheduler Patty Tatsapaugh have been working hard to make sure that those who call in, get to their vaccine appointments, no matter what challenges face them.

"We have taken people in snowstorms," said Powers. "We

have not denied or canceled a single person who has called and requested a ride with an appointment to get their shots.

"We are super coordinated and mission-driven."

The majority of Dial-a-Ride's callers use the service for non-emergency medical-related appointments, and it has been customary, said Powers, for Tatsapaugh to help callers coordinate rides with doctors' offices and other health-care providers.

When the vaccine rollout began, helping seniors navigate the time-consuming process of registering for a vaccine through the VAMS system, said Powers, was a challenge. "Some people can't stay on hold for 30 to 40 minutes waiting for a response."

Not to be deterred, they came up with a solution: Add another phone line. "Patty would call the [VAMS hotline], keep it on speaker until someone answered, then grab another phone, put that one on speaker" and allow a conversation between the two parties,

See GEER, Page A6



A surprise early opening to fishing season (again)

By Cynthia Hochswender

Gov. Ned Lamont quietly announced the first day of fishing season, late in the day on Thursday, March 4.

The season normally begins in mid April, when ice fishing is a distant memory and most of the snow has melted.

The first day of fishing is usually a gala event, with dozens of fishermen turning out at popular spots such as Lakeville's Lake Wononscopomuc and Kent Falls State Park. The idea behind the quiet openings seems to be

to limit the number of anglers coming together and fishing at the same time.

"Opening the fishing season early helps to reduce opening day crowds and limit the potential for spread of COVID-19," Lamont said in his March 4 news release. "Anglers are encouraged to continue to practice social distancing, and we encourage fishing to be enjoyed only with members of your immediate household and not as a group activity."

See FISHING, Page A6

PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Fishing season opened a month early, on Thursday, March 4. Above, on March 5, a fisherman in the Housatonic. Days later, ice fishermen were still out on area lakes.

Which COVID-19 vaccine should I get?

Should I try and get an mRNA vaccine? They are better than the others, aren't they? If I show up at the clinic can I choose?

These are some of the questions that we didn't even know we would be so lucky to ask just three months ago.

The speed at which multiple vaccines to choose from has come about is unprecedented.

The first genome sequence of a previously unknown virus was published in early January

GUEST INSIGHT DR. JAMES SHEPHERD

2020 and the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines, tested over the summer and fall of 2020, were approved for emergency use in early December.

These are the quickest vaccines ever developed. Their very speed has raised a lot of questions around their safety. It is true that all previous vaccines

have taken years to develop and the cumulative experience of their use over time is reassuring.

Moderate reactions

Nevertheless the COVID-19 vaccines have been tested in very big trials. As a comparison, the widely used and "uncontroversial" Shingrix vaccine for prevention of shingles was tested in 32,000 participants prior to submission for approval in 2017. The total number of patients in COVID-19 vaccine trials that have reported results

so far is 170,000 and growing rapidly.

The safety results have been reassuring — both in the trial participants and now in millions of people worldwide who have been vaccinated and reported to national monitoring systems.

Rates of severe side effects, mainly anaphylaxis, have been very rare — a handful in every million vaccinated — and the more common reactions such as arm pain, fever, fatigue and muscle aches have been over very quickly.

The brief discomfort of COVID-19 vaccines seems to be greater than for the annual flu shot. This probably reflects a combination of both the "prime-boost" two-shot strategy to provoke maximum stimulation of the immune system; and the large group of vaccinees who were recently infected naturally with SARS-CoV-2 and already have a naturally primed immune system ready to react. Maybe the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine will have fewer reactions?

See WHICH? PAGE A6



PHOTO BY JENNIFER GOOD

Vintage-style hockey for Housy team

Thanks to very cold weather in recent weeks, the Housatonic Valley Regional High School hockey team has been able to practice outdoors at Trotta Field in Salisbury.

Monuments and our view of history

By Debra A. Aleksinas

As old as America

If David Anthonie had his way, public statues would go the way of the dinosaur.

"The idea of the traditional monument is dead and I don't want to see to many more monuments being created," said Anthonie during a Zoom talk hosted Sunday, Feb. 21, by The League of Women Voters of Litchfield County and the Litchfield Historical Society.

Anthonie is an artist, based in Roxbury, Conn., and is half of the DARN Studio, whose work often has a political or social message.

He is also a historic preservation officer for the state of Connecticut.

Particularly during the past year, in part because of anger over the shooting deaths of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and others, historic Confederate monuments have served as lightning rods for discussion, debate and protests regarding systemic racism and historical narrative.

Pulling down statues, particularly those related to the Confederacy, is not a new concept. It is a tradition that dates to the American Revolution, said Anthonie.

He spoke about the fate of a 2-ton equestrian statue of King George III that was toppled from its plinth on Bowl-

ing Green by a group in New York City in 1776, shortly after a reading of the new Declaration of Independence.

The statue, the first monument in the U.S. to be toppled, was brought to a foundry in Litchfield, he said. Some of it was melted and recast into ammunition, some was cut up and made into souvenirs and reliquaries.

Before the statue was melted into 40,000 bullets, however, about half of its weight went missing.

"Interestingly enough people had been pillaging parts off it. People love to hold on to pieces of history."

The fate of the King George statue illustrates that history

will live on, even when a statue no longer occupies public space.

During his hour-long presentation, Anthonie explored various options for dealing with controversial statues, their original intent and their impact on current communities, and he questioned whether looking at a statue is an effective way to learn about the past.

He pointed to the circa 1912 Custom House, which since 2012 has served as the National Museum of the American Indian & U.S. Bankruptcy Court at One Bowling Green in New York City. The Cass Gilbert-designed building, in

See MONUMENTS, Page A6



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In The Journal this week

REGIONAL.....A2	COMPASS.....B2
OUR TOWNS.....A3, A5	OPINION.....B3
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SHOW THEM YOUR HEART
Special Banner.....B1-2

Three-day forecast

Friday.....Cloudy, high 63°/low 34°
Saturday.....Cloudy, 45°/25°
Sunday.....Cloudy, 39°/21°

Correction

An article in the March 4 Lakeville Journal said that all the employees of the pharmacy at the Salisbury General Store had found employment elsewhere. That is incorrect; as of this week, two of the employees had not found alternative employment.

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.

Failure to appear

On Feb. 25 Eric Goldstein, 28, of North Canaan was served with a warrant and charged with failing to appear in the second degree. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on March 30.

Two car collision

On Feb. 26 at approximately 11:30 a.m. on Route 7 in Falls Village a 2017 Honda CR-V driven by Ola Habacker, 80, of Salisbury failed to grant

the right of way when turning left and collided with a 2014 Jeep Patriot driven by Diana Marie Consolini, 76, of Falls Village. The passenger in the Honda, Robert Habacker, 80, of Salisbury was transported to Sharon Hospital. Ola Habacker was found at fault and issued an infraction for failure to grant the right of way to oncoming traffic when making a left turn.

Struck a utility pole

On Feb. 28 at approximately 7:45 p.m. on Route 63 in Falls Village a 2003 Dodge Ram driven by Neil Small, 48, of Litchfield, Conn., drove off the road and struck a mailbox and a utility pole. Small was transported to Sharon Hospital. The accident

remains under investigation.

Struck a utility pole

On March 2 at approximately 2:30 p.m. on Canaan Road in Salisbury a 2014 Jeep Wrangler driven by Anastasia Mullen, 32, of North Canaan drove off the roadway and struck a cross walk sign as well as a utility pole, snapping the pole off its foundation. The Jeep rolled over onto the roadway before stopping. No injuries were reported. Mullen was issued a warning for failure to drive in the proper lane.

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.

Grant awarded to 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 an 18-year 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.adamahfarmsafallsvillage.weebly.com/the-farm.html.

Virtual job fair is on March 16

TORRINGTON — Northwest Connecticut's Chamber of Commerce is partnering with the Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce to host a Virtual Job Fair on Tuesday, March 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Attendees are encouraged to register online and upload their resume prior to the event.

More than 40 employers will participate, representing opportunities in manufacturing, finance, transportation, healthcare, insurance, education and more.

For more information and to register, go to <https://nwct-chamberofcommerce.org/events-programs/job-fair/>.

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Check them out inside.

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- Ocean State Job Lot



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Our Towns

North Canaan to gain river access point

By Leila Hawken

NORTH CANAAN — The Board of Selectmen announced at their regular meeting on Monday, March 1, that an access point in town to the Housatonic River has been secured.

In a preliminary report with more to come at the April selectmen's meeting, Selectman Christian Allyn said that the town is the only town in the Wild and Scenic river corridor that does not now offer recreational access.

He has been working toward a solution through his position on the Housatonic River Commission (HRC), to which he was appointed in 2014.

Commenting further on the news on Wednesday, March 3, Allyn shared credit with Bill Tingley, HRC chairman; Mike Humphreys of the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP); and DEEP Deputy Commissioner Mason Trumble.

The Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) also pro-

vided assistance, Allyn noted, praising the work of Executive Director Lynn Werner and Regional Conservation Director Tim Abbott.

The riverbanks are quite high and steep as the river passes through town, Allyn told the selectmen, preventing safe and convenient access along the way at most places. However, the longest stretch of lower-elevation banks was found on the property of the former Masonic Lodge, which had years before been the property of the Knights of Columbus.

In late December 2020, the DEEP purchased the 1.92-acre property that had been for sale for more than a year. The purchase price was \$140,000, Allyn noted, and the funding will come from the DEEP Fisheries Division. The property lies along Route 44 (Salisbury Road), about one mile north of Dutcher's Bridge.

One of the beauties of the property is that the riverbank is only 4 feet high along most of the property, Allyn said,

making the work of providing a boat launch ramp fairly easy to accomplish. On a neighboring property, the riverbank stands at 8 feet.

Because the river is placid at that point, offering a lake-like experience, Allyn expected that visitors would be attracted to it for boating, fishing and picnicking, but not so much for swimming. Looking ahead, Allyn envisions that visitors drawn to town by the launch park will also visit local businesses and attractions.

Paddlers who want to experience Bartholomew's Cobble, for example, a limestone bedrock feature in nearby Sheffield, Mass., will be expected to want to use the North Canaan river access point, Allyn predicted. The Cobble is a 329-acre landmark attraction along the river to the north, boasting lookout elevations, trails and noteworthy biodiversity.

As the project develops, Allyn indicated that volunteers will be needed to provide maintenance and coordinate improvements with the DEEP, such as signage and creating a picnic area.

More details are expected to

be shared at the April selectmen's meeting including the HRC's proposed name for the new river access park, Allyn said.

Housing and COVID tests

To meet a requirement that all towns have an updated Affordable Housing Plan, First Selectman Charles Perotti announced that a committee of five or seven members will be named at the April selectmen's meeting. An updated plan is due in 2022, and an estimated nine months is needed to create the plan.

Two new free-of-charge, Town Hall parking lot drive-through COVID-19 testing dates are planned for Thursdays, March 11 and March 25, between 1 and 4 p.m., Perotti announced.

Everyone of any age is welcome whether or not a resident of North Canaan and regardless of experiencing symptoms or not. No ID or insurance is required. No appointment is necessary. There is a form to be completed in advance of the test, either on site, or the form can be accessed at www.northcanaan.org.

Sign up now for baseball teams

NORTH CANAAN — Registration for Northwest Connecticut Steve Blass Little League began on Sunday, March 7, and ends on Sunday, April 4.

Register at www.northwest-ct-steve-blass-little-league.sportssignup.com/site/

Northwest Connecticut Steve Blass Little League is open to both boys and girls in all six Region One School District towns (Falls Village, Cornwall, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon) and Norfolk.

- T Ball: ages 4-6
- Minors: ages 7-9

The registration fee is \$30 per child in these two age groups.

The Travel Team is open to

ages 10-12; the registration fee is \$50 per child. Note: Try-outs will take place for this level of baseball.

Team(s) will be determined by ability, skill and safety.

The Seniors ball team (also known as Housy Juniors) is for ages 12-15; the registration fee: is \$100 per child.

Teams will follow all COVID-19 guidelines put out by Little League and Northwest Connecticut Steve Blass Little League.

Travel Majors and Housy Juniors/Seniors will begin early April. T-Ball and Minors will start later in the spring.

Any questions please email or call Nikki Blass, president, at 860-480-6064 or email at nblass01@yahoo.com.



PHOTO BY TOM BROWN

Housatonic Valley Regional High School's Ivan Pascasio kept the ball away from a Terryville opponent on Thursday, March 4, in a home game.

Jumping through hoops... to play hoops

FALLS VILLAGE — It hasn't been easy but sports teams have been able to play some matches this season. Terryville came to Housatonic Valley Regional High School for a match-up on Thursday, March 4, with a final score of 85-43 for Terryville.

— Cynthia Hochswender

No-cost tax aide

SALISBURY — Salisbury Senior Services is offering the AARP Tax Aide program at the Salisbury Senior Center at the Town Grove in Lakeville. Volunteers trained by AARP and certified by the IRS are available to assist those 60 and older, and low-income residents, with the preparation and filing of all

tax forms fee of charge.

All tax returns will be e-filed, which can reduce the wait time for refunds. This service will be available on Thursdays through April 15 by appointment only.

Contact Lisa McAuliffe, director of Senior Services, at 860-435-5191 to schedule an appointment.

First town and school budget plans presented

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Boards of Education and Selectmen made their initial 2021-22 budget presentations to the Board of Finance on Thursday, March 4 (on Zoom).

The school board's budget proposal is for \$6,028,750, an increase of \$181,392 (3.1%).

Salisbury Central School Principal Stephanie Magyar noted that this total includes \$120,000 in what the budget highlight document describes as "stipend for anticipated COVID-19 related staffing, supplies and equipment expenses."

Magyar said "the big ask" in the regular, non-COVID bud-

get is for a part-time assistant principal, at \$65,000.

The Board of Selectmen proposed a \$7,289,054 budget for 2021-22, an increase of \$286,032 (4%).

First Selectman Curtis Rand said with the recently completed revaluation, an increase in the mill rate is unlikely and unnecessary.

"I don't want to increase the mill rate," he said. "The reval did that already."

Finance Chair Michael Clulow asked both boards to "sharpen their pencils" and take another look at their proposals before the next Board of Finance meeting (date and time to be determined).

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To Our Teachers and Administrators

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To Our Parents and Children

working through the challenges of distance and in-person learning during a pandemic

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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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

March 11-17, 2021

SHARON PLAYHOUSE FEST CALLS FOR 10-MINUTE PLAYS

Sharon Playhouse in Sharon, Conn., has launched a festival of new 10-minute plays and musicals, called the "Sharon Playhouse Writers Playground."

The Writers Playground is committed to giving talented writers, performers, directors and technicians in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut and the neighboring communities in New York and Massachusetts a platform to showcase their talents in their own backyard and see their visions realized.

The Playhouse also hopes to empower all

people of any age and background to use their voice to tell diverse stories of self-expression and creativity.

Submissions will be accepted from writers in four different categories:

Youth Submissions (written by individuals 18 years of age or younger):

- Plays
- Musicals

Adult Submissions (written by individuals 19 years of age and older):

- Plays
- Musicals

The submission deadline is May 1, 2021. Entrants should live within 50 miles of the Playhouse.

Works chosen will have performances this summer as part of the Playhouse Live Drive-In entertainment, which returns after a successful season in 2020.

In addition to the Writers Playground, the 2021 Playhouse Summer season will include an even wider selection of entertainment including Broadway, Pop, Motown, Classical concerts, film, comedy, variety and the return of the very popular Dinner Cabaret Series.

More information can be found at the playhouse website, www.Sharon-Playhouse.org.

STREAMING: BRUCE T. PADDOCK

Sci-Fi and Brit Wit

If you're a science fiction fan, you probably know about Amazon Prime's "The Expanse" — the best SF show on television ever. But you may not have heard of "Dark," a German show running on Netflix.

Complete in three seasons, "Dark" is a time-travel story so full of plot twists you'll need a map, or at least a family tree. Fortunately, each episode rewards multiple viewings. The acting is good, the directing great, and the casting and makeup work are astonishing.

Don't want to commit to a series right now? Check out "Hunt for the Wilderpeople," the film Taika Waititi made in between "What We Do in

the Shadows" and "Thor: Ragnarok." It's more like the former than the latter: a small, sweet, New Zealandish movie.

Personally, I have little patience for films that wear their hearts on their sleeves, and 10 minutes in I was thinking, "OK, so the young boy is going to forge a bond with the crusty old man yadda yadda yadda." But dang if I wasn't misting up at the end all the same. And don't worry, the laughs outweigh the touchy-feely stuff.

Switching gears now, those of us who enjoy British humor but don't subscribe to Acorn or BritBox can find plenty to enjoy on, believe it or not, YouTube. My personal favorite is a genre that's very popular in Britain and nonexistent in this country: the panel show.

A panel show looks like a quiz show: Groups of celebrities, mostly comedians, are asked questions by a host. But the point isn't getting the answer; the point is being funny. And they can be insanely hilarious ... although I probably should mention that

none of the comics are censored.

The two best panel shows available on YouTube are "The Big Fat Quiz of the Year" (or "Decade") and "QI" — which, if you need help remembering it, stands for "quite interesting."

"QI" is more about little-known facts of history and science and such, while "Big Fat Quiz" features questions about pop culture. And yes, there are a lot of questions — and a few jokes — that you won't get because you don't live in the UK. But there will be enough laughs to keep you sailing through ... especially if you look for episodes featuring Noel Fielding, Richard Ayoade (teamed together, if possible), Aishling Bee, David Mitchell, Holly Walsh or Sarah Millican.

If you want a straight-up quiz show with civilian contestants, try the amusingly pompous "Mastermind," which has roughly "Jeopardy!"-level questions, or the insanely difficult but awesomely clever "Only Connect." Many episodes of both can be found on YouTube, too.

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EDITORIAL

These changes will have lasting effects

When life shut down last March, preparation for that eventuality was scant to nonexistent. Who expected that not only would that happen, but also that it would last so long? Well, Bill Gates and other pandemic watchers may have foreseen it, but for general society, it all came as quite an unpleasant and unwelcome surprise. And for no one (who wasn't affected directly by the disease itself) was it a source of more upheaval and long-term repercussions than for educators, students and their families.

For students, every year and even every semester within each school year can be critically important for their development. But it's not always predictable which semester of which year will be that defining moment for any young person: the moment when a light bulb goes off and they decide they love math, or science, or history, or art; that moment when they try out for the school play and are surprised when they win a part; the moment when their practice for their team of choice pays off in winning a tournament game. The list can go on and on. All these things define a school experience, and these can be hard or impossible to replace when direct connection must be put on hold.

So the challenge for teachers has been great, trying to find new ways to keep their students engaged. Fortunately, Connecticut in general and Region One in particular have found ways to do everything they could to have students benefit from in-person learning. This school year, the Region One elementary schools have kept in-person education the norm, only having that change when individual classes had some exposure to diagnosed cases of COVID-19. Then, just those students would be asked to quarantine for a period of time, and manage their schoolwork remotely, until judged to be ready to meet in person again.

Housatonic Valley Regional High School took up a varied model for the school year, with a mix of in-person and remote classes (For details, see story by Senior Reporter Patrick Sullivan on page A3 this week.) When there was an outbreak of COVID after the holidays, the school went to all-online learning for a time, but came back to the mix as quickly as possible, Jan. 19. This has surely made for a year when teachers, students and parents had to be creative, resilient and flexible.

While there may be some gap in academic progress, though, during this year of COVID, it could be that the tools found to cope with adversity will be the thing these students retain and carry with them the rest of their lives. Those skills of finding a path forward through unforeseen obstacles may be among the most useful lessons they can learn during their elementary and high school years.

For those who have found themselves struggling during this school year, students and educators alike, you should know you are not alone and the community is only hoping the best for all of you as you deal with the restrictions of a pandemic. And if it all seems too much sometimes, please don't hesitate to reach out for help from your families or school counselors and teachers. They will be there for you.

Thanks go to the Region One administrators, especially Superintendent Lisa Carter, for being open and transparent with the community about planning and implementation of goals throughout the school year. Kudos as well to all the students, parents and teachers who have persevered through some very tough times. There may now be some hope for brighter times as more of us gain access to vaccines, and teachers and child-care givers have become eligible for them.

Respect for Klemens and all town volunteers

One of the things that is sometimes overlooked is the extraordinary amount of time and skill that is donated to our towns by the volunteer commission members, both elected and appointed. Their efforts ensure that we remain affordable, educated, safe and able to live our lives in these special places called small towns. Members are either elected by residents or appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

These commissions must periodically deal with controversies that pull at our goodwill and divide our communities, and many of these end up needing legal determinations from our land use commissions, including Salisbury's Planning and Zoning (P&Z) and Inland Wetlands (IWC) commissions. These commissions are presently in the hot seats in Salisbury for issues of affordable housing and lake shore conservation.

We write to acknowledge and thank Michael Klemens, who we believe has skillfully led our P&Z with fairness, transparency and a deep scientific knowledge. He has a strong respect for people and their need for dignity and inclusion. He knows about our landscapes and the fragile nature of species that can only exist in preserved habitats. He knows land use law and when to seek outside opinions that protect our town.

He has recently been disparaged in a way that we find insensitive and vitriolic, which should not be the reward for such a long record of volunteer service to our town. We salute Michael Klemens and all other volunteers in our town; we are grateful for your contributions, we respect your selfless dedication, and we have your backs. Thank you.

The Salisbury Board of Selectmen
Curtis Rand
Chris Williams
Don Mayland

Salisbury

The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. each Monday. You may email letters to publisher@lakevillejournal.com; no more than 500 words.



Main Street, Lakeville

PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bad language doesn't help message

In the last week or so, local people and visitors to Canaan alike have been seeing an offensively written message about President Biden in the Canaan area. I didn't know what form this message was displayed — banner, sign or something else — until I went to the Canaan Library yesterday. Parked on Main Street, in front of the

yellow Farnum Building, was a large car with the words F--- Biden painted in two-foot-high letters covering the entire back window. It's not the political view expressed that angered me, but the prominence of inflammatory language that would be seen by people of all ages going past.

I didn't know whose car it

was, but wanted to suggest to the owner that they either remove the expletive or park the car off the main road. I found the owner, who runs the newly opened antiques store there, and had what turned out to be an unfortunate and extremely ugly verbal confrontation in which the person declared he had his First Amendment right to free expression, but would not address the language itself, which was and continues to be my only objection.

While the message is, of course, a hot-button issue and the right to express our opinions an honored part of American life, what about the rights of people forced to drive, walk, or ride past this facile, provocative message?

Lynn Curtis

Salisbury

Ms. Reville misinformed

In her guest commentary last week (March 4), "Responsible approaches to affordable housing in small towns," Daly Reville mischaracterized our presentations and our responses to her questions. We believe that readers will think twice before taking what Ms. Reville says at face value.

David Berto, President, Housing Enterprises, Inc.

Enfield

Sam Giffin, Policy Analyst, Open Communities Alliance
Hartford

Voting rights must be protected

Apparently, it is not enough to have a Constitution that gives us the right to vote. As we have just witnessed, the ability to cast a ballot is what elections come down to. No sooner have we finished counting the ballots for the recent election than groups across the nation have introduced all kinds of bills to try and limit access to the ballot. In other words, there are groups that want to disenfranchise as many people as possible. Why would anyone want to do that in a country that calls itself a democracy?

There are historical roots to limiting the ballot, laws made by people who owned a certain amount of land, whose houses had a certain number of windows, who paid a certain amount of tax, to keep out people of lesser means,

a different gender and color. Over the centuries, the United States chipped away at these limitations.

Connecticut is fortunate that four bills have been introduced in Hartford to maintain the changes that made the recent election work better for all its citizens: H.J. 58, H.J. 59, S.B. 901, H.B. 6464. Having shown their importance in making elections more manageable, these bills deserve support. Moving forward involves changing the state Constitution, something that has happened many times in Connecticut's history and needs to happen again in the 21st century.

While Connecticut should be a model, states across the country are proposing measures claiming to make elec-

tions "more secure." That's the new code word for keeping people from voting and comes down to less access: a shorter voting period, fewer and less convenient voting sites, more identification regulations, even fewer mailboxes. Once again, some people want more for certain groups, less for others, and they are introducing measures to limit those who can vote.

Let's keep our country moving forward by supporting H. R. 1 (House Resolution #1) "For The People's Act," which safeguards voting rights nationally. It's number one for a reason: making sure people can vote and their votes are counted are the foundation of democracy.

Betty Krasne, PhD

Kent

A syndrome: Use my guy . . . please!

There's nothing unusual about asking for a recommendation when contemplating a home project or something needs servicing. What I find interesting is that the response is often couched in language strongly implying that they have the absolute best plumber, electrician, contractor . . . whatever, and you would be crazy to consider using anyone else. And if you don't use their guy? That is taken as a personal slap in the face.

Let's call this Top Man Syndrome. Top Man because it usually involves a man-to-man recommendation. From my observation, although painful to admit, men have a need for validation of their choices by insisting that others make the same choices. And they confidently offer assurance (with no actual data to back it up) that they have the best guy for the job.

Women seem more secure and don't require constant ego reinforcement. They focus on competence and reliability; an

excellent reason to consult a woman the next time you're looking for someone to fix something.

Nowhere is Top Man Syndrome more prevalent than in health care. Think about it. Have you come across anyone who hasn't had a hip replacement or knee surgery from "the top guy" at (fill in your favorite orthopedic hospital)? To further embellish the top man credential, the doctor is often identified as the surgeon for the Yankees, the Knicks, the Celtics, the Patriots or whatever pro sports team lends the proper street cred.

It does beg the question: if the surgeon is spending all this time on your friends' hips, knees and ACLs, how does he possibly have the time for the Yankees, the Knicks, etc.? How can everyone have the top guy?

Before you get too carried away obsessing about having the top guy for your next medical procedure, keep in mind the answer to the following question:

"What do you call the per-

son who graduates last in their class at medical school?"

"Doctor."

M.A. Duca is a resident of Twin Lakes, narrowly focused on everyday life.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — March 1921

At the present time while the frost is coming out of the ground the roads are in an unspeakable condition. Smith Hill is reported as especially bad.

ORE HILL — Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dean have moved to Sharon where he has employment.

LIME ROCK — Mrs. J. Winterbottom is some better.

There was a brisk thunder storm early Tuesday morning. Weather sharks say that thunder in the spring indicates colder weather.

50 years ago — March 1971

When Salisbury voters met at the Hotchkiss School Theater Friday night to hear and discuss the Solid Waste Committee's Report and recommendations, it was something of an historic occasion. As First Selectman William Barnett pointed out when he opened the meeting, this was probably the first official meeting of townspeople held outside the town hall in Salisbury's history. William Ford was appointed moderator because, he said in an amusing preamble, the wives of all the other appropriate people were afraid their husbands would have heart attacks at a meeting which could prove highly controversial.

Actually, as it turned out, the meeting proved more forensic than controversial. Several people came with prepared speeches emphasizing some particular point (generally in opposition to the committee's recommendations for the Dugway site), and the group which had met in Lime Rock the Tuesday before the meeting had hired an attorney and an engineering firm to counter the report.

Army Specialist 4 Donald M. Hurlbutt, son of Mrs. Dorothy S. Warner, Indian Mountain Road, Lakeville, recently received the Bronze Star Medal while serving in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division. In addition to his most recent decoration, he has twice been awarded the Air Medal; and has received the Army Commendation Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Barbara Lee Turrill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Ferriss Turrill of Bull's Bridge, Kent, has been named to the Dean's List with honors at Stephens College in Columbia, Mo.

"We're not eager to tell people what to do. We do want to help protect the town's health and safety." Frederick Perkins, Planning Commission Chairman, made the distinction this week in discussing a proposed set of subdivision regulations

Continued next page

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Mission Statement

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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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What are the goals of born again Americans?

I'd like to admit that I have always been fascinated by the concept of being "born again." Myself being raised in an Orthodox Church, where a person's Christian identity has been sealed and imprinted at his infancy, which can never be questioned, I find the aspiration of a person now as an adult and mature individual willing to reaffirm his faith and beliefs is an act of courage and determination.

And it appears that this yearning to revisit one's own heritage in order to revive the religious foundation of his or her faith is not a uniquely Christian endeavor. From ancient times to our current days, testaments of born-again Buddhists, Muslims and Jews who are reaffirming and revitalizing their ancestral beliefs at a time when they feel challenged by competing faiths and the challenges of everyday life is an expression of an individual who refuses to be just a blind follower of a doctrine but a self-reliant mature adult.

But then I heard the expression, "born again Americans," spoken by Pete Hegseth, a television host and author. He was equating a spiritual awakening with a validation of violence by the rioters who attacked Capitol Hill. I found this alarmingly distasteful.

Borrowing religious expressions and parlance in order to energize a political agenda and inspire its members to be more aggressive is not a new concept. From ancient Greeks, Romans, Crusaders and Muslim terrorists reciting religious chants while destroying sacred sites is not uncommon. What is uncommon is that even though we are a divided nation, and we might see our point of view as the righteous one, violence cannot be accepted as a viable option to resolve our differences.

We live in a democracy, and as hard and nerve-wracking as it can be to convince others to accept our values or opinions by immersing ourselves in countless hours of negotiations, democratic discourse is the only path to achieve a reconciliation or perhaps a mutual agreement. Pete Hegseth claims

that, "I'm a born again American. I have been re-awakened to the reality of what the left has done to my country." But this cannot give permission to any party, group or denomination to attack, destroy and plan to kill the members of the Con-

I AM WIDE AWAKE VAROUJAN FROUNDJIAN

gress to settle a disagreement. Democracy is hard work. But there is no alternative. You've got to sit down and talk and talk until a settlement has been achieved or perhaps a compromise has been reached.

To be members of the group of "born again Americans" doesn't give carte blanche to any group to take a shortcut in solving disagreements by means of violence and threats. And unlike a religious variant of a "born again" where the exclusion of those who do not share the same faith might be acceptable, democracy demands no person, regardless of their ideology toward "left" or "right," to be silenced by religious catchphrases.

Democracy is not a country club where only the privileged, the well-to-do and those who share a common lifestyle and belief system are welcomed. Democracy is the home of everyone who abides by the rule of law, regardless of faith, culture, color, ethnicity, sexual orientation or financial means. And by declaring that certain members of the society by being "born again Americans", can validate hatred and destruction of the law is simply un-American.

Born again or not, we are all equal under the law. And no born again American can take away the sacred laws of our democracy. Those days have gone when a duel between two cowboys determined who is the hero and the villain and those bygone days when a village elder out of a personal whim claims that people from neighboring villages cannot be

trusted.

Ironically, even though a revisionist phrase such as "born again American" has been used to reject our democratic values, somehow that same slogan resonated an interest in me to go further and investigate the true meaning of the experience. Akin to the religious awakening, being born again is about going back and studying the holy scriptures written by the spiritual leaders, which in our case as Americans is about re-reading the Constitution and re-discovering the wisdom of our Founding Fathers who assure us that democracy has all the essential tools to resolve the conflicts between those who are born and the ones yet to be born.

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



We could learn from Scandinavia

Many years ago I spent a summer working in Copenhagen. Something I noticed right away told me I was not in the United States: when Danes walking down the sidewalk come to a traffic light that is red, they stop and wait until it changes to green — even if there are no cars in sight. Such an orderly, law-abiding people, I thought.

We Americans discouraged about the general state of affairs in the United States today might well learn more about the Scandinavian countries.

Traditionally, Scandinavia was considered the three nations of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway. A more modern definition includes Finland, Iceland and the several semi-autonomous island states including Greenland, Aland, and the Faroe Islands. This conglomerate is often referred to as "The Nordic Countries." The largest, Sweden, has 10 million people, the smallest, Iceland, about 370,000.

More egalitarian than Americans, Scandinavians share strong social welfare systems that care for everyone. Taxes are high but, in the opinion of most of their citizens, this is money well spent. The result: societies more united and content than that of the United States.

According to the annual UN World Happiness Report, the happiest countries are Finland, Denmark, Norway and Iceland in that order with Sweden in eighth place (the United States was 15th). In the annual rankings of the least corrupt nations, the Scandinavian countries ranked 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 out of 179 (the U.S. was 23rd). Business Insider Magazine's ranking for the safest countries placed all the Nordic Countries in the top 20, with the United States ranked 128. In assessing gender equality, the World Economic Forum rated Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland the top four countries, with the United States 53rd. And in life expectancy, Norway and Sweden ranked third and seventh in the world, while the USA was 42nd, with the average Norwegian man living more than five years longer than his American counterpart.

Former President Trump tried to portray the Nordic countries as indolent and socialist, unfairly likening them to various centrally planned dictatorships. Although they are welfare states, all the Scandinavian countries are parliamentary democracies with robust capitalist economies. Economically, Yahoo Finance currently rates the five Nordic countries as among the world's 14 richest nations. Others wanting to portray Scandinavia in a negative light have tried to link these nations with suicide; but for decades, suicide rates in the Nordic Countries have actually been slightly lower than that in the United States.

In the last decade, immigration, especially from the Middle East, has become a growing problem for Scandinavia and most of Western Europe. In 2015, the Nordic Countries took in nearly 235,000 refugees with 160,000 of them going to Sweden and, since 2000, the share of the Swedish population that is foreign born has grown from 11% to 19%. In the Nordic Countries, refugees are treated well with the governments making concerted efforts to integrate newcomers into their societies. In 2019, the United States, with a population 13 times that of Scandinavia, admitted fewer than 23,000 refugees. Sadly, the U.S. government's treatment of refugees attempting to enter the U.S. in recent years under the Trump administration has been cruel and unconscionable at best. There is some reason to hope that under the Biden administration,

immigration change will be meaningful.

Denmark is a world leader in alternative energy production and development, particularly wind power, and in phasing out fossil fuel use. While American cities are struggling to introduce bicycle lanes to reduce congestion and pollution, more than half of all commuters in Copenhagen go to work by bike.

Half the size of an American house, the typical new Scandinavian home is only about 1,200 sq. ft., but is surprisingly well-built and designed with maximum functionality. Modern Scandinavian furniture is famous all over the world for its design and craftsmanship. Visitors to any of the Nordic Countries often note how well historic preservation has been coupled with high quality contemporary architecture, a happy blend of past and present.

To most foreigners, Scandinavians seem like one people. All five countries share the same design for their national flag, the Nordic Cross, but each nation's flag shows a different arrangement of colors.

After Germany re-united in the 1990s, the Capitol relocated from Bonn to Berlin, setting off a wave of new embassy construction. In a move that probably no other countries would have even considered much less managed, the five Scandinavian nations decided to pool their new individual embassies to create a larger complex now known as the Pan Nordic Building.

On a small, oddly shaped site in downtown Berlin sit five interlocked, architecturally well-integrated embassies, designed by six different architects, together with a communal building, all surrounding a common courtyard. To a visitor, the Pan Nordic Building is six structures and one at the same time, an appropriate expression of Scandinavia today, individualistic yet cooperative.

Although of Scottish heritage, Lakeville architect and landscape designer Mac Gordon considers himself at least partly Scandinavian, since much of Scotland was conquered and settled a millennium ago by Viking invaders.

OCCASIONAL OBSERVER MAC GORDON

TURNING BACK THE PAGES NORMA BOSWORTH

Continued from previous page

for the Town of North Canaan. The proposals go to a public hearing Wednesday night in Town Hall. Currently the town is one of the few in Connecticut without subdivision regulations.

FALLS VILLAGE — A surprise going away party was held this week for baseball player Terry Blass at the home of his brother Steve Blass in Canaan. About 30 people were present. Terry was presented with a warmup jacket and a purse of money. He will be leaving March 15th for Bradenton, Fla. to join his brother for spring training with the Pittsburgh Pirates organization.

25 years ago — March 1996
CORNWALL — Singer-songwriter and Cornwall property owner James Taylor applied this week for a special permit to mine his 106 acres of rolling fields along the Housatonic River for sand and gravel. The move startled his neighbor Jacqueline Strobel who reapplied for a permit to do the same thing just weeks earlier. "I don't know what to make of it," she said Tuesday. The difference between them is, Mrs. Strobel is serious about exca-

vating 70,000 cubic yards of earth, sand and stone, and Mr. Taylor is serious about stopping her. He has before.

Mr. Taylor's attorney, Leonard Blum, said "it's not Mr. Taylor's desire to mine gravel," but if Planning and Zoning issues Taylor a permit to mine there, he will sell the land to someone who does. Tuesday, the Inland Wetlands Commission decided it had no jurisdiction in the Strobel application, which goes on to Planning and Zoning now for another public hearing.

KENT — Billy Gawel of Kent was the winner in the Ice Watch on the Housatonic River but he didn't win because he guessed the time the ice would break with warming weather. The winner of the Ice Watch on the Housatonic was selected by a drawing Tuesday night rather than by the closest guess because when the contest kicked in officially Feb. 18 at midnight there was, believe it or not, no ice on the river.

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

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PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Sparrow, singing a song

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HELP WANTED

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.

IRVING FARM LOOKING FOR A TALENTED PREP COOK: Join our team at our Millerton, NY cafe. This is a full-time temporary position to cover an employee taking a leave of absence. 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, temporary. Compensation: \$16 per hour. Expected start date: March 22, 2021. Send resumes to kathy@irvingfarm.com

HELP WANTED

ISABELLA FREEDMAN JEWISH 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.

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.

GARDENING SERVICE: Busy perennial nursery seeking gardener to staffs expanding garden service. Candidates must have gardening experience, a valid driver's license and full-time availability for the 2021 season. Position may provide long-term career opportunity. Contact Tom at the Falls Village Flower Farm: 860-824-0077.

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.

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.

HELP WANTED

LAWN MAINTENANCE 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.

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.

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.

HELP WANTED

PART TIME ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK: Indian Mountain School seeks detail oriented individual, capable of multi tasking, prioritizing, and working independently to join the Business Office 20 hours per week. Responsibilities include processing accounts payable, student bank, petty cash and other office duties. Prior AP experience preferred. Experience with Quickbooks and Microsoft Office a plus. IMS offers competitive salaries, excellent benefits, and a wonderful working environment. To apply, please email: cheryl_sleboda@indianmountain.org Indian Mountain School is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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 cayne@biblio.org.

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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 chrisse@interlakeninn.com.

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WANTED

WANTED TO BUY: Collectibles, Antiques, Oddities. For Cash. Call 914-263-2917.

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.

Real Estate continued on next page.



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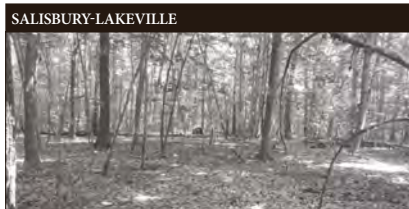
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