



# The Lakeville Journal

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

## Region One Enrollment

# Numbers have shifted

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — At the regular (and online) meeting of the Region One Board of Education on Monday, Jan. 4, Superintendent Lisa Carter reported that overall Region One enrollment has dropped by eight students since October.

Carter said that between October 2020, when school enrollments are reported, and mid-December 2020, Kent Center School had a decrease of nine students; Salisbury Central, a decrease of five students; and Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS), a decrease of 10 students.

However, the Lee H. Kellogg School in Falls Village had an increase of five students; Cornwall Consolidated School, an increase of four students; and North Canaan Elementary School, an increase of seven students.

Sharon Center School remained the same.

### Increase in home schooling

In the same period, the number of home-schooled students reported for all of Region One increased from 59 to 70.

In a phone interview Saturday, Jan. 9, Carter said that not all the students who withdrew are now being home schooled. Some families moved out of the area.

She added that the families who remain in the area and

See NUMBERS, Page A5



PHOTO BY BRIAN M. O'CONNOR

State legislators were sworn in during a chilly but relatively peaceful ceremony on Wednesday, Jan. 6. The roughly 500 protesters who came out were mostly concerned about responses to COVID-19.

## Lawmakers respond to D.C. riot In Hartford, relative peace on first day of session

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) and U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-5) issued statements condemning the Wednesday, Jan. 6, riot and breach of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

Murphy wrote, in part, on Jan. 6: "Peaceful protest is deeply patriotic. Insurrection is sedition, and those that are taking part today in the attempted takeover of the Capitol, including the destruction and desecration of our nation's temple of democracy, will be held accountable."

"But make no mistake—these traitors will not stop the

business of democracy. We will get back to the work of certifying the transfer of power as soon as possible, and we will find a way to find strength amidst this horror.

"We will rise from this dark day as a nation. I am sure of it," he concluded.

Also on Jan. 6, Hayes wrote, in part: "Today, violent rioters breached the United States Capitol Building in response to what should have been a ceremonial verification of an election. Enabled and incited by the President, and with intentions to discredit our Democracy, sow fear, and incite violence, these rioters stormed the United States Capitol. This

disgraceful mob assaulted Capitol Police officers, vandalized the floor of the United States Senate, attempted to break into the House Chamber in an armed standoff, broke Capitol windows, destroyed property and forced the campus into lockdown. The lives of my colleagues, law enforcement, Congressional staff and even the protesters were put in danger today by this assault on the rule of law."

"These actions are an affront to the American people, to our

democracy, and to the sacred nature of our electoral system. While voters have a right to be disappointed at the outcome and even a constitutional right to dispute the results, they have no right to violence or to violate the American tradition of a peaceful transfer of power.

"In my nearly 15 years of teaching American history, I could have never found the words to explain this act of sedition to my students. The

See HARTFORD, Page A5

"In this era of cable TV and the internet, people can have alternate reality fed to them 24/7."  
Kurt Andersen

## America's belief in fantasy, and how it impacts our politics

By Cynthia Hochswender

CORNWALL — Like most Americans, author and journalist Kurt Andersen spent much of the day on Wednesday, Jan. 6, watching news coverage of the protest in Washington, D.C., in which a mob pushed past police, broke windows and entered the Capitol Building.

Andersen is the author of two recent nonfiction explorations of the American character, called "Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire," published in 2017; and "Evil Geniuses: The Unmaking of America," published last year in August.

In addition to his books, Andersen is well-known for his writing in The New Yorker, for his weekly NPR radio program Studio 360 and of course for Spy magazine, which he started in 1986 with Graydon Carter — and which covered a then-iconic New York City character

See FANTASY, Page A5

## Order against causeway landowner is withdrawn

By Cynthia Hochswender

SALISBURY — The Inland Wetlands Conservation Commission withdrew its cease and correct order on a property owner who had cleared debris from part of his property without permits.

The commission voted unanimously at its online meeting on Monday, Jan. 4, following a brief "show cause" hearing.

The property in question is owned by Jeffrey Keenan. It has been at the center of controversy in recent weeks over a project he has proposed to remove 400 feet of an aban-

doned railroad causeway (for history on the railway, look for an article by Rob Buccino this week on Page A3).

Following the meeting, opponents of the project said that the vote by the commission was improper. They are seeking to force the commission to hold a new hearing, which would allow them to explain to commission members why they are concerned about Keenan's proposal.

The Inland Wetlands hearing, however, is not related to the causeway conversation.

During the show cause hearing, Keenan defended the scope of the maintenance work he had performed on his property.

"I didn't cut down any live ash trees, period," said Keenan. "The trees I took down were on

my building envelope, where there are hundreds of dead trees still out there. The only thing I removed on the top of the causeway was dead."

He told the commission that if they remove the cease and correct order he will apply for permits for any future work.

Keenan said the conservation restriction on the causeway that he must abide by (a restriction that is at the center of the ongoing controversy) is "considerably more restrictive on me than the wetland commission's rules. Right now I do have maintenance provisions within it, and The Nature Conservancy has been here and they don't have any problems at all with the work!"

See WITHDRAWN, Page A5



PHOTO BY HUNTER O. LYLE

Heather Dinneen, the Social Services Director in Cornwall, spoke briefly after receiving the Cornwall Food Pantry's donation from the FFA.

## Students give back during holiday season

By Hunter O. Lyle

FALLS VILLAGE — During the season of giving, the Housatonic Valley Regional High School chapter of the National FFA Organization donated money to multiple local nonprofit organizations.

Every year, the regional high school hosts a Holiday Store, where students sell

hundreds of Christmas trees and wreaths along with other seasonal merchandise, to raise money for trips to national conventions, competitions and other FFA sponsored activities.

This year, the chapter chose to donate \$1,500 to five organizations: the Corner Food Pantry in Lakeville, Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry in North Canaan, the Cornwall Food

Pantry, the Kent Food Bank and the Jane Lloyd Fund, an organization that's help cancer patients in the Northwest Corner.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of having these funds," said FFA President Justine Allyn, "is that it allows us to reach out and give back to a community that gives so much to us."



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# Regional

## Looking back: Specks of good news in challenging year

### In The Journal this week

OUR TOWNS .....A3 OPINION.....B3  
 OBITUARIES .....A4-5 VIEWPOINT .....B4  
 COMPASS.....A6 LEGALS .....B5  
 DONORS .....B1-2 CLASSIFIEDS.....B5-6

#### Three-day forecast

Friday.....Cloudy, high 43°/low 36°  
 Saturday.....Rain, 41°/27°  
 Sunday.....Cloudy, 37°/25°

### POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

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

#### Drove off the road

On Jan. 3 at approximately 5 p.m. on Canaan Road in Salisbury a 2005 Saturn Ion driven by Jason R. Leonard, 38, of Oxford, Conn., lost control on the wet roadway and drove off the left side of the roadway onto a rocky embankment. The Saturn was towed from the scene. Leonard was found at fault and issued an infraction for failure to drive in the proper lane, driving an unregistered vehicle and driving without a license.

#### Struck a utility pole

On Jan. 3 at approximately 7 p.m. on Route 63 in Falls Village, a 2013 Subaru Impreza driven by Annmarie Regan, 64, of Southfield, Mass., lost control and struck a utility pole. She was found at fault for the accident. Regan received a verbal warning for traveling too fast for the conditions.

#### Resisting arrest

On Jan. 6 at approximately 4:30 p.m. on Main Street in North Canaan Susanne Dixon, 49, of Falls Village was charged with criminal trespassing in the third degree, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct. She was transported to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital. She was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on Feb. 22.

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](mailto:cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com).

### Free help signing up for insurance

The Open Enrollment period for 2021 is closing on Friday, Jan. 15. Health Pathfinder is available to help people enroll in health care. Call 860-672-0043 x118 to schedule an appointment. For more information, find Health Pathfinder on Facebook or at [www.healthpathfinder.org](http://www.healthpathfinder.org).

### Correction

Michael Klemens wrote in to say he felt his views were not fully represented in a Jan. 7 article in The Lakeville Journal about an ongoing discussion of the causeway in the Twin Lakes area of Salisbury.

He felt the article left out important information on the connection between the nearby Schenob Brook ecosystem to the Twin Lake.

Klemens also said he felt his view of the project overall was not stated correctly.

"I believe that the editing made me sound completely oppositional to the plan — placing aside the issues of the easement. I am not oppositional per se; rather I want to see the science — and I believe that the problems are likely multifactorial — no single cause."

Also, the date that Klemens cited for the study was incorrect; it was released in 2017, not 2015.

June: By Memorial Day, water temperatures in the Housatonic River were at the point where wet wading was not only possible but prefer-

There was one very good thing that happened in 2020: It was the year I finally got the hang of fishing with specks.

I define "specks" as flies size 20 and smaller.

Itty bitty bugs are present on all trout waters, usually year-round. Trout eat them, and anglers using the right imitations catch the trout.

Except me. That all changed this year, when I discovered a brand of fluorocarbon tippet that worked for me. Without getting into the aquatic weeds, suddenly the practical difficulties of using specks were significantly diminished.

Meanwhile: As the pandemic lockdowns began, Gov. Ned Lamont had a brain wave, or somebody had it for him. Trout season opened about two and a half weeks ahead of schedule, with the result that in late March, when everybody else was huddled inside waiting for the end of the world, I was hauling a fat 22-inch rainbow trout out of the Blackberry River in North Canaan.

Also in March, in the no man's land between the Great Falls and the Falls Village power station, I caught a nice fat small-mouth that was probably looking for a good place to spawn, and a sinister-looking pike that would not fit in my 24-inch net. I have great respect for pike, especially for their large, sharp teeth. Also the slowly working jaw muscles. I clipped off the fly without getting my fingers anywhere near its mouth.

April: Started clambering around the little blue lines, those streams holding wild brook trout that provide great sport for those inclined to expend great physical and mental effort in pursuit of little fish.

May: More of the same, weather permitting. The rod of choice was a Cabela's CGR fiberglass 6.5 foot 4 weight, supplemented by the Dragon-tail Mizuchi zoom tenkara or fixed-line rod.

June: By Memorial Day, water temperatures in the Housatonic River were at the point where wet wading was not only possible but prefer-



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

This Blackberry River rainbow was caught at Beckley Furnace in North Canaan in early April with a heavy squirmy red worm fly tied by Harold McMillan at Housatonic River Outfitters. The fish was returned to the water unharmed.

### TANGLED LINES

PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

able. The trout were heading into their summertime Witness Protection mode, so I targeted small-mouth bass.

July: It was not a terrific small-mouth year on the Hous. I didn't catch many, and when I did, they were larger than my usual clients. Almost completely absent were the dinkers, the green-colored juvenile fish that are usually so ubiquitous as to qualify as a nuisance.

August: The little blue lines were out of contention, as we experienced drought conditions. So I floated around a lake and caught large-mouth bass, gave a couple of lessons, and generally loafed.

September: Got a fair bit of time in on the Esopus in Ulster County, N.Y. Caught more and bigger rainbows than usual.

October: Still giving the blue lines a pass, I took advantage of the fall trout stocking on the Blackberry to practice my speck technique. This was supplemented by a couple of all-too-brief trips to the Esopus,

where the specks produced on pickier trout.

November: Pretty much wound things up where the season started, on the humble and hard-fished Blackberry.

December: With the blue lines back in play, made a couple of forays to the Stream That Shall Not Be Named, to see if the speck treatment would work in that setting. It did, but the wild brookies seemed more interested in big bushy flies that are bigger than their mouths.

Then it snowed, and I reluctantly put most of the fishing gear away.

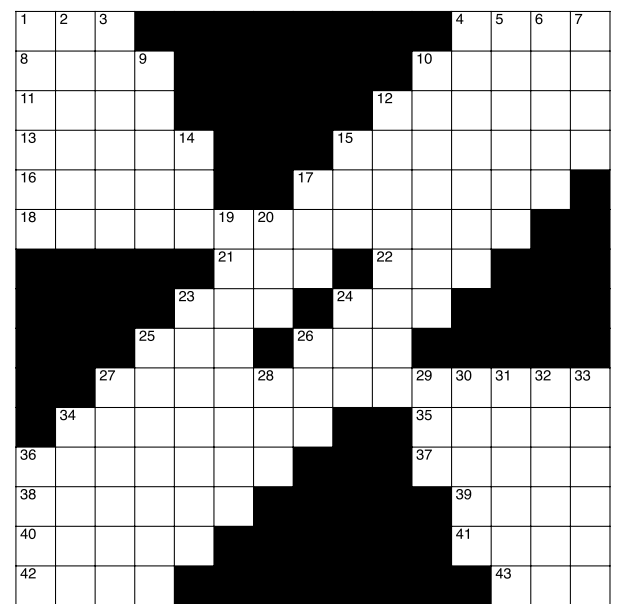
## Brain Teasers

#### CLUES ACROSS

- Adequate yearly progress (abbr.)
- Silicon Valley's specialty
- Gather a harvest
- Famed mathematician
- No (slang)
- Students use one
- Type of molecule
- Play make-believe
- Large barrel-like containers
- Touching
- Treats allergies
- Calendar month
- Single
- Cease to live
- Brew
- What ghosts say
- Geological time
- Focus
- Discomfort
- A citizen of Iran
- Trip
- Imitate
- Makes happy
- Double-reed instrument
- Body parts
- Transgressions
- One-time emperor of Russia
- Time zone

#### CLUES DOWN

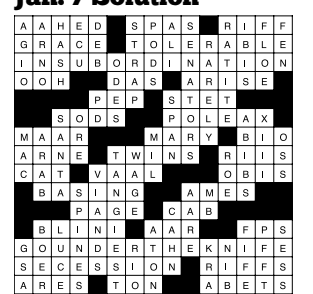
- Used in treating bruises
- One who cultivates a small estate
- One who supports the Pope
- Annuity
- Geological period
- Grab onto tightly
- Kept
- Chinese city
- The most direct route
- Type of tooth
- \_\_\_ kosh, near Lake Winnebago
- Popular veggie
- Supervises interstate commerce
- Foolish behaviors
- Witness



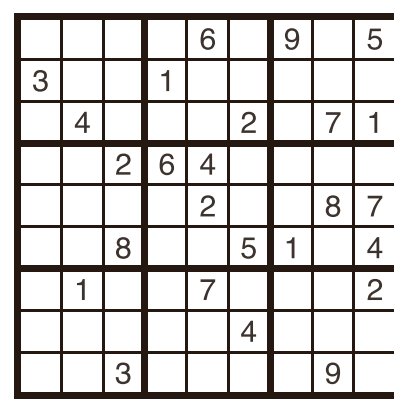
- Gives
- Expression of creative skill
- A way to prop up
- Midway between northeast and east
- Winter melon
- Supernatural power
- Target
- Threes
- A type of poetic verse
- They make some people cry
- Kindest
- Forman and Ventimiglia are two
- A way to liquefy

Look for the solution in next week's issue.

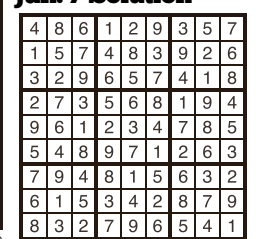
#### Jan. 7 Solution



#### Sudoku



#### Jan. 7 Solution



Level: Intermediate



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### Correcting Errors

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

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

Check them out inside.

• CVS

## Emergency Department at Winsted Health Center is Moving

**MONDAY, JANUARY 18** the Emergency Department at 115 Spencer Street is moving to the new Hartford HealthCare HealthCenter at **80 South Main Street, Winsted**, at the corner of Routes 8 & 44.

The ED hours remain 9AM – 9PM, 7 days a week  
 There will be no interruption in service.



[Charlottehungerford.org/emergency](http://Charlottehungerford.org/emergency)



# Our Towns

## The history of the CNE Railroad and the Twin Lakes causeway

By Rob Buccino

To Salisbury residents, it must have been like a miracle. Seemingly overnight, travel to North Canaan village became a 20-minute ride over smooth steel rails instead of an hours-long trek on foot, horseback or oxcart over rutted dirt roads and steep hills. Fresh milk from Salisbury farms could now reach markets in Hartford, as could iron from the forges in the Salisbury village that is known now as Taconic (then called Chapinville), lead from Ancram in New York State and, within a few years, anthracite coal all the way from mines in Pennsylvania.

It was Dec. 21, 1871, and the railroad had finally reached Connecticut's Northwest Corner.

There has been a disagreement over whether a Twin Lakes rail causeway, once part of a rail lifeline vital to New England's growth, should be removed. In that conversation, it's worth understanding the transformative impact that the Central New England Railroad (or CNE) had on local lives.

Just two years earlier, America's East and West coasts had been joined by rail at Promontory Summit, Utah — a triumph of engineering comprising thousands of miles of trestles, tunnels and track.

### East-west railway visionaries

East-west railways in America had always posed a challenge: In contrast to north-south travel following the gentle descents of major waterways, east-west routes had to overcome steep mountain ridges and needed lengthy trusses to cross wide rivers.

Visionaries saw promise in linking the Connecticut and Hudson rivers, but according to an account written in 1967 by Charles Milmine, "in going across the state, the steep grades and circuitous routes necessary made a railroad seem impracticable." Steam locomotives hauling trains struggled to ascend 3% grades, ones that today's automobiles climb with ease.

Among the railway visionaries was former Connecticut Gov. A. H. Holley, who lived in Lakeville. He joined with Egbert T. Butler of Norfolk and other investors who, after obtaining a charter from the state, tasked surveyors to find a suitable east-west rail route across northern Connecticut. A team from Lakeville set out in November 1867 to survey from the New York state line to Winsted. A similar survey team blazed a trail to Collinsville.

The rail venture broke ground in October 1869, and the first train from Hartford arrived with great fanfare in Lakeville on Dec. 21, 1871, carrying 20 passengers and their luggage.

Freight trains would come to dominate traffic on the new line, with three-fold greater



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SALISBURY ASSOCIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The photo of two unidentified women on shore with the Twin Lakes causeway in the background is a view shown from the Miles property.

tonnage carried from west to east then vice versa. Suddenly cheaper coal, cattle, lumber, grain and flour from the West were available to industry and families in Salisbury, North Canaan, Winsted, New Hartford and points east as far as Boston.

With the opening of the magnificent Poughkeepsie Rail Bridge in January 1889 — the first to span the Hudson below Troy, N.Y., and the second-longest bridge in the world at the time — Hartford was connected via CNE rails without interruption to points south of New York City, shaving hundreds of miles and many hours off southward journeys.

### Shopping trips and summer fun

Rail meant recreation as well as commerce. On the passenger side, access to Twin Lakes and Lake Wononscopomuc in Salisbury and Rudd Pond in Millerton by rail made these places highly desirable destinations for day-trippers eager for picnicking, boating, camping and other outdoor opportunities.

The CNE advertised special train excursions to the lakes. Besides stations in Salisbury and North Canaan, CNE stations were built at Taconic and Washining, which is the easternmost Twin Lake and is known as East Twin. The western lake, known as Lake Washinee, is known as West Twin.

A website devoted to train history says that, "In regard to the Washining station ... about 1910, the east shore of Twin Lakes experienced a building boom and several influential men built quite elaborate cottages and landscaped their grounds. Among them were two wholesale druggists from Philadelphia and an insurance executive from Hartford, Charles S. Blake.

"During the construction these men persuaded the railroad to install a siding and many cars of materials were unloaded at this point, which was adjacent to the highway leading to the east shore of Twin Lakes from North Ca-

naan at the crossing."

The Washining station wasn't even the biggest station, according to Twin Lakes resident and railway historian Richard Paddock.

"Twin Lakes station was the station that served the majority of the summer trade," he said. "The Washining station was only a flag stop — a small shed where one could put out a flag to signal a train to stop.

"Twin Lakes station (on Between the Lakes Road) was a real station, complete with a siding for freight. Nearby was a store and a seasonal post office that formed the center of the summer colony."

Shoppers saw new opportunities by riding the rails. A Connecticut Western News article said, "People from this region can now go to Hartford in the morning and, having five hours there, can return to their homes in the early evening."

### The news of the world

Perhaps as important as passengers and freight, however, was news that now raced along the CNE corridor. Mail trains brought newspapers as well as correspondence, and townspeople followed mail bags from train station to post office to get the latest. Telegraph lines erected for rail traffic management also brought news of election results, horse races, international catastrophes and other events to our small towns with unprecedented speed. For the Northwest Corner, CNE rail shrunk the world.

### The trestle over West Twin Lake

One of the widest bodies of water the line needed to traverse was Washinee, the westernmost of the Twin Lakes. The solution engineered was a long trestle. A Nov. 4, 1965, article by Geoffrey Merriss in The Lakeville Journal noted that, "For many years there was a wooden trestle bridge connecting the Taconic and Twin Lakes stations, and one of the largest construction projects of the CNE took place in 1904, when work trains filled the trestles

with a cinder causeway across Lake Washinee," or West Twin.

This viaduct combined with a much shorter bridge at the bottom of Washining (East Twin).

With as many as 10 passenger trains and more freight trains passing through each day, these structures saw constant use. From his perch in the "kitchen" of his locomotive as it crossed the causeway, an operator was the first to see and report the fire that burned the storied Scoville mansion to the ground in 1917.

Today, all that remains to honor the vision of the CNE's creators and their achievements is a line of grass-covered roadbeds, with a stone bridge abutment or archway visible here and there, and the echoes of the steam locomotive's whistle in the memories of a few local nonagenarians (and the imaginations of the many rail buffs who live here or make history pilgrimages here).

The line never achieved financial success, enduring a series of bankruptcies, mergers, name changes and eventually abandonment as a victim of excessive competition, robber-baron capitalism and the triumph of the automobile. Passenger traffic ended in December 1927.

The final freight haul crept along Salisbury's remaining rails in 1965. Still, visitors to the causeway today can imagine crinolined picnickers descending from wooden coaches, dusting cinders from their hats, and marveling at the ways their world was changing before their eyes.

*Special thanks to the Salisbury Association, whose publication "The Central New England Railroad" (1972), still available, provided much of the information for this article.*

*Oral histories recorded and archived at the Salisbury Association Historical Society include reminiscences by local residents about the railroad era and its impact. Historic issues of The Lakeville Journal and Western Connecticut News can be found online through the Scoville Memorial Library at <http://scoville.advantage-preservation.com>.*

## Seeking safety upgrades on river

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Salisbury First Selectman Curtis Rand told the Board of Selectmen that there will be a meeting of town, state and power company officials in February to discuss the overcrowding on the Housatonic River last summer and what steps to take for the summer of 2021.

The selectmen held their regular monthly meeting Monday, Jan. 4 (on Zoom).

Rand said the situation at the Great Falls over the summer was "pretty abominable."

"And it kept getting worse."

Problems with the unusually high number of visitors included crowds, garbage disposal, noise, traffic, parking and "rudeness," Rand said.

He said he had many conversations with First Light, the power company that owns the Great Falls area, but those discussions were not very helpful.

Rand outlined what he would like to see for the summer of 2021, including persuading First Light to keep all their recreational sites open along the river to the south, and not just the Great Falls.

Selectman Chris Williams observed that most state parks were closed as well, putting additional pressure on the Great Falls as people sought heat relief and recreation.

Rand said that installing "really good, bear-proof dumpsters" would help with the trash problem. He also advocated for more signs, in multiple languages, and more overall oversight of the Great Falls area.

Selectman Don Mayland said, "At some point there is

going to be a disaster there," referring to inexperienced swimmers getting injured at the falls. There have been several drownings at the Great Falls and on the Housatonic River in Kent in recent years.

### Pope property update

The selectmen accepted the report of the Pope committee, which deals with a large parcel of town-owned land in Salisbury.

The report wasn't quite ready, however. Committee chair Tom Callahan said some revisions were necessary and would be sent shortly.

The committee was charged with gathering information from town boards, commissions and interested parties on possible uses for the property. It last met in November 2019.

Jim Dresser, a member of the Affordable Housing Commission who was on the committee, said he was not happy or satisfied with part of the report, or with the process that created the report.

Rand said the next step is to have the various boards and commissions take a look at the report.

He noted that the report contains findings, not recommendations. "Nothing gets decided without a lot of input from the town."

The report will be on the town website.

### Road safety

Rand reported that flashing beacons for pedestrian crossings in the center of Salisbury village and at The White Hart have been designed and the state Department of Transportation is working on them.

## Changing life in Salisbury due to real estate sales

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — At the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Monday, Jan. 4 (on Zoom), First Selectman Curtis Rand and town Comptroller Joe Cleaveland said that Town Hall workers have been "overwhelmed" by the paperwork generated by the unusually high number of house and property sales in 2020. The work load has "exploded," he said.

"We need some assistance."

The plan is to add a full-time administrative assistant to help department heads at Town Hall.

Rand said he was on board, and Selectman Chris Williams added, "I don't think people realize how much change there's been in the last six months."

Williams said not only are properties changing hands more often, but the new owners want to modify their new properties.

Cleaveland said the newcomers also want information in general, and the new administrative assistant will help with upgrading the town website.

Rand wound the meeting up by saying that, in response to complaints about some street lights being too bright, four shades have been ordered.

## Tax extension in effect in North Canaan until April 1

By Leila Hawken

NORTH CANAAN — Discussing the recent Governor's Executive Order allowing tax payment deferrals, the Board of Selectmen acted to extend for three months the Jan. 1 payment deadline at their regular meeting on Monday, Jan. 4, conducted by Zoom.

Taxes that would have been due on Jan. 1 will have the new due date of April 1, 2021. Such payments will not be subject to late interest if payment is made on or before April 1, First Selectman Charles Perotti said.

The extension is not automatic nor is it available to all taxpayers. Eligible taxpayers must document that they themselves are suffering from the impact of COVID-19 or

that they are providing relief to people who are significantly affected.

Taxpayers seeking to participate in the program should contact Town Hall for information.

### COVID testing dates

Perotti announced that the town currently has eight COVID-19 cases reported.

Additional COVID-19 testing opportunities have been scheduled, Perotti's office announced later in the week. Upcoming dates for drive-up testing at the town hall parking lot are Thursdays: Jan. 14, 21 and 28, 1 to 4 p.m. No registration is necessary, but forms will be available to be completed before testing.

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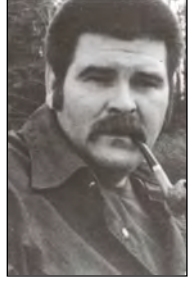
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## Edward R. Davis

LAKEVILLE — Edward R. Davis of Hampton, N.H., died on Dec. 27, 2020, at Portsmouth Regional Hospital, N.H., following complications from a major stroke. Ted was 77 years young, born in Haverhill, Mass., to the late Grace E. (Dusseault) and Emery E. Davis.



ing gatherings, his family, boat trips and more. He always offered a drink with plenty of food to follow, and could always be counted on to have a set schedule and a plan.

Ted was a master at withholding and a man that bestowed a good heart with decent intentions. He gave the biggest "Bear Hugs" and his love as fully as he was capable.

"My dad's life has ended too early. The kind of early that didn't allow him to see his grandchildren graduate from high school or to meet his newest great-grandson, Remington... the kind of early that didn't allow for visits because of COVID. There is a sense of great loss, especially for my sister not being able to spend time with him during these last 10 months and to have him die alone. It is a true blessing that my father's heart stopped. The stroke eliminated his speech center. Knowing my father, this post-stroke condition would have been prison like for him and I believe he knew this." —Aimee D. Davis

Ted shared 39 years of marriage with his wife Betsey A. (Squire) Davis.

Ted is survived by Betsey, his two daughters, Katharine A. Gates (50) and her husband, Shad, and Aimee D. Davis (47) and her partner, Israel Fitch; five grandchildren and their beloveds, Michael W. Hogan, Kevin D. Chassi, Riley J. Davis-Gagnon, Bennett Gates, and Elise Gates; and two great-grandchildren, Lillian and Remington Hogan. Also survived by Ted are Betsey's children, Chris Lamie and his wife, Jen, Sue Lamie and her husband, Steve; he was preceded in death by Daniel P. Lamie. Immediate surviving family are brother Bob Davis, his wife, Nancy, and his two nephews, Jeffrey and Andrew Davis.

Come spring (and with hopefully with less COVID impact), a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in Hampton; and a Celebration of Life will be held in Lakeville. Dates are TBA. The family requests remembrances (photos, written memories or tributes) of Ted to be sent to Aimee at connectandbalance@gmail.com, so they may be shared at the spring celebrations.

Donations may be sent to the Salisbury Ambulance Service, P.O. Box 582, Salisbury, CT 06068; or to the Hampton Area Lions Club, P.O. Box 1088 Hampton, NH 03842 to honor Mr. Edward R. Davis.

Edward R. Davis, aka: ERD, T, Ted, Dad, Senior Daddo, Papster, Grampy, Grampster, Coach, Mr. Davis, lived a full life. He had an endless library of passionate stories about being a 10-year veteran lifeguard on Hampton Beach, fishing escapades with his comrades on the Northeast Coast, cooking for the Cajun Queen at major raceways across the USA, EMT calls for SVAS, holiday weekend and shopping with his favorite people, wins and losses from his college days through countless championships on the fields and mats of Hotchkiss and Philips Exeter.

Ted found great joy in host-

## OBITUARIES

### Gary Robert Boyles

DOVER PLAINS — Gary Robert Boyles, 64, a 20-year resident of Dover Plains and formerly of Wassaic and Amenia, died unexpectedly on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021, at Vassar Bros. Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.



Gary retired from the Dutchess County Department of Public Works, Highway Division on Nov. 10, 2012, where he had worked as an equipment operator and truck driver for over three decades.

Born Dec. 22, 1956, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Robert "Big Bob" and Beverly J. (Killmer) Boyles of Wassaic.

He attended Immaculate Conception School and Webutuck High School in Amenia.

On May 18, 2002, in Lithgow, he married Donna Marie Matero. Mrs. Boyles survives in Dover Plains.

Gary was a former member and past lieutenant of the Wassaic Fire Company and was an avid Minnesota Twins and Minnesota Vikings fan.

He will be dearly missed by his family and friends and they will also miss his daily weather reports and talking sports.

In addition to his wife, Gary is survived by his grand-

daughter, Destiny Kitzweger; four stepchildren, Jennifer Dugas and her husband, Tom, of Salt Point, N.Y., Trisha Davis of Monticello, N.Y., Kim Lawrence and her wife, Kelly, of Saugerties, N.Y., and Stephen Lawrence of Vermont; his sister, Judith Curtis and her husband, Sherrill, of Amenia; his brother, Robert Boyles Jr. and his companion, Carolyn Bosley, of Wassaic; a niece, Jessica Ackerman of Wassaic; and a nephew, Russell Boyles of Wassaic.

In addition to his parents, he was also predeceased by his sister, Margaret E. "Peggy" Ackerman of Wassaic; and a nephew, Chadd M. Ackerman of Wassaic.

Graveside services and burial were held Jan. 12, 2021, at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia, the Rev. Robert K. Wilson officiating.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Wassaic Fire Company, P.O. Box 287, Wassaic, NY 12592.

To send an online condolence, go to [www.conklinfuneralhome.com](http://www.conklinfuneralhome.com).

## Christine (Cahill) Cashman

MILLERTON — Christine (Cahill) Cashman, 50, died suddenly at her home in Rhinebeck on Jan. 5, 2021.



Formerly of Millerton and Mills River, N.C., Christine was the daughter of Peter Cahill of Little River, S.C., and Helen Andrews Valentine of Millerton.

She was a graduate of Webutuck Central School and Johnson & Wales University. She had worked at Community at Brookmeade in Rhinebeck.

Throughout her life she found happiness in traveling, the beach, music, dancing, her beloved dog Layla, her special gift of caring for others and the love of her family.

In addition to her parents, Christine is survived by two daughters, Katherine "Kate" Cashman of Asheville, N.C., and Emila "Emi" Cashman of Mills River; a sister, Amanda Katherine Schillig and her

husband, Matt; a niece, Izabel, and a nephew, Elijah, of Blacklick, Ohio; and two half-brothers, Todd and Adam Cahill.

A visiting hour will take place on Saturday, Jan. 16, from 10 to 11 a.m. at Faith Bible Chapel of Shekomeko, 222 Silver Mountain Road in Millerton. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., the Rev. William Mayhew officiating. Burial will take place privately at the Andrews family plot in Irondale Cemetery at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Dutchess County SPCA, 636 Violet Ave., Hyde Park, NY 12538; or to the American Heart Association, 301 Manchester Road, Suite #105, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

To send an online condolence, go to [www.conklinfuneralhome.com](http://www.conklinfuneralhome.com).

### Worship Services

Week of January 17, 2021

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

<p><b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b> 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10am <a href="http://www.salisburyucc.org">www.salisburyucc.org</a> Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p><b>Falls Village Congregational Church</b> 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</p>
<p><b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b> 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on You-Tube <a href="http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org">www.stjohnssalisbury.org</a> 860-435-9290</p>	<p><b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b> 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 <a href="http://www.christchurchsharon.org">www.christchurchsharon.org</a></p>
<p><b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b> 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 &amp; LOAVES Food Pantry and CLOSETS for clothing Tuesdays from 5 to 7 and Thursdays from noon to 2 <a href="http://www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational">www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational</a></p>	<p><b>Greenwoods Community Church</b> 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 <a href="http://www.greenwoodschurch.com">www.greenwoodschurch.com</a></p>
<p><b>The Sharon United Methodist Church</b> 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 <a href="mailto:sharonumc5634@att.net">sharonumc5634@att.net</a></p>	<p><b>St. Thomas Episcopal Church</b> 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 <a href="http://www.stthomasamenia.com">www.stthomasamenia.com</a> A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p><b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b> 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! <a href="http://www.promisedlandbaptist.org">www.promisedlandbaptist.org</a></p>	<p><b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock Virtual Sunday service 10:30 AM Trinity Lime Rock Facebook page Virtual Coffee Hour &amp; Bible Study Rev. Heidi Truax <a href="mailto:trinity@trinitylimerock.org">trinity@trinitylimerock.org</a> (860) 435-2627 <a href="http://www.trinitylimerock.org">www.trinitylimerock.org</a></p>
<p><b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b> Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9am Email Rev. Mary Gates at: <a href="mailto:mngates125@gmail.com">mngates125@gmail.com</a> 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!</p>	<p><b>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT</b> Join our virtual service on Sunday, February 14 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at <a href="mailto:jokialuoi@gmail.com">jokialuoi@gmail.com</a> All are Welcome</p>
<p><b>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</b> 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. <a href="http://www.thsmithfieldchurch.org">www.thsmithfieldchurch.org</a> 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p><b>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</b> 519 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 <a href="mailto:Lakevillemethodist@snet.net">Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</a></p>
<p><b>Sharon Congregational Church</b> 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Visit our website <a href="http://sharoncongregationalchurch.org">sharoncongregationalchurch.org</a> for current online sermons. Bible Study Guides also available by request: <a href="mailto:info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org">info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</a> Or contact us at 860-364-5002</p>	<p><b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b> Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 am, Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p><b>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH</b> 860-927-3003 The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge MASS SCHEDULE SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart WEEKDAY MASSES Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday &amp; First Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart Face masks required</p>	<p><b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b> 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 <a href="mailto:canaanct-umc.com">canaanct-umc.com</a> <a href="mailto:canaanctumc@gmail.com">canaanctumc@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Millerton United Methodist Church</b> 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st &amp; 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:30 A.M. 518-789-3138</p>	

### John W. McMullan

SALISBURY — John W. McMullan, 80, of Salisbury and Selbyville, Del., passed away in the loving care of his wife, Barbara, and Seasons Hospice at his Selbyville home on Jan. 3, 2021.



He fought a year-long battle with pancreatic cancer with integrity and grit.

He was born on Dec. 4, 1940, to the late Frank A. and Elizabeth McMullan in New Haven, Conn.

John was a very unique and versatile man with many diverse accomplishments. He was a retired Spanish instructor at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville and Millbrook School in Millbrook, and a textbook author. John coached wrestling and field hockey at Hotchkiss. He served on the Board of Recording for the Blind and he worked in a leadership position for Educational Testing Service for the grading of the Spanish Advanced Placement Examinations.

He loved '60s tunes and doo-wop music. He also enjoyed fishing and travel.

He was greatly influenced by his father, who taught directing, at the Yale School of Drama and developed his longtime passion for the Spanish language and culture when living with his family in Santiago, Chile, where his father directed and taught theater.

John was a demanding teacher and was considered a master teacher by his colleagues and students.

Most recently in Delaware,

John was involved with a men's singing group and a weekly writing group. His Delaware friends shared: "Our community is bereft of a man with dignity, humor and intelligence in a time when we need more like him rather than less."

John is survived by his wife and companion of 31 years, Barbara S. Gatski; and his children, Elizabeth S. McMullan, Daniel F. McMullan, Jenna L. Gatski Einstein and her husband, Matthew T. Einstein, and Megan L. Gatski and her husband, Nathan S. Ivey; his grandchildren, Arthur John (AJ) Conrad, Andrew Y. Ivey and Stella C. Ivey. Other family members are his brother, David F. McMullan and wife Eileen Wheeler, of Cambridge, N.Y.; his nephews, Sean F. McMullan and wife Alice, Kirk W. McMullan, Matthew Interis and his wife Alba Collart; and four great-nieces, Sarah E. McMullan, Kaelyn H. McMullan, Emily S. McMullan and Lillian P. McMullan.

John is also survived by his beloved, beautiful canine companion, Millie, who was at his side when he passed away, and is an important part of the family.

Due to the coronavirus restrictions, a memorial service will be planned at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to Scholarship Assistance at Hamilton College, 198 College Hill Road, Clinton, NY 12223, which can also be found on-line at [hamilton.edu/give](http://hamilton.edu/give).

### Domenico Macchi

NORTH CANAAN — Domenico Macchi, 84, passed away on Jan. 6, 2021, surrounded by family and friends.

Domenic was born on April 23, 1936, in Sheffield, Mass., the son of the late Mary and Rinaldo Macchi.

Domenic grew up in Sheffield and moved to North Canaan, where he and his beloved wife, Rosemary, raised their family.

Domenic owned a local produce store and he was very active in St. Joseph's Parish. Domenic was a dedicated member of the Knights of Columbus.

During his retired years, he was very active in the commu-

nity and was always volunteering and selling raffle tickets for many town organizations and charities.

Domenic was predeceased by his brother, Richard Macchi; and sister, Angeline Smith.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Rosemary; his three sons, Scott, Russell and Kevin; his grandchildren, Matthew, Samantha, Shelby and Tesla Macchi and William Poley; his sister, Sophie Miller; numerous nieces and nephews; and a community of friends and fellow Knights of Columbus brothers.

Services will be held later this year.

For more obituaries, see Page A5.

In Loving Memory of  
**Jeffery Jay Petkovich**  
May 12, 1968 to January 20, 1990

Sadly missed along life's way,  
Quietly remembered every day...  
No longer in our life to share,  
But in our hearts, you're always there.

You are deeply loved:  
Mom, Jamie, Nonnie

In Loving Memory of  
**Peter C. Roosa**  
October 12, 1950 to January 11, 2019

Time slips by and life goes on  
But from our hearts you're never gone.  
We think about you always, we talk about you too, we have so many memories but we wish we still had you.

You are deeply loved:  
Phyllis, Jamie, Nonnie,  
The Petkovich and Roosa Family

OBITUARIES

David Scott Helming

SHARON — On Jan. 10, 2021, David Scott Helming, 71, passed away from complications due to COVID.

David was born in Waterbury, Conn., on March 6, 1949, the eldest of six children of Agnes (Anthony) and Fred W. Helming.

A 1967 graduate of Kennedy High in Waterbury, he captained the men's swim team, and swam for the Waterbury YMCA, garnering many records that still stand today. He attended Rutgers University, graduating in 1971, where he was a member and officer in the Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity, a varsity member of the Rutgers University Men's Swimming Team, and a member of the Reserve Officers Training Corps.

After graduation David pursued a career in insurance, settling in Sharon for a short time, then many happy years in his beloved Maine. He contributed extensively to the United Way in Portland, Maine, where he worked for the UNUM Insurance Company.

David loved the ocean and boating and had a beach cottage on Southport Island for many years. He was a member of the Southport Yacht Club, and served as Commodore from 1990 – 1992.

In 1995 he returned to Sharon, where he worked for the Prindle and Ericson insurance

companies, and lived until his retirement in 2019.

He chaired the Republican Town Committee, and was a former president of the Sharon Lions Club. He moved to Sun City, S.C., with his wife, Lill, where he pursued a variety of interests and passions.

David was predeceased by his father; and a brother, John.

He is survived by his loving wife of 16 years, Lill; his mother; his brothers and sisters-in-law, Bill and Peg Helming of Southport, Maine, James and Kathy Helming of Portland, Maine, and Tom and Mary Helming of Somerville, Mass.; a sister and brother-in-law, Susan and Chester of Charleton, Mass.; his son and daughter-in-law, Andrew and Amanda Helming of Hingham, Mass.; his daughter, Sarah Helming of Portland, Maine; many nieces, nephews and cousins; and his beloved grandchildren, Caroline, Teddy and Grayson.

Dave will never be forgotten; he was a sincere, sensitive, kind man who made the world a better place by shining and sharing his light with everyone he knew. He was beloved by all.

A Celebration of Life will be held when all can gather. His ashes will be buried and scattered in his cherished Southport waters, in a small family ceremony.



Frank C. Bartle

SHEFFIELD — Frank C. Bartle, 70, of Sheffield died peacefully in his home on Dec. 18, 2020, surrounded by loved ones.

He was born July 14, 1950, in Sharon to Janet and John Bartle.

He received his education from the Oliver Wolcott school in Torrington. Frank was a jack of all trades, spent most of his working life as a freelance carpenter.

Frank's greatest love, aside from his partner, Harmony, was the great outdoors. Whether he spent the day at the perfect tag sale, searching the woods for a set of antlers or riding his motorcycle, he never missed an opportunity to seize the day.

He is survived by his life partner, Harmony Twing, and

her children, Melanie Wickwire and her boyfriend, Scott, Chris Wickwire and his girlfriend, Billie-Jo, Shawna Martel and her husband, Jeremy, and Stacy Twing and her fiancé, Matt. He is survived by an abundance of grandchildren, Chloe, Kaylee, Christopher, Ciarra, Amaya, Karter, Gerard, Jordyn and Nathyn; his siblings, Janice Allyn, June Dziennis, Jennifer Richards, Tom and Sally Bartle, Jill Hill, William Bartle, Jean and Bob Mangione and Jerry Bartle; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was predeceased by his mother, Janet Dietter Bartle; his father, John Bartle Sr.; and his siblings, Joel Bartle, Judi Roy and John Bartle Jr.

There are no services to be held at this time.

For more obituaries, see Page A4.

NUMBERS

Continued from Page A1

opted for homeschooling didn't do so out of dissatisfaction with what Region One schools offer for distance learning, but because they have the time and ability to give their children one-on-one attention.

Carter reported to the board that the federal Families First Coronavirus Relief Act (FFCRA) was not renewed by Congress in the larger pandemic relief bill that passed in December.

The FFCRA mandated paid leave for employees who must quarantine due to COVID-19 and/or remain home with children due to school or child-care facility closings.

Carter said that Region One has been relatively lucky in that nobody has become "terribly ill," and those teachers who did have to quarantine "immediately pivoted to teleworking."

Carter said discussions with the faculty associations at the seven Region One schools will be ongoing, and noted that it is possible the new Congress and/or the Biden administration could renew the FFCRA.

"Nobody knows what's coming."

On the phone Jan. 9, Carter expanded a bit, saying that the Region One teachers have been "wonderful" in working with her and the Region One principals — and in avoiding the clashes between administrators and teachers unions elsewhere in the state and in the country.

Student Enrollment by School - Mid-December 2020

School District	Total Students 2020-2021 (as of 8/31/20)	Total Students (as of 12/21/2020)	Difference (8/31/20 and 12/21/20)
Canaan - Lee H. Kellogg School	68	73	+5
Cornwall - Cornwall Consolidated School	103	107	+4
Kent - Kent Center School	212	203	-9
North Canaan - North Canaan Elementary School	247	254	+7
Region 1 - Housatonic Valley Regional High School	323	313	-10
Salisbury - Salisbury Central School	316	311	-5
Sharon	109	109	0
Total	1378	1370	-8

Home-Schooled Students in Region 1 - Mid-December 2020

School District	Number of Homeschooled Students 2019	Number of Homeschooled Students October 2020	Number of Homeschooled Students December 2020
Canaan - Lee H. Kellogg School	9	11	12
Cornwall - Consolidated School	0	5	5
Kent - Kent Center School	2	8	10
North Canaan - Canaan Elementary School	8	9	10
Region 1 - Housatonic Valley Regional High School	9	14	18
Salisbury - Salisbury Central School	2	6	9
Sharon - Sharon Center School	0	6	6
Total	30	59	70

CHARTS COURTESY REGION ONE

Concerns about COVID testing

At the start of the Jan. 4 meeting, a parent from Cornwall asked about rapid testing for COVID-19 in the region.

Carter said the available rapid test is an antigen test, which does not give reliable results for individuals without symptoms.

She said that Region One parents have been diligent about keeping their children home if they show the slightest sign of illness, and that given "our scarcity of human resources," she decided not to use them on an unreliable test.

Progress on school budgets

Business manager Sam Her-rick said the budget subcommittee (with John Sanders of Cornwall, Stacie Weiner of Salisbury and Jenn Duncan of Kent) has been meeting. Her-rick said the process is not as far along as usual because "there are a lot of uncertainties," but he was confident that a budget proposal would be ready for the normal process that culminates with a region-wide referendum vote in the rest week of May.

HARTFORD

Continued from Page A1

damage that this President and these rioters have done to our democracy is incomprehensible. The work of repairing the chasms in our electorate and faith in our republic rests squarely on our shoulders."

On Jan. 7 Hayes also called for the removal of Pres. Donald J. Trump, either by invoking the 25th Amendment or impeachment.

Quieter in Hartford

It was a different and calmer scene at the state Capitol building in Hartford earlier on Jan. 6, as members of the Connecticut General Assembly gathered outside to be sworn in.

The decision was made to perform the ceremony outside in order to maintain social distance.

FANTASY

Continued from Page A1

named Donald Trump, whom the magazine tagged as a "short-fingered vulgarian."

Andersen is now a Cornwall resident, with his wife, Anne Kreamer.

Living in a P.T. Barnum world

In "Fantasyland," Andersen explored how Americans are susceptible to what he calls "exciting falsehoods."

In an article about the book in "The Atlantic" magazine, he explains that, "America was created by true believers and passionate dreamers, and by hucksters and their suckers, which made America successful — but also by a people uniquely susceptible to fantasy, as epitomized by everything from Salem's hunting witches to Joseph Smith's creating Mormonism, from P. T. Barnum to speaking in tongues, from Hollywood to Scientology to conspiracy theories, from Walt Disney to Billy Graham to Ronald Reagan to Oprah Winfrey to Trump. In other words: Mix epic individualism with extreme religion; mix show business with everything else; let all that ferment for a few centuries; then run it through the anything-goes '60s and the internet age.

"The result is the America we inhabit today, with reality and fantasy weirdly and dangerously blurred and commingled."

What had been a tendency in the early centuries of the country grew into more of a central tenet of American life

There were protesters at the state Capitol too, estimated at 500. Those protesters seemed more focused on COVID-19 issues than on the federal election.

State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) said Capitol police did a good job of keeping the demonstrators separated from the legislators and generally maintaining order.

The police couldn't do anything about lung power, however. Horn said it was difficult to hear the speeches, and lawmakers subsequently went back to their offices and heard the speeches again online, as well as a prerecorded message from Gov. Ned Lamont (D).

"We definitely heard them," Horn said, referring to the protesters.

State Sen. Craig Miner

(R-30) said he wasn't particularly happy with the outside arrangement, for the obvious reason: It was cold and windy.

He also thought having the legislators gathered with their backs to the protesters was an unfortunate look from a symbolic standpoint, as well as from a safety perspective. He said the demonstrators were about 25 or 30 yards away from the legislators, with the police in between.

Miner said he thought the senators, at least, could have been sworn in indoors on the Senate side of the building, where there is "plenty of room."

"It would have been safer — and warmer."

The ceremonies, such as they were, wound up around 12:30 p.m., well before events

spiraled out of control in Washington.

Looking ahead to the session, Horn said there is a longer deadline (Jan. 22) than usual for submitting bills and added that the Legislature is still largely reliant on paper copies, despite the increased use of digital technology over the previous year in response to pandemic restrictions on in-person meetings.

Miner said he spent most of Friday, Jan. 8, watching Environment Committee business in 20-minute chunks on his cell phone. He said the procedure worked reasonably well and is an improvement in one respect: People wishing to address the committee can do so from home, rather than traveling to Hartford.

in the 1960s, after the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Andersen said in an interview on Thursday, Jan. 7.

"Fantasyland," he said, "was about general American irrationality, and it ends with politics, and with Donald Trump becoming president."

How a tendency was exploited

He hadn't intended to do a follow-up, he said, but his book "Evil Geniuses" sort of turned into one. The first book was about the American tendency to believe widely and fervently in things that aren't always backed up with concrete facts — and about how that tendency took hold more deeply with help from the "entertainment industrial complex" and the advent of the internet.

The second book, he said, "is about how essentially rich people and big business and serious rational economic right wingers exploited the things I talked about in 'Fantasyland' to change the American system so they got more wealth and power by exploiting people's belief in the exciting falsehoods that were out there."

That, in his opinion, is how Donald Trump became president, and how a thousand people ended up in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday "and broke into the Capitol."

Trump merged entertainment and real estate to become successful, and then became a reality television star himself.

Like tourists on the set of a show

"And yesterday was like an amazing show," Andersen said. "It was scary, and nerve wracking and horrible but it didn't seem to have a real plan. It was a show and Trump's 'super fans' gathered in Washington, many of them in costume, some in absurd costumes. They were there to be part of the show."

"When you watch the video of them, most of them weren't running around and damaging things; they were wandering around, like tourists on the set of a reality television show."

"I don't want to underplay what was happening. It was an attempted coup, in a way — although a coup requires the cooperation of the military and that wasn't going to happen. It was more like a foolish 'cos play,' where people dress up and enact scenes from their favorite animated series or movies or video games.

"If it hadn't ended as rela-

tively quickly as it did, and if there hadn't been a relatively happy ending, my reaction would be different. But right now, I feel like it was mostly a stupid, hideous finale or denouement to the Trump Presidential Show."

What the future might hold

This interview took place on Thursday, when 13 days remained of the Trump presidency.

There was no way to know at that point what the next two weeks would bring. But as a satirist, of course Andersen's advice is largely for us all to "ridicule all this rather than overreact to it."

Saying that overreacting just plays into the hands of terrorists has become an internet "meme," Andersen said, but, "I think this is actually one of those cases where we should take it seriously" but not so much so that we lose our equilibrium.

"They want us to be freaked out. If we react that way, then they've won."

Returning to the essential differences between his two studies of 21st-century America, Andersen reiterated that there have always been way-out ideas in the air; but that what really makes them dangerous is when people with money, power and influence exploit fears and paranoia for their own ends.

"In this era of cable TV and the internet, people can have alternate reality fed to them

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

January 14-20, 2021

BOOKS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## Winchester Wonders: Who Really Owns the Land?

Simon Winchester was an adventure traveler, a young Brit in the 1960s who started small by hitchhiking around North America and then dove deeper by joining a six-man sledding expedition in an uncharted section of the East Greenland ice cap.

He worked for a Canadian mining company in Africa, was a field geologist in Uganda and then worked on an oil rig in the North Sea before settling down to a career in journalism — which didn't mean that he gave up on adventure travel, it simply meant that he began to write about it as well as experience it.

Perhaps his most dangerous reporting assignment was one that was closest to home: He was named Britain's Journalist of the Year in 1971 for his coverage of the Irish Troubles (and that was even before he covered the events of Bloody Sunday in 1972).

Since then he's been posted to Washington, D.C., India, the Falkland Islands and Argentina (where he and two other reporters were put in prison) and Hong Kong.

He eventually landed in New York City, where he wrote a nonfiction account of an American (who was in prison at the time) who was instrumental in helping to create the first Oxford



PHOTO BY ANDREW BLECHMAN, THE BERKSHIRE EDGE  
Simon Winchester talks about his new book, "Land: How the Hunger for Ownership Shaped the Modern World," in a virtual conversation with Becky Thornton, on Jan. 20, hosted by Oblong.

English Dictionary in the late 1800s. That book, "The Professor and the Madman," became a huge hit and was eventually made into a feature film starring Mel Gibson and Sean Penn. The success of that book allowed him to focus solely on books, of which he has now written a dozen nonfiction titles as well as two books for young adults.

In the meantime, he also became an American citizen, and bought

a house here, in the Berkshires, with his wife, Setsuko Sato, a former producer for NPR.

More than a dozen books

When Winchester does something, he really does it with determination. So after decades of globe-trotting and excitement, he has mastered the art

### MARMALADE CORRECTION

The Jan. 7 print edition of Compass in The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News had a recipe error. It said the marmalade should be kept at a rolling boil with "very big bubbles but foaming." Instead, it should have said, "but not foaming."

of living in The Country, a life that largely revolves around "letterpress printing, bee-keeping, astronomy, stamp-collecting, model railways and cider-making," according to the bio on his website ([www.simonwinchester.com/bio](http://www.simonwinchester.com/bio)).

And, of course, to researching, writing and thinking deeply about topics that interest him. The latest topic, and the subject of his new book, is property rights, which he explores in "Land: How the Hunger for Ownership Shaped the Modern World" (it will be released on Jan. 19).

Most histories of England talk about the very early days of the island nation, when land was open and shared, for farming and grazing and living. At some point, a major change in British life and culture happened when plots of land were fenced off and became the property of individual owners.

In this new book, Winchester explores whether individual ownership of property is actually a good thing or whether land, like air and oceans, should be available for everyone on the planet to use and share.

Talk with DLC on Jan. 20

Oblong Books and Music in Millerton is hosting an online conversation with Winchester on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. via Crowdcast. He will be interviewed by Becky Thornton and Julie Hart, from the Dutchess Land Conservancy in New York state.

Thornton is the president of the conservancy, Hart is senior manager of stewardship and education.

To take part in the presentation, purchase a copy of the book from the Oblong website. If you purchase your book in-store, send an email to [events@oblongbooks.com](mailto:events@oblongbooks.com) with a photo of the receipt. An event access code will be emailed 48 hours prior to the event.

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PHOTO COURTESY WASSAIC PROJECT

### WRY COMMENTS, WITH A NEEDLE AND THREAD

Natalie Baxter uses needle, thread and wit to make statements about the world around her in fabric.

She will give an online talk about her work, hosted by the Wassaic Project, in Wassaic, N.Y., on Friday, Jan. 15, at 5 p.m., with time for questions from participants.

Other upcoming talks in the Featured Artist series from Wassaic Project include Ashley Epps on Jan. 27, Liz Nielsen on Feb. 12, Mark Fleuridor on Feb. 26 and Jamea Richmond-Edwards on March 12.

For more information and Zoom links go to [www.wassaicproject.org](http://www.wassaicproject.org).

## Martha Mitchell, From Comedy to Tragedy

On the evening before the presidential inauguration, the Shakespeare & Company theater group in Lenox, Mass., will once again air a taped performance of the play "Martha Mitchell Calling," by Berkshires resident Jodi Rothe and starring Annette Miller as the wife of the attorney general and Kale Brown as John Mitchell.

"Outrageous, flamboyant, courageous and the life of the party, Martha Mitchell ultimately played the pivotal role in the downfall of Nixon's Presidency," according to the announcement of the show, which will be on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m.

"A Southern debutante who dreamt of fame, her marriage to John Mitchell was a love story come true

— until she discovered the Watergate conspiracy and had to choose between patriotism and personal happiness."

The play is essentially a one-woman performance, with Martha Mitchell narrating in a vivacious and humorous manner her strong feelings about what was going on at her husband's office.

Ultimately, though, she is essentially imprisoned in her bedroom, and access to her beloved telephone was taken away.

There is no cost to watch this virtual performance but donations are welcome.

Register online to get log in information, at [web.ovationtix.com/trs/pe.c/10607356](http://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pe.c/10607356).

— Cynthia Hochswender

### MAHALIA JACKSON AND HUDSON VALLEY GOSPEL

The Hudson Valley Gospel Festival begins a series of monthly Zoom presentations about the history of gospel music

in the Hudson Valley on Monday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m., with Professor Ciesta Little-Quinn of the Department of Black Studies at the State University of New York at New Paltz.

The Hudson Valley has a rich history of gospel music including Marva Clark, Gretchen Reed and Toni Graham. Many famous gospel performers graced the stages in the area, including Mahalia Jackson, whose performance and legacy will be featured in the March presentation.

To hear the talk, RSVP to [forms.gle/R92E937X-smxwLd1u6](https://forms.gle/R92E937X-smxwLd1u6)

### TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Look for a new calendar of events at our website, [www.tricornernews.com/events-calendar](http://www.tricornernews.com/events-calendar). We will also include the calendar in our print edition as space allows.

### SHARON PLAYHOUSE GALA ON ZOOM ON JAN. 23

Sharon Playhouse will host a fundraising gala event on Saturday, Jan. 23, at 8 p.m. with a preshow Zoom party at 7 p.m.

It will feature performances by Playhouse Alumni and Broadway's Finest, including Debbie Gravitte, Wanda Houston, Paul Kreppel, Amanda Lea

LaVergne, Trevor Martin, Rex Smith, Haley Swindal, Nicholas Ward, the Youth Ensemble, plus appearances by Alison Arngrim, Kevin Bacon, Blair Brown, Jane Kaczmarek, Kyra Sedgwick and more.

Tickets are \$25 per household. Go to [www.sharonplayhouse.org](http://www.sharonplayhouse.org).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Despite concerns about COVID-19, some cultural venues are opening again and some events are being scheduled — but some events are then being canceled as infections rise again. It's a good idea to check websites before you go to an event.

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The Lakeville Journal

The MILLERTON NEWS

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## UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR MODEL

**The Lakeville Journal Company  
Contributors from  
October 22, 2020 - January 11, 2021  
Total amount received: \$82,533.09**

See the editorial on page B3 for more information.



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## The Lakeville Journal Company

*Fostering Democracy and an Atmosphere of Open Communication Since 1897*

The Lakeville Journal • The Millerton News • TriCornerNews.com



*This letter has been enclosed in print editions of The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News and on www.tricornnews.com. We invite all our readers to continue to keep track of our progress and we will keep you updated regularly.*

### Can you imagine a world without your Lakeville Journal or Millerton News?

Dear Reader,

Late in 2019, we came to you, hat in hand, to share with you our story within the world of vanishing local journalism. You generously supported us, to date, in the amount of \$164,975 in what was known as the "Community Membership" model and will now be known as the "Community Contributor" model.

- Your generosity made up a deeply appreciated 39% of annual General Expenses from September of 2019.
- We are happy to have qualified for a PPP loan (which we will convert to a 'grant', having met the necessary criteria), in the amount of \$146,643, contributing 35% of General Expenses during this same period.
- As they experienced their own COVID-19 cash needs, our steadfast advertisers needed to scale back their commitments to us. Our advertising revenue has dropped over 30%.
- Effective October 15, 2020, we have raised the cost of the newspaper to two dollars, the first increase since 2003.

COVID-19 has awakened an awareness of the significance of our papers, as we seek information about our world. Thanks to our Community's generosity and the unswerving dedication of our fine Team, we were able to remain fully functional through this pandemic. We love our Community partnership. We will continue our work, with your kind respect and support.

— The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC

Support your local, independent voice in journalism by making a contribution at [www.tricornnews.com/contribute](http://www.tricornnews.com/contribute) or by clipping the form below and mailing a check

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In Support of our local Paper, enclosed please find my check/money order in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC.

*In return for your Community Contribution, we regret that we cannot offer a tax deduction at this time.*



### EDITORIAL

## Local journalism survives here, thanks to you

This time last year, The Lakeville Journal Company had come through a critical time in its history. Small community newspaper companies have never been places to find big profits, but in the rural communities we serve in northern Litchfield and eastern Dutchess counties in Connecticut and New York respectively, it had become more and more of a challenge to maintain printed weekly newspapers covering all our communities. To this mission, however, we remained deeply committed, so we who work at the company decided to research and find a different way to finance the papers, The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News.

What was then the Membership Model, the solution we decided to try after being schooled on it by a publisher in California, found great support throughout our communities in both newspapers' coverage areas. It saved the company, and actually helped put us on a firmer financial footing. It was more than we ever expected, and the support of our readers meant so much at that moment.

Then, when the pandemic hit all of us on Earth in March, it was felt quickly in the economy of the Tri-state region. But as discussed previously in this space, we were able to apply for and receive money through the PPP loans from the federal government in the amount of \$146,643. Since then, we have applied to have that loan become a grant, and we met the qualifications to have that happen, which included using the money for payroll.

During the past year, other steps have been taken to keep the company as lean as possible, and with COVID-19 changing the way all of us work, opportunities have arisen to do that. We closed our Millerton News office at the end of the summer, in that the editorial staff had been working remotely since March. They have the office in Falls Village available to them if they need a space to work. But remote writing and designing of pages has been working well. In addition, we have raised the cost of the newspapers to a \$2 cover price.

All this meant that our appeal to readers this year was somewhat different than last year. Our owners have taken the lead on the 2020-21 appeal, and composed a letter to readers that has run in both our newspapers as inserts, with mail-back envelopes included, and as printed ads in the papers. The response has once again exceeded our expectations.

This time last year, we had received \$114,713.86 in membership support. This year, for the newly named Community Contributor model (changed so as not to be confused with our owners' support of the company, which has been generous and so very meaningful over more than 20 years, in that they are also known as members of the company), we have received \$82,533.09. Knowing the way the world has changed so very dramatically since January 2020, it is again extremely encouraging to know so many of our readers are willing to step in to be sure the company survives another year, and into the future.

See the list of contributors' names on pages B1 and B2 of this edition of the newspapers. This is the time to express profound gratitude to them, who have once again shown their belief that local journalism is worth saving, and to our owners, who have stuck with us through some very tough times. Going into 2021, we take our mission to cover our communities more seriously than ever. There are many challenges to face this year, but this company will be here to cover all the local news and we will be able to keep our readers informed on into the future.

Thank you all.

## A dark day for democracy

The invasion of the Capitol in Washington, D.C., by domestic terrorists on Jan. 6 changed the reality of the delusional rantings of President Donald Trump from the last gasp from a damaged man who cannot accept his own loss of the election to extremely dangerous, deadly and treasonous propaganda. Trump gave a speech in front of the White House as the Congress was preparing to perform its usually ceremonial duty of counting the electoral college votes to confirm the winner in the presidential race. In that speech, he rallied the most extreme of his followers, summoned to Washington by him via social media, to attack Capitol Hill and the legislators doing the work of the people.

Trump should have every possible condemnation leveled at him. He should never be allowed to hold any office again, and should face criminal charges in reference to his actions of inciting violence toward the legislative branch of government. Anything less, which could happen because of support from some of his fellow Republicans even after the incursion Trump devised, should mean those who continue to enable him also should be prosecuted.

The one light spot of that dark day was the fact that legislators faced the situation with resolve and returned to finish their charge of counting the nation's votes. There will be a new president on Jan. 20, and Joe Biden is the polar opposite of Trump. And Kamala Harris is a woman of strength and experience, dedicated to serving her country. As Americans, we should all take some hope from that.

More letters next page.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

### The road to West Cornwall

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Disagrees with Journal coverage

In 1998 when I came home to this area and started working for The Nature Conservancy, I was held to the highest ethical standard: "Integrity beyond reproach." It has remained a hallmark of my subsequent land protection work for more than two decades, and the basis for my reputation and effectiveness helping land trusts, landowners, towns and communities conserve the places we love.

I was deeply gratified when my friend and respected colleague Dr. Michael Klemens told me last Nov. 9, upon learning that my professional services had been engaged to advise Jeffrey Keenan in his discussions with the Nature Conservancy; "Your conservation bona fides are beyond reproach." That recognition is profoundly meaningful. I cannot do my work without it. I would not associate myself with anything that causes me to fall short of that standard.

I had hoped that my reputation as a defender of land conservation, of conservation easements as durable and effective legal instruments, as an honest and effective negotiator

in complex conservation transactions, and a valued conservation partner would help reassure those who were initially alarmed by what they feared might happen to protected land on West Twin Lake. I have tried to reassure those who would talk with me directly, and to be visible and transparent in my public statements and long conversations, both on background and for attribution, with this paper.

I knew that there was risk of being misunderstood and of blowback on the conservation community if this were mishandled and have taken pains not to do so. I knew that although I act as a private consultant, with the knowledge of my regular employer the Housatonic Valley Association — which is not involved in any way with this consultancy — that there was risk of that being misunderstood as well. I did not expect, and I am deeply grieved, that the coverage of this story by The Lakeville Journal would repeatedly perpetuate what I see as falsehoods and misunderstandings, falling far below the high standard of

journalistic excellence that I know, from my dozen years as a former columnist at the paper, it is capable of achieving.

The Journal has gravely erred in providing an uncritical and one-sided forum each week for opinions in the guise of journalism rather than verified facts. Opinions belong in letters such as this, not presented without challenge when the questions raised have already been answered, where facts are known, where I have stated them directly to the paper.

The easement is not, nor has it ever been, at risk. The conclusions of the recent Twin Lakes study are not sufficient to answer the questions that need to be answered about the role of the causeway — good, bad or indifferent — on the ecosystem of the lake. Neither has that study been ignored nor, with respect, is Dr. Klemens' view the last word on the subject. That is not how scientific inquiry works. My client understands and respects that. Please stop making things worse by your coverage.

Tim Abbott

North Canaan

### Key word for Trump: accountability

I would urge the readers of this newspaper to read as well an article in the Oct. 16, 2020, Washington Post co-authored by Prof. Lawrence Tribe. Just Google: "Washington Post, Tribe, Trump, accountability." I believe it reappeared briefly on Jan. 6.

In this article, Prof. Tribe urges strongly that there be some form of accountability for the statements, actions and failures to act of ex-President Trump over the past four years. As to the importance of this, he has much to say, but two statements from his article will suffice here: "Accountability for the Trump years is essential" and "We call for accountability when we think there has been outright misconduct."

I agree wholeheartedly with the statement that accountability is essential. I agree equally with the existence of misconduct, and that we should demand accountability.

There are multiple reasons for this. One is that any public official who does what Trump has done must be held accountable so that there shall be widely acknowledged and credible judgment of such official's misconduct. But the most important reason, I believe, is that we as a nation may understand what went wrong, so that we can assure that it will not happen again, ever.

Stuyvesant K. Bearn

Lakeville

### A step too far for this Republican

I am no longer a member of the Republican party. I am now unaffiliated, joining the growing ranks of the largest voting bloc in Connecticut. I had resolved to make the change as 2020 wound to a close, never suspecting the extraordinary events of the past 2 weeks.

When I turned 18, I proudly went down to Town Hall and registered as a Republican. I still believe in the core tenets of the party of Lincoln: Small government, individual liberties, low taxes, pro-business and a strong defense. Sadly, that party no longer exists on the federal level.

It's important that I state that in leaving the Republican party, I don't wish to malign Republicans in my hometown, and the Northwest Corner in general. It has been my pleasure to serve alongside them. They are honorable, dedicated people. It is the national brand that I can no longer stand the smell of. The smell of fear. Fear of the disgraced, soon-to-be

former President of the United States and his fanatic followers.

I've cringed over the last four years as Donald Trump has trashed the office, the constitution, and democracy in general. I'm now livid. I ask anyone who has raised, or is raising a child: Would you tolerate this behavior from your child?? It is beyond disgusting to me that Trump was willing to prompt insurrection to change the election in his favor, because his infantile malignant ego can't accept the loss. And far too many Republicans were backing him! That is denying the will of the People. The hypocritical butt-covering statements from some of these "honorable" House and Senate members is unforgivable, and I'm done.

God save the brave election officials and courts in battleground states for not caving in to incredible political pressure, death threats and attacks on their character, and hewing to the law and protecting the

voice of the voters. Credit to the House and Senate for completing the Electoral vote count following the siege. The checks and balances work. My faith in our democratic institutions is intact. Sadly, not my faith in the Republican party. I used to think that dictator wannabe Donald Trump ruined the Republican party. The truth is much sadder: The Republican party allowed itself to be ruined by Donald Trump.

Dale Jones

West Cornwall

The author is a Sharon Selectman.

#### THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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Salisbury

Elyse Harney

# The year of the plague: what we learned

I doubt that most of us will remember 2020 as joyful, or even particularly happy. But some like me, cushioned by social security and savings, found contentment in solitary pursuits, and some, again like me, were riveted almost daily by the news. In a year of massive deprivation, bad news was one of the things that 2020 gave us more than enough of. Although we ended 2020 with the optimism of a poorly-funded vaccine rollout, the year we finally got through offers some important lessons we shouldn't forget.

President Trump thought he could bully the coronavirus by insisting that businesses remain open and Americans continue their "normal" lives without masks. Though statistics blanket the anxiety and sorrow behind numbers, the result of acting "normal" was generally rising numbers of people who tested positive for the virus, were hospitalized, or had taken their last breath. 19.5 million Americans got sick from the coronavirus and over 340,000 died in 2020, a death rate of 1 in every 1,000 Americans.

Local shops in the Northwest Corner generally stayed afloat this past year. However, a study by YELP found that 800 small businesses nationally—bars, hairdressers, boutiques—closed between

## ON REFLECTION

CAROL ASCHER

May and September, and that 60 percent of these closures were permanent. By June 2020, as many as 7.7 million workers had lost jobs with employer-sponsored insurance because of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Commonwealth Fund. Since these employer-sponsored health plans also covered 6.9 million dependents, a total of nearly 15 million people lost their health insurance, exactly when they most needed it. Despite a stimulus package that provided federal help early in the year, there were growing lines of cars awaiting boxes of food—by the end of 2020, over 50 million, or nearly one in six Americans, had not had enough food during the year. Eight million Americans had fallen into poverty between May and December.

While Americans were generous with our signs thanking front-line workers, we were too often unwilling to take the precautions that would prevent doctors, nurses, attendants, janitors and all the other healthcare workers, from getting the virus. African Amer-

icans, Latinos and Indigenous Americans died from the virus at 2.7 times the rates of white Americans. For some, this was the result of limited access to medical care and higher rates of pre-existing conditions. But for too many, these high rates of infection and death were the result of spending long and stressful hours in healthcare and other high-exposure jobs.

It is hard to forget the outbreaks in meat and poultry processing companies, which employ over half a million workers. Among those companies that reported infections by race, 87 percent of the coronavirus cases occurred among racial or ethnic minorities. Recall, also, that President Trump issued an executive order to compel meat processing plants to remain open (or in many cases to reopen) even while the pandemic raged. Since workers in these industries could no longer collect unemployment insurance, and in the best of times barely make it from paycheck to paycheck, this return-to-work order forced many to risk their health and safety to keep earning.

The Black Lives Matter movement captured national attention in 2020 after videos showed George Floyd lying on the ground with the knee of a policeman on his neck, cutting off his breathing during his last nine minutes of life.

Although police brutality, like the coronavirus, has become a national problem, affecting all Americans, the problem is particularly acute in urban black communities. Police killed 164 black men and women between January and September, according to CBS News. Though the death of George Floyd provoked a lively multiracial Black Lives Matter movement against police brutality and the racism of the courts, so far police forces and the justice system have been hard to change.

Most of us know someone who was very sick or died last year as a result of a virus that tends to attack people's lungs, and we all know families who are struggling to help their children with on-line schooling at the same time as they bring in earnings they are piecing together in new and uncertain ways. Thus, George Floyd's last cries of "I can't breathe!" offer a universal challenge. May our incoming administration be given the much-needed support as it works to increase the fairness and compassion of our healthcare, our economy, and our policing and justice systems.

*Carol Ascher, who lives in Sharon, has published seven books of fiction and nonfiction, as well as many essays and stories. She is trained as a spiritual director.*



## What happens next?

Ten days or so out from the Inauguration, as I write this, the gods only know what will happen next. But one thing is sure, when you anger the righteous titans at the Wall Street Journal, it may be time for you to surrender the last of your thunderbolts, real-

ize you are not Zeus after all and slink off with the ambrosia of your Mickey D's and the nectar of your Diet C's and Orange your way to Mar-a-Sluggo. (That would be Nancy P and C Schumer, the former who may just impeach.) O, I'm forgetting, they don't want you down there either. Is there an Elba, you "short-fingered vulgarian", as Spy magazine called him, you mangiest of Twitts, that will welcome you, while you wile away your time, plotting your return, before being ultimately defeated at Turnbury Golf Course in Scotland?

Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister, says that if OUR Dear Leader tries to play golf at Turnbury on Inauguration Day, he would have to quarantine for 10 days. Is Turnbury Bonnie Prince Donnie's St. Helena, where Napoleon spent the last six years of his life under extraordinary guard? The net tells me that "Plots to rescue him included those using yachts, steamboats and balloons — and one was said to have even involved a submarine." The Proud Boys, are you listening? (Perhaps if the rescue is suc-

cessful, the PB's could take him to the Napoleon House in New Orleans, built by the good folks there in anticipation of the real Napoleon's arrival. He never did. And Our Dear Leader never will.)

After the storming of our nation's Capitol, there was a dignified Black man, a veteran of 37 years on the Capitol DC police, who was interviewed. He said that the top brass were

looking the other way because they didn't want to "displease 45", referring in the vernacular to the sitting Prez.

Senators Hawley and Cruz, after in a perfunctory manner calling out the rioters, went on to challenge the election results. Senator Mitt Romney was sitting right behind Hawley as he spewed his conspiracy theories. If Romney's eyes had been daggers, Hawley would have died a painful death.

Psychologists suggest that when conspiracy theorists are shown that what they espouse is bunk, instead of the scales falling from their eyes, they hunker down, hunking with the bunk and take not another tittle, but a great big gulp of the Kool-Aid.

I grew up liking Kool-Aid, the orange my fave. Of course, that was before Diet C, the vile and poisonous elixir of the fallen gods.

All Hail to 46!  
*Lonnie Carter is a writer who lives in Falls Village. Email him at lonniety@comcast.net.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Correcting the record on Twin Lakes initiative

The article ("Finding what's best for West Twin Lake health," Jan. 7) is what I see as an example of journalist malpractice. The editor treats fair investigative journalism as a game of ping pong with only one side presented at a time and with no critical analysis required. TLJ handed a bullhorn to Michael Klemens who used the opportunity to mislead and prevaricate. The only thing that Klemens has accomplished is to ensure that he will have a conflict and be unable to participate in any Planning and Zoning review of anything related to the causeway. He is so biased that it would be impossible for the P&Z Board to permit him to participate in any future discussions about the causeway.

Klemens provides a misleading "interpretation" of

the 2017 AER Twin Lakes report. He could not even get the date of the report correct and he misleads about the basic purpose of the report. The report says nothing about the impact of the railroad causeway on the health of the West Lake and its authors were not asked to evaluate such impact. The AER report does not come to the basic conclusions that Klemens claims and he misstates the purpose of the report, which was an analysis of historical data and a holistic lake management plan. The dam is not even mentioned in the Executive Summary.

I urge those interested in lake issues to read the report and not rely on Klemens who has a biased and unscientific take. Below is a link to the report and other relevant causeway information and studies. I

also provide a link to a recent Zoom presentation with Tim Abbott that I feel Klemens wrongly characterizes in his comments. Watch the presentation for yourself and get the facts about our plans to do a scientific evaluation with experts far more qualified than Klemens to evaluate the serious issues relating to the West Lake.

The link to "AER Twin Lakes 2017 Report": <https://bit.ly/tr-causeway>

Apparently, Klemens also has access to divine knowledge and an intimate understanding of objectives and motivations. He expresses said "knowledge" in unfounded speculation on me. Klemens does not know me and has had no direct communication with me about the causeway. Klemens, in Trump-like fashion, falsely claims that my purpose in evaluating the

causeway is my desire to "improve the view from (his) property and keep boats further away from (his) house."

Klemens also wrongly claims that I am acting on a "whim." Those with a serious interest in what is best for the West Lake know me and know better. Such attacks are beneath Klemens and are demonstrably false. Read the reports, listen to Tim's Zoom presentation, and draw your own conclusion. Tim will be doing more Zoom meetings and we welcome everyone with a sincere interest to join those meetings and ask questions.

Those who live on and/or use the West Lake deserve a constructive and honest dialogue about the best way to protect or improve it.

**Jeffrey J. Keenan**  
Salisbury

### Sign up for state-funded study, Falls Village

In 2008, buckets of money for "incentive housing" was doled out from Hartford. Did small towns want their shot at the money along with the big cities, whether or not their population could support it?

Falls Village grabbed for money earmarked for incentivized housing, higher density meant more money.

Housing Authorities own public housing. Otherwise

affordable housing can be owned by a private entity, like a church, or Habitat for Humanity. Incentivized housing is eight times denser, more high risk, and hopefully owned by a private entity with deep generous pockets and rich experience to match. All three types of affordable housing are held to rent guidelines and income restrictions.

River Road Homes would

not be a Habitat for Humanity project. Habitat wishes to sell the land to Falls Village Housing Trust (FVHT).

The fledgling FVHT has ended up trying to own an incentivized housing project. How would the \$3.5 million project be financed? Would the rental income cover the yearly payments to bondholders, property taxes and maintenance? FVHT has made none of this information known. Do they know but not want it public? Do they not know? When asked, FVHT responded, "We will release this information when we have our certificate of occupancy." That is a bit late to fix a mistake.

The Lakeville Journal "Looking Back: 2020" story last week headlined the housing project as "moving forward." It mentions 24 letters in support to the P&Z hearings, not mentioning that many were from non-residents, nor did it mention that the letter in opposition from Lesley Janzen represented 52 residents of Falls Village.

Is River Road Homes the most controversial, misunderstood, unexplained, expensive, potentially ruinous bad idea to ever be proposed in FV?

This much we know: Town Hall shows \$113,000 received since 2008 for the Incentive Housing Zone and housing project. The FVHT website lists an additional \$200,000 and a

solicitation claims \$189,000 going directly to the Trust. So there is possibly \$300,000 already spent since 2008 on this project. Some of this money was wasted on designing the 29 unit, 50 bedrooms plan presented in 2019, twice the 14 units approved in 2014 by DOH.

No study determined that this housing is needed or can be afforded. The latest proposal crowds 16 units into 4 remote wooded acres with no jobs, no transportation to jobs, no infrastructure to support it, for tenants who cannot afford market rents, doubling the population in this neighborhood of 22 homes.

Seventy-two residents have petitioned the town for a referendum. The selectmen have refused, explaining simply that they don't have to. Perhaps after this November's elections, the thinking will change.

Meanwhile, a state-funded study begins this month to determine the need for affordable housing and to recommend the location, size and type. Residents of FV, sign up! Write selectmen@canaanfallsvillage.org Make an investment of your time in the future of your town. Don't be misguided by misinformation. A \$3.5 million mistake in Falls Village matters. Demand accountability.

**Daly Reville**  
Falls Village



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

### Train bridge, Falls Village

## Realtor® at Large

With more buyers looking for land, I ran across a checklist that would be helpful in completing your due diligence prior to making an offer. This list addresses the areas of zoning, engineering, environmental and more. While this is a general list, I found that this could provide a blueprint of items to check. I particularly liked the discussion on confirming that there is a proper survey to identify any easements or Right of Ways. Also the advice on how to check floodplain and wetlands issues which could impact the location of the building site. If you would like a copy of this, happy to email it to you!



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Norfolk

More letters previous page.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS**

**Falls Village students get scholarships for college**

FALLS VILLAGE — The Falls Village Scholarship Association (FVSA) awarded five scholarships to students living in town to continue their education at colleges or trade schools for the 2020-21 academic year. All five students are graduates of Housatonic Valley Regional High School. This year's awardees are Jessy Haggard who attends the University of Connecticut at Storrs (exploring an interest in leadership and the law), Jacob Sheltra who attends Johnson and Wales University (pursuing his interest in the culinary arts), Michael Hanlon (pursuing an interest in natural resources and agriculture), Max Dodge (preparing

for a possible career as a game warden) and Nicholas Dodge (pursuing an interest in wild-life); the latter three are attending Northwestern Connecticut Community College. For more than 40 years, FVSA has awarded scholarships to well over 100 students. FVSA has always culminated its annual fundraising efforts with Bingo Night at Lee H. Kellogg School in spring. The pandemic caused FVSA to forgo this primary fundraiser, making individual donations more important than ever. To make a donation to the fund for 2021 or for more information, go to [www.fallsvillagescholarships.org](http://www.fallsvillagescholarships.org).

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**LEGAL NOTICES**

**Legal Notice**

The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2019 is due and payable January 1, 2021. The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2019 will become delinquent on Tuesday, February 2, 2021.

As soon as the tax becomes delinquent, it shall be subject to interest at the rate of one and a half percent per month from the time such tax becomes due and payable until the same is paid.

Bills may be viewed online by going to the Tax Collector's

page of the Town of Kent website at [www.townofkent.org](http://www.townofkent.org).

The Tax Collector's office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and there is a drop box at the front door of the town hall. Payment is also welcome through the mail at P.O. Box 311, Kent, Connecticut 06757. Credit cards are not accepted at the office but you may pay online by going to [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com).

Deborah Devaux, CCMC  
Tax Collector  
12-17-20  
01-14-21  
01-28-21

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The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2019 is due and payable January 1, 2021. The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2019 will become delinquent on Tuesday, February 2, 2021.

As soon as the tax becomes delinquent, it shall be subject to interest at the rate of 0.25% per month from January 1, 2021 until the same is paid on or before March 31, 2021. For January installment amounts due that remain unpaid as of April 1, 2021, interest will be charged back to January 1, 2021 at a rate of 1.5% per month. This lower interest rate does not retroactively alter previous interest accruals; interest which had already been added at the 1.5% rate before January 1, 2021 for older delinquencies would remain fully payable.

Bills may be viewed online by going to the Tax Collector's page of the Town of Kent website at [www.townofkent.org](http://www.townofkent.org).

The Tax Collector's office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and there is a drop box at the front door of the town hall. Payment is also welcome through the mail at P.O. Box 311, Kent, Connecticut 06757.

Credit cards are not accepted in the office but you may pay online by going to [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com).

Deborah Devaux, CCMC  
01-14-21  
01-21-21

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF WU YANG Late of Millerton, NY (20-00519)**

The Hon. Diane S. Blick,

Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated, December 30, 2020, 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 fiduciaries are: Juliana Yang and Jenny Yang

c/o Mark J Capecelatro Mark J. Capecelatro, LLC 117 Main St.-Box 1045 Canaan, CT 06018

Beth L. McGuire Chief Clerk 01-14-21

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF MARILYN M. HART Late of Sharon (20-00489)**

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated, December 29, 2020, 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: Lisa A. Hart c/o Louise F Brown Ackerly Brown, LLP 5 Academy Street P.O. Box 568 Salisbury, CT 06068

Beth L. McGuire Clerk 01-14-21

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF ROBERT F. MELILLO Late of Canaan (20-00510)**

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated, December 23, 2020, 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: Kathleen M. McCormick c/o Michael Peter Citrin Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP 7 Church Street PO Box 101 Canaan, CT 06018

Megan Williams Assistant Clerk 01-14-21

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF GERDA M. JANICKE Late of Sharon (20-00436)**

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated, December 23, 2020, 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: Bruce J. Janicke c/o Keith Nolan, J. Keith Nolan, PC 122 Rt 44 E, Millerton NY, P.O. Box 366, Lakeville, CT 06039

Megan Williams Assistant Clerk 01-14-21

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF ROLAND H. CHINATTI, SR. Late of Falls Village (20-00476)**

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated, December 17, 2020, 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: Megan Williams Assistant Clerk 01-14-21

c/o Mark J. Capecelatro Mark J. Capecelatro, LLC 117 Main St.-Box 1045 Canaan, CT 06018

Beth L. McGuire Clerk 01-14-21

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF FRANK WENDOVER Late of Sharon (20-00483)**

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated, December 17, 2020, 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: Lois Russian c/o Steven Howard Levy Law Offices of Conti Levy & Salerno LLC 355 Prospect Street PO Box 239 Torrington, CT 06790

Megan Williams Assistant Clerk 01-14-21

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF MAUREEN A. BRIEN Late of North Canaan (20-00475)**

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated, December 17, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below.

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The fiduciary is: Sumner Ireland 15 Indian Cave Road PO Box 351 Salisbury, CT 06068 Megan Williams Assistant Clerk 01-14-21

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**HELP WANTED, TOWN OF SHARON, CT, ROAD MAINTAINER:** The Town of Sharon is accepting applications for a full time Road Crew Member with the Sharon Highway Department. A CDL (Class A or B) is required. Applications and job description can be obtained at the Selectmen's Office, 63 Main Street, P.O. Box 385, Sharon, CT 06069 weekdays from 9AM to 12 Noon and 1PM to 4PM or phone 860-364-5789. Hourly rate \$22.65 and is a Union Position. Benefits include health insurance, life insurance, short-term disability insurance, paid holidays, pension after one year of service and paid vacation after one year of service. Applications along with resume must be received by 4:00PM Thursday, January 22, 2021 at the above address. The Town of Sharon is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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**THE TOWN OF SALISBURY:** is looking for a full-time Administrative Assistant to provide support for all Town Hall offices; must have advanced computer skills in MS Office and be able to assist with website updates. Please send cover letter and resume by January 28, 2021 to [townhall@salisburyct.us](mailto:townhall@salisburyct.us). For more information, please call 860-435-5170. The Town of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer.

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