

The Lakeville Journal

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



PHOTO BY LAZLO GYORSOK

Honoring and remembering despite the quarantine

The traditional parades and picnics in honor of military personnel who lost their lives in active duty were canceled this year because of the coronavirus quarantine, but those lives lost were still remembered. Honor guards from the VFWs in North Canaan and Sharon offered gun salutes. Melody Matsudaira played taps on Monday, May 25, in Cornwall. For more photos and stories from the Memorial Day tributes, turn to Page A3 and go online to www.tricornernews.com.

Antibody tests now at Sharon Hospital

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SHARON — As society slowly emerges from the COVID-19 quarantine, the question on the minds of many people has shifted from “Do I have the virus?” to “Did I have the virus?” — and therefore, do I have immunity from reinfection?

Even as antibody tests become available, uncertainty surrounds the issue, including how much protection is offered even if someone tests positive for COVID-19 antibodies.

“Right now, no one knows what the presence of antibodies really means,” said Dr. Mark Hirko, president of Sharon Hospital, where FDA-approved serological, or antibody testing, is now offered.

“Are they safe from reinfection? Safe from not being contagious?”

Currently, he said, there are no clear answers. Even if antibodies were found to provide immunity, Hirko said, it is not

“We don’t know what the threshold is that would confer immunity. That is the great unknown.”

**— Dr. Mark Hirko,
Sharon Hospital**

known how long that protection would last.

Antibodies are proteins made in response to infections, such as COVID-19. They can be found in the blood of people who are tested after infection, showing that they have had an immune response to the coronavirus.

But some health professionals, and the Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC), caution that rushing out to get tested for antibodies is not advised.

See ANTIBODY, Page A11

But it’s not all bad

Distance learning has mixed results

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — Connecticut’s public schools closed on March 16 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Initially the closure was for two weeks. Then it was extended, and finally Gov. Ned Lamont ordered that schools remain closed for the remainder of the school year.

Schools were faced with an abrupt shift to “distance learning” online.

The Lakeville Journal asked administrators and teachers how distance learning is working. Stephanie Magyar, principal at Salisbury Central School (SCS), said that different teachers utilize technology in different ways.

Some teachers schedule sessions on Google Meets. Others don’t have a set time,

or do set sessions.

There is a “basic template” of weekly assignments.

She said every student at SCS has internet access, although the quality varies. Some families needed assistance. “We talked them through it.”

John Conklin, middle school science teacher at SCS, said he uses Google Meet and Zoom, follows a schedule and tries to keep the framework of question and answer — critical for science instruction — intact.

“We shifted more to keeping students involved and engaged,” he said. But he is still grading assignments and making sure skills are mastered.

“The big downside is the

See LEARNING, Page A11

Court ruling gives towns power over race tracks

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LIME ROCK — The state Supreme Court has ruled that town planning and zoning commissions may regulate auto racing tracks.

The decision — involving Lime Rock Park, Salisbury’s Planning and Zoning Commission and the Lime Rock Citizen’s Council — was issued on Friday afternoon, May 22.

The ruling is complex (look for more details in the June 4 edition of The Lakeville Journal).

The primary issue: Does a state law allowing auto racing mean that municipalities cannot regulate auto racing within their borders? The state Supreme Court reversed the lower court and said that towns may in fact regulate auto racing — including enacting a ban on Sunday racing.

Reached by phone on Monday, May 25, both Lime Rock Park owner Skip Barber and Peter Wolf, a charter member of the citizens council, used the phrase, “We’re back where we started,” to describe the ruling. Barber said

he was disappointed, and Wolf said he and the Lime Rock Citizen’s Council are pleased.

Since 1959, the track has operated under a court injunction that prohibits Sunday racing. The injunction has been modified several times since 1959. The track was planning to try for another modification but put it on hold until the Supreme Court ruled. Barber said that he and his attorneys have not decided whether or not to pursue that option.

Salisbury Planning and Zoning Chairman Michael Klemens said in a phone interview on May 25 that the commission’s interest was not the same as the Lime Rock Citizen’s Council’s, despite public perception to the contrary.

He said from the commission’s perspective, the question was one of “home rule.”

“Who has the authority to regulate the track? That’s us.”

To read the full decision by the state Supreme Court, go to www.tricornernews.com. And for more detailed coverage, look for the June 4 Lakeville Journal.

Field hospital is gone, elective surgeries return

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SHARON — The field hospital that was erected outside Sharon Hospital in recent months has been dismantled, and elective surgeries and procedures have resumed.

The temporary, brown tent-like structure, owned by the state Department of Public Health, was constructed in the entry to the hospital by members of the Connecticut militia at the start of the pandemic.

And on Tuesday, May 19, it came down as quickly as it was erected.

“The state has made it available as needed,” said Dr. Mark Hirko, president of Sharon Hospital, in a telephone interview the following day. The field hos-

pital was to be used as a back-up facility during the height of the pandemic, but thankfully, said Hirko, it was not needed. If it is needed in the future, he said, depending on whether a second wave of the coronavirus emerges in the fall, it can go up and be in operation very quickly.

The other big news to come out of Sharon Hospital is that elective surgeries and procedures at all Nuvance Health hospitals and ambulatory care centers in Connecticut are resuming. Hirko said that Sharon hospital has been preparing for weeks to resume a limited number of elective surgeries and procedures starting with high-priority patients and those most acutely in need.

“We’ve opened elective surgeries, which are at 25 percent of normal volume,” reported Hirko. “It’s going slow and safely to make sure we get everything ironed out.”

In a release issued May 20, Kerry Eaton, chief operating officer

for Nuvance Health, echoed Hirko’s sentiment. “We were able to safely provide essential surgical care despite the pandemic around us. We are approaching resuming elective surgical care the same way: with thoughtful planning and a resolve to get this right.”

Dr. Jeffrey Nicastro, Nuvance Health’s chair of surgery, advised patients to not put their health on hold. “We’ve put extensive measures in place to promote safety and the patient experience. Our process ensures every step to resuming elective surgeries and procedures is seamless and safe.”

There will be mandatory COVID-19 tests for patients scheduled for a surgical procedure. Patients are required to have negative test results within two days of their procedure, and they must self-isolate and follow stringent safety precautions to avoid possible infection between testing and the procedure date itself.

The hospital is also requiring

that any patients who test positive for a COVID-19 infection be retested before elective surgery is scheduled. The hospitals and ambulatory centers are continuing visitor restrictions. All facilities are employing CDC-based enhanced cleaning and sterilization regimens and enforcing proper use of personal protective equipment, according to the press release.

Also, social distancing will be maintained in common areas, and all patients, visitors and staff must wear masks. Any COVID-19 patients in the hospitals will be treated in a separate area, and Nuvance Health Virtual Visit care options are expanded to keep unnecessary patients out of the facilities.

Patients whose care was postponed are being contacted to schedule appointments. For more information, they should contact their physician directly or go to www.nuvancehealth.org/safecare.

Baking bread with the master, in a Zoom talk

By Cynthia Hochswender

SHARON — Dan Leader is going to do a Zoom demonstration of how to make sourdough starter and a simple sourdough bread. This is a little bit like having Mozart come to your house to show you how to play “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.”

Leader is the baker/owner/founder of Bread Alone, one of the only bakeries to offer artisanal breads at grocery stores throughout the Tri-state region and New York City.

There are also Bread Alone restaurants in nearby New York state in Boiceville, Rhinebeck, Woodstock and Kingston, serving sandwiches and baked goods, all for take-out these days.

The breads have been selling at a super-fast rate, Leader said. “We can’t bake enough bread,” he said in a phone interview last week. “We’ve been at full capacity for two months. People are buying all their bread in stores now that they’re not going to restaurants.”

And of course many people are either teaching themselves to bake bread while in quarantine or are dusting off forgotten skills from years ago. As a result, it’s very difficult to find yeast and flour (especially coveted bags of King Arthur products).

Leader’s general message in his Zoom talk will be to relax a little; it’s going to work out. Which is comforting to hear from the man whose new book,



Bread Alone founder Dan Leader will talk about his new book, “Living Bread.”

“Living Bread,” seems intimidatingly scientific at first glance.

May 29 Zoom talk

“Living Bread” is the reason why Leader is offering his services for what he’s calling “Sourdough 101” online. The talk and demonstration (on Friday, May 29, at 7 p.m.) is a fundraiser for the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, a way to make up for funds that will not be collected this year at the annual book signing, which will not take place because of COVID-19 concerns.

The library has lined up several authors to do Zoom talks. There is a fee to participate. Books can be ordered (and signed) through the library website. To sign up, go to the library website at www.hotchkisslibrary.org and click on “events” and then “Virtual Book Signing 2.0 — Book Talk With Daniel Leader.”

A limited number of tickets is available for the talk (\$25) and for the talk and a signed book (\$75).

See BREAD, Page A11



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Lakeville Journal seeking recipes from fundraisers

Any nonprofits and their donor cook/bakers are asked to send in their recipes by Wednesday, June 3, to cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com. If you do not get confirmation, check back with us, it might mean we didn't receive it. If you have a lovely photo of the finished food, please feel free to share it.

It would be wonderful if you could share some of the history of your recipe and who first developed it and how long it's been used for (and of course please indicate which nonprofit event it is made for).

Some fundraiser meals have a single recipe that is used again and again; others function on a donation basis, where home bakers or cooks provide their own best lasagna or pie or cake or cookies. Please do send us recipes whether it's used by everyone each year or whether it's something you cooked or baked individually and donated.

Restaurants are also invited to send in a recipe for a dish that is served at a fundraising event each year, such as the chicken pot pie dinner at The White Hart for the Salisbury Winter Sports Association.

We look forward to working together with you on this issue. For questions and recipes, again, contact Cynthia Hochswender at cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com.

During the COVID-19 quarantine, most nonprofit organizations have had to cancel their annual (and much loved) fundraising meals, from pancake breakfasts to chili suppers.

This is not only a loss to the community, it is also a loss to the nonprofits, which count on the funds those meals provide.

The Lakeville Journal Co. is preparing a special issue of Compass arts and entertainment that will be included with our issue of July 2. In that issue we will include recipes from some of our local organizations for their ham or lasagna or corned beef or roast beef or cakes or cookies or pies.

We are now collecting those recipes from any nonprofits that would like to participate. We will publish them with a couple sentences explaining what that organization does for the community.

And we will remind our readers that the \$5 or \$10 or \$20 they spend on a meal at the firehouse or the legion hall is meaningful even in normal times; and is even more meaningful at this time. We hope that seeing these delicious reminders of those favorite community meals will not only spark some nice memories, but will also encourage community members to make donations large or small to the nonprofits that work so hard to keep our communities intact.

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.

Struck at intersection
On May 12 at approximately 5:30 p.m. at a four-way intersection on Indian Mountain Road in Salisbury a 2007 Honda Accord driven by Thomas Norbet, 46, of Sharon attempted to turn left and was struck by a 2006 Ford F350 Super Duty driven by Leon Allan McLain Jr., 40, of Sharon. McLain was issued a written warning for failure to drive at a reasonable distance apart.

Failed to yield
On May 13 at approximately 2:15 p.m. on Route 7 in Falls Village a 2018 Audi Q5 driven by Caroline Salas-Humara, 40, of New York, N.Y., turned left at a stop sign but failed to yield to an oncoming vehicle, colliding with a 2007 Kenworth truck. Both

vehicles were towed but no injuries were reported. Salas-Humara was issued an infraction for failure to obey a stop sign.

Lost control of vehicle
On May 17 at approximately 7:30 p.m. on Cornwall Bridge Road in Sharon a 2010 Honda Civic driven by Benjamin Combe, 43, of Norton, Mass., lost control and exited the roadway, traveling across the lawn of 474 Cornwall Bridge Road and striking the property's mailbox, before the Honda traveled back onto the roadway, rolled over, and came to a rest upside down. Combe was transported to Sharon Hospital. No police action was reported at this time.

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

Area nonprofits get COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant funds

The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation has awarded \$110,470 in Rapid Response Grants to nonprofits providing for basic needs in northwest Connecticut.

The fund is made possible by the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation from anonymous and discretionary Community Foundation funds, including the Draper Foundation Fund, Khurshed Bhungara Fund, Marion Wm. & Alice Edward Fund, The Echo Valley Foundation Fund, Keroden Endowed Fund, Edward W. Diskavich Fund, Lucia Tuttle Fritz Fund, Nolin Selby Fund and the Miriam Mason Cable Trust Fund, through the Melville Charitable Trust; through generous gifts from community members; and in partnership with Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

For a complete list of gifts made, go to www.northwestcf.org.

Rapid Response Grants that have been awarded include: AHA After School Program, Canaan Child Care Center, Cornwall Child Center, Cornwall Food and Fuel Fund, Falls Village Senior Center, Fishes and Loaves, Geer Village, Habitat for Humanity NW CT, Hazon, Kent

Affordable Housing, Litchfield County 4-H Foundation, Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association, Sharon Housing Authority and the United Church of Christ in Cornwall.

In The Journal this week

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Three-day forecast

Friday Thunderstorms, high 82°/low 62°
Saturday Rain, 78°/53°
Sunday Sun, 73°/49°

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Salisbury Central School honor roll

SALISBURY — Salisbury Central School announces its list of academic honors for the second trimester in the 2019-20 year.

Eighth grade
Highest honors
Ginette Ireland, Sara Shook, Yaritza Vega, Allison Wang
High honors
Lorelei Gnerre, Ayla Hill, Caiden Hussey, Aron Ladanyi, Jerome Maury, Amber Ramcharran
Honors
Gabriel Valencia
Seventh grade
Highest honors
Jassim Mohyidin, Elinor Wolgemuth
High honors
Jesse Bonhotel, Kobe Brown, Georgette Campagne, Daisy Chavez-Sanchez, Lola Clayton, Diarra Fall, Lou Haemmerle,

Sara Huber, Tess Marks, Mason O'Niel, Olivia Robson, Gabriela Titone, Dominik Valcin, Desiree Wright

Honors
Fatou Fall, Brandon Madeux, Jacob Marcus, Samuel Marcus, Taylor Swart, Jayme Walsh, Jacob White
Sixth grade
Highest honors
Eloise Prinz, Fritz Weihman, Ben Wistar, Ella Woodworth
High honors
Elizabeth Allyn, Oliver Ayer, Hunter Conklin, Tessie Connell, Mabel Fenton, Stella Fenton, Anna Gillette, Nicholas Gonzalez, Chloe Hill, Sara Ireland, Neve Kline, Saoirse O'Connell, Annabel Prinz, Rebecca Sadlon, Ava Segalla, Orla Shillingford, Pierce Smith
Honors
Carter Haab, Tanner Reid

A birthday gift helps fund KML

KENT — Recently, one of Kent Memorial Library's volunteer treasures, Allan Priaux, celebrated his 80th birthday. His daughters, Sharmon and Beth, along with his best friend, Peter, honored him by presenting a year's worth of children's programming for Kent Memorial Library, in his name.

Priaux has spent many years giving his time and expertise to the Kent Memorial Library. Most recently, he has been known as a "car guy."

The "car guys" are in charge of choosing a car and running a successful annual raffle throughout the summer as a major fundraiser for the library. He was the president of the Kent Library Association Board of Directors from 2001 to 2006. He has also been spotted power washing the library's exterior on a number of occasions, along with other thoughtful, caring chores for the library.

"I am simply overwhelmed by

gratitude and love by this wonderful gift. When Sharmon and Beth were very little girls and we were just weekenders, it was always an adventure for them to climb the very precarious flight of stairs to get to what was then the children's library. Such fun, and it is terrific that now their gift helps continue serving the kids of Kent. Peter is the godfather of Sharmon and Beth and has been in their lives since their infancy. He is, indeed, a best friend forever," Priaux said.

If you would like to honor a family member or friend, for any reason, birthday, graduation, in memory, new arrival, or any reason at all, Kent Memorial Library will put your gift to good use for the community.

Go to www.kentmemoriallibrary.org/support-the-library/tribute-gift.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
DOROTHY A. PAVIOL
Late of North Canaan
(20-00166)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated, May 12, 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:
Thomas E. Paviol and
Barbara A. Strattman
c/o Kevin F. Nelligan
The Law Offices of Kevin F. Nelligan, LLC
194 Ashley Falls Road
PO Box 776
Canaan, CT 06018

Beth L. McGuire
Clerk
05-28-20

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Reverse migration

Young people return to the Northwest Corner

A few months ago, we noticed that many young people who had grown up in the Northwest Corner were returning here after living, working and studying in other places.

At that time, we sent out a few of our youngest reporters to interview some of these young people (which we defined as mid-20s to early 30s) and to find out what had brought them back.

These interviews were all done before COVID-19 brought still more young people to the Northwest Corner, seeking refuge from their city homes by staying here with parents and other relations. Perhaps in the months to come, these young people will discover that, hey, it's kind of nice here! Perhaps they'll stay.

The return of those young people is more than just an interesting footnote. Our local towns have an unusually high percentage of residents who are over age 65; and an unusually

high percentage of weekenders, renters and other part-time residents — and those percentages are increasing.

As a result, the student population at our local schools is shrinking, to the point where every spring at least two elementary schools have fewer than 10 students in their graduating classes.

This is also a region that relies almost completely on volunteers for fire and ambulance service. While volunteers of all ages do valuable work, it is usually the younger men and women who do the heavy physical labor needed to stop a fire and carry a patient to an ambulance.

The Lakeville Journal offers a hearty welcome to all young people who have already returned and who are considering making the move here.

Note: All the photos for this article are “selfies” sent to us by the interviewees.

— Cynthia Hochswender

WILLY YAHN

By Willy Yahn

SHARON — As someone who was born and raised in Sharon, appreciating life in the rural Northwest Corner takes a little effort. There are a lot of fun things to do here, you just have to go find them.

This is my first time being back in the area for this long, close to five months, since I was in high school; 2019 was my third year of Minor League baseball, playing from mid-February to September while living in Florida and Maryland. I was a substitute teacher, baseball coach and reporter for The Lakeville Journal while I was living in Sharon (until Feb. 3). Considering the paychecks that Minor Leaguers get, many of us get multiple offseason jobs to make some extra money.

I finished my degree in journalism at the University of Connecticut in December 2018, but I did not think I would get the chance to put stories I wrote in print during my baseball career. I heard about an opportunity to apply as a freelance writer here at The Journal when I came home in September and the fun began in October.

I then applied to be a substitute teacher in the Region One School District. Just over five years after graduating from Housatonic Valley Regional High School, I was there teaching history, French and gym among other subjects.

Last but not least, for the second year in a row I also coached baseball clinics in Winsted, which started after Thanksgiving. I worked with Housatonic baseball coach Darryl Morhardt at Brooks Belter's new baseball academy in Winsted (@belter_baseball_academy on Instagram and belterbaseballacademy@gmail.com for questions.)

[Note: Belter is a Salisbury native and a 2006 graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School. He is the son of Jim and Mindy Belter.]

I like to keep myself busy even in the offseason. I believe that is the best way to live in the Northwest Corner. Work hard and in the free time find fun ways to get involved, check out the different eateries and new breweries and



PHOTO SUBMITTED

go for hikes.

This offseason consisted of some hikes and a lot of pick-up baseball. Either with two teams of seven or two full lineups, there was going to be a ballgame every Sunday behind the gas station in Lakeville or somewhere else in the region. We even had a night game in the snow at Veterans' Field in Sharon.

Predicting the future, in one's baseball career or what their lifestyle will be like, is almost impossible. No matter how talented someone is at the game, things have to go your way. The key is when things do swing in your favor to make the most of the opportunity. Five years from now, I could be competing with a winning, rebuilt ball club in Baltimore or I could be working on my career in broadcasting or writing. But for now, I am going to focus on Plan A.

I love living in the Northwest Corner. While working a few jobs was enjoyable and I will dearly miss my family and friends, I'm excited to leave three jobs and disappear into the south for seven months. That's something I never thought I would say.

The Northwest Corner is a place you choose to make the most of, rather than choosing to see it as a boring area in the middle of the woods. There are many things to do with great people living and working in the area, including the ones that I got to work with this offseason.



SARAH CUOCO

By Kaelin Hester

LAKEVILLE — Sarah Cuoco, 33, grew up in Lakeville and attended Salisbury Central School and then Housatonic Valley Regional High School. She did a couple of semesters at Northwestern Connecticut Community College in Winsted, but her real education was teaching dance and helping at the ballet school started and run by her mother, Sandra Cuoco. She also choreographed shows at area schools while she was still in high school.

She stopped taking classes in Winsted, determined to focus on dancing. She moved to New York City for a decade, did shows there and went on a European tour with a show in 2018 —and then decided to return home.

She currently manages and teaches a movement training class called bodyART at Bud-dhi Tribe in Millerton, is part of the education committee at the Sharon Playhouse and works on the children's theater and other programs, and she works at Danceworks, a new dance studio in Millerton.

Originally, she says, she came home as “a reset,” because she wasn't quite sure where to go or what to do. She was done with the city and it seemed like the right thing to do, to come back here. She felt like she was working 40 hours a week or more and was barely even able to pay her rent.

“I wanted to focus on dance and choreography; and the arts in this area are on an upward trend again, so there's lots of opportunity if you're willing to work hard.”

Her interest in dance isn't solely based on her own professional dreams. She also feels that “dance helps build discipline and creativity and teaches teamwork.”

There aren't many places in this area where young people can learn dance, so she's glad to be back, glad to be teaching and looking forward to developing “lasting relationships and creating lasting impacts through dance.”

She hopes that five years from now she'll still be here.

“I'm starting to develop roots here. I don't see myself leaving unless a great opportunity comes my way. For now, I'm looking for an apartment.”

Look for more profiles of young people returning to the Northwest Corner in the June 4 issue of The Lakeville Journal.



WILL PEROTTI

By Sam Foley

NORTH CANAAN — Will Perotti, 25, is a North Canaan native who recently moved back to the area.

He grew up on Lower Road in North Canaan and attended North Canaan Elementary School and then Housatonic Valley Regional High School. During his time at Housatonic, Will played football, baseball and was on the ski team. After graduating, he attended Plymouth State University, where he again played football and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. He then took a job at a ski resort in Plymouth, Mass., working on improving the ski slopes and doing other general maintenance.

He continued to live and work in Plymouth for two years, but while he enjoyed it, he longed to come back home.

Perotti saw that there was an opportunity at his family's business (William Perotti and Sons Plumbing), as there is for many trades in the Northwest Corner. He decided it was finally time to come home to North Canaan. He missed the strong sense of community that there is around here and how it feels as though people in the community genuinely care for the well-being of others.

When asked where he sees himself in five years, he said, “I still anticipate being in North, Canaan — hopefully deeply ingrained within my community.”

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. Notice of such error must be given to us after the first run of the advertisement.

RENE BOARDMAN

By Sam Foley

NORTH CANAAN — Rene Boardman, 29, grew up in Sheffield, Mass., but she has most certainly been adopted by the Northwest Corner's Region One School District.

Growing up on her family's farm, Carlwood Farm, in Sheffield, Rene was always close to North Canaan in terms of proximity, and she was always heavily involved in the town.

She was in the 4H chapter in North Canaan as a youngster and attended Housatonic Valley Regional High School as a tuition student, where she was active in the FFA program that trains students for careers relating to farming and the environment.

Then she went to the State University of New York at Cobleskill to pursue a bachelor's degree in animal science.

She wanted to go far enough away from home to get a unique experience, but remain close enough that she could come back and help on the farm.

Cobleskill is well-known for its agricultural studies program; growing up on a farm, Rene knew that she wanted a career in agriculture.

While she was at school, she had to do an internship, and she chose to do it in Bantam, Conn. This little internship showed her how much she really appreciated



small-town life and how much she wanted to stay close to home.

In 2013 she got her degree and came back to the Tri-state region, not knowing what she wanted to do. Someone had mentioned to her that getting on the substitute teacher list at Housatonic could be a good idea, so in 2015 she followed through with that. She became a long-term sub later that year and went on to get her teaching certificate in 2016.

Before the 2019 school year she was hired full time as an agricultural education teacher.

When asked where she sees herself in five years, Rene pointed at the floor of her office at the high school and said, “Right here!”

Rene always knew she wanted to work with animals. Now she works with animals and kids and she wouldn't trade it for anything in the world.

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Remembering and replacing the fallen oaks at the Grove

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — Salisbury First Selectman Curtis Rand had a terrific pitch for a story idea: “It isn’t about COVID-19.”

Rand and town Grove Manager Stacey Dodge were at the Grove on Thursday morning, May 21, showing off new-ish white oak saplings.

The new trees are meant to replace the much older white oaks, some of which have come down in recent years.

Rand said the white oaks have a history that’s worth telling.

It is unusual to have trees of the same species and age — 400 years old, give or take a decade — in the same spot. The Grove is named for these trees (it is a “grove” of a oak trees).

It seems to indicate the trees were planted deliberately. And the only people who could have done that were native Americans.

Rand (who is a professional forester and forestry educator) tried his theory out on a Yale professor, who agreed it seemed likely that native Americans, practicing swidden agriculture (aka slash and burn) around Lake Wononscopomuc, planted the



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

First Selectman Curtis Rand, who is a professional forester, showed one of the fallen white oaks at the Grove in Lakeville. New oaks are being planted there this summer.

trees, which were valued for their acorns, which have a sweet taste and are good for bread-making. The approximate date for this is the early 17th century.

Inside the Grove building is a 1985 project from the late George Kiefer, who analyzed a cross section of one of the white oaks and assigned dates to the

rings. The earliest is 1630. Kiefer was the town of Salisbury’s tree warden for many years.

The white oaks come down eventually, usually when the root systems degrade. The trees are top-heavy, and when the roots can no longer support them, they fall down, usually with the help of the strong winds that are a

feature of the lake and environs.

To replace the white oaks, Rand has for several years been collecting and germinating the acorns.

The seedlings are planted in the compost pile at his home and get nursed along for up to four years before they are ready to be planted at the Grove.

The wood from the white oaks that have come down is highly prized for use in restorations and replicas of old wooden sailing ships. Rand explained that the wood is highly water-resistant, and the size of the downed trees means larger pieces can be cut.

Duke Besozzi runs New England Naval Timbers out of Cornwall, and is the man Rand calls when a white oak comes down at the Grove.

“Seems like every year or so, a white oak comes down there,” he said.

Besozzi has supplied timber for well-known ships such as the Charles W. Morgan at Mystic Seaport and the Honey Fitz, President John F. Kennedy’s yacht.

One of the Grove oaks now forms the rudder of the Bluenose II, which is the national schooner of Canada.

Kent BOF spending plan

By Patrick L. Sullivan

KENT — The Kent Board of Finance unanimously approved a total town budget for 2020-21 of \$13,535,103 at a special meeting Tuesday, May 19.

The total includes town government, Kent Center School and the town’s share of the Region One budget.

The mill rate remains unchanged at 18.61.

The mill rate determines property taxes in Connecticut towns. A mill represents \$1 in tax for every \$1,000 of assessed property value. A 15-mill tax

rate would translate into a tax bill of \$1,500 for the owner of a home assessed at \$100,000.

The grand list is the total assessed value of all taxable property in a town.

Properties are assessed at 70 percent of their total value.

An executive order from Gov. Ned Lamont gives the state’s municipalities the authority to pass budgets this year without the usual public hearing and town meeting.

Kent residents were able to look at the budget plans online and to submit questions, which were discussed by the board at length before their vote.

Summer recreation plans

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — With health and safety the main concerns at the dawn of the summer recreation season, the Cornwall Board of Selectmen discussed the challenges at their regular meeting online on Tuesday, May 19.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway opened discussion with a report that state officials have decided to reopen beaches in shore communities, but not town beaches inland. State officials are not concerned with swimming, but rather with social distancing on beaches. He said that parks are now generally open for hiking or boating, although Kent Falls will remain closed.

Selectman Marina Kotchoubey observed that with summer camp programs canceled, town beaches might draw more people. Social distancing and masks are crucial, the selectmen agreed.

“We will be very cautious,” Ridgway said. He asked how lifeguards could function without knowing the health status of beachgoers who might need their aid. He said that the question is how to protect people and what is safe for the lifeguards.

“How do you do lifesaving with COVID-19,” he wondered.

The town measures only 100 feet of beach frontage, but all the

issues of beach management are still there.

Discussion turned to the successful tennis program, with Ridgway’s concerns about the details. He saw the possibility of allowing singles matches and family-based doubles, with barriers between the courts and players bringing their own balls. He said that the town is working on it, and that if the courts were overrun, the nets could be taken away.

Resident Todd Piker, who oversees the tennis program, commented that he is coordinating with the Park and Recreation department to get appropriate signage posted.

“We need to do it right,” he said, adding that together they have done due diligence and they see a path forward. He hopes to get the program open for individuals to play, and that they could do online sign-up for court time, which would help with contact tracing, if needed.

He said that he did not foresee a need for masks for singles play, although Ridgway was concerned that some singles play brings players within 6 feet of each other at the net.

Piker said that he anticipates working closely with the town on all concerns. The selectmen agreed that discussion will continue at future meetings.

Salisbury slowly returns to normal

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Beginning Monday, June 1, the Salisbury Town Hall staff will be at full strength and working full-time. First Selectman Curtis Rand made this and other announcements at a special meeting of the Board of Selectmen held online on Thursday, May 21.

Some staffers will still work from home to some degree; Rand said that will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Employees will follow all state safety guidelines while in the building.

Town Hall will remain closed to the public until further notice, however. The current arrangement will continue, where the foyer is open and forms are avail-

able, plus there is a telephone so residents may speak to the various departments.

And residents may meet with employees by appointment.

Rand said at some point in the summer, when taxes and transfer station sticker payments are due, for at least part of the business day — 9 a.m. to noon, for example — residents will be able to go to a window under the portico and speak to someone.

Rand said depending on state guidelines, it might be possible to resume open meetings “later in June, but not now.”

Rand said there have been problems at the town Grove, mostly with groups of people drinking and not maintaining social distancing. Therefore, the decision was made to close the

town Grove to all activities except boating on Memorial Day weekend.

“We don’t want the town to become a hot spot” for COVID-19, he said.

The town was already seeing an increase in the number of people looking for a break from the lockdown routine.

“The amount of pressure on recreational areas is pretty staggering,” he said, especially at the trailhead along Route 41.

The reason the selectmen waited until May 21 to hold the meeting and announce the decision about the Grove was that the guidelines from Gov. Ned Lamont about public beaches were only issued on May 20. Rand said the guidelines are “confusing and sometimes contradictory.”



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For kids, we offer story hours, theater, crafts, family meditation and more. Adults can zoom our book group, speaker series, meditation and movement classes. Check our website for latest listings. To access operas, museums and other cultural offerings, click *Diversions* under *Helpful Links*.

OUR GROUNDS REMAIN OPEN

Restore spirits with a visit to our Children’s Garden. Read a book on one of our sun-warmed cedar benches. Our Wi-Fi requires no password and can be accessed from anywhere near the exterior of the building.

GET THE LATEST INFO

Go to our website www.scovillelibrary.org for links to reliable information sources on COVID-19, listed under the *Helpful Links* menu. We are doing our best to provide services to help you and your family stay safe during this challenging time.

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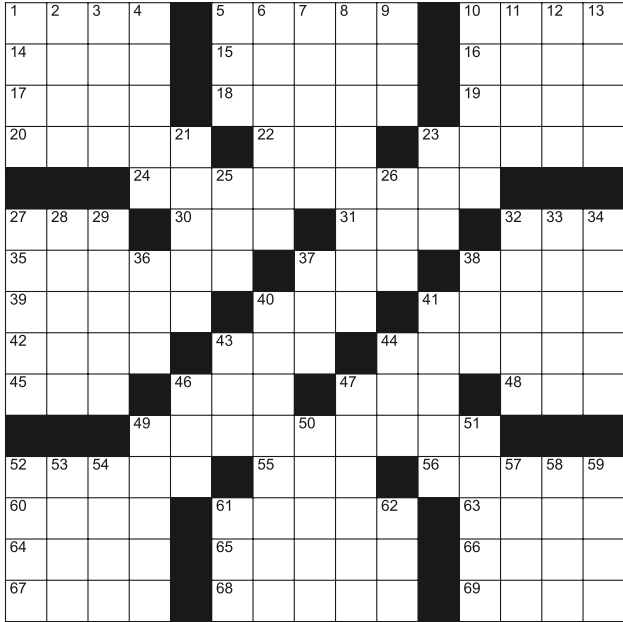
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Common request
- Department in France
- Fungi cells
- Famed inventor
- Hillside
- Cold wind
- La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- Resembling a doddering old woman
- Geological periods
- Assists
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Jewish spiritual leader
- English soccer club
- Body art
- No (Scottish)
- Clumsy person
- Swiss river
- Belittled
- Luxury car
- Single sheet of glass in a window
- Monetary units
- Supervises flying
- Indian term of respect
- Breezed through
- The bill in a restaurant
- Flower cluster
- Moved quickly
- Shooters need to do it
- High schoolers’ test
- Split pulses
- Salts
- Breaking Bad actor __ Paul
- Set ablaze
- Semitic Sun god
- Nervous system cells
- Tourist destination Buenos __
- A way to bind
- Behave uncontrollably
- Feels concern
- Sportscaster Andrews
- Subway dwellers
- Astrological aspect
- You may take one

CLUES DOWN

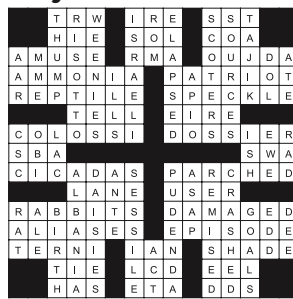
- Swedish rock group
- Serbian
- Away from wind
- Actor Oliver
- Helps little firms
- Intricately decorative
- American state
- Type of tumor
- Midway between east and southeast
- On a line at right angles to a ship’s length
- Fruit of the service tree
- Grouch
- Romanian city
- Units of loudness
- British Air Aces



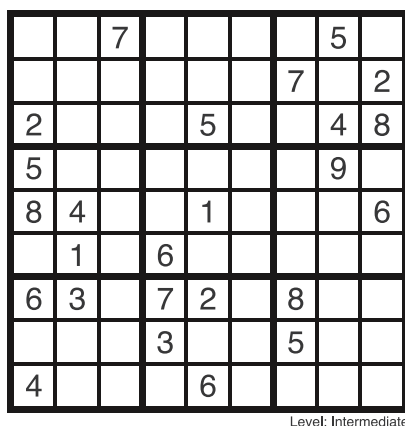
- Small amount
- Hem’s partner
- Turkic people
- Member of the banana family
- Liam Neeson franchise
- Expressed pleasure
- Inward-directed part of psyche
- Insurgent
- Unhappy
- Gateway (Arabic)
- Fundraising political group (abbr.)
- Well-known
- Satisfies
- ‘__ death do us part
- Jailhouse informant
- French river
- A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- Drenches
- Clouds
- Companies need to make them

- Created from seaweed
- One’s school: __ mater
- A type of act
- Member of Russian people
- Neutralizes alkalis
- Monetary unit
- Play a role
- Midway between south and southeast

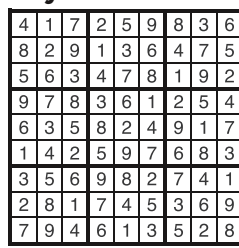
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EDITORIAL

Reopening will have its benefits, but also its challenges

As Connecticut has begun its cautious reopening, taking it in carefully planned phases, those who are still employed here (because way too many have lost their employment or had it greatly diminished) may find the guidelines extensive and all too detailed. Yet, they also reflect the common sense steps that all of us have had to take in order to stop the spread of COVID-19 during the months of shutdown. In that those steps have proved effective, why not continue to try to maintain safe environments as much as we possibly can to keep the coronavirus at bay?

Those steps, however, are just one part of multiple challenges arising from reopening different sectors in the state. All our lives have changed dramatically since March, and the ways we have coped or not may surprise even us. But perhaps those whose home lives have been most affected by remote and shelter-in-place living are those with young children.

Parents and children, as well as their teachers, have needed to reinvent their thinking on education and learning. Depending on students' ages, individual characteristics and differences in how they learn, this time of pandemic has surely been one of intensity and difficulty in many of those households. Now, as they may be adjusting better and understanding ways to make this odd time workable for their families, parents may be pivoting once again to accommodate their chance to get back to work on a more regular basis.

There are problems beyond safety and health measures that make this transition so challenging for families. After all, without child care for young children and the schools remaining closed, how are either single- or two-parent households supposed to cope with returning to either part- or full-time work? And for those essential workers who have scrambled to try to find creative ways to keep their children safe and learning while they needed to work, how do they make any system work in the longer term without that safe environment for their children's care being available to them?

And continuing to look into the future: While the Region One school system is publicly funded and secure, how are child care centers, so essential for young families, to survive months of closure? They are small businesses, mainly nonprofits, that operate on the edge, especially in rural areas like our Northwest Corner. They are dependent on young families being able to afford their rates, yet they also need to have highly trained and dedicated teachers to take good care of our youngest citizens.

Will child care centers be able to reopen when the time comes? If so, how do families manage until that time comes? And if they don't reopen, how do families and child care teachers cope with that next challenge? These are just more of the unforeseen changes in formerly normal life that will require more of us than we may feel we have to give.

We need to be very aware of the problems we are all are having. They are different, depending on our circumstances, yet in many ways the same: resulting from the global pandemic and still needing local perspective. While on any given day our own difficulties may seem insurmountable, let's all remember that others around us are in the same situation, or worse.

Our inessential Legislature, and unions sound nervous

How laughable that state legislators from both parties are starting to express annoyance with Governor Lamont — some about the pace of reopening commerce amid the virus epidemic, others about financial issues.

For the governor did not adjourn the General Assembly when he declared an emergency amid the epidemic and claimed the special powers allowed to him by state law.

No, the Legislature adjourned and scattered itself and has remained adjourned even as all sorts of "essential" workers remain on the job enduring close contact with others, from nursing home aides to supermarket employees to postal carriers.

If those workers can stay on the job, legislators should be able to do the same. Otherwise legislators proclaim themselves inessential.

In the unprecedented circumstances of the epidemic the

THE CHRIS POWELL COLUMN

governor will never be able to please everyone in his pursuit of public safety, and everyone remains free to complain about his executive orders. But unlike ordinary citizens, legislators are free not only to complain about government policy but also to do something about it. Legislation could restrict the governor's powers, undo his orders, and begin to cover the huge state budget deficit caused by the epidemic.

As long as they fail to reconvene, legislators who complain about the governor will only be posturing, not working.

Meanwhile, Local 2001 of the
See POWELL, page A7

Opinion



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

Turning the fields

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Hi-Ho Silver and Away!'

That was my first introduction to a "good guy" wearing a mask — in TV westerns. It was a spiffy black mask, as I recall, that covered only the area around the eyes of the Lone Ranger's face. I was a young kid back then (long ago) and boy that mask was cool! It also was probably my first introduction to a rich phenomenon in human nature: mystery. Take something away (full viewing access to the eyes) and get something way cool as a result: "the look." Back then, all of us young boys desperately wanted to copy the Lone Ranger's "look." (Of course it didn't hurt that the Lone Ranger rode a spectacular completely white horse — and had a trusted, stoic Native American [Indian back then], Tonto, as a sidekick).

Up until the Lone Ranger came along, my good guy/bad guy viewing assessments had to rely on the standard "hide your face with a mask — you're a bad guy" themes. Although the character actors always did a good

job in whatever Western they were cast in, the predictability of "mask means bad guy" got a little worn. Eventually, TV and movie writers got wise to how much fun they could have with audiences by mixing up bad guys with masks and good guys with masks and, well, you get the point.

Years later, casting my net as far and wide as I could to learn new skills for use in performing, I hung around with some very talented "Commedia dell'Arte" students. This Italian form of performance utilizes masks that cover most all of the face save the mouth. Each mask was sculpted, usually in leather, to be an iconic take-off of a character in the local political/societal power structure. Needless to say, there was a great deal of comedy to be mined therein.

(Halloween comes to mind as probably the ultimate stage for any and all the people of the world to cut loose with losing one's present identity in favor of a fantasy-fed one with a mask. But

that only lasts one day per year.)

Today is a new day, it's a new age. We're all in a bit of a fix. The coronavirus is made up of countless gazillions of teeny-tiny biological agents. We're all taking the word of scientists that it exists, (none of us have seen it), in large part because we see the devastation it has wrought in so many lives.

In point of fact, we're all children now. We have to use our imaginations. We the people of the world have common purpose. We are called upon by scientists to meet one, all-pervasive malevolent mystery, the coronavirus, with another mystery: a mask. "Hi-Ho Silver and Away!"

(There is someone out there who's totally confused by all of this. He thinks he's riding a spectacular white horse and he endlessly shouts "Hi-Ho MAGA and Away!" but he refuses to wear a mask. Some people just have no imagination.)

Michael Moschen
Cornwall

Biden is getting a lot of media help

OFF THE RECORD
MARK GODBURN

remark too?

The press certainly seems to be. Far from being revulsed by Biden, the press portrays him as a champion of women. In 2011, Biden helped get colleges to adopt a simple preponderance-of-evidence rule in sexual assault cases, which caused many males to be railroaded without due process or proof. Many charges turned out to be false, despite feminist insistence that women always tell the truth in such cases.

Yet feminists still push their "believe all women" mantra, even though they apply it only to women on the left. Most Democrats fervently believed the allegations against Brett Kavanaugh and Clarence Thomas when the two conservatives were Supreme Court nominees. The majority-Democratic press trashed the pair as though they were convicted war criminals.

Yet the same press gave short shrift to Juanita Broadrick's claim that Bill Clinton raped her, just as it now soft-pedals Reade's allegation against Biden. The press simply won't get behind allegations that damage their side politically.

The press soft-pedals everything for Biden. At 77, he's lost a few steps and may not be up to the task of leading the free world. His latest gaffe was a comment to a black radio audience: "If you have a problem figuring out whether you're for me or Trump," he said, "then you ain't black."

That comment from Trump would set the national media aflame, but the AP wrote a benign report for Biden, not even giving his full inflammatory quote.

Even when Joe physically challenges people at rallies, the press just describes him as "feisty."

TURNING BACK

THE PAGES

NORMA GALAISE

100 years ago — May 1920

About the last relic of last winter's severity has finally taken its departure. Up till Monday a patch of snow and ice still remained beside the highway at Barack Matiff where during last winter a big snow bank was formed. Last Sunday someone with an eye to contrast had placed a bunch of grass and dandelions on the patch of snow.

LAKEVILLE — William Chase has severed his connection with the Wononsco Garage and has entered the employ of Dufour's Garage.

NOTICE — Have now opened the ice business for the coming season. Your orders solicited. Also Light Trucking. Phone 57-5. David Doty.

50 years ago — May 1970

Going uphill on Route 4 out of Sharon toward Cornwall Bridge, a large horse van ran off the road and fell on its side on Tuesday morning. Two horses were in the van at the time and the impact was enough for their hooves to break through the down side of the van. When extricated after a good deal of trouble, and with the aid of Dr. Harvey Hayden of Sharon, the horses were found to be uninjured. The driver also was unhurt.

KENT — Pvt. Roger A. Whitmore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin E. Whitmore, was graduated recently from the Army Aviation School's Single-Rotor Turbine Utility Helicopter Maintenance Course at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

"Old Canaan Days" will be the theme for the Canaan Chamber of Commerce sponsored activities the first week of August. For a number of years the theme was "Canaan Old Railroad Days." The decision was reached for the change of name at a meeting called by the Chamber of Commerce last week in the North Canaan Town Hall.

Jeremy R. Dakin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dakin of Sugar Hill Road, was one of 62 Connecticut seniors receiving degrees from the University of Vermont on May 17. Mr. Dakin received a B.A. degree.

25 years ago — May 1995

CANAAN — Residents at Geer Health Care Center have been celebrating the 25th anniversary of the current facility. Geer, which offers skilled nursing care, has held a variety of events, including a Mardi Gras celebration last week. A time capsule has been buried, which will be recovered when Geer celebrates its 50th anniversary.

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

Deadline for letters is
Monday at 10 a.m.

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

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We are all lab rats now

When I saw in the headlines that all 50 states are in the process of reopening their economies, I thought about that moment in my life, as a senior in college, when I decided that I no longer wanted to run rats in mazes. I had enough credits in my major to obtain my bachelor of science degree in experimental psychology, but I was done torturing rats.

Or so I thought, because right now we are all lab rats, the “subjects” in an unprecedentedly large experiment in Social Darwinism being conducted by our elected officials. And it is our lives they are playing with. Or, I should say, that we ourselves are playing with, if we grant that these officials are properly representing us and what we supposedly want right now, after months of restrictions, which is to have those restrictions on our actions and movements lifted so that we can return to “normal” lives.

Here is the experiment: a certain number of us are going to be allowed, perhaps even encouraged, to get sick and die, so that the vast majority can enjoy a better life. So what if those who are to die are elderly, or are disproportionately from the minorities, or are too poor to obtain adequate medical care? Those will be interesting data points for the experimenters.

So good luck to us all! We’re going to need it. Because the experimental design is flawed; for one thing, it does not say how many of us will need to die before the experiment is called off. We are now at around 100,000 deaths in the U.S. — a third of one percent of our population, which by Social Darwinist calculations is an acceptable loss rate.

Social Darwinism arose in the second half of the 19th century, when Charles Darwin’s work was somewhat misinterpreted in the slogan, “survival of the fittest,” a term coined by Herbert Spencer, a widely admired social scientist and philosopher of the time. In his faulty misappropriation of Darwin’s observations of animals to speak of human animals, he taught that the strong will drive out the weak, and that this is the proper — read scientific — thing for them to do, since it is the way of biology. Social Darwinism led directly to eugenics and to the excesses of Hitler’s attempts to exterminate the Jews so that his master of race of Aryans could repopulate the earth.

Social Darwinism was thought to have been extinguished after World War II. It has been mak-

THE LONG VIEW

TOM SHACHTMAN

Social Darwinism with its greatest opportunity to go mainstream.

The trigger is the dictates of modern capitalism. The “fast-openers” of our country believe that the health of our supercharged capitalist economy is dependent on very high individual consumption levels of non-essential goods. To get our GDP humming along again at 2%-3% growth a year, and to keep our stock markets booming, we all need to be eating in restaurants, going to movies and concerts and ball games and gambling palaces, flying to vacations, buying new clothes, becoming addicted to more electronic toys, etc. The fear — and it is a very reasonable fear — is that if the economy does not return to full blast, and fairly soon, the whole country will fall into an economic slough comparable in size and duration to that of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The logic is palpable: Continued substantial unemployment will produce, among other things, more rapid depletion of the Social Security fund; cascading real estate bankruptcies that will not only hit large landlords but will also sap the sale prices of individual homes; nonpayment of tuitions, and diminished student bodies that will force downsizing of many colleges and universities; and greater pressure on social service systems that are already overwhelmed — to name just a few likely results.

To avoid the presumed catastrophes of not reopening, we all must now become lab rats in this experiment. So let’s be clear about what is going on. While our public officials will do some hand-wringing about the deaths that will occur on their watch, make no mistake about it, they as experimenters are practicing Social Darwinism, and in this experiment they are determined not to hamper the strong, even for another few months, just to preserve the health and life of the not-so-strong.

Tom Shachtman is the author of more than a dozen American and world histories and of documentaries seen on all the major networks. He lives in Salisbury.

The need to preserve forests is critical now

Most of the planet’s land mass was once covered with forest — now less than a third is.

After the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation is the second leading cause of climate change, accounting for roughly 20% of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions. Typically, when forests are destroyed, valuable timber is harvested and hauled away and the remaining vegetation burned to make way for crops such as soy or grasses for livestock grazing. Vegetable farming, grazing, mining, drilling and logging account for more than half of all deforestation, with conversion of forest to agricultural uses the largest contributor to forest loss.

The overall effect of this process is devastating in more ways than we normally consider.

From the 1600s to the 1800s,

half the forests in the eastern portion of North America, including northwest Connecticut, were cut down. Much has grown back during the past century as both farming and timber cutting have moved west to more favorable locations. But deforestation still continues at a rapid rate as urban, and now suburban, development proceeds and the population grows over most of the country.

Nearly a quarter of the Amazon rain forest has been destroyed in the past 50 years and the pace has quickened under the administration of Brazil’s president Jair Bolsonaro. In 2019, more than 80,000 forest fires burned in the Amazon, the vast majority lit by humans, in order to convert the land to farming and mining activities.

In Southeast Asia, with gov-

OCCASIONAL OBSERVER

MAC GORDON

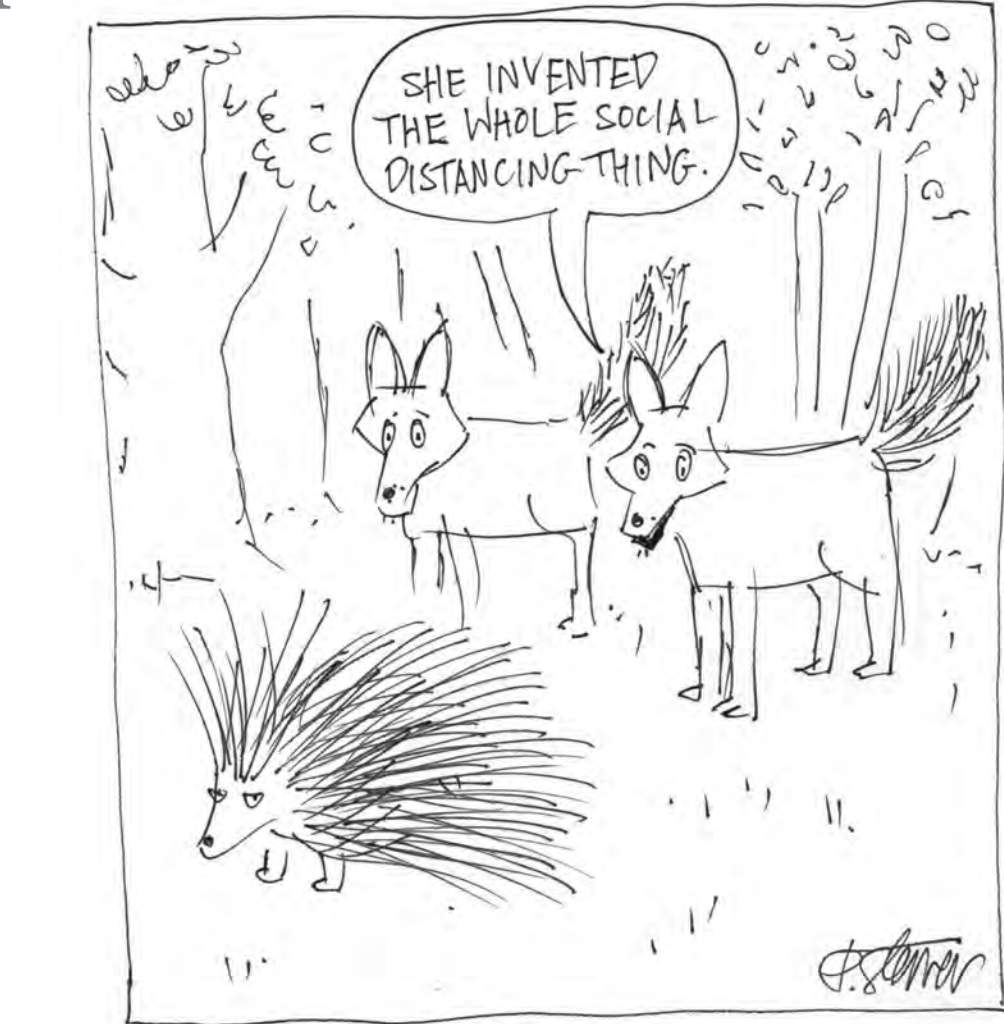
ernment approval, destroyed forests are often replanted with enormous groves of palm trees for the \$90 billion palm oil market.

In Australia deforestation has greatly increased under the current government of Prime Minister Scott Morrison. The colossal spate of fires covering much of southeast Australia during 2019 was exacerbated by extreme drought, and triggered by thousands of lightning strikes. True, but the cause goes deeper. According to the Wilderness Society, over the past 200 years, Australia has destroyed nearly half of its forest cover, and is considered the only global deforestation “hot spot” in the developed world, with land clearing rates in the southeast part of the country on a par with those of Brazil.

Why is deforestation such a grievous problem? Throughout the world, more than 15 billion trees a year are cut down. Deforestation and forest degradation cause major disruption of the water cycles resulting in changes in precipitation and river flow, flooding and drought. Increased topsoil erosion results in loss of fertile soil and extensive water pollution. Cleared land is more subject to extremely high winds, another factor in the out-of-control burning of the 2019 Australian fires. At a certain point, air pollution from forest fire smoke becomes an international health menace. Forest loss, annually, accounts for nearly 10% of global carbon emissions. And most important, cutting down forests results in significant global warming.

Eighty percent of land-based species can be found in forests, especially tropical forests, including most of the world’s plant species, only a fraction of which we know much about. After forests are degraded or destroyed many animals, including communities of native peoples who lived and worked in the forests, cannot subsist on the land that remains.

Forest destruction is a major factor in the spread of disease



Fortunate to be living in America

I’m having a casual conversation with a friend who lives in Boston, who years ago, just like me, came to America from Beirut, Lebanon, where we were both born. Occasionally we reminisce about how we grew up there, went to school, and as we got older, started going to the movies, bars, restaurants and enjoyed delicious meals prepared by the great chefs of Beirut.

The hummus, the falafels, couscous with toasted almonds, grilled salmon with vegetables and multitudes of pastries, all of them would make anyone yearn for more. Yes, those were exot-

I AM WIDE AWAKE

VAROUJAN FROUNDJIAN

ic times that carried us back to memories of the place gracefully named “The Paris of the Mediterranean.”

But, regardless of how both my friend and I go on and on about the beauty and exoticism of our birthplace, our conversation finally is interrupted by silence. Suddenly, we find ourselves completely speechless. We seem both lost and totally immersed and absorbed in a whole new thought. And after a stillness, we both repeat the same thought as if we were echoing each other, by saying, “But isn’t it wonderful and amazing that we ended up here in America, instead of being in Beirut?”

Then, we proceed to complete each other’s sentences, speaking with such conviction that we can both almost ignore our past and truly admit that we are lucky to be members of a whole new society and country, where life has been a true blessing. And we both solemnly agree and accept the fact that America saved us. My friend concludes the conversation by saying, “We would’ve been dead if we had stayed in Beirut.” My friend’s final remark might’ve been unnecessarily tragic, but who can say what the past could have been?

Strangely, this conversation is taking place at a time when America is going through totally unexpected and turbulent times. Nothing about America since my friend and myself came here is the same anymore. Sometimes it feels like America has turned herself upside down. And the causes and challenges are so overwhelming that it seems that America will never return to her past.

Democracy and the rule of the land seems suddenly hijacked by ultra-conservative forces that doesn’t appear to value democracy or what the country achieved by endorsing equal rights, health benefits, women’s rights and

equality among all races.

And now, on top of the political challenges, here comes a pandemic that is deadly and destructive. So far it has claimed thousands of lives, grandpas, grandmas, uncles, sisters and brothers. Victims include people who actually are the ones who support the infected and help them heal. First responders, nurses, police officers, doctors — no one is safe from this pandemic.

Between the pandemic and the political state of the country, I feel troubled and (should I admit?) clueless. What happened? What went wrong? And as I look for answers, all I see is how certain politicians minimize the complexities of the tragedy to enhance their personal or political standing, ignoring the advice given by medical professionals. These are rock-hard times.

There’s no question that the downturn of the economy, the unemployment and fear of additional deaths predicted by the experts paint a gloomy picture of years to come. Yet, still, as we continued our conversation, both me and my friend, after some reflection, admitted that we are happier “here in America” than “there in Beirut.”

Of course, like all of us, we are impatiently waiting for the medical professionals to find a cure for this pandemic, and trust that they will. That gives my friend and me hope for the future.

In the end, we are happy to be here because in this country there is immense optimism. Sure, this whole period of distancing and being trapped in our houses for so long is becoming bothersome. But the passionate love and extraordinary optimism of everyday people, neighbors and colleagues, companies sharing food, students sharing their love with each other is extremely inspiring.

And that’s exactly what makes me feel fortunate to be living in America.

Varoujan Froundjian is a graphic designer, Photoshop artist, writer, cartoonist, information technology and wine expert. He can be reached at varoujan.froundjian@gmail.com.

The Chris Powell Column

Continued from previous page

Service Employees International Union, a state employee union, is preparing a publicity campaign to counter criticism that Connecticut’s state employee pension system is too expensive, unaffordable amid the huge costs of the epidemic.

According to the union, the expense of the pension system is not even a fair issue. In a message to members seeking volunteers to write letters for publication in newspapers, the union says: “When you open up the paper all you see is a coordinated effort to distort the truth.”

That’s union-speak for people who dare to disagree with the union. They must be dishonest.

The SEIU message continues: “Are you willing to be involved in the upcoming elections? The state representatives and senators running locally are the ones who make decisions about your health care and pensions. Let’s be a part of electing the right people, but we can do that only if you get involved.”

Of course government employee union members have the same political rights as everyone else. But unlike everyone else, the unions use those rights nearly every day. They have lobbyists at the state Capitol and, as the SEIU notice suggests, their members

staff most legislative campaigns for candidates nominated by the majority party. Their success rate in elections long has been high, for, as the journalist James Reston wrote long ago, the first rule of politics is the indifference of the majority.


So is the SEIU really worried that the damage to state government’s finances may be great enough to threaten union control of the Legislature and the governor’s office?

Does the union really suspect that to restore state government’s finances the governor might try to exact from the government class a sacrifice resembling the sacrifice the epidemic has exacted from the private sector?

Does the union really fear that the governor might feel bad that the incomes of government employees have been completely protected during the epidemic while tens of thousands of private-sector workers have lost their jobs and may face higher taxes anyway?


Could the majority in Connecticut actually be induced to care about this disparity and prove Reston wrong for once?

Chris Powell is a columnist for the Journal Inquirer in Manchester.



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For landowners with pastures and hay fields, this is a critical time for the wildlife that depend on this eco system. There are many endangered ground nesting birds that need to have the fields undisturbed during the time they are sitting on their eggs and rearing their young. These birds include the Meadowlark, the Upland Sandpiper and Bobolink to mention a few. In addition the unmowed fields provide cover for young animals like fawns who simply cannot get out of the way of mowers. So the Mass Audubon has come out with a great handbook for landowners to guide them in the best practices to promote wildlife and the health of their fields. One of the prime recommendations is to not mow the fields from May 15th to Aug 15th. For further reading, please go to: www.massaudubon.org/content/download/19413/274073/file/Best-Management-Practices_Grasslands.pdf



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OBITUARIES

Calvin Edward Brendline Sr.

HUDSON, N.Y. — Calvin Edward Brendline Sr., 84, a lifelong area resident, died May 19, 2020, at Ghent Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Ghent, N.Y., following a lengthy illness.

Mr. Brendline worked for Duncandale Farms, Inc., in Millerton for more than 40 years. He then moved to Hamilton, N.Y., and worked in the Culinary Division as a cook at Turning Stone Resort and Casino for 20 years.

Born March 22, 1936, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Louise (Lenhardt) and Harry Brendline. On Feb. 5, 1955, at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, he married Jean E. Palmatier. His wife of 65 years survives at home in Hudson.

Mr. Brendline was an avid fisherman and enjoyed casinos, senior citizen bus trips, spending time with his family and a good cigar. He will be dearly missed by all.

In addition to his beloved wife, he is survived by a daughter, Gayle Harrison of Hudson; three sons, Gary A. Brendline of Wappingers Falls, N.Y., Robert H. Brendline

and his wife, Karen, of Simsbury, Conn., and Paul J. Brendline of Hudson; his sister, Linda Kaye of Millerton and her husband, Wally; six grandchildren, Heather LaMont, Heidi Roger, David, Danielle and Joshua Brendline and Kristin Garcia; 11 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and many friends.

He was predeceased by a son, Calvin E. Brendline Jr.; and two sisters, Cynthia Goggins and Barbara Hosier.

Graveside services and burial took place privately at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia on May 23, the Rev. R. Kent Wilson officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

To send an online condolence to the family, go to www.conklin-funeralhome.com.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Greenport Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 275, Hudson, NY 12534; or Ghent Rehab & Nursing Center, 1 Whittier Way, Ghent, NY 12075.



Laurie Emberlin

LAKEVILLE-NORTH CANAAN — Laurie Emberlin passed away on May 23, 2020. Laurie was a lifelong resident of the Lakev-

ille-North Canaan area. She is survived by her two children, Cathy Emberlin and Greg Emberlin. There will not be a funeral.

Stefanie Joy Kahn

LAKEVILLE — Stefanie Joy Kahn, 58, died peacefully on May 21, 2020, following a long illness.

She was born in New York, N.Y., on April 24, 1962, and grew up in Pomona, N.Y., with her parents, the late Paul and Anita Kahn, sisters Susan and Patricia Kahn and brother Laurence Kahn.

She attended the Rockland Country Day School, where she graduated in 1980, and Syracuse University, graduating in 1987. Later, she lived in Syracuse, New York City, Nyack, N.Y., and Lakeville. She dearly loved and was loved by her parents, her siblings, her nephews Matthias and Lucas Graf, her nieces Peri Kahn and Ginny Smith, and her great-nieces Emerson and Marlowe Smith.

Stefanie was a preternaturally articulate toddler and a tiny, effervescent little girl.

She grew up to be warm, generous and full of fun, with a huge smile and a contagious laugh. She was a sensitive and empathetic listener — she was always everyone's

friend and confidante.

Living in her native New York City in the 1990s and early 2000s, she loved her upper 80s far East Side neighborhood. She felt the same way about her more recently adopted community in Lakeville, where she lived from 2012 until 2020.

Stefanie's funeral is postponed until it is safer for people to travel and gather together. Meanwhile, her family is creating a memorial page for her on Facebook and will soon have a site up at www.legacy.com.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Stefanie's memory to the Corner Food Pantry (www.thecornerfoodpantry.org) in Lakeville. You will need to email contact@thecornerfoodpantry.org to let them know that your contribution is in her memory.

Thank you to the doctors and nurses at Sharon Hospital, where Stefanie received warm, attentive care for three difficult weeks. Many thanks also to her good friends in the Lakeville community.



Newton B. Kemp Jr.

STANFORDVILLE, N.Y. — Newton B. Kemp Jr. passed away on May 18, 2020, at the age of 86, at Ferncliff Nursing Home in Rhinebeck, N.Y.

He was born on July 8, 1933, at Vassar Brother's Hospital, to parents Newton Kemp Sr. and Evalena Thurst Kemp Hardisty.

Newt was a lifetime resident of Stanfordville, where he served as a volunteer fireman for 67 years. He was also a member of the United Church of Christ for 86 years, town councilman for 10 years, as well as a member of the Stanfordville Lions Club.

He worked at IBM for 35 years and retired at the age of 58. After retirement he worked part-time at Peck & Peck Funeral Home for many years.

Newt married Roberta Harrington on Oct. 3, 1954, in Garrison, N.Y. He is survived by his wife, Roberta Kemp; his daughters, Michelle (Kemp) Holst-Grubbe and Adrienne (Kemp) D'Antonio and her husband, Louis D'Antonio; his granddaughters, Lisa Keeler Mielich and Robert Miel-

ich, Allison Holst-Grubbe and Paige Howarth and Amie Keeler Buonome and Stephen Buonome; his great-grandchildren, Matthew Mielich, Austin Mielich, Mattison Mondene and Sophia Keeler; his sister, Kathleen Kemp Calabrese and Alfonso Calabrese; a brother-in-law, Robert Jones; and his nieces and nephew.

Newt was predeceased by his parents; his stepfather, Chester Hardisty; his sister, Arthena Kemp Jones; and his son-in-law, George Holst-Grubbe.

Newt was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He enjoyed playing golf, participating in sports, watching his great-grandsons play sports, as well as spending time with his family.

A celebration of life ceremony will occur in the near future. Due to COVID-19, services and burial are private for immediate family only.

Arrangements are entrusted with Peck & Peck Funeral Home in Pine Plains.

To send online condolences, go to www.peckandpeck.net.



Thomas G. Poole

TORRINGTON — Thomas G. Poole, 75, died Thursday night, May 21, 2020, at Hartford Hospital.

He was the husband of Carolyn J. (Barber) Poole.

Thomas was born April 13, 1945, in Torrington, son of the late Viola (Roberts) and Francis Poole.

Thomas was employed as a construction worker for Cordani & Bros. Construction Company in Torrington. He served during the Vietnam Era with the U.S. Army.

He was a longtime member of the Northwest Connecticut Rod & Gun Club in North Canaan. He served the club as its president numerous times. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and loved doing this with his partner, Warren.

He loved attending car shows but his greatest passion was his family and his love for all of his grandchildren, Austin, Addison, David, Amber, Tim, Emily, Warren, William, Dakota, Ally and Ralph.

Thomas, in addition to his wife, is survived by his daughter, Tami Shewchuk and her husband, Derek, of Torrington; his son, Thomas Poole, also of

Torrington; his stepchildren, David Scully and his partner,

Kim, of Windsor Locks, Conn., Phil Eichman and his wife, Wendy, of North Canaan and Wilbur Goodwin and his wife, Sharon, of Florida. Thomas is also survived by his sisters, Gail

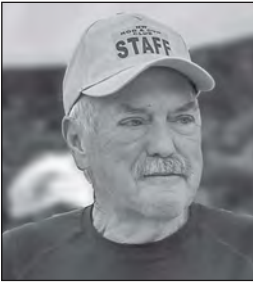
Hodge and her husband, Burl, of Mississippi and Margaret Moulthrop of Torrington; his brother-in-law, Norman Barber and his wife, Tina, of California; and several nieces and nephews.

Thomas was predeceased by his brothers, Robbie and Brian Poole; and by his stepdaughter, Lisa Eichman.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, funeral services will be postponed until the fall. At that time, when conditions have improved, there will be a graveside service with full military honors held at West Side Cemetery in Harwinton, Conn.

Memorial donations may be made in Thomas' memory to the DaVita Dialysis Center, 780 Litchfield St., Suite 100, Torrington, CT 06790.

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



In Appreciation:

STANFORDVILLE — Today was a sad day. I lost a friend of 50 years, and fellow-church member. Marvin Van Benschoten (who died May 5, 2020, at Geer) was a wonderful person who loved farming, family, friends and community.

He was born in 1926 and lived through many crises: the Depression, World War II, Korea, Cuban missile crisis, presidential assassinations, Vietnam, 911, Desert Storm, the Iraq War and society's many medical and economic ups and downs.

I taught all Marvin's children in my chemistry and physics classroom. Their values were instilled by Marvin and his wife, Ann. All were attentive, kind, and caring of their fellow students, always pitching in where needed.

Marvin learned the value of hard work from his father, who also was a believer in an honest day's work. Marvin told stories of bringing 10-gallon metal containers of milk to market by sled during blizzards. His morning tasks were to do the 3 a.m. milking and then go to school and

Marvin Van Benschoten

take his studies seriously. His major struggle was not academic, but to stay awake!

He spoke of the value of dependable horses, caring for the them, as these beasts were the "tractors" that planted the seed and brought in the crops. Farming was one aspect of heavy labor.

Marvin's dad had other ideas for extending a day's work. He decided to build a farmhouse for two families, combining the living quarters to accommodate

the children and allow Arthur and his wife to share the burden with Marvin and his fast-growing family.

Marvin and the farm hands began work on a two-family house that was approximately 5,000 square feet, building it after a day of farming.

By the time the house was closed in and the roof was on, it had begun to snow. As his dad did not tolerate whining, all soldiered on in all weather. With the roof on, and Christmas ahead,

Marvin couldn't wait till spring —when it was time to plant.

Marvin was an avid reader who valued historical novels and visited historic sites. For him, history helped to inform future decisions.

I miss his wisdom, truthfulness, ingenuity, and his zest for life. There are few memorable men I have met in my life, and Marvin was one of them, may he rest in peace.

Robert Riemer

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ROBERT F. WRIGHT

June 1, 2009



Eleven years have come and gone since we saw you last. Since we put you down to rest, the time has gone so fast. It doesn't matter, time moves on, regardless, as must we, move on with what we're left with, that includes the memories, we have to always look back on, of when we had you here. We love you and we miss you every day of every year.

We love you Robert

We love you Dad

Your wife Ruth

Your daughter Bobbie-Jo



Worship Services

Week of May 31, 2020

Services are canceled or being held online.
Call ahead or visit websites for updates.

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Rev. Marilyn Anderson
Rev. Paul Christopherson
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10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)
WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICE
At Noon - with Eucharist
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Morning Worship - 11:00
Evening Service - 6:00 PM
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Sat. Bible Studies for Men & Women 3:00 PM
FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON
First Sunday of each month after AM services
Pastor Henry A. Prause
518-789-4840

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

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

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Kidz Connection
K-6th grade (during Sun. Service)
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413-229-8560
www.greenwoodschurch.com

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
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Amenia Union, NY
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Please go to www.stthomasamenia.com to log on.
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www.stthomasamenia.com
845-373-9161

Trinity Episcopal Church
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Trinity Lime Rock Facebook page
Virtual Coffee Hour & Bible Study
Rev. Heidi Truax
trinity@trinitylimerock.org
(860) 435-2627
www.trinitylimerock.org

Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT
The format for our Unitarian Fellowship has changed to zoom.
Sunday, June 14 at 10:30 a.m.
If you need help with zoom, call (860) 435-2319
All are Welcome

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Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
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860-435-9496
Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

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SATURDAY VIGIL
4 PM - St. Bridget
SUNDAY MASSES
8 AM - St. Bernard
10 AM - Sacred Heart

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to cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com

COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events May 28-June 3, 2020

TELEVISION: NF AMBERY

A Little Horror To Brighten Up Your COVID-19 Crisis

Let's face it, this is a terrifying time: We are living in quarantine and trying to avoid infection from a potentially fatal disease.

Counter-intuitively, this might be the perfect time to check out two horror offerings from Netflix.

Some psychologists believe that watching horror can soothe viewers. There are many theories as to why, but one seems to be that watching terrifying events onscreen assures us that we're not alone, and helps us to externalize our inner fears.

'YOU' BRINGS HORROR AND LOVE
"You," a series now being offered exclusively on Netflix is ... well, it's a romantic tale about a serial killer.

Actor Penn Badgley plays Joe Goldberg, who finds a new woman to obsess over each season and woe to anyone who gets in their way of his romantic pursuits. Think of it as "Dexter" meets "The Philadelphia Story."

Joe is a New York bookstore owner who we come to sympathize with thanks to flashbacks to his childhood traumas and his own interior monologues. It also helps that his victims are pretty loathsome.

And, frankly, his unconditional commitment to the objects of his affection is endearing.

As you might expect, these are not traditional love stories — although critics of the show have said Joe is a traditionally manipulative narcissist and that the series is just a Bluebeard tale of cruelty and misogyny updated for the 21st century.

I think it's better than that, with layers of complexity added in alongside references to film classics (notably "The Philadelphia Story" — a clip from the film is even added in to one episode in season two).



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Sophia Lillis stars in the Netflix series "I Am Not Okay with This."

So where's the horror? Well, try this. In season two, Joe is on the run from a revenge-seeking ex-girlfriend named Candace. He takes on a new identity that leads him to L.A., where he kidnaps a man named Will Bettelheim and assumes his identity. (Implausibly, Will is kept alive in a glass cage in a storage unit.)

Trouble is, the real Will owes some bad men a lot of money. Complications ensue. Joe does good things (such as defending his neighbor's increasingly imperiled young sister). He falls in love with a chef/heiress named Love Quinn (played with star-making intensity by Victoria Pedretti from "The Haunting of Hill House"). There is a pinky-chopping Mafioso. The gore factor rises, with appendages being taken hostage and body parts being fed through a meat grinder.

Strong, grounded performances make season two's increasingly outrageous plot twists credible.

'I AM NOT OKAY WITH THIS'
Elsewhere on Netflix, 17-year-old Syd Novak is suffering from the usual adolescent woes: acne, unrequited love, crazy hormones.

One thing that sets her apart from her high school

peers: She is learning to destroy and kill with her mind.

"I Am Not Okay with This" is a "Carrie"-like drama released in late February on Netflix. It is based on a 2018 graphic novel by Charles Forsman (who was the creator of "The End of the F***ing World," which was also made into a television series).

Syd (played by Sophia Lillis) is a self-described "boring, 17-year-old white girl" who is in love with her best friend, Dina (Sofia Bryant). Unfortunately, Dina is dating golden boy Bradley Lewis (Richard Ellis). Eccentric neighbor Stanley Barber (Wyatt Oleff) is enlisted both as a heterosexual foil to match Dina's dating and later as a hapless but charming mentor to Syd and the budding superpowers she has to learn to control.

Syd's telekinesis is connected with rage and desire. There is also a mysterious presence that follows Syd, and that fades into black mist when anyone tries to look at it.

The producers of the Netflix hit "Stranger Things" were on board in the creation of this series, which will interest comic book fans with its superhero origin story; and which will appeal to film fans through rich cinematic moments

that borrow from teen classics such as "Pretty in Pink," "Heathers," "The Breakfast Club" and, of course, "Carrie."

The narrative is compelling; the characters are well-developed and are played with strength, energy and commitment by the show's young actors. The series also serves as a mini-reunion between Lillis and Oleff, who appeared in the horror films "It" and "It Chapter Two."

Mind-bending scenes aside, the show is also about friendship and surviving bad times. In seven episodes that approach a half-hour each, one can easily watch the "I Am Not Okay with This" in one sitting. It offers a brief but fruitful escape from the horrors of our outside world.

NF Ambery is an award-winning newspaper and magazine reporter published in Genre, The New London Day, The Register Citizen, The Hartford Courant and New York Family (where he was an editor).

ART: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

A Transcendent Sense of Light, At Ober Gallery

A show of work by Lakeville, Conn., artist Karen LeSage opens on Friday, May 29, at the Ober Gallery in Kent Barns, 6 North Main St. in Kent, Conn.

LeSage has a devoted following; her last show at the gallery sold out.

Ober said he anticipates a similarly strong response to this new show, which will have about a dozen canvases. Some continue LeSage's study of color fields; others expand to include more nature imagery, with trees, landscapes.

All the paintings, though, "are about light and have this transcendent Rothko-like quality," Ober said.

This is the seventh solo show of LeSage's work at the gallery.

"I'm interested in three areas of work, for the most part," Ober said. "Russian art; young up-and-coming artists from, for example, Brooklyn; and local artists that I believe in."

Ober first saw LeSage's work when it was at an early stage, in a small exhibit in Salisbury.

"She has a vision," he said. In those early days it hadn't quite come together but, "I knew it would come into being — and it did. She has become the most important artist at Ober Gallery. Her work generates an excitement I have never seen, which makes her exhibits truly fun."

LeSage is a Connecticut native who has lived/worked/studied

in Boston and then New York City.

"I eventually began spending weekends in Litchfield County," she said. "When I moved here full-time, painting took over."

The landscape here inspires her, especially the Berkshire mountains.

"They provide color displays that change by the season, the day, the hour," she said.

"I am consistently pulled toward full abstraction, but am intrigued by walking the line between worlds. I consider myself a minimalist landscape painter with expressionist elements. In art and in life, I discover a quiet power when I eliminate the non-essential."

As she has become more confident (and successful) as an artist, she said that her process remains largely unchanged.

"No matter how much attention the work gets, my day is basically the same: Get up and go to the studio.

"But now I get to use better paints."

In-person visits can be made to the gallery on Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m., Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Social distancing recommendations will be observed. Private viewings are by appointment; contact Ober at 860-488-1963 or obergallery@gmail.com.

A video virtual-tour of the exhibit and a detailed PDF of all the work is also available upon request.

ART FILMS: KAITLIN LYLE

Intimate Talks With Artists, Directors

The screens are dark, the doors are closed and there's no popcorn for now at The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y., but owner and co-founder Carol Sadlon has been working hard to provide entertainment to her community, with "streaming" presentations of films, opera and more.

Now there are also intimate "Art Talks" hosted online by curator/consultant/studio artist Tony Carretta. In the first episode, on

May 19, Carretta spoke with director Halina Dryshka after a screening of her film, "Beyond the Visible: Hilma Af Klint."

In the second, on May 26, Carretta and artist/teacher Alexander Shundi discussed the film "Lucian Freud: A Self Portrait," about the painter considered one of the greatest portraitists (albeit an unconventional one) of the 20th century.

Coming up on Tuesday, June 2, at 1 p.m. Carretta and Phil Grabsky will talk

about his film, "Leonardo: The Works," about not just the genius of Da Vinci, but (especially) his art.

Participants are asked to stream the film first (the cost is \$12; a portion of the proceeds go to the theater if you link from The Moviehouse website).

The following Tuesday, June 9, at 2 p.m., Carretta will talk to Canadian documentary filmmaker Don Millar about his film "Botero," about the Colombian artist famed for his voluptuous portraits. Viewers meet Fernando Botero and take a tour of his studio. Particularly fascinating is the tour his children get of 50-year-old sketches by their father, found in a storage facility. Along the way there are family photos, colorful characters and a smattering of Pablo Picasso. Again, viewers are asked to stream the film beforehand.

For the links and more information, go to www.themoviehouse.net and click on the poster on the home page for the film/talk you'd like to see.

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ART: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Mature but Hip and Refreshing Work at Kenise Barnes

A two-person show of work by a painter from Canada and a sculptor from Boulder, Colo., will open on June 6 at Kenise Barnes Fine Art, 7 Fulling Lane in Kent, Conn. Works by Julie Maren are from her Biophilia and Monsoon series. Described as “meandering wall sculptures,” they are three-dimensional works that are joyful and delightful, with a smattering of nature in them. Biophilia features acorn caps that have been glamorized with paint, glass, shards of minerals. “Each cap sits on a copper pin that is installed at a 90 degree angel to the wall

in varying depths that create clusters of biomorphic patterns suggesting organisms, and the exuberance of new life,” according to the artist’s statement. In the Monsoon series “individual elements hang away from the wall on pins, creating a poetic rain of color and texture.” Janna Watson, who lives and works in Toronto, Canada, paints on birch wood with thick and thin layers of pigment. “Her painting process ends with the addition of deliberate scribbles of buttery oil stick — exclamation marks to finish her statement,” according to the

description from the gallery. Kenise Barnes, who also has a gallery in Larchmont, N.Y., said, “We will open the two-person show on June 6 in the Kent gallery but there will be no public opening. We will allow visitors wearing masks into the gallery in the groups they arrive with; if it is a family group of two to five, for example, they may visit the gallery together. “Otherwise we will stagger visitors; art is always a no-touch experience and I am the only staff member in the space so I feel confident that I can make safe decisions for myself and our visitors.”

Barnes represents primarily North American artists who are “mid-career or emerging,” she said. Watson is “a young Canadian whose work gives a fresh voice to my program, which is heavy on American, especially Brooklyn, artists. “Both Watson and Maren are young and I felt that the work was mature but hip and refreshing,” she said. *The gallery’s hours are going to be Thursday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment; call 860-592-0220 or go to the website at www.kbfa.com to learn more.*



“Julietta,” above, is one of a series of wall sculptures by Julie Maren at Kenise Barnes Fine Art in Kent, Conn. This 36 x 36 x 6 inch work is made of acorn tops that are bedazzled with paint, crystal, glass, brass and more. The show opens on June 6.

BAKING: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Wild Hive Farm Flour Is Fresh, Local — and Available

Everyone is baking and that means there is no King Arthur flour to be found at any local stores or even at the King Arthur website. But there’s plenty of flour at Wild Hive Farm Community Grain Project in Clinton Corners, N.Y., which has tons of it (literally). “We have a grain bank with probably close to 40 tons of grains,” said Wild Hive founder Don Lewis in a phone interview on Wednesday, May 20. “We have a variety of wheats and rye and spelt and emmer. “We’re not going to run out,” he promised. Close readers will notice

that Lewis said he has grain not flour; there is also of course flour, but it is not milled until, more or less, it is needed. All that grain was grown on the East Coast, from upper New York state down to Pennsylvania. Lewis coordinates wheat growers across the region and aggregates their grains, then mills them and sells them. His biggest customer is four of the Eat-aly food/restaurant/bakery extravaganzas. Until COVID-19, Lewis said, “75% of our sales were to restaurants and bakeries. That’s almost all gone now,” with the quarantine. Wild Hive is now selling

more to individual consumers, especially as home bakers begin seeking alternatives to the commercial flour they can no longer find at grocery stores and online. Selling at retail, of course, is slightly more work than selling to commercial clients; there is more individual packaging and it’s more complicated to organize deliveries and pick-ups. It will be interesting to see what happens when Wild Hive’s commercial customers return, and have to compete for a finite supply of local grain with home bakers. Lewis feels confident that everyone can get what they need. He has plenty of

grain in storage, and unless there is a bad weather event there will be more new grain that can be milled starting in September. Weather is, of course, always a concern, for any agricultural product. When Lewis started Wild Hive 20 years ago, he was hoping to work with grain farmers in a smaller geographic region. A century or more ago there were many grain farmers here, but by the year 2000 there really were none. Lewis helped start the local grain movement in this part of the world — and then found he needed to expand out. “To be sustainable you have to be more regional,”

he said. “That way if there’s a really wet year in one place you can still get grain from another place.” The Wild Hive flours are much more expensive than the average commercial brands, but they are lively, protein rich and very fresh (1.5 pounds is about \$10; 5 pounds is about \$22 to \$26, depending on what kind of flour you order). They are so fresh, in fact, that Lewis says you should use them up within three to five months (freezing will add a couple months of life). There are many flours to choose from at the website. For the average bread baker, the best choice is probably

the Hard Red Bread Flour 00, but if you call them they’ll advise you about what will work best for whatever you plan to bake. You might have noticed that there isn’t much yeast available at your grocery store either; Wild Hive has a very vigorous and mature sourdough starter that Lewis brought back from a recent visit to Estonia. There is also a dried yeast for \$5 per bag. You can pay \$11 to have your products shipped, or you can pay a \$1 processing fee and go to Clinton Corners and pick it up yourself. *To learn more, go to www.wildhivefarm.com or call 845-266-0660.*

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ANTIBODY

Continued from Page A1

able, as the test has limitations. “This test is not currently designed for individual use ... to test people who want to know if they have been previously infected with SARS-CoV-2,” according to the CDC. Rather, the serologic test has been “designed and validated for broad-based surveillance and research purposes, to provide information needed to guide the response to the pandemic, and protect the public’s health.”

Not all tests are alike
Sharon Hospital, said Hirko, “is the only hospital in the Nu-vance Health system offering the antibody test,” which aids physicians in determining who may be eligible to donate a part of their blood, called convalescent plasma, which may serve as a possible treatment for those who are most seriously ill from the virus.

Although a number of commercially manufactured antibody tests that check for the coronavirus are available through health-care providers and commercial laboratories, Hirko said Sharon Hospital is “using the test that received FDA approval,” as are other hospitals.

The test requires a blood draw, as opposed to other methods that may use a sample of blood taken from a finger prick or a swab test. There are hundreds of antibody tests out there that you can order online, Hirko cautioned, “but it is unknown as to the FDA approval status of the myriad of testing equipment available on the internet.”

As Connecticut navigates its initial phase of reopening businesses, and in response to individuals and employers who see antibody testing as part of reentry into society, several statewide urgent care clinics have reported they are also offering antibody testing.

False sense of security
Hirko said that unlike the nasopharyngeal tests used to diagnose COVID-19, antibody tests

at Sharon Hospital is not free of charge and might not be covered by insurance. A prescription is required; the patient must not have symptoms of the virus or if they suspect they have been exposed to the virus, they must wait 10 days before testing.

The Sharon Hospital president cautioned that while the antibody tests seem to be more reliable than the viral diagnostic tests, the hospital does not want to give people a false sense of security should they test positive for antibodies.

“Nasal swabs have been very accurate. The Abbott rapid studies have a 12 percent to 48 percent false negative rate, which is not good, and this study [of the antibodies] is a lot more accurate — in the 90s and even higher,” said Hirko.

Sailors reinfected?
Even so, Hirko offered this caveat, which he said is worrisome: The U.S. Navy has reported that five sailors from the virus-stricken USS Theodore Roosevelt who had recovered from COVID-19 and received two negative test results, recently tested positive for a second coronavirus infection.

That brings the total of reported reinfected crew members to 13, according to the Navy. It remains unclear whether the tests were faulty, or if the sailors were reinfected aboard the ship, docked in Guam.

In a statement, the Food and Drug Administration said that, “At this time, it is unknown for how long antibodies persist following infection and if the presence of antibodies confers protective immunity.”

The hope is that ultimately the test will aid researchers in better understanding how widespread the coronavirus is.

It is unlikely, said Hirko, that scientific research on antibodies will become available for at least one year to 18 months.

“Right now, we are four months in with a brand new virus. It’s hard to fathom, we have so many things to figure out. We don’t know what the threshold is that would confer immunity. That is the great unknown.”

LEARNING

Continued from Page A1

lack of social interaction,” he added, a sentiment echoed by others.

Ian Strever, principal at Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS), said the school does maintain a weekly class schedule but “we have to be flexible to accommodate students’ reality.”

Some HVRHS students are, at the moment, the primary breadwinner in their family.

Others are caring for younger siblings.

So requiring students to be online and ready to go every Monday at 7:50 a.m. is impractical.

Instead, “we allow students to work at their own pace.”

BREAD

Continued from Page A1

The baker’s percent
Leader describes himself as a “back-door baker,” and he begins the book by talking about how he learned to bake bread by wandering around France and knocking on the back doors of bakeries. He’d get pulled in off the street and put to work right away.

Despite what he feels is his non-academic background, “Living Bread” presents recipes in an intimidating format — which, once Leader explains it, is actually quite simple.

Bakers have their own shorthand language for adapting recipes; they use a “baker’s percent” in which they throw out a number for the amount of flour used, the amount of salt and water, the time it needs to rise, all the basics of making bread. This is the language that Leader uses in his book.

He also offers metric measurements for the recipes; again, this seems intimidating until you try using a scale, at which point

Strever said, “We had a pretty good head of steam,” with two weeks to go in the third grading quarter, when the shutdown happened.

In the fourth quarter, with the school using a pass/fail grading system, Strever said he has noticed a “drop-off in participation.”

He said about 98% of HVRHS students have internet access, although some have to make arrangements to do schoolwork at the home of a family member or neighbor.

Strever said some teachers adapted faster than others. “With some it was like flipping a switch.”

Some disciplines are more suited to online instruction than others. “It’s been difficult for science teachers, because they can’t do labs.”

Amy Lake, middle school

social studies teacher at the Lee H. Kellogg (LHK) elementary school in Falls Village, said that when the shutdown occurred, “We had no time to think about it.”

In her 32 years at LHK, “I’ve never taught this way.”

Lake said the challenges of the new regimen included how to be creative — how to craft an assignment “so kids can be interested and motivated.”

Lake said she does maybe half an hour of traditional lectures per week.

Peter Vermilyea, chairman of the Social Studies department at HVRHS, said distance learning “requires a lot of flexibility.”

“If I try to replicate the classroom, it’s not going to work.”

He said the students made it clear to him what was working and what wasn’t. They said that they needed flexibility, but val-

ued the face-to-face (or screen-to-screen) time with the teacher.

Vermilyea pointed to one bright side of the situation. His United States history/ECE class is an early college experience course, so students receive credit at both HVRHS and the University of Connecticut.

The students were in the home stretch of their research papers when the lockdown began, and the papers were due at the end of March.

That due date was changed, Vermilyea said, noting that whatever else was happening, the students now had lots of time “to do really great papers.”

After writing conferences and lots of edits and rewrites, the papers will be submitted next week.

Because he’s been intimately involved in the writing process, he already knows what’s coming “I’m thrilled with the quality.”

Armchair travel

The photos in “Living Bread” make a compelling case for the aesthetic appeal of a denser bread. They were taken by Joerg Lehmann, a food photographer who traveled around Europe capturing the breads (and bakers) that Leader writes about in the book with his co-author, Lauren Chattman.

For those who are feeling restless in quarantine, this book not only offers a way to pass the hours (by learning to bake with bakers’ percents); a master class in classic bread technique taught by someone who didn’t learn it in an academic setting; and a

beautiful travelogue of western Europe.

For neophyte bakers who feel frustrated at not being able to find their favorite flour brand or commercial yeast, Leader says not to worry about what flour you use for your sourdough starter. Save the best flour for making bread. His book offers information about large mills that can ship artisan flour to you. To learn about an artisan flour mill here in the Tri-state region, see the article in this week’s Compass arts and entertainment section about Wild Hive Farm Community Grain Project in Clinton Corners, N.Y.



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