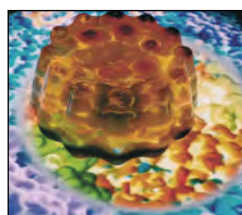




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Cornwall judges gingerbread Page A6



Litchfield County's first NFT sale Compass, Pages B1-2

Support our youngest citizens Letters, Columns Opinion Pages B3-4

Help Wanted, Services, Real Estate Pages B5-6

The Lakeville Journal

TriCornerNews.com

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Celebrating Our 125th Anniversary

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



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Season's Greetings from Kent

Santa Claus greeted spectators at the well-attended Parade of Lights in Kent Saturday, Dec. 3. See more holiday coverage from area towns on pages A3 and A6.

Salisbury Bank to merge with NBT

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — Salisbury Bank and Trust announced Monday, Dec. 5, it plans to merge with NBT Bank of Norwich, N.Y.

The SBT announcement said that "Salisbury Bank will become a part of NBT Bank during the second quarter of 2023, pending approval by shareholders and required regulatory agencies."

SBT president Rick Cantele said NBT is similar to SBT, "in terms of the business model, products, and lending culture."

Cantele said he has come to know NBT President and Chief Executive Officer John Watt over the course of a couple years of general discussions, which eventually turned to the possibility of a merger.

Asked what customers can expect, Cantele said there won't be any drastic changes, he continued, "other than the signs on the buildings and the name on your checks."

Cantele said the NBT management, of which he will be a member, "anticipate keeping all customer-facing" employees.

"And we'll be keeping the new operations center [on Bissell Street

See SBT MERGER, Page A8

State extends gas tax holiday

By Keith M. Phaneuf CT Mirror

The General Assembly adopted an omnibus measure in a special session Monday, Nov. 28 that extends Connecticut's gasoline tax holiday, bolsters funding for winter heating assistance, discounts previously advertised pandemic bonuses for essential workers and makes a technical change to the bottle deposit program.

The Democrat-controlled Senate unanimously approved the bill 33-0 shortly after 9 p.m. The House, which Democrats also control, overwhelmingly passed it 134-7 just before 5 p.m.

Connecticut, which has been waiving its 25-cents-per-gallon retail tax on gasoline since April 1, was scheduled to end the holiday

See FLU SEASON, Page A8

See SPECIAL SESSION, Page A8

Health officials brace for influenza onslaught

By Debra A. Aleksinas

The 2022-2023 flu season in Connecticut is off to a fast and furious start, with more than 6,000 influenza cases, 102 hospitalizations and the first flu-related death reported last month, according to Dr. Manisha Juthani, commissioner for the Department of Public Health.

"Right now, we are in the midst of a bad flu season," said Juthani during a press conference on Monday, Nov. 28.

"We have not seen a flu season this early over the last four years,"

and cases are continuing to trend up, said the health commissioner. "We can only expect that they will get higher."

To add to the early onslaught of seasonal influenza, numerous unidentified viral infections, plus RSV (respiratory syncytial virus), as well as COVID-19, are circulating simultaneously, explained Dr. Mark Marshall, vice president of medical affairs at Nuvance's Sharon Hospital.

At least 10 different viruses are out there causing respiratory illness, he noted. "So there is flu, but there is more than flu - there's

flu-plus."

Marshal said laboratory testing results at Sharon Hospital reveal that while COVID-19 positivity rates have declined in recent months, positivity rates for influenza and RSV are soaring.

The lab ran 251 influenza tests in November, of which 8.8% were positive compared to 3.1% in October.

Likewise, 57 RSV tests that were run in November revealed a 35.1% positivity compared to only 4% positivity in October.

See FLU SEASON, Page A8

Save Sharon Hospital presses public to testify

By Leila Hawken

AMENIA — Heightening public awareness and keeping momentum moving forward, the Save Sharon Hospital (SSH) organization convened the last in a months-long series of roundtable meetings, this one at the Troutbeck conference center on Thursday, Dec. 1.

The event focused on the long-anticipated state public hearing Tuesday, Dec. 6 before the state Office of Health Strategy (OHS) on Nuvance's intention to close labor and delivery services at Sharon Hospital. About 50 residents attended the event.

The public was invited to write

letters, send emails, make phone calls and testify in person at the hearing.

Lydia Moore, president of SSH, noted that this hearing will be focused solely on the intention of Nuvance, owner of Sharon Hospital, to close labor and delivery. Other planned changes to diminish the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and Operating Room hours will be considered in future actions.

"We need to have the public testify to explain the importance of the issue," Moore said.

Speakers included physicians David Kurish, M.D., and Howard Mortman, M.D., along with Salis-

See HOSPITAL, Page A8



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Residents gathered at Troutbeck in Amenia to hear the final presentation by representatives of the Save Sharon Hospital campaign on Thursday, Dec. 1, in advance of the Dec. 6 public hearing to be convened by the Office of Health Strategy in Hartford.

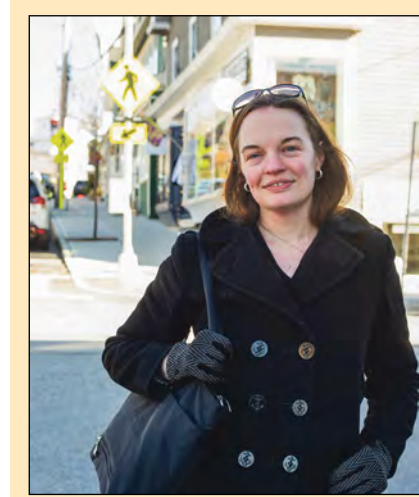


PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Emily Edelman

Millerton News Edelman in managing editor role

By John Coston

MILLERTON — The Millerton News has appointed Emily Edelman to the position of managing editor of the newspaper as part of a restructuring to commit additional resources to coverage of Millerton and eastern Dutchess County communities.

Edelman has a broad background in community journalism, both in newswriting and radio. She was assistant managing editor at the Berkshire Edge, an online news publication in Great Barrington, and she reviews theater for Berkshire On Stage in Wil-

See EDELMAN, Page A8



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In The Journal this week

LEGALS A2 COMPASS.....B1-2
 OUR TOWNS ...A3,A5-7 OPINION..... B3
 OBITUARIES A4-5 VIEWPOINTB4
 SPORTS.....B5 CLASSIFIEDS..... B5- B6

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.

Unsafe backing

On Saturday, Nov. 26 at approximately 1:10 p.m. a 2021 Volvo operated by Elizabeth McGraw, 56, of Sheffield, Massachusetts, was backing out of a parking space on the westbound shoulder of Route 44 in Salisbury and struck the bumper of a parked 2005 Toyota Sienna owned by Irene Hedeman, 58, of Concord, Massachusetts. McGraw was given a warning for unsafe backing.

Head-on fatality

On Wednesday, Nov. 30, Jared Seery, 22, of Holyoke, Massachusetts, was arrested

via an arrest warrant and charged with reckless driving, failure to drive upon right and misconduct with a motor vehicle in a Dec. 29, 2021, two-vehicle fatal crash on Route 44 in North Canaan. Carl Blair was traveling eastbound in a Volkswagen Jetta when a westbound Mercedes-Benz Sprinter driven by Seery encroached on the eastbound lane and collided with the Jetta. Blair was transported to Waterbury Hospital, where he died on Jan. 31, 2022. Seery was released on a \$35,000 bond.

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 johnc@lakevillejournal.com.

Sandy Hook vigil at White Hart

SALISBURY — A candlelight vigil to remember the 10th anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy and all victims of gun violence

will be held Wednesday, Dec. 14, from 5 to 6 p.m. in front of the White Hart Inn, Routes 41 and 44 in Salisbury.

Online This Week

Look for these stories and more, exclusively at www.tricornernews.com.

Cornwall church holds annual holiday fair
 United Church of Christ in Cornwall drew a crowd on Saturday, Dec. 3. See the video at www.tricornernews.com/multimedia.

Harding, Horn weigh in on special session
 District legislators comment on last month's special session of the General Assembly.

Audubon Christmas Bird Count set Dec. 18

SHARON — For over 120 years, small groups of birders have ventured out in December for the Christmas Bird Count, with the sole purpose of counting birds.

This free event, known in our area as the Trixie Strauss Christmas Bird Count, occurs on Sunday, Dec. 18, from 12:01 am to midnight.

Sharon Audubon Center's count area is a 15-mile circle with its center at The Hotchkiss School, thus taking in some good birding areas in Sharon, Salisbury, and Falls Village, and Amenia and North East in New York.

Interested participants can contact the Audubon Center by Friday, Dec. 16 to determine meeting times and places throughout the count day for each birding area on our map.

Teams from all over the state and all over the country — even Canada — take part, and all the numbers are compiled and reported to help better understand what birds are doing in the winter.

You don't have to be a great birder to enjoy Christmas Bird Count; it is for

everyone, and everyone is welcome to join any of our "teams" for as little or as long as you would like. If you enjoy watching birds, but are not able to join a team, or being out in the cold isn't for you, "Feeder Watchers" are also always appreciated.

If you live in our count circle area and would like to participate, but would rather not leave home, you can choose to count the birds at your bird feeders, even if only for one hour. Your numbers can then be given to our compiler right after the count and they will be included in the overall Christmas Bird Count report. Contact the Audubon Center to receive a feeder watcher form.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Douglas Library Party

The Douglas Library in Canaan will host its Annual Holiday Party on Friday, Dec. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. A silent auction of handmade quilts will be on display. Admission is \$15 a person and \$25 a couple.

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Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning. Notice of such error must be given to us after the first run of the advertisement.

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

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 ESTATE OF NEIL H. SCOTT
 Late of Lakeville (22-00432)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 22, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
 Edward E. Downey
 c/o Douglas K'O'Connell Howd, Laverie & Fitch, LLP
 682 Main St.
 Winsted, CT 06098
 Beth L. McGuire
 Chief Clerk
 12-08-22

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 ESTATE OF HARRIS D. DIENSTFREY
 Late of Sharon (22-00430)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 22, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
 Louise F. Brown
 Ackerly Brown, LLP
 5 Academy Street

P.O. Box 568
 Salisbury, CT 06068
 Megan M. Foley
 Clerk
 12-08-22

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 ESTATE OF BELLE E. BECKER
 Late of Sharon (22-00453)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 22, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
 Linda S. Paviol
 c/o Ellen C. Marino,
 Ellen C. Marino,
 596 Main Street
 Winsted, CT 06098
 Beth L. McGuire
 Chief Clerk
 12-08-22

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 ESTATE OF EVELYN R. MACHIA
 Late of North Canaan (22-00419)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 15, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
 Patricia M. Blair
 23 Joel M. Austin Road
 Cairo, NY 12413
 Beth L. McGuire
 Chief Clerk
 12-08-22

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application #2022-0207 by owner Aaron & Alycia Zimmerman for the vertical expansion of a nonconforming dwelling at 16 Woodland Drive, Lakeville, Map 35, Lot 06 per Section 503.2 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The hearing will be held on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 10:00 AM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The application, agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at www.salisburyct.us/agendas. Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to landuse@salisburyct.us. Paper copies may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
 Martin Whalen, Secretary
 12-01-22
 12-08-22

The Lakeville Journal FOUNDATION



The Lakeville Journal, February 9, 2012

There are lots of great reasons to support The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News this holiday season. Here's one you probably didn't think of: Tomato pie.

The controversial treat (www.tricornernews.com/tomatopie) makes for a splendid variation on the familiar Thanksgiving menu of turkey, stuffing and the rest. It's also been the topic of delightful and informative articles chronicling the fierce battles the dish has stirred up among area chefs, a reminder of the pleasures to be found only in hometown newspapers.

So please don't forget to give thanks for the richness of life in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut and eastern Dutchess County, and of our vigorous local journalism.

We are making changes at The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, to preserve local reporting and to expand it. A fine way to express your support for this crucial project is by making a tax-deductible contribution to what is now a nonprofit enterprise in this holiday season.

And from all of us at The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News to all of your families and friends, Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy your turkey — and tomato pie!

Noreen Doyle
 Noreen Doyle, Chair

Janet Manko
 Janet Manko, CEO, executive director

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Our Towns



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

FFA members past and present trimmed greens (above) and made wreaths (below).

All hands on deck at FFA store

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Wednesday, Nov. 30, was the first of two production nights for the Housatonic Valley FFA chapter at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

FFA members plus faculty and parents (often FFA alums) turned out to make wreaths for sale in the FFA holiday store.

Tim Downs gave Mumyn Aiuba a tutorial on how to trim greens so they can be bunched together and then assembled into wreaths.

Aiuba, a junior and an exchange student from Mozambique, is staying with the Downs family in Falls Village.

Jennifer Markow '93 and son Simon were busy wrapping bunches of greens with green wire.

Mackenzie Casey joined them, and between wraps gave a quick rundown of what the FFA does with the proceeds from the sale of trees, wreaths, poinsettas



and sundries.

The holiday store proceeds represent a significant chunk of the organization's budget.

The money goes to events such as the FFA national convention, to cover travel and

lodging.

Other uses include an alumni dinner, scholarships, donations to food banks, and field trips.

A second production night is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m.

Kent airs school trooper question amid concern

By Leila Hawken

KENT — Two expenditure proposals were subjects of a special town meeting held on Friday, Dec. 2, at the Town Hall, drawing about 35 residents and town officials.

One proposal concerns a supplemental appropriation of up to \$200,000 to hire an additional state trooper who would serve as a School Resource Officer (SRO) assigned to Kent Center School. When school is not in session, the SRO would serve the town as a second state trooper.

The other proposal concerns an additional appropriation of around \$100,000 to pay for contracted EMS services to complete the current fiscal year. The requested funding is to reimburse the Kent Volunteer Fire Department for payments made to an outside staffing providers of emergency EMS services.

With the town meeting now completed, both questions will be voted upon at a referendum. Voting hours will be noon to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15, at the Town Hall.

Board of Education chairman Scott Trabucco reviewed the proposal for the new SRO, indicating that his board has been discussing school safety in light of recent cases of school violence and voted unanimously that the town should consider hiring an SRO.

Education board member Jennie Duncan reported that consideration had been given to hiring an SSO (School Safety Office), the difference

being in the training, certification, readiness and other factors. With an SRO, Troop L of the State Police would manage, train and insure the officer. The SRO could also leave his post at the school to respond to an emergency in the town something the SSO, likely to be a retired officer, could not do, Duncan said.

About what the SRO would do, Duncan said the officer would be aware of the school's perimeter, serve as a mentor on safety for both students and staff and conduct programs pertinent to school administrators. Duncan added that the SRO trooper would not handle discipline for the school.

Residents questioned the need for an SRO in the absence of any identifiable threat, with other residents

feeling that the building is secure as is.

First Selectman Jean Speck indicated that there are data that support the value of an on-site presence.

"A layered approach to safety is the best approach," Speck added.

Reviewing the EMS staffing request on behalf of the Kent Volunteer Fire Department, Alan Gawel reported that the budget for the current year is expected to total \$224,000, as anticipated in the original budget request to the town. During the year, however, the Board of Finance asked that \$130,000 be allocated for the EMS, rather than the requested amount.

Gawel indicated that now another \$100,000 is estimated to be needed to complete the current year.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Troop B toy drive

Connecticut State Troopers at Troop B in North Canaan on Ashley Falls Road are collecting toys for Christmas. Anyone wishing to make a contribution can bring items to the barracks and place them under the tree in the lobby.

Salisbury fills soggy holiday with spirit

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Steady rain dampened the "Merry and Bright" holiday festivities in Salisbury on Saturday, Dec. 3.

Singer Kayla Rae of Bethel, Connecticut, and guitarist Chris Rubits gamely worked through their set list under a tent in the courtyard behind Labonnes around 12:30 p.m. Every so often Rubits poked the underside of the tent to get the water off.

Earlier, a good-sized crowd of parents and small children came to the story hour at the Scoville Memorial Library.

Lou Bucceri was at his post in the Academy Building, which features a new exhibit of vintage Christmas decorations and memorabilia, including newly-unearthed black and white photographs of the old Barnett's/Ben Franklin store's Christmas toy section. (The store was located where the Patco gas and convenience store is today.)

A youngster asked a question about Salisbury's iron industry, and Bucceri snapped into an impromptu and infomative lecture on



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The Salisbury Band Christmas Brass and Hot Chocolate Society played prior to the Parade of Lights on Saturday, Dec. 3.

the topic.

Sunday was cold and dry, and by sundown there were several hundred people milling about in and in front of the White Hart to get some hot chocolate, check in with Santa (if applicable), listen to

the Salisbury Band Christmas Brass and Hot Chocolate Society play, sing carols and popular holiday tunes, and wait for the Parade of Lights and the lighting of the tree, an operation with tricky logistics.

Kent hosts young adult nights

KENT — Kent Memorial Library will hold a series of game and refreshment nights on the third Thursday of every month for those who are 21 to 30 years in age starting on at 32 North Main Street.

Billed as a young locals board game night, it will be held on Dec. 15, Jan. 19 and Feb. 16.

To register email kla-bm-callister@biblio.org

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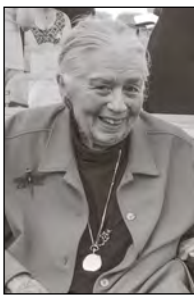
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OBITUARIES

Katherine Emily Gannett

WEST CORNWALL — Katherine Emily Gannett, "Katie," as she was known to all, passed away in the afternoon of Nov. 17, 2022, in her home in West Cornwall.



Katie was born in St. Louis, Missouri and graduated from De Pauw University in 1952 with a degree in Education and Counseling. She went on to earn her Masters' Degree from Columbia University in 1961.

Katie first worked as an Assistant Dean at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. She joined the staff of Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1964, first as a Health and Physical Education teacher and then as a Guidance Counselor. At Housatonic, Katie counseled hundreds of students in her over 20 years in the Guidance Department and volunteered with many organizations and activities, such as the American Field Service (AFS) and the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapters. Upon her retirement, Katie also served on the Cornwall and Region One School Boards, serving as Chair of each for at least one term.

Katie was devoted to Housatonic's AFS Chapter, which is the oldest continuously operating chapter in the United States. For over 50 years, she was dedicated to its mission of providing young people with intercultural experiences. Through this work, Katie ensured hundreds of exchange students were hosted with Northwest Corner families and that Housatonic students were hosted in countries around the world. She kept alumni together by hosting annual reunions, fundraisers, and other gatherings. Katie also volunteered regularly at the national AFS headquarters in New York City.

Another of Katie's great loves was the Future Farmer's Association Alumni Association. For 34 years, Katie served as secretary for the organization, uniting its members through annual gatherings and fundraisers. Katie herself maintained a legendary garden, which she shared with her friends and visitors.

She and Michael Gannett, her late husband, generously provided an endless supply

In Appreciation

Katherine Emily Gannett

Katie's obituary about says it all, yet I am compelled to write. I worked with Katie for nearly three decades after founding principal Paul W. Stoddard turned the AFS mantel over to her. Katie was always Katie or KT or KEG; I never knew her middle name until now, Emily.

Always discreet, highly organized, she made the tasks she took on become joys engaging her penchant for accomplishing matters thoroughly with utmost attention to detail, making an event a joy for others as well. The anticipated AFS picnic on her beside-the-river lawn under a huge tent with catered meal and exchange student presentations was always a joy for all (Katie inevitably commanded a beautiful day).

For years Katie hosted the FFA Alumni Officers, past and present, for a Christmas gathering at her home, later at the Interlaken, the Alumni Officers having out-grown her cozy living room. Always abundant joy, perfect dinner

of flowers to Housatonic and other local organizations. In 2006, her garden was archived by the Smithsonian Institution.

Katie's passion for the outdoors and her commitment to nurturing young people included her work with the John Austen Cheley Foundation. Katie had worked as an assistant director and director at Cheley Camps in the 1950s. More recently, Katie served as a trustee of the Foundation from 1995-2003 and as a member of the Campership Committee for years following.

Over the years of her involvement, Katie sponsored over 30 students to attend the Cheley Camps on scholarship. Many of her sponsored students went on to become counselors with the various Cheley Camps.

Katie also loved her dogs, including the dog who adopted her, L.D. and then four lovely Airdales, Daisy, Daisy II, Sarge and Dyna. Sarge and Dyna were adopted from New England Airedale Rescue. Katie hosted over fifty members of the Rescue family in her lovely garden in support of the organization's efforts.

For her over 50 years of outstanding service and dedication to the young people of Region One, Katie was honored in 2017 with the Community Award of Merit by the Regional School Board at the annual HVRHS graduation ceremony.

In 2016, Katie was named Volunteer of the Year by the John Austen Cheley Foundation for her years of service and support of the Foundation and its campers.

Katie lived a full, beautiful life, actively involved with her passions of nurturing young people, promoting global understanding through youth exchange, and cultivating the great outdoors and its future leaders through gardening at home and farming in Northwest Connecticut.

She adored her husband, Michael Gannett, and together they hosted countless events, including weddings and fundraisers, in their lovely home and gardens. Her wit and strong personality were known to all and she was well-loved and cherished because of them.

and surprise gift exchange from under the tree. Who would open a massive stuffed animal, a very well-used fur coat or the ever-reappearing WC seat, tactfully disguised?

Yes, with a generous heart and hand, Katie created possibilities and opportunity for young people through AFS and the Colorado camp, and surely through wise counsel. Also she and her husband Michael occasionally visited our returned AFS foreign exchange students abroad. For several years KEG volunteered at the AFS New York office, which provided special insight for our chapter.

Always a lady with class and moxie, KEG enjoyed our chuckles over our disagreements. Katie devoured mystery novels and loved dark chocolate. Thanks be to Lotie's gentle care, a tender reflection of Katie's tending her own beloved, elegant formal gardens—indeed a reflection of Katie. I miss her.

Ellery Sinclair
Falls Village, CT

FALLS VILLAGE — Elizabeth "Betsy" Howie, of Falls Village, passed away on November 25, 2022, with her beloved daughter, Calpurnia "Callie" Carter, at her side. She was 60 years old. A cherished member of the Falls Village community known for her wit, warmth and outspokenness, Betsy was also a longtime resident of New York City where she worked with aplomb in the theater and publishing worlds.



Born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on June 6, 1962, to Mary Lou Howie and Charles R. Howie, Betsy grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan with her older brothers, Tim and Randy Howie. Betsy attended Northview High School where she swam competitively. As a teenager participating in community theater, she discovered her life's joy and passion, and made some of her closest, lifelong friends.

After graduating from high school, Betsy moved to New York City where she attended New York University and studied acting at the renowned Stella Adler Studio. As a young woman, Betsy's friends, habits, and jobs all revolved around her number one priority: theater. She worked as part of many repertory theaters. Her passion for theater paired with a gift for writing.

She wrote the book for "Cowgirls," a musical that she also performed in, which was staged across the country. When "Cowgirls" opened Off Broadway in 1996, The New York Times reviewer called it a "joyous slapstick hoedown." In 1987, Betsy produced and performed in Caryl Churchill's "Top Girls" with fellow staff members from Phebe's bar on the Bowery, at the nearby New Theater. Betsy worked at Phebe's—which was an East Village staple serving cops, actors, and what Betsy called "all the usual suspects"—as a bartender and waitress on roller skates.

Betsy was a prolific writer. During her life, she wrote numerous books, including a humorous memoir, "Callie's Tally: An Accounting of Baby's First Year (Or, What My Daughter Owes Me)," and the novel "Snow." She also wrote many children's books under the pen name, Howie Dewin.

As a young adult in New York City, Betsy lived in the East Village and in various neighborhoods in Brooklyn. In addition to waitressing and acting, she took on a wide range of odd jobs: a nanny for the Mayor of New York City, an assistant to Stella Adler, an organizer of the re-opening of Ellis Island, and a one-time speechwriter for Ronald Reagan. She also worked for environmental causes which were another one of her lifelong passions.

Beginning in college, Betsy loved to ride her bike around New York City. In 2015, when she and Calpurnia got an apartment in the Bronx, Betsy would commute by bicycle to her

job at Scholastic Book Clubs in Manhattan. Betsy began working as a freelancer at Scholastic in 1994 and became a full time staff member in 1999.

Betsy gave birth in 2001 to her only daughter, Calpurnia, whose father is the playwright and longtime Falls Village resident Lonnie Carter. Betsy raised Calpurnia in Falls Village, and when Calpurnia was 14, they began dividing their time between Falls Village and the Bronx, commuting back and forth every week for years. They made both places their home.

Betsy moved to Falls Village on a whim, surprising her co-workers one Monday morning when she announced that she had bought a farmhouse in a small town in rural northwestern Connecticut. Betsy is thought of by her friends and family as being "fearless," and the move out of the city was a move out of her comfort zone—but one that was well worth it. Betsy became an active and loving member of the Falls Village community, working on the Board of Education, Recreation Commission, and performing as the long-time live-auction host at the David M. Hunt Library. She also contributed her theater talents as the acting coach at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Betsy founded and operated for about a year the Falls Village Marshmallow Company, which was a testament to her love of marshmallows. Falls Village became one of Betsy's greatest comforts, especially in the last three years, after she was diagnosed with cancer. The community became her family.

Betsy loved building things. She constructed sheds for both herself and her late mother, and a playhouse for Calpurnia. She was known for her love of simple food, reminding her friends who cooked for her that she was Lutheran, and therefore had "white-bread taste."

Betsy took great pride in her extensive work constructing a very detailed family tree, using Ancestry.com. Her focus on this project allowed her to combine her incredible creativity with her intense intelligence.

She also had a deep love for Frankfort, Michigan, where her family owned a summer home that her grandfather built. The house was a staple of her childhood, and her daughter's. Her affection for Lake Michigan remained strong in her heart throughout her life.

Betsy had great respect for animals. She was known to have cats walk up to her house, or jump in her car, and immediately become a part of her family. She had many cats throughout her life, in addition to a rabbit and a few dogs.

Betsy had many, many friends. She had a beautiful way of gathering people from all walks of life and holding them close over long periods of time. She was absolutely loveable, and completely full of empathy and kindness.

She was nurturing, smart, creative, selfless, happy, and hilarious.

Betsy's greatest accomplishment and love was Calpurnia. They were two peas in a pod, and Betsy's last few years of life were spent in complete peace with Calpurnia by her side.

What wasn't Betsy? She wasn't dishonest, selfish, and she wasn't disloyal. Witness the outpouring of love and affection from all corners of the land — a testament to her brilliance, kindness, and amazing good humor.

Betsy is survived by her daughter, Calpurnia, her

brothers Randy and Tim Howie, her sister Sarah Howie, her step-mother Wendy, her daughter's father/true friend Lonnie Carter, her future daughter-in-law Dee Dee Davis, her cats Isa and Bo, and her grand-dog Darla.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 11 a.m., at Trinity Lime Rock Episcopal Church. The service will be live streamed on the church's website at trinitylimerock.org. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department at PO Box 1, Falls Village CT, 06031.

More Obituaries appear on Page A5

Douglas Library gingerbread workshop planned Dec. 14

NORTH CANAAN — The Douglas Library in North Canaan will hold a gingerbread house workshop for children on Wednesday, Dec. 14 from 4 to 5 p.m. This event is free. Young children

must be accompanied by an adult. Call 860-824-7863 for more information.

There is also a \$5 per bag book sale for the month of December.

 <h3>Worship Services</h3> <p>Week of December 11, 2022</p>	
<p>Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.</p>	
<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7252</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock In person services on Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 A.M. Livestream at 10:30 on www.trinitylimerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>
<p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT WE ARE NOW MEETING IN PERSON! Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, December 11 at 10:30 a.m. "Peace" For information, contact Jo Loi at jokilaol@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Pastor Joy Veronesi 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer Pastor Sun Yong Lee 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online Bible studies and Sunday services Join us for a Carols by Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m. We will not be offering a service on Christmas Day this year. Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>
<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3003 Rev. Robert Landback The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES 4 PM - Sacred Heart 6 PM - St. Bernard 8 PM - St. Bridget CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 8:30 AM - St. Bridget</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mngates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.</p>
<p>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 We hope you will join us!</p>	<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Candlelight vespers in December, Saturdays at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>



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OBITUARIES

Ethel Rita LaMere

MILLERTON – Ethel Rita LaMere, 90, a sixty-two year resident of Millerton, died peacefully in her home on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022, with her loving family at her bedside. Mrs. LaMere had a long career with New York State where she worked as a therapy aide for over 27 years at the Wassaic Development Center in Wassaic. She retired in 1995.



Born Aug. 20, 1932, in Lyon Mountain, New York, she was the daughter of the late Nelson and Rose (Prespare) Charland. She attended Dannemora area schools. On April 26, 1952, in Lyon Mountain, she married Francis William LaMere. Ethel and Francis shared a loving marriage that lasted nearly 59 years. Mr. LaMere passed away on Jan. 1, 2011. Ethel enjoyed jigsaw and crossword puzzles, playing cards, Bingo, tending to her lawn and garden, dancing, especially to her favorite classic country music and celebrating milestones and holidays with family. Her favorite pastime by far was taking care of her family and spending time with her children and grandchildren. She was a deeply spiritual woman who loved God and prayed continually and fervently for her family, friends, neighbors and community.

Ethel was well known for her generosity of spirit and kindness, and she will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Ethel is survived by four children, Richard LaMere, Sr., Roger LaMere and his wife Cheri, Donna Carman and Rodney LaMere and his wife Dorothy; her grandchildren, Becky Revette and her husband Matt, Richard LaMere, Jr., Lisa Sears and her husband David, Kenneth Rodriguez and his wife Jill, Shelly Kaye and her husband Chris, Nicole Gifford, Paul Limoges, Amber Limoges, and granddaughter-in-law Jenna Limoges. Ethel is also survived by many great grandchildren and a great-great grandchild as well as several nieces and nephews.

She is also survived by her in-laws, Mary and Lance Gardner, Judy LaMere, and Gloria Charland. In addition to her parents, thirteen siblings, and her husband, Ethel was also predeceased by her grandson Michael Limoges, great grandson Michael Parker Limoges, and great granddaughter Skylar Waldorf.

Calling hours will take place on Tuesday, December 6, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY. A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 10am at the funeral home. Rev. Robert K. Wilson will officiate. Burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Pine Plains. Memorial contributions may be made to Hudson Valley Hospice, 80 Washington Street, Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. To send an online condolence to the family, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

George W. Gardner

HILLSDALE, N.Y. — George W. Gardner, photographer, trapper, pilot and longtime Hillsdale resident died on June 12, 2022, at the age of 82 of congestive heart failure.

Gardner was born on July 22, 1940, in Albany, New York. In 1964, he graduated from the University of Missouri with a BA in Anthropology. While at the university, he was greatly influenced by the school's department of photojournalism. While never actually a photojournalism student, he nonetheless won 25 awards from the department for his photography, including the school of photojournalism's Major Portfolio award.

Using a 35mm Leica and working in black and white, Gardner traveled throughout the 1960s and '70s across America by motorcycle, car and his single-engine plane, serving as a sort of anthropologist photographer. His books *America Illustrated* and *Gun People*, published 1982 in 1985 respectively, gave us all a look at America's response to the Vietnam War, guns and bibles. He forced us to look at ourselves and at America, for better or worse. The New Yorker compared his work to that of Lee Friedlander, Gary Winogrand and Dave Heath.

Flying in their 1947 Cessna 195 in the early to mid-1980s, Gardner and his

then-wife, Roberta Homan Gardner, photographed inns and authored guidebooks to inns across the country, including the series *Country Inns of America*; and they also roamed from Labrador to the Yucatan Peninsula for A.J. McClane's Great Hunting and Fishing Lodges of North America. In recent years, Gardner was an avid trapper, outdoorsman and collector of artisanal hunting gear and arms.

Gardner's work is held in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Smithsonian American Art Museum and DePaul University Art Museum. In 1981, he received the New York State Creative Artists Public Service Fellowship.

Gardner is survived by his son, Cooper, and daughter-in-law, Pascaline (Richir); his sister, Susan Nevin; and his grandson, Victor. He was predeceased by his daughter, Caroline.

Schaghticoke forum draws interest in regional history

By Deborah Maier

PINE PLAINS — The Schaghticoke First Nations (SFN) Roundtable at Pine Plains Free Library on Saturday, Dec. 3 brought up a wealth of genealogical information, current projects, dreams for going forward, and a host of questions from the audience that reflect the complexities of this moment in our nation's history. About 60 people were in attendance.

Dyan Wapnick of Little Nine Partners Historical Society began the program with an acknowledgement of the unceded land known as Shekomeko, and a hope that the erasure of its indigenous peoples can be rectified to ensure fairness for their living descendants.

Though the Pine Plains Bicentennial scheduled for March 2023 will celebrate its "discovery," she noted, it was already inhabited by a complex and sophisticated indigenous culture.

Valerie LaRobardier, SFN Tribal Genealogist, presented a series of slides outlining the difficulties of drawing upon sources from the earliest colonial days. Questions of perspective, of oral versus written sources, alternate name spellings, and similarly named individuals who were numbered for convenience ("Gideon 33") made for a good introduction.

Of special interest were the Praying Towns set up in western Massachusetts to Christianize Indians, with British families installed as 'models of civility'. To a modern eye, it is noteworthy that they were led by "a speculator in Indian lands", one Ephraim Williams. In the ensuing decade, thousands of acres of Mohican lands were "secured" — many if not most without compensation.

The role of the Moravian Missionaries was a fascinating exception to this phenomenon: they were allies to native Americans; they socialized with them, advised and protected them, when necessary, from the actions of some of the colonists. Their careful documentation, while not always flawless, affords us knowledge that would otherwise be lost.

The post-break presentation by Sachem (Chief) Hawk Storm began with a reminder that the indigenous peoples of the United States were "not as isolated and separate as some would have us believe". While conceding that there are differences among tribes, he stressed that all in this region were under one governing body, led by those who called themselves simply the Algonquin word for 'East-



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

Gregg Osofsky, left, of Watershed Center in Millerton, chats with Sachem Hawk Storm at a roundtable at Pine Plains Free Library on Saturday, Dec. 3.

erners'.

Sachem Hawk highlighted his group's many efforts at building the dream of a world where clean food and water, as well as satisfying livelihoods connected to the land, are available to all.

Caskoak ('place of the herons'), their 73-acre parcel near Copake, has already begun its transformation into

an Agro-Food-Forestry paradise, with 3000 new trees planted, all of them fruit- or nut-bearing. Plans are afoot to build "a Conservation and Cultural Center where we can host workshops and conferences, bringing indigenous voices from around the world to share their knowledge and experience." An Indigenous Exchange Program would

bring others into Indigenous Peoples communities for "full immersion training."

What is planned is future-focused stewardship of both land and communities: "Our goal on this land is ecosystem restoration, reconnecting communities with the land, and providing a real-time example of a food-focused initiative that is based on the use of Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge."

As the meeting drew to a close, audience members raised the thorny issue of recognition by state and federal authorities; and the question of how to deal with historically objectionable artifacts, mascots and other representations — like the head of Sassucus, a Pequot chief, in a local high school's logo — elicited some spirited responses. The image in question was the side wall, recently painted over, of the former Pine Plains Platter restaurant, depicting Indians in a way that some found offensive. As a counterpoint, Sachem Hawk cited John Gast's 1892 painting, "American Progress", with its suggestion that American Indians fled willingly from the new technology of the age. Conversations, he holds, are more educational than obliteration.

Millerton attorney and historian Ed Downey likely spoke for many in the audience when he praised Valerie LaRobardier's impressive research and commended Dyan Wapnick for giving us the opportunity to understand our world more fully. "That's the primary reason we study our history," he said. "To better understand who we now are as a community, we need to know more about those who preceded us here."

Falls Village advances Frontier fiber optic offer

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — At a special meeting Tuesday, Dec. 6, the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to proceed with a proposal from Frontier Communications to provide fiber optic service for the entire town.

The selectmen voted to recommend the deal to the Board of Finance, who will then decide whether to recommend it to town meeting.

There will be an in-

formation meeting with Frontier officials Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. at the Emergency Services Center.

First Selectman Henry Todd said the offer is to wire up the entire town for \$725,000. About 350 homes will be connected at no cost to the owner; another 268 in outlying areas will incur some cost.

"I personally think this is a fantastic deal we won't see again," Todd said.

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.

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Send obituaries to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

Our Towns

Charcoal Annie's story shines at Sharon Historical Society show

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — When “Charcoal Annie” lived her labor-intensive 19th-century life in Sharon, she could not have imagined that her life story would be spotlighted in a 21st-century historical society project.

But that is just what has happened as the Sharon Historical Society invited residents to the opening of their current exhibit, held on Saturday, Nov. 5.

Realization of “The Life of Charcoal Annie,” as an exhibit was partially funded by a grant from the state’s Museum Makeover program, said Christine Beer, executive director of the Sharon Historical Society.

That museum program has assisted 15 historical organizations in the state with grants of up to \$3,000 each to evaluate and upgrade local exhibits. Under the program, museum consultants collaborate with local administrators in creating effective exhibits that tell a story.

To create Annie’s exhibit, work that began in the spring, five volunteers from Sharon Historical Society were involved in the design phase, assisted by curatorial consultants provided by the Makeover program.

Consultants were Barbara Bradbury-Papp, director of development for the Roxbury Land Trust and Kathy Craughwell-Varda, independent museum consultant, also coordinator of the Museum Makeover Program. Also helping to coordinate the exhibit was Maggie Dimock, curator of exhibitions and collections for the Greenwich Historical Society.

Charcoal Annie came to Sharon from the town of Mainvilliers in the Loire Valley of France and went on to marry Emile Peter Jasmin (sometimes spelled “Jasmine”) who had followed her to Sharon from Mainvilliers. They settled and raised a family. Annie’s given name was Augusta.

Her family name was Malquit. It is not clear from the exhibit whether Annie took her husband’s name, but then names were more fluid than they are today.

“We talked about how the land is the central character in telling Annie’s story,” said Beer of her team’s work. “This person had a relationship with that Sharon land.”

Historical Society leaders proposed a “spotlight” ex-



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

The Sharon Historical Society’s “The Life of Charcoal Annie” exhibit drew a steady stream of visitors. Pictured (left to right) is the team contributing to create the exhibit Barbara Bradbury-Papp, Chris Robinson, historical society trustee, Kathy Craughwell-Varda, and Christine Beer, historical society executive director.

hibit to test the viability of a permanent exhibit on the larger history of Sharon, and the way that people interact with the land, then and now.

“Annie was an entrepreneur,” explained Kathy Craughwell-Varda, visiting curator and coordinator of the Museum Makeover program. “Annie did the kind of work that we would not envision women doing in their time, providing for the support of the iron industry

that was key to Sharon’s history as well as to the history of the entire region.

The exhibit is made possible in part from a grant from the state’s Museum Makeover Program administered by Conservation Connection and the state’s League of History Organizations, utilizing a grant from the state Cultural Fund that in turn is administered by CT Humanities. The team of five historical society staff members were

instrumental in moving the project along from its beginnings in the spring of 2022.

“It’s a lot of planning to tell the story effectively,” Craughwell-Varda said.

Sharon Historical Society volunteers who were members of the team assisting Beer were Brandon Lisi, former curator; Myra Plescia, registrar; and Trustees Chris Robinson and Marel Rogers.

The exhibit will continue until Saturday, January 14.



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Vivian Dirocco (10), left, and Willow Berry (10) were awarded first place by judges at the Gingerbread House Competition in Cornwall Library on Sunday, Dec. 4. Below, a gingerbread model of the covered bridge in West Cornwall.

Cornwall’s gingerbread house competition event

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Pounds upon pounds of sugar were transformed into culinary masterpieces for the 2nd annual Gingerbread House Competition at Cornwall Library.

In total, 14 candy castles were submitted for display at the event on the evening of Sunday, Dec. 4.

“We had some incredible works of art in the form of gingerbread houses,” said Eiseley Kotchoubey, children and young adult program coordinator for the library.

The entries ranged from traditional style gingerbread houses to multi-level Victorian homes and modern architectural designs. Two submissions depicted the covered bridge in West Cornwall.

“The judges had a very hard time selecting the first place and runner-up for both the adult and children’s categories,” said Kotchoubey.

During the private judging procedure, the 100-plus in attendance gathered outside the library for a session



of carol singing. All the classics were performed including Jingle Bells and Deck the Halls.

Once the judging was complete, first place belonged to Vivian Dirocco (10) and Willow Berry (10) for their dual gingerbread homes complete with mint siding and sour gummy shingles.

All 14 entries were named best in a particular category, such as Best Winter Wonderland or Most Creative Cornwall Scene, and awarded gift cards.

The Salisbury Four offer joyous Christmas sounds

By Matthew Kreta

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Association sponsored a concert by The Salisbury Four on Saturday, Dec. 4 at Salisbury Congregational Church, with a selection of baroque, renaissance and traditional Christmas music.

The Salisbury Four, made up of Judith Dansker (oboe and clarinet), Christopher Morrongiello (lute), Marcia Young (soprano and historical harp) and Zahra Brown (soprano) performed beautifully and with poise, playing as a tightly knit cohesive whole.

The concert began with a traditional piece of the Shetland Islands, “Da Day Dawis” played at the first light on Christmas Day. The piece itself was slow paced and solemn, and featured Morrongiello and Young in a string duet.

Each performer received a chance in the spotlight to show their skill. Morrongiello, who spent the majority of the concert providing a solid foundation of chords for the choir also had a few solo pieces including a piece by John Dowland and the traditional “Silent Night”. Morrongiello executed these solos with precision, navigating complex call and response phrasing without

the slightest pause.

Dansker, who played the only wind instruments in the group, carried melodies and harmonies alike while switching between recorder and oboe. The dual qualities of the instruments allowed Dansker to act as both star and support throughout the concert. Her oboe’s piercing, yet contained and purposeful sound filled the space beautifully led several instrumental pieces, while the recorder’s more subdued tones allowed her to provide support to the pieces with the two singers.

Young and Brown often traded verses back and forth in the songs involving their voices, with Young continuing to play harp as she sang for a few. The opportunity for the two to sing in unison arrived often in the program, and the two were so in sync that they sounded as though they were nearly one sound.

The group received applause after the traditional English piece “The Old Year Now Away is Fled,” in which Young changed the lyrics at the end to thank the audience for coming. “We love your church, we love you all!” Young sang.

The group then led the audience in a group singing of “Silent Night” to close the program.

Scouts to recycle Christmas trees

Boy Scout Troop 22 will remove and recycle Christmas trees this year on Saturday, Jan. 7, in Sharon, Lakeville, Salisbury, North Canaan, Falls Village and Norfolk.

To sign up go to www.tinyurl.com/troop22 or call 203-217-9917.

Historical Society leaders proposed a “spotlight” ex-

Kent Singers concerts set for Dec. 10-11

KENT — The Kent Singers present “Welcome, Yule! A Holiday Retrospective” on Saturday, Dec. 10 and Sunday, Dec. 11, 3 p.m. at St. Andrew’s Church in Kent.

The Kent Singers are celebrating their 50th anniversary season with the concert, which features favorite selections from the group’s repertoire. The concerts include piano, organ and brass accompaniment under the direction of James Knox Sutterfield.

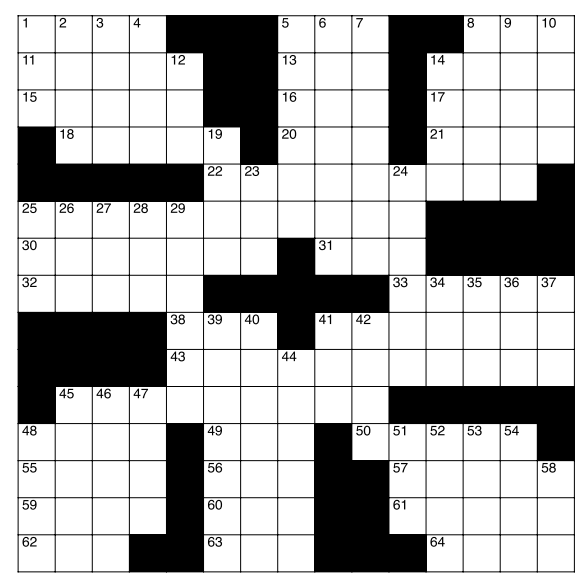
Tickets are \$20 in advance online at www.kentsingers.com and at the door, with children under 12 admitted free; for more information call 860-619-8110.

Brain Teasers

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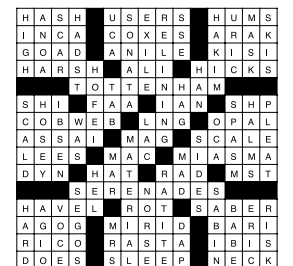
- A people of Eastern Afghanistan
- Supervises interstate commerce
- Touch lightly
- Relating to bees
- Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano
- Mosuo culture religion
- Italian village
- Stiff bristle
- Wealthy enclave in Rio
- Cause to lose courage
- Examines animals
- Ethnic group of Laos and Thailand
- Gets rid of
- Having easily perceived thoughts
- Removed surgically
- Principle underlying the universe
- Popular airline
- Antelopes
- Peacock network
- Utter repeatedly
- One from the Golden State
- Photographers
- Father
- Popular BBQ dish
- Cavalry sword
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Atomic mass unit
- Afflicted in mind or body
- Indian mythological figure
- Mild expression of surprise
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Brew
- Doctor of Education
- Impudence

- Evergreen coniferous trees
- Refuse to comply
- Negative
- Hyphen
- A way to record
- Not good
- One who tends the furnace
- Small amount
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- The whole quantity
- __ King Cole, musician
- One’s opinion
- Holds ashes
- Stablecoin cryptocurrency
- Side-blotched lizards genus
- Legislator (abbr.)
- Concentrated bombardment
- Took for oneself

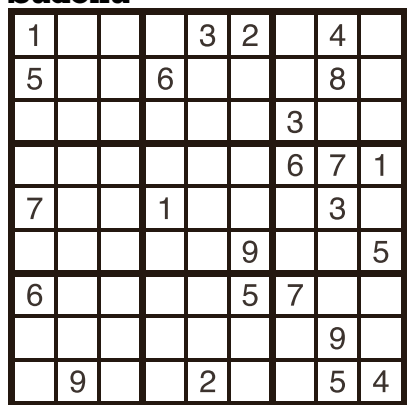


- Nigerian City
- Thousands of pounds
- Inspired
- Secret clique
- Expression
- Dough made from corn flour
- Comedian Carvey
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- Actor Idris
- Resistance fighters
- Criticize

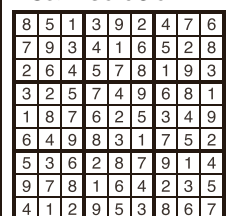
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Our Towns

Cornwall featured in library art show

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Wistful views of Cornwall's soft valleys and more were on full display at the opening reception of the new art show being hosted at Cornwall Library.

The collection by Susan Hellmann entitled "A Few of My Favorite Things..." opened to the public on Saturday, Dec. 3.

"This is the third show I've held at the library," said Hellmann. "The first show was in 2014."

Hellmann, whose family ties to Cornwall go back to the 18th century, captured many scenes from around the village for her pieces in the show. Hellmann has been painting for about twenty years but said she started taking it seriously around 2012.

"When I started living here full time, it was just amazing to see all the beauty up here," said Hellmann as she explained the inspiration for



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Susan Hellman opened her third show at the Cornwall Library on Saturday, Dec. 3. It will be on display through Jan. 15.

her work.

In addition to depictions of Cornwall, some work featured views from her time living on Cape Cod. Other pieces showed snowy holiday scenes, including some cameos from Santa himself.

Over 30 were in attendance for the opening recep-

tion, which offered art, wine, cheese and a conversation with the artist.

"People here really enjoy Susan's art," said Kirk Van Tassel, publicist for the Cornwall Library. "Her work is very Cornwall. It's nice."

The show will be on display in the library through Jan. 15.

Kent weighs allocation of \$8,000 opioid funds

By Leila Hawken

KENT — With a little over \$8,000 in opioid settlement funds in hand, the Board of Selectmen discussed options for putting the funds to use during its regular meeting on Thursday, Dec. 1.

First Selectmen Jean Speck noted that area towns have used the funds in differing ways, including supporting local EMS departments by purchasing supplies to treat overdose cases.

One option Speck suggested would be to fund training in treating overdoses, or perhaps to purchase one or more Naloxone kits for the town. Such boxes are available at \$375 each, without the Naloxone that is to be administered as an overdose treatment.

Selectman Rufus de Rham suggested focusing the opioid funds on helping families and individuals

struggling to recover from addiction.

The selectmen agreed to discuss use of the funding during the coming months. There is no deadline by which funds must be spent, Speck noted. The opioid settlement payments will continue over several years, although the allocation amount will be likely to lessen over time.

Responding to resident Kathleen Lindenmayer's suggestion that the Kent Town Hall be dedicated to honor the service to the town of Maureen Brady, Speck created a draft of a resolution to be considered by the selectmen. The resolution would clear the way for installing a plaque honoring Brady and dedicating the Town Hall to her in appreciation for her years of working in the town's interest.

Speck reported that Brady's service to the town

has spanned 40 years, including being the first woman elected as First Selectman (in 1985). As First Selectman, Brady oversaw the construction of the new Town Hall and its completion in 1989.

Today, her service continues in the post of Registrar of Voters.

"She was a builder of relationships and partnerships," Speck said of Brady's time as First Selectman.

While selectmen de Rham and Glenn Sanchez emphasized that they were in no way opposed to the idea, both wanted to give more thought to the resolution. Sanchez indicated that it represents a big move and he would like the decision postponed until their next meeting.

"We need to look at it and think about the wording," de Rham said of the resolution.

Touring the surreal at the Wassaic Project's winter show

By Elias Sorich

For Richard Barlow, one of eleven exhibiting artists at the Wassaic Project's newly opened show No Misery Can Tell, No Word of Farewell—an important step in installing his work was getting to know the walls.

"Some walls have lots of texture, they have lumpy bits. And then some are relatively smooth, are new wall. Almost every one of the wall panels in there was an entire-

ly different experience."

How did Barlow come into this knowledge? His chosen medium is chalk, and the walls are his canvas. Sequana, which he considers to be a singular work, covers every wall in the Maxon Mills' entry-room. This means two things—first, that creating it took a week's worth of eight-hour days. Second, is that after the exhibition ends, Barlow's drawings will disappear with it.

No Misery Can Tell makes great use of the ample, and odd layout of the Maxon Mills. To access the rest of the exhibit, gallery-goers must literally walk through Barlow's drawing, after which they are greeted by the bright, neon landscape of Clint Balcawski's photography.

From there, it's up seven flights, where on each floor a wide array of fascinating and sweeping work is on display. From Kate Johnson's

towering, handwoven linen artworks, to Farwah Rizvi's vibrant oil paintings. juxtaposed with these larger-scale works were the miniature, cloche sculptures of Cate Pasquarelli.

No Misery Can Tell, No Word of Farewell, which opened Saturday, Dec. 3, is open to the public to March 18 at the Maxon Mills in Wassaic on Saturdays only, from noon to 5 p.m.



PHOTO BY ELIAS SORICH

Richard Barlow with a segment of his installation chalk drawing, Sequana.



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SPECIAL SESSION

Continued from Page A1

on Nov. 30.

But the measure approved on Nov. 28 will waive the full tax through Dec. 31.

It then begins to reinstate the tax by 5 cents per month: a 5-cent retail tax on gasoline in January, 10 cents per gallon in February, 15 cents in March, 20 cents in April and the full 25 cents starting May 1.

The state also has been waiving fees on Connecticut transit buses since April, and that relief also was supposed to expire Nov. 30. But under the new bill, the waiver will continue through March 31.

Gov. Ned Lamont also has endorsed this extended gas tax and bus fare holiday and signed the measure into law.

Retail prices for regular gasoline hovered around \$4.30 per gallon on April 1 when the holiday began and peaked on June 14 at \$4.98 per gallon, according to the AAA.

But after a summer of declines, the price began to creep upward this fall.

The \$3.65 per gallon price that the AAA reported Wednesday for Connecticut is 10 cents higher than the national average.

The cost to the state of waiving the entire 25-cent retail gas tax is about \$30 million per month.

Minority Republicans in both chambers tried unsuccessfully to amend the bill to waive the entire retail gasoline

tax through June 30.

“Our residents need as much relief as possible,” said Rep. Holly Cheeseman of East Lyme, ranking House Republican on the Finance Committee, who said rising home heating oil and electric bills this winter, by themselves, will strain household budgets.

“Let’s give a little more break,” added Rep. Jay Case, R-Winsted, who said that a new state highway usage tax starting Jan. 1 on large commercial trucks will exacerbate inflation and drive up the cost of groceries and other goods. “My gosh, we’ve got another tax coming.”

But Democrats argued that extending the holiday that long could weaken the budget’s Special Transportation Fund over the long term. Democratic leaders said the state would be better served to reassess the gas tax holiday later this spring.

The Republican proposal failed 21-12 in the Senate and 88-52 in the House, with both votes following party lines.

Adding funds for winter heating assistance

A second energy-related component in the bill approved Nov. 28 would commit close to \$30 million in additional state funds, if necessary, to bolster the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, commonly known as LIHEAP, which helps

low-income families cover winter heating and other energy costs.

The program traditionally is funded with federal grants. Connecticut has received about \$94 million from Washington this year.

Lamont noted that the total state budget for winter energy assistance this year would match last year’s level.

But energy assistance advocates say that’s far too little and want a LIHEAP budget slightly larger than \$200 million.

According to Operation Fuel, a Hartford-based nonprofit energy assistance group, the energy assistance caseload between July 1 and Oct. 31 is double that of the same period in 2021.

The additional \$30 million in state funds would be spent only if Congress doesn’t bolster federal resources for LIHEAP between now and January.

House Republicans also tried to amend Monday’s bill to push LIHEAP funding upward by more than \$90 million.

The GOP proposal also would have created one-time payments for middle-income homeowners and renters who don’t qualify for energy assistance. Republicans specifically proposed a one-time \$330 payment for homeowners and \$180 payment for renters

who earn between 61% and 120% of the state’s median income.

Democrats countered that Connecticut never before has used state dollars for LIHEAP, which has always been a federal responsibility.

Democrats rejected the Republican energy assistance amendment 87-52 on a party line vote.

Label deadline for bottle deposit program

A final element in the Nov. 28 omnibus bill was drafted to clear up a technical issue tied to an expansion of the bottle deposit program set to begin Jan. 1.

Stores will begin collecting nickel deposits soon on a new range of bottled products. The program expansion was approved in 2021.

But because of supply chain many stores haven’t been able to get these products with the new labels.

The legislation adopted in the House still requires stores to collect the deposit on the new items starting in January, and gives stores an extra six months, to secure the labels identifying these items as requiring the deposit.

The Journal occasionally will offer articles from CTMirror.org, a source of nonprofit journalism and a partner with The Lakeville Journal. A longer version of this article appears online.

SBT MERGER

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The Salisbury Bank and Trust main branch in Lakeville.

in Lakeville] as a regional operations hub.”

NBT has also agreed to add some \$500,000 to SBT’s current community donations.

“I’ve worked here all my life,” Cantele said. “In the bigger picture, this is a good thing. It’s very challenging for community banks in the

current market.”

NBT describes itself on its website as a “full-service community bank with 140 locations in New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Connecticut.”

SBT has 14 branches in Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts.

Coston to serve as editor of Millerton News

MILLERTON — As part of the restructuring taking place at The Lakeville Journal Company, Lakeville Journal Editor John Coston will take over the duties of editor at The Millerton News as Emily Edelman takes over as managing editor.

Coston also will continue as Lakeville Journal editor. He has become much more

familiar with the New York state side of the news and coverage since the departure of former editor Whitney Joseph. He’s looking forward to making The Millerton News all it can and should be as the primary news source for eastern Dutchess County.

— Janet Manko

FLU SEASON

Continued from Page A1

Of the 595 COVID tests taken in November, 6.7% were positive, a drop from October’s positivity rate of 8.9%, according to hospital data.

The pandemic partly to blame

The 2020-2021 flu season was mild compared to pre-pandemic years. So why is this year’s flu season so bad?

There are three reasons, said Dr. Ulysses Wu, chief epidemiologist at Hartford HealthCare, parent entity of Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington.

The first is due to behavior, he said. “People are taking riskier behaviors, like not masking coming out of the

darkness of COVID.”

Also, said Wu, fewer people have been receiving the flu vaccine, and many have not been exposed to influenza over the past few years due to a combination of COVID-19 restrictions and low circulating flu levels.

At Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, hospitalizations are on an uptick due to respiratory illness, “but these numbers are fairly low with regard to influenza,” at least for now, Wu explained.

“Influenza always peaks in February, and the problem is that it’s a little early this year,”

said the epidemiologist. “Plus, it’s not the peak that we have to worry about...it’s the upswing.”

He said health officials are

[flu] activity out there now.”

Rubbo strongly encouraged people to get the flu vaccine this year, which is available at the Torrington Health District, as well as local pharmacies.

Marsh also stressed the importance of getting vaccinated both for influenza and COVID-19. The good news, he said, is that the influenza and bivalent vaccines are “quite effective.”

Rubbo noted that as people gather indoors for the holidays and during colder months, the risk of catching and spreading pathogens increases. “Masking is probably what prevented a bad flu season last year, plus keeping your distance and not going out if you’re sick,” said Marshall. “We’ve been trained in the COVID era to protect ourselves as well as protect others” from dangerous pathogens.

“People are taking riskier behaviors, like not masking coming out of the darkness of COVID.”

Dr. Ulysses Wu, Chief Epidemiologist, Hartford HealthCare

bracing for a difficult winter with a combination of influenza, RSV and COVID-19.

Hospital capacity

Juthani said the DPH has been communicating with hospitals statewide regarding contingency plans should hospitals become overwhelmed this winter.

In the Northwest Corner, representatives of both Sharon Hospital and Charlotte Hungerford Hospital said they are able to optimize capacity within their respective health systems should hospital capacity become a problem.

So far, Litchfield County has seen lower flu activity than southern portions of the state, said Robert Rubbo, Director of Health for the Torrington Area Health District.

Rubbo cautioned that “most of our residents travel quite a bit” and pathogens know no boundaries.

“We are definitely seeing

HOSPITAL

Continued from Page A1

bury attorney David Singer, an arbitration specialist. He said that the intention is to keep Sharon Hospital as a full-service hospital.

Singer indicated that about two weeks earlier, the OHS had granted the SSH organization the intervenor status it had sought. The approval clears the way for an attorney representing SSH to cross-examine witnesses testifying on behalf of Nuvance during the Dec. 6 public hearing.

Illustrative of the wide geographic area served by the hospital, attorney Robert

Miller of the Dutchess County Board of Health attended the meeting, describing Sharon Hospital as one of the shining stars in the region. Residents who spoke asked questions of clarification and spoke of the urgency, encouraging others to testify at the Zoom hearing. One resident, urging residents to speak out, said of Nuvance, “They are playing a long game: profits over people.”

Moore invited area residents to assemble at Sharon Town Hall for an all-day Zoom testifying and viewing party.

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Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Getting high with my NFT edible

The mellow tingling that pulsates with an unprovoked, weightless euphoria has arrived. The wooden leg of my desk brushes against my leg — or did my leg brush against the desk's leg — and I am in a brief fit of laughter. I am high on a piece of art I purchased at Standard Space, a contemporary gallery in Sharon, Conn.

"Zubenelgenubi" by Kristin Worrall is both a THC-laced dessert and an NFT — which might make me the first person in Litchfield County to not only purchase marijuana artwork, but also the first customer to walk away from a local gallery with a piece of digitally encrypted art.

Combining the culinary arts with performance art, Kristin Worrall hosted a live auction at Standard Space on Saturday night, Dec. 3. All titled after science fiction influences — from actual stars to names of alien species pulled from 1980s paperbacks — the gelatin sculptures fused the perfectly molded aspics of the 1950s domestic goddesses with intergalactic oddity and vague sexuality. The visuals of popular science fiction have always dabbled

in abstract phallic and vaginal imagery, turning space into a Freudian landscape of the absurd. Consider the birth-anxiety of 1979's "Alien," or the teeth-baring vortex pit in 1983's "Return of the Jedi," or the vacuum-mouthed sandworms of Frank Herbert's "Dune." Of course, within the history of dessert are plenty of cheeky references, from

the Neapolitan naughtiness of the *Capezzoli di Venere* — the Nipples of Venus — to the myth that the Champagne flute was modeled off the curves of Marie Antoinette.

"Zubenelgenubi" was the only THC-laden creation sold at Worrall's performance, but it singularly marks a new direction possible for the conflation of art and marijuana in Connecticut after recreational use was legalized in the state in 2021. Possibilities that

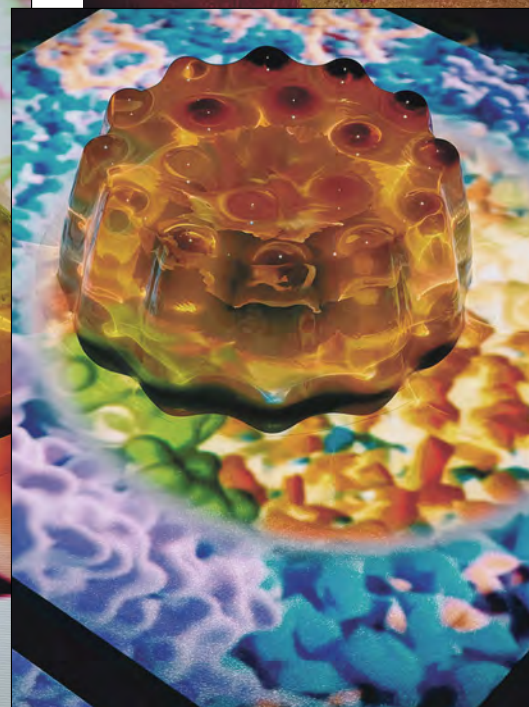
may be curbed by small-town government. In Falls Village, Conn., the hometown of The Lakeville Journal Company's office, a special Nov. 10 meeting of the town's Planning and Zoning Committee concluded by barring both the issue of growers licenses in Falls Village and licenses for recreational marijuana retail. Resident Daly Renville said at the meeting that "bringing people into town as an adult cannabis retail destina-

tion didn't seem practical or advantageous to the town." Meanwhile, Hartford Business reported this week that "Connecticut's cannabis industry could account for more than 10,000 jobs just a few years after the recreational market launches."

It does not escape me that in purchasing this giant gummy edible — which may leave me crashing into a deep slumber — I also purchased my first NFT in a crashing market. It's been less than a month since FTX filed for bankruptcy, leaving Sam Bankman-Fried, the former chief executive of one of the leading digital currency exchanges, as a figure of Internet and old print mockery. This is the Sisyphean tumble after years of cryptocurrency's dogged climb towards legitimacy.

For context on the inflated market of NFTs, think of the Internet as a large island nation, except instead of stumbling upon it after voyaging on the sea, we built it. Now that land needs to be claimed, bought, and sold — we must colonize our own creation, and "we" (meaning "they") must find a way to make even a leaf on a tree a transactional opportunity. NFTs — non-fungible tokens — are a way of turning images into profit. This may sound like the very definition of the art market, except the baseline concept isn't creativity, but a creative solution to a problem. Images, even copyrighted images, are duplicated and dispersed with little control across the Internet, which makes them free — a problem. So NFTs are commonly bought with cryptocurrency like ether used on Ethereum, an open-source blockchain platform. One ether as of writing this is worth \$1,282.9, a significant drop from this time last year. A purchase of an NFT is also the purchase of an individual identifier recorded in a blockchain ledger. It does not necessarily give the buyer supreme copyright, but the system does bring in the idea of an online image as a particular object.

Think of an NFT as the newspaper you're reading. It is an exact copy of one of the thousands of newspapers this publication printed and distributed this week, but only this newspaper is the one you're holding. It contains the oil on your



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

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Continued on next page

...NFT high Continued from previous page

fingertips, your coffee stains, a stray tear in the paper. Turn to the front and you will see a serial number, clearly identifying this as a particular newspaper — one of a copy, but one of a kind.

The traditional-medium artist to make the biggest splash from the NFT craze was Damien Hirst when he launched the conceptual project “The Currency” through the international art services business Heni. Hirst first made his splash in the 1990s with his formaldehyde-pickled tiger shark, and the bad boy of British art has continued to invent new attention-grabbing methods that make sure even those with little contemporary art knowledge are passingly familiar with his fame. In a 1994 issue of Parkett the late author Gordon Burn wrote, “It is one of

Damien’s great strengths, both in the cool medium of his work and the hot medium of his person, that he is always pushing towards full disclosure.” Critic Julian Spalding has called Hirst’s work “the sub-prime of the art world” more in line with creatively-marketed, hot-button luxury goods than lasting and meaningful art.

For his first delve into the crypto market, Hirst returned to a familiar subject, his instantly identifiable — and by no small coincidence, easily duplicable — prismatic dot paintings. This dot series was presented by Hirst and Heni as “a collection of 10,000 NFTs which correspond to 10,000 unique physical artworks which are stored in a secure vault in the UK.” Once the purchase had been made, the game began.

Unlike my gelatin edible and its corresponding NFT, Hirst’s buyers did not have the option to keep both — they had to choose. Either delete the NFT or burn the physical piece of art. Which one held more currency? This October Hirst even welcomed fans to watch him burn the canvases which had been viewed as less desirable, less collectible, than their NFT counterparts.

Worrall described “Zubenelgenubi” as a melding of orange blossom and blackberry flavors, but devouring the gelatin by the forkful, all I could taste was the THC. It wasn’t unpleasant actually, a sexy sense memory that reminded me of having a joint on my tongue, the sound of the lighter flick, the burn and crackle of paper, my proximity to someone close by, breathing on



PHOTO COURTESY OF HENI
Last week Heni announced a new collection of Hirst dots, purely physical canvases this time around. The game? You must apply to buy.

my face as we passed the spark between drags. But as the high left me sinking into the sofa, the blaring the sound of Hans Zimmer’s “Dune” score with its other-worldly ancient chanting eclipsing all other senses like a great, black sun enveloping the earth, I realized I had inadvertently recreated Damien Hirst’s experiment. It

hadn’t been intentional, the gummy was food that would eventually expire, but by ingesting it I had destroyed the artwork, leaving only the blockchain behind.”

“Take Comfort” by Kristin Worrall is on view through Dec. 18 at Standard Space in Sharon, Conn.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ARGAZZI ART

Pleiades XII by Liz Dexheimer

Liz Dexheimer 'The Cascade Series'

If cryptocurrency feels too cryptic, return to the physical realm of Liz Dexheimer’s large scale acrylics. A tumbling waterfall in broad-stroked abstract, gold paint scraped against canvas, or a bounty of autumnal leaves billowing before a night sky? Look up and you might find the answer. Pleiades is named after an open star cluster known as The Seven Sisters — daughters of the Oceanid nymph Pleione — these stars are hot, middle-aged and visible to the naked eye.



Located in the constellation of Taurus The Bull, the stars were drawn by Galileo, the first astronomer to view The Sisters through a telescope. He published his findings in 1610.

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EDITORIAL

Support early childhood education

American society has changed dramatically since the time that the public school structure was first created. It is within the last 50 or so years that there has been a shift to both parents working outside the home to keep their lives in balance, whether it was a financial necessity or a psychological one, where both men and women wanted to use their educations as springboards into full lives of work, service and family life.

This is the reason that high quality child care centers are so critical to the health of any community. Those young children, who should be seen as our most important resource for the future, are not given the primary thought in the United States that they should be given, left out of the public school structure supported by taxes and state and federal funding. Studies keep finding that those early years are extremely important to the development of any person, yet they are too often an afterthought here when it comes to finding them revenues and funding on a consistent basis to keep them afloat and thriving.

In other nations across the world, early childhood education does find universal strong support from consistent and reliable streams of funding, as in the Nordic countries and especially Sweden, for instance, building systems that put the needs of children and their families first. In the U.S., the struggle to find such funding continues, with too much of the burden being put on the backs of young families, who are just starting out their lives, and the educators who choose to take on the important task of teaching these young children.

If you missed it, do go back and read the story in this newspaper last week by Elias Sorich on child care centers and the staffing and funding shortages they face, not only in this region, but across the country. There is only so much young families can afford to pay for early childhood care. Child care centers, mainly nonprofit, strive to supplement tuition with fundraising in their communities, yet with shrinking staffs to keep the centers operating, less time can be given to these initiatives. If you are thinking their missions don't touch your lives, if you don't have young children or grandchildren in the area, think again.

Think about those essential workers and volunteers who do have children younger than school age, who fill positions in your community that are critical to its healthy functioning. Take an interest in the child care center that services the families in your town, and find out how many families they affect, giving them safe, fun and high quality child care while they work. The benefit to having centers that cover your local region is that the students become familiar with one another and become friends, sometimes lifelong, and wind up attending school together. Their annual appeals are mainly going out to their supporters now for the end of the year giving opportunities, so it's a good time to be very aware of their needs and support them as much as you possibly can.

Growth opportunities in Sharon Hospital plan

I am the Medical Director of Psychiatry at Sharon Hospital. I have been at the hospital for more than 12 years, and I know how valuable this hospital is to our community. That is why I am writing in support of Sharon Hospital's transformation plan. My work with the inpatient behavioral health unit gives me an especially clear picture of Sharon Hospital's impact on our 65+ population, a demographic expected to continue growing in the coming years.

Outside of behavioral healthcare, these patients rely on the hospital for emergency care, surgery, and specialty services such as palliative care. They need Sharon Hospital to be here in the long term, and this requires us to adapt by making difficult but necessary choices.

I am excited about the growth opportunities presented by the transformation plan, particularly as they relate to behavioral health. By investing resources in behavioral health, a service line in demand within our region, we can expand care not only in our community — but also become a destination for those outside our region looking to receive compassionate, advanced behavioral health services. By doing so, we can be leaders in breaking down stigma and addressing the behavioral health crisis in our community and beyond.

Behavioral health is just one example of the many services that would have the opportunity to expand if Sharon Hospital is permitted to reallocate its resources to invest in areas our community needs most. But none of this will be possible without making the tough decisions needed to preserve Sharon Hospital.

I believe that Sharon Hospital and Nuvance Health are acting responsibly in proposing to close the under-used Labor & Delivery unit, so we can continue meeting the wide array of needs shown by patients in our region. I support Sharon Hospital's work to survive the challenges facing hospitals across the country and enhance the services we provide.

Dr. Sabooh Mubbashar, MD
Sharon



PHOTO BY AVERY CLARK

Perfect day for a walk on the Rail Trail

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sandy Hook vigil will honor those who died and their loved ones

December 14, 2012, was one of the darkest days in U.S. history. On that day in Newtown, Connecticut, a deeply troubled 20-year-old shot and killed his mother while she was in bed and then proceeded to Sandy Hook Elementary School where he shot and killed 26 people. Twenty of the victims were six- and seven-year-old students and six were adult teachers and staff. This shocking event, the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history, reverberated throughout the country. The people of Newtown were so traumatized by the event that the school was torn down and replaced; the home where the shooter had lived with his mother was eventually acquired by the town and demolished.

On Wednesday, Dec. 14, our town will hold a candlelight vigil on the lawn in

front of the White Hart Inn to commemorate this tragedy. A vigil was first held within days of the tragedy and has been held on the anniversary of the event every year. In the best tradition of our town, these vigils have been organized not by the town or an organization but by two Salisbury residents who felt the need to commemorate this tragedy.

This year's event, which begins at 5 p.m. and will run for no more than an hour, will feature remarks by Rev. John Nelson of the Salisbury Congregational Church and State Representative Maria Horn. It will also feature songs performed by several area musicians. The event concludes with the bells of the Congregational Church church tolling 26 times in remembrance of the 26 victims. Attendees should bring a candle.

We can have different opinions as to the cause of this, and the other seemingly endless mass shootings which have plagued our country, as well as different opinions as to what we should do to try to prevent them.

But there can be no difference of opinion as to the human tragedy and toll taken by this event. Twenty-six families have had a loved one taken from them in a senseless act and will forever feel the grief and torment of that loss. By participating in this vigil, we can share in that loss and commemorate the lives lost to that tragedy. Please attend the vigil and show your support for those families and the Newtown community as a whole.

Tom Morrison
Chair,
Salisbury Republican
Town Committee
Lakeville

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — December 1922

William Tolliver while out fox hunting on Tuesday of last week had the misfortune to break a finger in his right hand, caused by his horse rearing suddenly.

The "shortest" days of the year are approaching and according to the old timers, the weather may soon be expected to become more severe.

Messrs. Robert Scoville and W.B. Rand are spending a few days in Chicago attending the International Live Stock Exposition.

50 years ago — December 1972

While Falls Village is taking a good look at a possible new landfill site one state official has suggested the town view it as a potential site for surrounding towns as well. Selectmen this week named an eight-member committee to view the 70-acre Stewart McMillan farm as potential multi-use municipal property. Face to face negotiations with Mr. McMillan, now a Carolina resident, are due to commence around Dec. 20. The town is under pressure to find a new site because the current landfill, which adjoins the farm, is just about filled up. Other prospective sites have "fallen through" during the course of a two-year search.

An old name will soon appear in a new location in Lakeville. The private road by the new headquarters of the Salisbury Bank and Trust Co. has been named Bissell Street, with Mr. and Mrs. Roswell "Hop" Rudd as winners of the contest sponsored by the bank. The name is doubly appropriate. In Lakeville, Bank President John Rogers points out many streets bear the names of prominent old local families; but until now the Bissell name has not been honored in this way. In addition, the property on which the new building stands was once the site of the home of Dr. Will Bissell, and the house which was moved back to make way for the new construction was his home. Dr. Will was the son of Dr. William Bissell, who was known affectionately as "the old doctor" and for whom the Dr. William Bissell Fund is named.

Continued next page

Sharon Hospital is open

I am writing today as the Medical Director of the Emergency Department and the Chief of Staff for Sharon Hospital to clarify misinformation and reassure the community that Sharon Hospital is open and ready to care for you and your family. I want to assure my community that Sharon Hospital has a vibrant future in our region and that our team will continue providing the high-quality care our community needs most, right here in Sharon.

Our doors are open, and we are here to serve all your inpatient, outpatient, and emergency needs. Since Sharon Hospital's founding in 1909, our Emergency Department has been here to help patients in our region with everything from broken bones to heart attacks and strokes. We remain committed to fulfilling the legacy that began more than 100 years ago, while staying up-to-date with modern and advanced standards of care to ensure we can continue providing highly skilled care right here for our community.

On behalf of the entire ED team, I would like to thank our patients and neighbors for their support. We feel incredibly lucky to have the privilege to care for such a wonderful community. Come see us whenever you need. We are here for you.

Ron M. Santos, DO, JD

Sharon

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The past and future of Covid-19

Pandemics leave their remnants in traumas of death and illness. Nurses, doctors, and patients were stunned by the scrambles that the Covid-19 virus produced. Columbia Presbyterian, a thousand bed teaching hospital in Manhattan was converted to emergency rooms to treat gasping Covid patients. Covid left its effects on joy and civilization with closed schools, museums, and theaters. It destroyed commerce and the human contact that went with it. Covid-19 did not fall equally and created rage from people whose lives were put on hold. Pandemics have always caused isolation and trauma, whether the Black Death that killed a third of Europe in 1347, a diphtheria epidemic that worked its deadly way up the coast of colonial America in the 17th century, or the frequent devastations of smallpox until the 20th century. In 2019, we thought we had disease under better control.

During the pandemic, I wrote a dozen columns that broadly explained the crucial role of public health and how vaccines are made. There are lessons to be learned and we have not seen the last of such events. I discussed the complexity of viruses and how the body controls them through its innate and adaptive immune systems. We covered how vaccines, new and old, are made and tested in clinical trials. We described remarkable new antiviral drugs and monoclonal antibodies and covered the vital role of basic science as a precursor to projects like making a vaccine or a drug. I explained who does research and how research is funded in this and other countries. A Brief History of the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic can be found on the website of the Lakeville Journal or on my website (RichardKessin.com). Mistakes and my predictions that were wrong are noted in brackets. There were a number. Progress was described in parentheses. There was a lot, and in historical terms it was fast; but not fast enough.

Mistakes are part of the raw material of science. In Anthem, Leonard Cohen sang, "There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in." Cracks, small inconsistencies reveal the unquestioned, and the light tells us that there is an opening to the sun and we are missing something. Not everyone looks on cracks and light as revelatory. Cracks are anathema to authoritarians because their universe is fully formed; every problem demands a simple explanation and every disease needs a perfect cure. Science in au-

thoritarian societies can be as difficult and dangerous as writing literature under censorship. Certain aspects of a disease are often ignored. In June and July of 2020, the first reports of Long Covid appeared. One in five victims of SARS-CoV-2 had extended symptoms, after the critical phase that reduced the patients to foggy thoughts, exhaustion, muscle fatigue, shortness of breath, and other symptoms. Standard medical tests returned results that were normal. That is a frustrating condition to have, because physicians do not know what to do and may not pay attention. Current thoughts are that Long Covid is an inflammatory response to lingering Covid virus mRNA or that small blood clots caused by a virus that is long gone are cutting off oxygen delivery to muscles and other tissues. These symptoms take a long time to resolve. Chronic Fatigue Syndrome causes similar symptoms, again with normal laboratory test results, so perhaps the answer to one syndrome will improve the prospects of patients with the other. The NIH has made a commitment to support this research. See: A Brief Overview of Long Covid by Erica

Spatz, MD, MHS. She heads a Long Covid Study funded by the CDC at the Yale School of Medicine. Paste the title into Google for her article. Who does this research? I was an Associate Dean of Graduate Students at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center. One of the duties of my office was to recruit students to our PhD programs, people who had already studied a branch of biology or chemistry. American universities are strong for many reasons, but one is that we can admit students from the United States and other countries, and through the NIH grants of their Ph.D. advisors, or other sources, we can pay Ph.D. students a salary. We teach graduate students more than complex biology and techniques; these subjects include ethics (the authorities call the course Bioethics, but I say ethics is ethics). Teaching science or any other subject in universities is complicated and we come in for our share of criticism, but the results speak for themselves. A Brief History of the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic should make that clear.

Richard Kessin is Emeritus Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at the Columbia University Medical Center. He and Galene Kessin live in Norfolk Conn. His email is Richard.Kessin@gmail.com and his website is Richard-Kessin.com.

THE BODY SCIENTIFIC RICHARD KESSIN

Library board weighs in on Sharon Hospital

From the editor: This is a letter sent to the Office of Health Strategy by the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon board of directors.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, I write to oppose Nuvance Health's proposed closure of the Labor and Delivery Unit at Sharon Hospital.

The two most important institutions in Sharon (the school aside) are without question the Hospital and the Library. The Hospital looks after the body; at the Library, we help nurture the mind. At times we collaborate, as in the case of the Books for Babies program the Library established. Under this program, every baby born at the Hospital receives a package containing a library card, two board books and a pamphlet for the parents. Since 2011, the Library has distributed 2,234 of these packets to the families of newborns. Apart from its promotion of literacy, this program recognizes that the future of the Library and indeed the entire community depend in no small part on engaging our youth.

The Library recently concluded a major capital campaign to fund the renovation and expansion of our

facility. Work is underway. The Children's Room will be redesigned in keeping with the latest concepts. There will also be an addition with a room suitable for children's activities which we've been unable to hold in the current building due to space constraints. This work is another demonstration of our commitment to the younger generation(s).

It appeared that the Hospital was like-minded. In 2009 it opened a large and sophisticated Birthing Center, designed to make the experience as pleasant as possible for the mother and the infant. Innovatively, the Center has six comfortable suites where the mother stays throughout labor, delivery and recovery. The message, albeit implicit, seemed to be: "Come to Sharon. Have your babies here. We want you."

One would think that Nuvance would have made that message explicit by promoting this state-of-the-art facility. As attractive as the Northwest Corner is, it would be even more so to couples knowing that they

would receive all the health care they need to start their families here. This marvelous facility would have been a particularly strong draw. This, moreover, was an opportunity time, with families moving here to escape the pandemic. Having attracted them, we want to keep them, and a fully operational Birthing Center would have played an important role in that effort.

That, though, isn't what happened. I am aware of no efforts by Nuvance to promote the Center. It's almost as though Nuvance doesn't want the existence of this facility to become widely known out of concern that it would become too popular. And so, instead of publicizing it, they argue that the Center is unprofitable and must be closed.

It is difficult to believe that, given the substantial expense involved in constructing the Birthing Center, it was anticipated that that investment would be fully recouped and the Center would turn a profit. Rather, it seems likely that it

GUEST COMMENTARY THOMAS TROWBRIDGE

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

Continued from previous page

The Lakeville Journal has been designated a "National Blue Ribbon Newspaper" for 1973 by the National Editorial Foundation, Washington, D.C. In announcing the designation, Foundation President George Wortley III, Fayetteville, N.Y., noted that The Journal was one of only 144 newspapers to achieve this designation in a nationwide program open to all newspapers.

— The natural beauties and the serenity of life in

the Northwest Corner of Connecticut have now been immortalized in song by Carole King, popular songwriter and recording star. In her recently released single, Canaan, Miss King tells of her appreciation for the green fields and rolling hills that surround her recently purchased home in Falls Village.

—No objections were lodged during Monday night's brief hearing at Town Hall on Leslie Jacobs' application for a license to continue operation of Jacobs' Garage in the village center. Joe Jacobs Sr. operated a car dealership and garage service for 40 years until his death last winter, and Les has continued the operation since then.

25 years ago — December 1997

FALLS VILLAGE — Bill Holcomb, 86, was in his house Tuesday morning eating breakfast when the fire began. At first he thought it might be coming from his wood stove, but soon realized the flames were coming from under the floor. "I tried to get out, but the door was stuck," he said. "I had to dive through the fire and kick the door to get out. I got in my truck and drove to T-Bows store as fast as I could to call it in, but my neighbors had already called."

SHARON — A lone bank robber brandished a handgun at a New Milford Savings Bank branch office in

the Route 41 shopping plaza early Saturday morning and made off with more than \$1,400 in cash. The unidentified robber is still at large and police seek the public's help in his apprehension.

— The recent theft of a rare book has left book dealer Barbara Farnsworth shaking her head in disappointment. The owner of the antiquarian bookstore in West Cornwall is missing a copy of a first edition of James Joyce's "Ulysses," #534 of 1,000 copies printed in Paris for Shakespeare and Company in 1922.

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



Unwelcome, inevitable

You've been there, or you know someone who's been there. Or you are there right now, or you have an inconsolable friend. The grieving journey is uncomfortable and not fun and it is indisputably part of life. What if we were better equipped to deal with grief before it lands on our front door and comes right in, uninvited? What if we could develop living habits so that when we had to say farewell to a loved one, we could be fairly confident that we had done everything we could to have the transition be gentle and loving?

As a bereavement group facilitator for many years, I have witnessed hundreds of courageous men and women reclaim their lives. I have heard tales of anger and betrayal and despair. I am continually amazed by the heroic and the might human being his/her life is incredible get through.

THE GRIEF JOURNEY EILEEN EPPERSON

Moving goes better with others in a similar situation than being alone and confused. An effective support group offers two important ingredients: a place to express and to listen, and information about grieving that can illuminate the dark places. In a group, you do not have to put up a good face. When people ask, "How are you doing?" they really mean it; they want to know.

Jack was in total despair after his wife, Dina, died (names changed). He did not want to live and he said so in a flood of tears numerous times. "I just want to die. There is no point, no point to anything." The group listened and gave him room to be in deep grief and be seen... simply by being present, not interrupting, not counseling, and not even going over to hold his hand. The support enabled him to be just where he was, despair and all, and to work through it gradually. He even started making family visits again that he and his wife had always done together.

One of my many handouts, "The Journey of Grief," depicts a roller coaster line across the page and states of mind and heart we may encounter along the way: shock and numbness, disbelief and denial, reality hitting with anger and confusion, and gradual acceptance of the new life. This journey moves through non-sequential stages of disorganization and recovery, as well as phases of integration and reinvestment in life. Each of these headings has a drop down menu of shock, disbelief or anger. People can often locate themselves on this journey and know that they are not crazy, there is a precedent for their chaos and there may be a turning point in their pain.

There does not seem to be a right way to grieve and everyone deals with loss differently. That being said, there are similarities we share in coping with bereavement. One person cannot stay home after her partner has died; another cannot leave the house. One person has to get rid of their loved one's clothes as soon as possible; another can't bear to touch them. All are dealing with the sharp absence of physical presence.


The grief of the survivor is compounded and nuanced by how the survivor has moved through loss earlier in life. What capacity does the survivor have to deal with loss of different impacts? Are there past deaths or losses that were shoved to the background and are coming front and center now?

How was the relationship with the deceased at the time of death? Were there important things that were never said or heard by the survivor? Was forgiving or asking for forgiveness missing? How dependent on the deceased was the survivor?

If the death was connected to what the survivor believes was medical neglect of any kind, whether proven or not, the grief journey can continue longer as the anger continues to be fueled and the acceptance of death is delayed.


This is a complex and multi-faceted subject and there will be further reflections on the grieving journey in The Lakeville Journal over the next few months.

The Rev. Dr. Eileen L. Epperson has lived in Salisbury for 20 years. She is a Life Coach specializing in grief support, forgiveness, communication coaching, and facilitating grief support groups. Reach her at elethegriefjourney@gmail.com.



Realtor® at Large

The real estate market is in flux at present, dealing with low inventory, rising interest rates and the threat of inflation. As both a seller and buyer, it helps to understand what is currently happening and how this will impact the market going into 2023. In searching for information on Litchfield County I found the following to be very helpful in understanding the dynamics of this market on both Litchfield County as a whole and our individual Towns: www.virtualpreview.com/q3-2022-market-watch-litchfield-county/full-view.html.



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Sports

Tangled Lines reveals what anglers want for Xmas

Shopping for the angler is not easy, even for other anglers. The sport involves a lot of technical stuff, which combined with personal preference and a hearty dose of completely irrational prejudice, makes it easy for the unwary to drop the proverbial brick.

Example: Buying a Euronymphing rod for someone who believes that anything other than a dry fly presentation equals the End of Western Civilization.

Or buying a Tenkara rod for someone who thinks the fixed-line method equals the End of Western Civilization.

If you think I am exaggerating, just lurk on fly fishing forums for a while. One of them had an argument about expensive nippers that raged for years.

So here are some highly idiosyncratic suggestions:

TANGLED LINES

PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Cabelas CGR fiberglass rods, at about \$70, are not budget busters. They come in weights 2 through 5 and there is a 7 and/or 8 weight for the bass people.

The one I like, and use more often than any other for small stream trout fishing, is the 6 1/2 foot 4 weight. Paired with a double taper line, it is about as versatile a stick as anyone could want, with enough oomph to turn over a weighted nymph or small streamer.

Lamson Liquid reels come in a set with the reel and two extra spools starting at about \$220. They used to be about 60 bucks cheaper but hey,



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Andrew Corrigan of Lakeville using a short fiberglass rod in tight quarters.

that's so 2021.

These reels are sturdy, easy to clean, easy to switch retrieve direction, and with the extra spools you can get your main trout lines (in weights 4, 5, and 6 for example) in one handy carrying case. Less stuff rattling around in the car is always better.

Kold Cutters: These are studs designed for racing motorcycles on ice. They also work very well when screwed into wading boots. I use the 3/8 inch version, which are long enough to grab and not long enough to penetrate into the foot-type area, thus causing dismay and concern. And unlike official fly-fishing wading boot studs, around \$28 gets you a bag of 250, rather than a set of 24.

Bat Belt: Say goodbye to flimsy wading belt misery forever with the Blackhawk Black Web Duty Belt (around \$27). Designed for sport shooters, this thing has a Velcro adjuster, and is so stiff it can handle your wading stick, water bottle and net, thus getting all that weight off the shoulders. Pair it with a Koolbak wading staff holster or two, for said staff and for a water bottle (the insulated Yeti Rambler 18 ounce bottle fits snugly).

You can find a lot of this

stuff on Amazon, and if that annoys you, buy direct from some of the companies (Ca-

belas), fly shops (UpCountry in New Hartford), or a hardware store that sells Yeti products.

And then there is the safe choice: the gift certificate. Orvis will provide, as will most fly shops. This is fool-proof; the only disadvantage is cosmetic, as a wrapped box generates far more Christmas cheer than an envelope or an emailed QR code.

Feel free to email me with questions: patricks@lakevillejournal.com. Put "FISHING GEAR QUESTION" in the subject line so I don't think you're some kind of weirdo. (I get a lot of peculiar emails.)



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

This short fiberglass rod from Cabelas is a Tangled Lines favorite for small streams.

GNH knocked out of playoff tourney with 26-14 loss

By Riley Klein

DEEP RIVER — The heroic run by the Gilbert/Northwestern/Housatonic Yellowjackets co-op football team has come to an end.

After finishing off the regular season with a six-game winning streak, and a league record of 7-1, GNH qualified for the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference Class SS playoff tournament.

The Yellowjackets cruised through the quarterfinal with a 34-0 victory against Windham High School. The team finally

met their match in the semifinal showdown versus the Valley Regional/Old Lyme (VROL) Warriors in Deep River.

The Yellowjackets succumbed to the Warriors in a 26-14 loss on Sunday, Dec. 4.

GNH had a strong finish to their second season as a co-op team and will look to next year to continue its development and growth.

VROL will face Barlow for the Class SS state championship. Barlow defeated Cromwell/Portland 40-35 against Rocky Hill on Saturday, Dec. 3.

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FACILITIES ASSOCIATE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH: located in Great Barrington seeks a motivated and detail-oriented individual to join the organization as Facilities Associate. Reporting to and working with the Facilities Manager, the associate helps maintain the campus buildings, grounds, and equipment. The ideal candidate is self-motivated, has a sense of humor, good interpersonal skills and is seeking an opportunity to use a variety of skills and knowledge. For full description and to apply, go to <https://www.aier.org/about/jobs/>

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LAND USE TECHNICAL SPECIALIST: The Town of Salisbury is seeking a motivated team player to fill a new, full-time position in the Land Use Office. This position requires 30-35 hours per week and some evenings; Salary commensurate with experience. The Town of Salisbury offers a complete benefit package including exceptional health, dental, pension plan, vacation, sick, and personal days, employer paid accreditations, memberships and conferences. Union membership is required. The Town of Salisbury is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For a complete job description please visit <https://www.salisburyct.us/employment>

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