



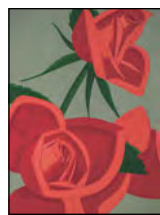
Special Banner  
Page A7-9



Inside

The Lakeville Journal will not publish Dec. 29, and will publish again Jan. 5, 2023.

Sharon Community Center plan  
Page A10



Katz in Kent Compass,  
Pages B1-2

Guest Editorial Sharon Hospital Letters, Columns Opinion  
Pages B3-4

Help Wanted, Services, Real Estate  
Pages B5-6

# The Lakeville Journal

TriCornerNews.com

Small Business Spotlight, Page A2

30 PAGES IN 3 SECTIONS VOLUME 126 NUMBER 21 © 2022 The Lakeville Journal Company, Periodical Rate Postage Paid at Lakeville (Town of Salisbury), Connecticut 06039 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 & 29, 2022 \$2.00

Celebrating Our 125th Anniversary

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

## Calls for action at Sandy Hook vigil

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — About 60 people showed up on a cold and windy night at the town Green in Salisbury Wednesday, Dec. 14 for a vigil marking the 10th anniversary of the Sandy Hook school shooting in 2012, when Adam Lanza shot and killed 26 people (20 children and six adults) at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown.

Organizer Sophie deBoer of the Northwest Corner Committee for Gun Violence Prevention opened up by noting “This is the 11th time we’ve held this vigil. Several of you have been with us at each one. Some are joining us for the first time and we welcome you.

“We are here on this solemn occasion to remember the tragedy that happened at the Sandy Hook

See VIGIL, Page A12



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Pastor John Nelson of the Salisbury Congregational Church spoke at a vigil marking the anniversary of the 2012 Sandy Hook school shooting.

## Nursing homes on defense for another surge of COVID-19

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — The flu and the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) dominated headlines over the past few months. Now it’s COVID’s turn, and Northwest Corner nursing home administrators are on the defense.

State metrics point to a spike in the COVID-19 positivity rate,

which has ticked upward since Thanksgiving to 11.43% as of Dec. 15, with hospitalizations rising 58% during the same period.

While the rollout of COVID vaccines two years ago this month helped reduce the severity of illness and mortality rate of those infected, the virus can still be

See COVID SURGE, Page A12

## Kent voters say ‘no’ to trooper in school

By Leila Hawken

KENT — Town voters rejected the Board of Education’s recommendation to hire a state trooper to be assigned to Kent Center School in a definitive 261 to 137 referendum vote on Thursday, Dec. 15.

Voters also approved the spending of \$100,000 to pay for contracted EMS services to complete the current fiscal year. That vote was 314 yes, 83 no.

The first item on the ballot called for the town to spend \$200,000 annually to employ a trooper as a School Resource

See VOTERS, Page A12



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

The 55-acre Pope Preserve on Salmon Kill Road was acquired by the Salisbury Association Land Trust in 2019 and has been identified as a potential site for affordable housing.

## Northwest Corner Land trusts bear the weight of region’s conservation future

Editor’s note: This is the second of a series focusing on how land trusts are working in concert to tackle conservation challenges.

By Debra A. Aleksinas

The vast forests and cold-water streams of rural Northwest Connecticut — centrally located in a multi-state habitat corridor known as the Berkshire Wildlife Linkage — are among the most climate-resilient and complex in Southern New England.

The region comprises the most intact forest ecosystem in Southern New England, with an estimated 75 percent forest cover, including

6,042 acres of contiguous forestlands in the towns of Norfolk and Falls Village owned and managed by the nonprofit Great Mountain Forest Corp.

“When we conserve land in this corridor,” said Catherine Rawson, executive director of the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC), “we are bridging gaps” in wildlife and avian migration.

As a result, conservation and protection of these natural resources, which provide critical habitat for more than 320 rare species, falls heavily on the region’s land trusts and conservation groups, according to a new report, The Pace and Scale of Conservation in Northwest Connecticut, published by the Kent-based NCLC with input from 22 local land trusts.

Significant challenges to meeting state’s goal  
On the whole, Connecticut

has a goal of protecting 21% of its lands and waters by 2023 with the state aiming to protect 10% and it is asking land trusts and other partners to protect 11%. However, Connecticut faces “significant challenges to meeting this goal since, based on its current pace of land acquisition, it will take at least 65 more years meet its 10% goal,” according to the NCLC report.

The research further reveals that Connecticut ranks at or near the bottom for conservation funding in New England, and its land values are among the most expensive in the country.

“Clearly these towns in the Northwest Corner have the most available conservation land compared to, for example, Fairfield County,” placing a greater burden on them, said Bart Jones, who re-

See LAND TRUSTS, Page A9



PHOTO BY SAVAGE FRIEZE

### Game On

HVRHS sophomore Kylie Leonard lines up a jump-shot during the Saturday, Dec. 17, game versus Northwestern High School. See story on Page A11.



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# Regional

## In The Journal this week

OUR TOWNS ..... A3-4  
 OBITUARIES ..... A5-6  
 OUR TOWNS A9-10, B5  
 SPORTS.....A11

COMPASS.....B1-2  
 OPINION..... B3  
 VIEWPOINT..... B4  
 CLASSIFIEDS.....B5-6

### 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.

#### Skidded off road

On Sunday, Dec. 11, at approximately 9:30 p.m., Colby Hickey, 23, of Salisbury was traveling east on Route 44 in Salisbury when he lost control of a 2017 GMC Sierra on the snow covered roadway and slid to the shoulder, striking a boulder. Hickey was issued a written warning for traveling too fast for conditions and failure to drive in the proper lane. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

#### Sliding off roadway

Richard Ayivor, 41, of West Haven, was traveling northbound on Page Road in Canaan at approximately 11:45 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11 when he attempted to make a left turn onto Route 126 when the vehicle, a 2017 Honda CRV, slid on the snow covered roadway and came to a stop about 10 feet in the treeline. Ayivor was transported to Sharon Hospital for leg pain and was issued a written warning for an improper left turn.

#### Catalytic converter theft

On Sunday, Dec. 11 at approximately 11 a.m. troopers received a report of the theft of a catalytic converter from an unoccupied vehicle in the center of Salisbury. Contact Troop B with information.

#### Struck a tree

On Sunday, Dec. 11, at approximately 12:30 p.m. a 2021 Toyota Tacoma driven by Alexander Church, 29, of Danbury exited the roadway and struck a tree. Church was issued a warning for traveling too fast for conditions and failure to maintain proper lane. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

#### Struck guardrail, tree

On Saturday, Dec. 10, at approximately 11:45 a.m. a 2022 Landrover driven by Grewal Ayna Kaur, 24, of Pacific Palisades, California, was traveling eastbound on Bunker Hill Road in Cornwall when the vehicle drifted into the guardrail, striking a tree in a grass embankment. The driver was issued an infraction for failure to drive in the proper lane. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

#### Inclement weather

On Sunday, Dec. 11, at approximately 4:15 p.m. a 2013 Subaru Outback driven by Sage Colucci, 20, of Torrington was traveling eastbound on Mohawk Mountain Road in Cornwall at a speed inconsistent with weather conditions, resulting in it leaving the roadway and striking a tree. Colucci was transported to Sharon Hospital for minor injuries and was issued an infraction for traveling too fast for conditions.

#### Lost control

On Saturday, Dec. 17, at approximately 3:15 p.m. a 2018 BMW 430xi driven by Kathie Gordon, 72, of West Cornwall was traveling north on West Cornwall Road and swerved off the roadway, losing control, then striking a telephone pole. Gordon was transported to Sharon Hospital for minor injuries and was issued a warning for failure to maintain lane.

The Lakeville Journal will publish the outcome of police charges. Contact us by mail at P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039, Attn: Police Blotter, or send an email, with "police blotter" in the subject line, to johnc@lakevillejournal.com.



PHOTO BY ELIAS SORICH

### 2022 Christmas Bird Count

Sharon Audubon Center staff and volunteers observed a total of 77 distinct species of birds during the Trixie Strauss Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, Dec. 18.

### Portraits on display at Douglas Library

NORTH CANAAN — Career artist, educator, and illustrator Dan Howe has an exhibit of portraits and portrait studies showing at the Douglas Library.

Howe studied at the American Academy of Art, where he later was a faculty member, and has taught art at various schools including the University of Wisconsin, the Norman Rockwell Museum and summer courses at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

In between portrait commissions for notable educators and other public figures, Mr. Howe's commissions included pictures for advertising, illustration, and murals. He is currently working on a series of vintage-themed holiday cards depicting local Berkshire communities.

The exhibit is now open during library hours and will stay up through January 2023. The library is located at 108 Main Street. Go to www.douglaslibrarycanaan.org for more information.

### Online This Week

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

#### HVRHS Honor Roll for 2022-2023

The first quarter marking period Honor Roll has been posted. See list at www.tricornernews.com.

#### HVA presents honor to Hechts of Salisbury

Lou and Elaine Hecht received the organization's Lifetime Environmental Champion award. Story at www.tricornernews.com.

### Scouts to recycle Christmas trees

Boy Scout 22 will remove and recycle Christmas trees this year on Saturday, Jan. 7 in Sharon, Lakeville, Salis-

bury, North Canaan, Falls Village and Norfolk.

To sign up go to www.tinyurl.com/troop22.

### Midwinter Eagle survey on Shepaug set for Jan. 7

WASHINGTON — The Steep Rock Association (SRA) will scan sections of the Shepaug River for Bald eagles on Saturday, Jan. 7

from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The association welcomes all degrees of expertise and will be offering a virtual training session prior to the

survey on Wednesday, Jan. 4 at 5 p.m. Registration is required at www.steepprock-assoc.org/events-programs/.

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Check them out inside.

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- The Lakeville Journal Co.
- Ocean State Job Lot

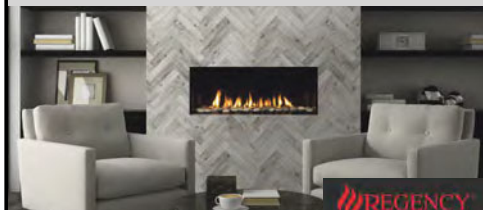
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# Our Towns

## Falls Villagers tell their stories

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Documentary filmmaker Eric Veden's latest installment of his series on Falls Village begins with Warren Blass recalling his childhood.

Blass says he spent a lot of time fishing on the Housatonic River as a youth.

He also apologizes to Bill Beebe "for ruining his bike."

On a more somber note, Blass speaks of his time serving in the Vietnam War, which was, he reminds the viewer, not a war, but a "conflict."

Officially Blass was a "wheeled vehicle mechanic." As there were not many vehicles where he was stationed, he spent most of his time patrolling the perimeter of the base.

It was dangerous.

"Nobody really wanted to know you" because casualties were high, Blass says.

"I was lucky."

Next up is a visit with Richard and Mary Lanier at Grassy Hill.

A ride within the property reveals an abundance of walnut trees.

Veden's camera winds up at a small cabin, where the

Laniers bring out deck chairs and reminisce.

Veden almost always keeps his presence as filmmaker to the bare minimum, but he can't help exclaiming, "Oh, what a view!"

Veden visits John Robshaw and the textile shop.

Robshaw explains how he became interested in block printing and natural indigo dye and successfully brought what he found in India to New York City and, eventually, Falls Village.

Included here is footage of Robshaw shot in India, as he takes a leisurely journey through an unnamed town. The trip includes stopping for a shave, and winds up with Robshaw taking the bedding he has brought along on his bicycle and settling in for a nap.

The viewer also gets a tour of the Robshaw barn, which contains some really unusual furniture.

Robshaw is a natural storyteller with an easy, conversational style.

Veden checks in with Gloria Parker and Howard Platt, who probably hold the record of most times moving to and from Falls Village.

The two met in Califor-

nia, and both have extensive show business backgrounds.

They have lived as far afield as Mexico and Wisconsin but somehow they always return to Falls Village, which Platt calls "a little place with big ideas."

Their first home in town was 92 Main St.

Then they built a home at 162 Belden St.

Then they went to Mexico. And so on.

Parker jokes that they have owned so many homes in town, they are responsible for a lot of plumbing improvements.

Episode 28 of the Falls Village series concludes in Chuck Lewis' living room, where he succinctly tells his story, which runs from New Jersey to Guatemala to Tulane University to the Connecticut Department of Corrections to the old Town Hall in Falls Village.

Lewis says his career experience in corrections helped when he was first selectman.

As the town approached the millennium, "it was a very divided and contentious place."

A major source of contention was a big school building project.

There was also the problem of the renovation of the Senior Center. Lewis recalls how, on his first day as first selectman, he was informed that the plans for the renovation could not be implemented.

Lewis says "I had to mend fences, talk to people and be decisive" when the time came.

The video is available for sale or borrowing at the David M. Hunt Library. Veden also has a YouTube channel titled "Eric Veden."



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

A good-sized crowd came to the town Green Saturday evening, Dec. 17, to sing Christmas songs, see the lighting of the tree and have a visit with Santa Claus.

## Falls Village candlelight caroling

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Over 60 people, many of them of the young persuasion, piled into the town Green as dusk fell Saturday, Dec. 17.

They came to sing Christmas songs, watch as the tree lighting, and to perhaps have a quick word with Santa Claus.

Santa arrived courtesy of the Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department, in a decorated fire truck.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Santa arrived in Falls Village to determine who has been naughty or nice this year.

orated fire truck.

Showing no signs of the long trip from the North Pole, Santa greeted the crowd with "Who's on the good list?"

As Santa made his way

toward the Senior Center, Tracy Abbott surveyed the scene, particularly the robust crowd, with satisfaction.

"Falls Village is happening!"



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PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Chuck Lewis is interviewed in Episode 28 of Eric Veden's series of videos chronicling Falls Village.

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# Our Towns

## Sharon to use ARPA funds for Comcast project costs

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Responding to strong public support at the November Town Meeting for the town's partnership with Comcast, the Board of Selectmen allocated \$25,000 in federal ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to support the work of the Contract Performance Manager (CPM) for the project. The action was taken at its regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

First Selectman Brent Colley indicated that the language in the contract to be signed between the town and Comcast is still being finalized.

The selectmen also decided to offer the job one of three applicants, and on Monday, Dec. 19, it was announced the CPM will be Nikki Blass of Sharon.

Selectman Casey Flanagan said that he expected that the decision will be well-received by the public.

"It will get us down the road," Flanagan said.

"We need to be prepared to act," Selectman Dale Jones agreed. "We need to act on the very strong support the town gave to the project."

Reaching a final decision on design plans to expand the parking lot behind the Town Hall, the selectmen voted unanimously to approve the original plan from WMC Consulting Engineers of Newington and proceed with the project as originally designed.

An alternative plan submitted by Michael Nadeau, a member of the Sharon Energy and Environment Commission (SEEC), had urged several plan alterations to include environment-protection features including plant-

ings, alternative drainage options and a rain garden. One drawback would have been fewer parking spaces than envisioned in the architect's original design.

Indicating his opposition to Nadeau's plan, Jones enumerated a variety of concerns leading him to his conclusions. He explained that Nadeau's plan would have still required drainage pipes and pumping to achieve drainage goals, and that gravel would need to be added to counteract the hardpan base that underlies the soil throughout the area.

"I worry about the maintenance of the plantings," Jones said, adding concerns about freezing collected water and the resulting effect on the asphalt. He felt that the central island of plantings would not absorb all of the water runoff. Nadeau responded that catch basins would collect the rest.

"We need the parking spaces," Colley observed, adding that the ongoing project delays are endangering the whole project, including getting delivery on the new generators that are part of the plan. He noted that the town almost lost the EV charging stations that are incorporated in the plan.

Colley noted that the current design will add 12 to 15 parking spaces to the lot.

"We should be thinking about the environment," Nadeau said.

"WMC was asked to expand the parking lot," Flanagan said, adding that WMC

looks at how their design will impact the environment.

"We have a chance to set up something that residents asked for 20 years ago," Flanagan said.

To Nadeau's final plea for "three trees and a rain garden," Colley indicated that the changes are not budgeted for and that more delay might bring the state to withdraw the STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant that needs to be satisfied.

The matter ended amicably with agreement between the selectmen and Nadeau that there will be other projects when SEEC proposals can be accommodated in the planning and design phases.

The selectmen unanimously accepted a proposal to increase membership on the SEEC from seven to nine members as requested by Nadeau, who said that the commission's workload is increasing.

### Thursday night meetings for young adults

KENT — Kent Memorial Library announced 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 Jan. 19 and Feb. 16.

To register email [kla-bm-caller@biblio.org](mailto:kla-bm-caller@biblio.org)



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

### Lighting the Menorah

About 30 residents gathered at dusk on the Sharon Town Green to observe the beginning of the eight-day Jewish celebration of Hanukkah by lighting the first of the candles on the town's traditional menorah on Sunday, Dec. 18. One additional candle will be lit on each day.

### Canaan Child Care Center accepting applications

NORTH CANAAN — The Canaan Child Care Center is accepting applications for full and part time slots in our School Readiness Preschool Program.

Children will work with teachers with degrees in Early Childhood Education. The Center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

It uses the Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment, to measure the quality and suc-

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### Junior ski jump camp set Dec. 30-31

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA) will hold its annual Junior Jump Camp Friday and Saturday, Dec. 30-31 at Satre Hill on Indian Cave Road in Salisbury.

The event is open to children ages seven and up.

Learn the basics of ski jumping with an emphasis on safety and control on SWSA's smallest hill.

The two-day event runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day and costs \$50 per child for both days. The fee includes lunch both days.

To pre-register or for more information call Ken Barker at (860) 806-0471 or [emailkennethsbarker@gmail.com](mailto:emailkennethsbarker@gmail.com).



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4:00 PM Christmas Eve Eucharist  
Hymns and carols with trumpet descants  
Trinity Choir with Crescendo singers and soloists

6:30 PM Misa de Nochebuena en español

December 25 10:30 AM Quiet Christmas with Carols

January 1 10:30 AM Christmas Lessons & Carols



A portion of our newly refurbished altar window



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# OBITUARIES

## Marion Buehrle

SHARON — It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our mother, Marion Buehrle. She passed away at the age of 94 with her 3 daughters at her side at the Livewell Center in Plantsville, Connecticut.



She was predeceased by her husband, William Buehrle, in 2018. They had been married for 67 years and had also celebrated the 75th anniversary of their first date.

Marion was born June 29, 1928, in Saint Louis, Missouri, to the (late) Leslie and Margaret (Wehmeyer) Pabst. She was predeceased by her sister, Jean, who passed away as a young girl.

The family moved to Ferguson, Missouri, where Marion met her future husband Bill in the high school band. Bill went off to the army during WWII and Marion furthered her education at Washington University in St. Louis, where she received a degree in art. Bill returned from the service, married the love of his life and they eventually moved to Long Island, New York, where they welcomed the addition of their 3 daughters and Marion (as was typical of the 1950's) stayed at home to be a full time mother. She continued her interest in art by forming a weekly painting club with her friends. She also donated her time and talent to her daughters' schools as well as the Huntington United Methodist Church. She was active in the Church choir there and also volunteered as a Girl Scout leader for many years.

She eventually went back to work, first as a teacher's aide and then as an art teacher in the elementary schools. She returned to college and received a master's in education at Long Island University. Marion was a creative, caring and committed teacher. The family basement was typically filled with art supplies and a vast assortment of items she would collect for her classes (thistles, sea shells, egg cartons etc.).

Bill and Marion retired in 1987 and built their dream home in Sharon, where they enjoyed many years of retirement and time spent with family and friends. She and Bill enjoyed traveling during their retirement but their favorite places were a few

very remote cabins in Maine where they returned over and over again. They spent many days there canoeing and exploring the Maine wilderness.

In addition to their travels, Marion was an active member of the Sharon United Methodist Church.

In addition to helping out with many committees and church fairs and (probably hundreds of) church suppers, she resurrected the church choir and taught herself how to play the organ. She continued her painting, art work and many other volunteer activities until her mid-80s when the first symptoms of Alzheimer's began to make their appearance. After Bill passed, she moved to Livewell in Plantsville, where she received compassionate and professional care from the many staff that cared deeply about her. Her family will always be grateful for the many kindnesses shown to Marion and her family.

Even more than her art work, church and music, her greatest love was for her family. In addition to being a wonderful role model as a mom, she was a phenomenal mother-in-law and the ultimate grandmother. The family will always treasure the memories of family gatherings and holidays at grandma's house with all the food and goodies that anyone could possibly want.

She is survived by her three daughters and their husbands: Nancy and Ted Mao, Christine Rich and Roger Plourde and Janet and Frank Amendola, four grandchildren and their spouses: Elizabeth and Rob Andrews, Susan Mao and Matt Smith, Bethany and Rob Garofala and Peter and Jen Amendola, and seven great grandchildren: Mackenzie Smith, Grayson Smith, William Garofala, Max Andrews, Ella Andrews, Claire Amendola and Sophie Amendola. She is also survived by two sisters-in-law: Elizabeth Stanton and Jean Kimpling as well as a number of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her son-in-law, Bruce Rich. A private memorial service will be held at the convenience of family. Donations may be made in her memory to Livewell.org or to Livewell, 1261 S. Main St. Plantsville, CT 06079.

## Timothy J. Dakin

SHARON — Timothy J. Dakin, age 81, of Monroe, Ohio, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022, at Miami Valley Hospital. Timothy was born in Sharon, Connecticut on June 18, 1941, to the late M. Edward and Agatha (Clapp) Dakin.

A graduate of The Hotchkiss School and Colby College, Timothy was a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Air Force serving as an attorney in the Judge Advocate's office. After retirement from the Air Force, Tim worked as a professor for the Air Force Institute of Technology and later as an adjunct professor for Central Michigan Uni-

versity and other colleges. He was a member of the St. Francis DeSales Catholic Church.

Timothy was preceded in death by his brother, Christopher Dakin. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Irene (Chrnowski) Dakin; his son, T. Robin Dakin and his wife, Amy; their five children, Jessica (Aaron) Buschman, Ryan O'Connor, Lauren (Jacob) Shaffer, Olivia, and Elise; his daughter, Andrea Ferraro and her husband, Tony; their seven children, Joey (Jacklin Mercer), Monica (Adam

## An Appreciation

### William Bowditch 'Bill' Moore

A lifetime — that's how long I have known Bill Moore. Much of that time was in Virginia, where we moved in 1974, but a big part of it was up here in Salisbury.

Before they married, his wife, Sheila, introduced him to Mt. Riga. All of us Raggies are richer for it. After renting for many years, they built a camp on the Upper Lake for their 4 children and 10 grandchildren. It is a place of welcome. He played a mean game of tennis and a mean-

try Club. He is pre-deceased by a long line of devoted dogs. He is survived by his wife Sheila, children Chris, Andrew, Margaret, Tom, and their spouses Tobey, Dan, Maggie, and Danielle, and grandchildren Finn, Matthew, Abby, Owen, Eliot, Max, Delilah, Avett, Holden, and Walk-

er, and sister Jane Brown. A service will be held at St. Agnes in Arlington on Wednesday, Dec. 28 at 11 o'clock with a reception to follow at Washington Golf and Country Club. A remembrance will be held on Mt. Riga on Aug. 12. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Missionhurst [www.tinyurl.com/55vjmrhx](http://www.tinyurl.com/55vjmrhx), or to the Bill Moore Memorial Tennis Court Fund at Mt. Riga, [www.tinyurl.com/3a6pzwnh](http://www.tinyurl.com/3a6pzwnh).

### William Bowditch 'Bill' Moore

SALISBURY — William Bowditch "Bill" Moore died peacefully in his home in Arlington, Virginia, surrounded by his family on the morning of Dec. 16, 2022. He was born in Hillsdale, Michigan on Feb. 25, 1934, the oldest child of Leonard and Vivian Moore. He moved frequently with his father's job at the Goodyear Corporation before graduating from Isidore Newman High School in New Orleans. He attended the University of North Carolina on a NROTC scholarship, where he played lacrosse. After graduating in 1956 he joined the Marines for three years, serving in Okinawa, Japan and rising to the rank of Major. He completed law school at the University of Virginia in 1962 and moved to Arlington where he would remain for the next 50 years. He joined the Kendrick, Gearhart, Aylor and Lockowandt Law Firm in 1962, reaching partner in 1969, and served as president of the Arlington Jaycees and the Arlington Bar Association. Over the next several decades, he founded and worked as the president of Arlington Designer Homes. The company built over 100 homes and was on the forefront of environmentally efficient home design. In 1967, on his third attempt, he was successful in obtaining a date with Sheila Ann Lawlor. They were married in April of 1968 and purchased a home on 24th Road where he lived for the rest of his life. He spent summers on Mt. Riga in Salisbury, Connecticut and was a tennis player, skier, Master Gardener, avid bridge player, mediocre golfer, and longtime member of Washington Golf and Coun-



try Club. He is pre-deceased by a long line of devoted dogs. He is survived by his wife Sheila, children Chris, Andrew, Margaret, Tom, and their spouses Tobey, Dan, Maggie, and Danielle, and grandchildren Finn, Matthew, Abby, Owen, Eliot, Max, Delilah, Avett, Holden, and Walk-

## Jack Feder

LAKEVILLE — Jack Feder, PhD, 94, of Lakeville, passed away on Dec. 1, 2022.

Jack was born in New York City, achieved his bachelor's and master's degrees at the City College of New York, and a doctoral degree at New York University.

He then spent his whole professional life in Greenwich Village as a clinical psychologist in private practice. Unfortunately, a stroke intervened in 2004, leaving him unable to practice. Fortunately he and his wife, Ingrid Freidenbergs, had a house in Lakeville where there is a robust community for art, theater, dance, and music.

They moved to Lakeville from New York City permanently in 2008, and while there he was able to pursue his other passion — photography. He spent hours going over his old slides, many from his numerous world travels, and then mastering the art of digital transformation. His work has been featured in Life magazine, Popular Photography, The Village Voice and many other publications. He has shown in many galleries including the Marlborough Gallery, The Museum of Natural History and the New York Public Library. John Russell (former art critic of the New York Times) stated in a review "...Feder's summations of life in Paris, Mexico and New York are there to be read, not gaped at, and they impress by a certain laconic penetration." That is the same penetration, though hardly laconic, he used for his patients who were great-

ly saddened by his inability to continue his work. In Lakeville, another passion was being catcher in the local Sunday softball game. One can still hear him yelling — "Strike!!!"

But Jack's single greatest passion was being a father to Paul Feder, then delight at his son's choice of a wonderful wife, Morgan J. Feder. And when Paul and Morgan had children he became an exuberantly doting grandfather. One day his grandson, having learned the definition of "antique," said to a passing stranger while pushing him down the street in a wheelchair, "My grandfather is an antique!!!" Jack was a precious antique indeed.

Jack is survived by his wife Ingrid Freidenbergs, son Paul Feder, daughter-in-law Morgan J. Feder, grandson Sebastian, and granddaughter Corinna. He was also a loving uncle to Katia Feder, her husband Bertrand Dubus, their son Alex, his nephew Ivan Feder, his wife Joanna Feder, and their daughter Aria. He also leaves behind his sister-in-law Chris Welles Feder, and so, so, many friends who all loved him dearly.

In a recent conversation with his son, Jack said that he wanted a big birthday celebration when he turned 95. So a celebration for Jack will be held around his 95th birthday in the spring of 2023. Any contributions can be made in Jack's name and sent to the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

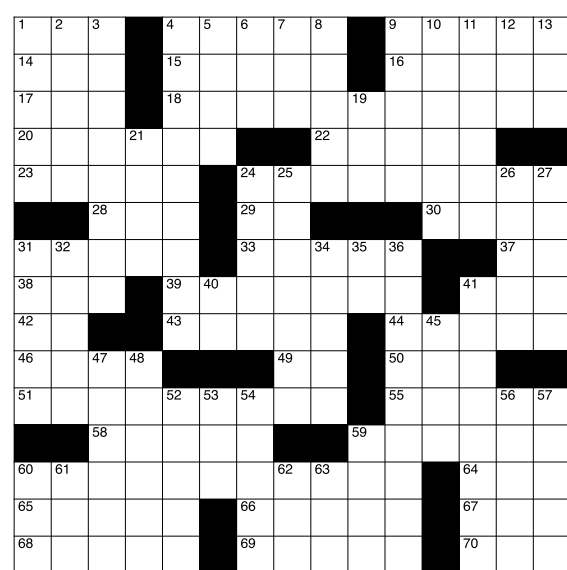
## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

- Product or \_\_\_ (abbr.)
- Zodiac sign
- S. China seaport
- Former OSS
- Early English printer
- Aphid genus
- General's assistant (abbr.)
- Aussies
- Dissuades
- Make law
- Drench
- Soak in a liquid
- Male child
- It cools your home
- Small constellation
- To call (archaic)
- Explores beneath the Earth
- Commercial
- W. hemisphere organization
- You can find it in a can
- "Land of the free"
- 42 36 inches
- Footwear
- Challenges
- They hold things together
- Of I
- Partner to flow
- Not connected by kinship
- Worries
- Garlic mayonnaise
- A way to take by force
- Legendary English rockers
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- Fencing swords
- Silly
- Actor DiCaprio
- Encircles with a belt
- Mails a message
- Longing

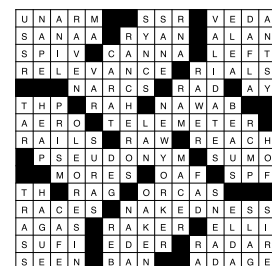
### CLUES DOWN

- Horse mackerels
- It can be viral
- Prickly plants
- Consciousness
- Type of sarcoma
- Tax collector
- Sun up in New York

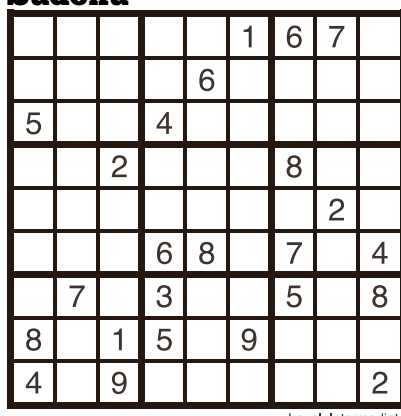


- One who scorches
- Influential psychotherapist
- Situated at an apex
- Communicative
- Forearm nerve
- Former CIA
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Large-scale
- School environment
- Remove
- Male parents
- Large rodent
- Weighed down
- Held tightly
- \_\_\_ route: going there
- Explains again
- Exclamation of surprise
- Courteously
- Lying down
- Judge
- Forcefully took
- Loosely compacted sediment
- High mountain
- Portable conical tents
- Cereal grass
- Dining utensil
- Thoughtful
- Helps you walk
- Indicates near
- Midway between northeast and east
- Local area network

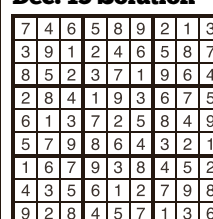
### Dec. 15 Solution



### Sudoku



### Dec. 15 Solution



Level: Intermediate

More Obituaries appear on page A5

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# Our Towns

## LAND TRUSTS

Continued from Page A1

tired in 2012 from a 40-year legal career in private practice in New York City and now serves as president of the Cornwall Conservation Trust (CCT), and is a board member of the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA), Great Mountain Forest and serves as an alternate on the Housatonic River Commission.

On the flip side, said Jones, development pressure has not yet become as severe an issue in Litchfield County as it has in some areas of the state, like Fairfield County, where a quarter of an acre of land can fetch as much as \$750,000.

"The price of land up here really hasn't gotten so expensive that a land trust in Litchfield County can't save it. We've been lucky in that regard, but we shouldn't become complacent," Jones said. **33 partners comprise the Greenprint Collaborative**

Connie Manes, director of the Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative, touted the work being done by small land trusts in conjunction with the larger regional or state conservation groups.

"We participate in networks and initiatives outside of our immediate area but impacting our work, like the Berkshire Taconic and Hudson to Highlands RCP's (Regional Conservation Partnerships)," Manes explained.

The Greenprint is a network of aligned conservation organizations working together in Northwest Connecticut since 2008. There are currently 33 partners, according to Manes.

"The purpose of the Greenprint has always been to support each other and amplify each partner's capacity, and to protect more land, with coordination, efficiency and the greatest environmental impacts," Manes said.

Manes also noted that in addition to collaborating with each other, Northwest Connecticut's land trusts work closely with their municipal

leaders, serving on various town commissions like Inland Wetlands, Conservation Commissions and Planning and Zoning, and contributing open space and Follow the Forest connectivity priorities to municipal Plans of Conservation and Development (POCDs).

Community outreach and education is also a vital mission among conservationists, said Manes.

"We engage our local schools, churches, scout troops, volunteer organizations, senior centers and more in exploring and using the lands we've protected, and in learning about the management needs of the region through community science programs,"

In late October, numerous community partners joined the Washington, Conn.-based Steep Rock Association in co-presenting an episode of "Can This Planet (Still) Be Saved," on the PBS public affairs program, Common Ground with Jane Whitney.

Whitney, a veteran journalist, and her husband, Lindsey Gruson, a former correspondent for the New York Times who is the show's producer, have lived in the Litchfield County since 2005 and produce the program from their home.

### Reconnecting, conserving region's forests

The Follow the Forest regional initiative seeks to protect and connect forests and promote the safe passage of wildlife throughout the Northeast, from the Hudson Valley to the forests of Canada.

Sharon Land Trust, said its executive director Maria Grace, is a proud partner of this regional initiative, which aims to protect at least 50% of each core forest habitat that will anchor this key wildlife corridor, focusing on areas of greater than 250 acres.

This amount of forest patches is a scientifically recognized minimum need to

### By the numbers

Land Conservation in Northwest Connecticut — From 2010 to 2020, 9,772 acres in 253 transactions were protected by participating land trusts.

—The average transaction is 39 acres.

—During 2010 to 2020, land trusts averaged 23 transactions per year. However, in the last five years, the average number increased to 28 per year.

—A total of 1,406 acres were permanently protected by land trusts in Northwest Connecticut in 2020.

Source: Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy

sustain important woodland species such as bobcat, black bear, fisher and moose as they adapt to climate changes and find new habitats.

Sharon plays a needed role in this initiative because large patches of core forest still exist in our area, and they serve as refuges for wildlife, according to Grace.

"We still have a lot of land to protect," she said.

Manes referred to a recent report from the Redding-based Highstead Foundation, "New England's Climate Imperative: Our forests as a Natural Climate Solution," which asserts that New England's forests are "an underrated asset in the fight against climate change," already sequestering the equivalent of 14 percent of carbon emissions across the six states.

"Through implementing five complementary strategies, we can expect forests to sequester 21 percent of carbon emissions while also enhancing critical co-benefits such as cleaner air and water, greater recreational opportunities, and jobs," Manes noted.

### Not all land created equal

Tim Abbott, director of HVA's Greenprint Collaborative, explained that when it comes to conserving land, quality takes precedence over quantity.

"An isolated piece of land might not be a wildlife habitat or might not be connected to anything," noted the long-time conservationist.

"It's not just about accepting any old piece of land. We are being increasingly strategic rather than opportunistic. It means we are having important conversations. We have to be not only open to that but see it as part of our work," said Abbott.

He said there are many considerations, or conservation values, that land trusts weigh before purchasing property, including whether it is farmland, wetlands, serves as a wildlife habitat, is part of a regional flyway initiative or can be linked to neighboring parcels.

"You can't have a laundry basket of things you want on a property with equal weight," he noted.

### Conservation and the property tax quandary

In addition to its ecological and social benefits including recreational opportunities, land protection offers value to communities in the form of clean air and water, climate resiliency and preservation of cultural heritage

However, a common concern among individual taxpayers is that conserved land will increase their tax burden once that property is taken off the tax rolls.

"Every time we conserve land we are, in effect, taking a paycheck away from the town. That's another pressure," said Cornwall Conservation Trust's Jones. That burden, he predicted, "is going to be a drag" on future conserva-

tion goals.

Jones further noted that that another issue on the property tax side involves state forest land, and the fact that the state has reduced payments to towns in lieu of taxes.

"The state should at least keep up with inflation," he noted.

A January 2022 report by Harvard University, Amherst College and Highstead Foundation researchers, "Does Land Conservation Raise Property Taxes? Evidence From New England Cities and Towns," found that "The changes in the rates attributed to new land protection were small."

Specifically, a 1% increase in the percentage of town land protected was estimated to cause a 0.024% increase the tax rate, according to the report, which used data from more than 1,400 towns and cities in New England from 1990 to 2015.

Researchers noted, however, that tax-rate increases were somewhat higher when land protection occurred through municipal purchases or private easement protection, and that "more substantial" tax rate increases were found when towns were "growing slowly, had lower median incomes, fewer second homes and less land enrolled in current use programs."

The size of these impacts ranged from \$5 to at most \$30 in additional taxes paid for each \$100,000 in property value, according to the report.

### Conservation and affordable housing

Another pressure on conservation, said Jones, is the fear that conservation of land takes it away from development, including affordable housing.

"But the point is," said the CCT president, "Cornwall, for example, is a huge town of 46 square miles, although many people don't realize that" because its low population rate gives the impression that it is smaller.

"Even if we saved 38 per-

**"It's not just about accepting any old piece of land. We are being increasingly strategic rather than opportunistic."**

Tim Abbott, HVA's regional conservation and Greenprint director

cent, we would still have 18,000 acres left, which is larger than Darien, New Canaan and Hartford, yet people are saying we don't have enough land for affordable housing."

Jones said there is no reason conservation and affordable housing cannot peacefully co-exist. "It's not an either/or" choice, he noted.

### Thinking globally, acting locally

A Kent farm is contributing to the town's economy as well as to residents facing food insecurity.

In the last decade, 10% of Litchfield County's population was designated as food insecure, and during the COVID-19 pandemic that percentage rose to 38.4 percent with as many as 25,000 Litchfield County residents experiencing food insecurity, according to the Kent Land Trust.

The number and frequency of visits to Kent's food bank has doubled. In response, Kent Land Trust has partnered with Marble Valley Farm to offer fresh-picked produce each week to families using the Kent Food Bank.

"So many organizations are doing amazing things like this, said Manes. "What we are finding is that each hyper-local organization is able to be more nimble in responding to their community's needs."

The bottom line, she said, is that working together is the best, "and really the only, way," for Northwest Corner land trusts to accomplish their visions and overcome the future challenges.

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# Our Towns



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

## HVRHS Art Show

The works of Sarah Davis, of Brooklyn, New York, and Lakeville, were on display Thursday, Dec. 15 at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School's Kearcher-Monsell Gallery. From left, Lilly MacMillan, freshman, Ellie Wolgemuth, sophomore, Davis, and Jerome Maury, junior. The students created the gallery show. Call the school at 860-824-5123 to arrange a visit.

# Sharon Community Center eyed as affordable housing

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Acting on the critical need for affordable housing outlined in the Affordable Housing Plan approved by residents in 2022, representatives of the Sharon Housing Trust outlined preliminary ideas for renovation of the under-used Community Center building at the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

Representing the Housing Trust were Pat and Bob Whelan, who described a local effort to envision creating four apartments within the Community Center building on Main Street. Bob Whelan serves as president and treasurer of the housing organization, and Pat Whelan is the treasurer.

They also announced a community-wide informa-

tion meeting to explore the plan to be held on Sunday, Jan. 15 at the Bok Gallery located at The Sharon Playhouse. The community meeting will encourage public conversation on furthering the goal of providing more housing availability for local workers and seniors seeking to downsize. The meeting will begin at 2 p.m.

To help with planning for refreshments, the Housing Trust asks that residents planning to attend should RSVP by emailing [shtct2005@gmail.com](mailto:shtct2005@gmail.com) or calling 860-364-0452.

Selectman Casey Flanagan commented that if local taxpayers' resources are to be used for the Community Center project, there should be assurances that the apartments would be occupied by local workers or local seniors. First Selectman Brent

Colley agreed that the central location at 99 Main Street is well-situated for affordable housing units. He added that the first step should be to check with the building department to learn what the regulations require.

"It's a great start," Colley said, but noted that the town must be involved in the process. "It will be a town decision," he added.

Speaking of the Community Center building, Bob Whelan indicated that the structure contains 3,600 square feet that could be divided into four 2-bedroom apartments of modest size.

Renovation costs are estimated at \$300,000, Bob Whelan said, indicating that the town would retain ownership of the building and lease it to the Housing Trust, which would provide building management.

# HVA receives \$30,000 grant for wildlife

CORNWALL — The Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) has received a \$30,000 grant to support its mission to protect wildlife habitat corridors in the eastern United States.

The grant is from the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation, a supporting fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, Inc.

The Habitat, Land, and Environmental Protection Grant for the Follow the Forest conservation initiative will allow HVA and its conservation partners in Northwest Connecticut to redouble conservation efforts.

"We are deeply grateful to The John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold for its continued support for our Follow the Forest effort," said HVA's Executive Director Lynn Werner.

HVA's Senior Land Protection Manager Julia Rogers said in a press release, "It's a simple idea — that all species and habitats need to move, and that the key to surviving the climate crisis for many of these species depends on how we understand our role

in enabling that movement to happen."

"Follow the Forest is our very own Yellowstone to Yukon, and it has the same Continental-scale importance for wildlife," said HVA's Director of Regional Land Conserva-

tion Tim Abbott.

Follow the Forest identifies a forested wildlife corridor that connects the lower Hudson Valley to the Litchfield Hills and the Berkshires, Abbott said, and then continues to the Green Mountains,

the Adirondacks, and Canada. This diverse landscape supports scores of rare and threatened wildlife species. HVA's next presentation on Follow the Forest will be held virtually on Jan. 11. Register at [www.clctrust.org/events](http://www.clctrust.org/events).

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF KENT

The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2021 is due and payable January 1, 2023. The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2021 will become delinquent on Thursday, February 2, 2023.

As soon as the tax becomes delinquent, it shall be subject to interest at the rate of 1.5% per month from January 1, 2023 until the same is paid.

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

The Tax Collector's office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and there is a drop box at the front door of Town Hall.

Payment is also welcome through the mail at P. O. Box 311, Kent, Connecticut 06757.

Credit cards are accepted in the office and you may also pay online by going to <https://www.mytaxbill.org/inet/bill/home.do?town=kent>

Deborah Devaux CCMC  
Tax Collector  
12-22-22  
01-12-23  
01-26-23

### Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on December 12, 2022:

Approved — Special Permit Application #2022-0207 by owners Aaron & Alycia Zimmerman, for vertical expansion of a non-conforming dwelling in accordance with Section 503.2 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 35 as Lot 06 and is located at 16 Woodland Drive, Lakeville.

Any aggrieved person may appeal these decisions to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §8-8.

Town of Salisbury  
Planning &  
Zoning Commission  
Martin Whalen, Secretary  
12-22-22

### Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on December 22, 2022:

Approved with conditions — Application 2022-IW-0091 by Julie Skattum to create a vegetative shoreline buffer, two lake access points and install septic system and site improvements.

The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 66 as lot 40 & 41 and is known as 27 & 29 West Shore Place, Salisbury. The owner of the property is Julie Skattum.

Any aggrieved person may appeal this decision to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §22a-43(a) & §8-8

12-22-22

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF LEWIS SPENCE

Late of North Canaan  
AKA Lewis Blair Spence,  
Jr.  
(22-00450)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated December 8, 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:  
Betty Clair Spence  
c/o Mark J Capecelatro  
Mark L. Capecelatro, LLC  
117 Main Street  
P.O. Box 1045  
Canaan, CT 06018

Beth L. McGuire  
Chief Clerk  
12-22-22

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF KATHLEEN A. DANCE Late of Sharon (22-00446)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated December 8, 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:  
Carrie-Ann Dance  
c/o Emily D Vail  
Ackerly Brown LLP  
5 Academy St  
P.O. Box 568  
Salisbury, CT 06068

Beth L. McGuire  
Chief Clerk  
12-22-22

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF AUDREY B. GEREG Late of Falls Village (22-00474)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated December 6, 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:  
Stuart E. Gereg, II  
c/o Linda M Patz  
Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP  
7 Church Street  
P.O. Box 101  
Canaan, CT 06018

Beth L. McGuire  
Chief Clerk  
12-22-22

### TAX COLLECTOR TOWN OF SALISBURY CT LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to Sec 12-145 of the Connecticut State Statutes, the taxpayers of the Town of Salisbury are hereby notified the third installment of the Grand List October 1, 2021 is due and payable January 1, 2023. Pursuant to Section 12-71b of the Connecticut State Statutes, the Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax is due on January 1, 2023. Payments must be received or post marked by February 1, 2023. If said Real Estate, Personal Property and Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes are not paid on or before February 1, 2023, interest at the rate of 1 % (18% per year) will be added for each month from the time when such tax becomes due and payable until paid. Minimum interest \$2.00.

Mail to: Tax Collector, P.O. Box 338, Salisbury, CT 06068 or at Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9am-4pm or use the drop box located in the vestibule of the Town Hall, 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday. You may pay by E-Check or Credit Card at [www.salisburycrct.us](http://www.salisburycrct.us). Click on Departments, Tax Collector, Pay bill online. A fee is charged.

Dated at Salisbury CT this 7th day of December 2022.

Jean F. Bell, CCMC  
Tax Collector  
Salisbury, CT 06068  
12-22-22  
01-05-22  
01-19-22

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF DENA A. VAN VOORHIS Late of Sharon (22-00403)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated December 8, 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:  
William Pfeister  
c/o Mark J Capecelatro  
(attorney for William Pfeister)

Mark J. Capecelatro, LLC  
117 Main Street  
P.O. Box 1045  
Canaan, CT 06018

Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
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The deadline for legal notices is Friday at 4 p.m. for publication the following Thursday. Notices can be emailed to [legals@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:legals@lakevillejournal.com) or mailed to The Lakeville Journal, ATTN: Legal Notices, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

Go to [www.tricornernews.com/legalnotices](http://www.tricornernews.com/legalnotices) to view current and past legal notices.

# Sports

## Housy girls basketball returns

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE — Varsity girls basketball tipped off last week as Housatonic Valley Regional High School hosted two home games to get the season started.

On Tuesday, Dec. 13, the Mountaineers faced the Shepaug Valley Spartans from Washington. The mid-week match-up was won by the Spartans 46-30.

The girls took to the court again on Saturday, Dec. 17, against the Northwestern Regional High School Highlanders in a game postponed from Thursday, Dec. 15.

The size and experience of Northwestern led them to a decisive 58-29 victory over HVRHS.

The young Mountaineers team, which started one junior and four sophomores, looked to find their rhythm on the court. After a two-point first quarter, Coach Steve Dodge honed in on the importance of fundamentals.

“Offensively, the points will come. We need to get stops first,” said Dodge. “Secure the ball. They are getting way too many offensive rebounds.”

The team heeded the call as they put up 11 points in the second quarter and slowed down the Northwestern offense, making



PHOTO BY SAVAGE FRIEZE

In white, Mountaineers sophomore Mia Dodge weaved around traffic in the Saturday, Dec. 17, game against Northwestern. In red, Highlanders star sophomore Madelyn Topa scored a game-high 25 points.

the Highlanders earn their points on the foul line.

In the second half the Mountaineers started to find their stride, moving the ball well and communicating on the court. But by this point the lead was too much to overcome.

The top three scorers for HVRHS were all sophomores; Tessa Dekker with 10 points, Kylie Leonard with 7, and Mia Dodge with 6.

Northwestern's lead scorer was also a sophomore; Madelyn Topa, who put up 25-points.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The author took advantage of a winter thaw to chase brook trout in January 2022.

## Why fish in the winter? Well, because we can.

Just because it's winter doesn't mean fishing is over.

Winter fishing has a lot going for it, including: snow, ice, frigid winds, general misery, and the very real chance of serious injury from taking a header on the ice.

There is also an excellent chance of developing hypothermia after taking an unscheduled bath.

And of course you could be eaten by wolves.

Hahaha. Just kidding. The wolves aren't idiots and they sure as heck aren't tramping around the frozen wastes trying to catch trout that aren't hungry.

However, fly-fishing is not a sport. It is a mental condition, and argument is futile.

Step One: Dress warmly. I'm not going to go further except to state the obvious: It's easier to shed layers if you're too warm than add layers when you're turning blue.

Step Two: Find some open-ish water. Around here this generally means the Farmington, as the dam releases are warmer than the rest of the river. (In summer the opposite is true.)

Step Three: There is no reason to get up early. The kind of day you want is in the upper 30s, maybe cracking 40, with some sunlight. If the trout wake up at all, it's going to be after the sun has raised

### TANGLED LINES

PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

the water temperature a bit, what bugs are around start to move, and the fish take notice.

Step Four: I typically start with big stuff. Woolly Buggers, mop flies, egg patterns, squirmy worms and so on. This is not subtle stuff. I use a short, stout leader and target slow to medium currents with some depth and, for choice, a nice boulder or submerged tree to provide hidey holes.

Step Five: If Step Four is a washout, or you see little speckly things coming off the surface, then re-rig with a longer, finer leader and tie on some microscopic blue wing olive or similar. This exercise is made even more excruciating by the fact you have no feeling in your fingers.

Step Six: Know when to quit. This may well be 15 minutes into it.

One year on the Farmington I trudged for what seemed like hours but was probably 15 minutes or so through snow and bramble, only to find the deep run I was assured would be ice-free to be a skating rink.

That would be a time to

call it a day.

On the other frozen hand, I once laid a cast across the ice to an open stretch on the Housatonic, just to see what would happen.

A fat brown immediately gulped my size 6 Stimulator and disappeared under the ice, swimming toward me.

This completely untenable situation did not last long, but it didn't have to.

I had accomplished the goal, so I packed it in. (After getting the line back, a process that will merit an entire chapter in my memoirs.)

Note that I am not discussing ice fishing here.

Ice fishing, in which the afflicted person voluntarily spends hours at a time standing on a frozen lake or pond staring at a hole in the ice, is just too much.

Depending on the weather, your nearest small stream or creek may be fishable at various times during the winter months.

And with year-round fishing now in in Connecticut and New York, there is no need to remember complex regulations. You do need to renew your licenses though.

The main reason to fish in the winter, frankly, is because it is possible to do so.

Not pleasant, not productive, and probably not all that much fun. But possible.



PHOTO BY SAVAGE FRIEZE

HVRHS sophomore Khyra McClennon drives the lane as the girls varsity basketball team got the 2022-23 season started against Northwestern.

### EARLY DEADLINE

**Ad deadline for the Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> issue is Noon on Wednesday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> for ALL Display Advertising**  
Email [advertising@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:advertising@lakevillejournal.com)

**Classified Line Deadline is Noon on Monday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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The Lakeville Journal, March 31, 1966

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That means donations will be worth double as we upgrade and expand local reporting in the towns that are home for us all. From all of us at The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News to all of you (and to interplanetary passersby as well), all the best for this holiday season.

Noreen Doyle, Chair

Janet Manko, CEO, executive director

The Lakeville Journal Foundation, Inc.

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## COVID SURGE

Continued from Page A1

life-threatening for the elderly, particularly those with underlying health conditions and the immunocompromised, said health officials.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an estimated 350 people per day are dying from COVID-19, and most of the deaths involve those 65 years of age or older.

### Safety over turkey with loved ones at Geer Village

As a precaution heading into this past Thanksgiving, the Geer Village Senior Community in North Canaan broke from tradition by not providing families with meals, although visitors were welcome to visit and enjoy the holiday with loved ones. Meals were provided for residents only.

Geer CEO Kevin O'Connell said the decision was made out of an abundance of caution when the state positivity rate reached 8% and there were no active cases of COVID-19 on campus.

"We were still allowing family to come in, but we didn't want to have a large gathering and cause some sort of spreader event," he

said. "COVID is very manageable if you only have a case here and there," he explained.

### COVID flare

#### at Geer in December

On Dec. 12, when the state's COVID-positivity rate hit 9.8%, Geer reported that four staff members tested positive for COVID-19 at its Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, that the cases were community acquired, and that three of those individuals had close contact with residents and staff.

In addition, one Garden-side resident at Geer Lodge tested positive, resulting in the residents in both Gardenside and Hillside remaining under isolation prevention for five days.

On Dec. 12, O'Connell noted: "All residents are 100% fully vaccinated. If an individual does test positive, we expect their symptoms to be less severe and they should recover quickly."

On Dec. 16, the Geer CEO confirmed two active resident cases at the Lodge and no additional cases at the nursing home. He expressed optimism that that three test cycles over 14 days will reveal negative results.

### 'A heightened awareness'

Meanwhile, Bill Pond,

administrator at the Noble Horizons Senior Community in Salisbury, said he is monitoring the metrics and knocking on wood.

"We've had no cases of COVID, flu or RSV," said Pond in an interview Dec. 15.

"We are still screening and requiring all the protocols but have not discovered anything on that front yet. We have taken in a few new admissions, people at the tail end of COVID, but we have not had anything develop from inside."

Pond said he believes residents' families have a "heightened awareness of their loved ones. People are more acutely aware of how to handle themselves in a public setting."

He pointed to a recent Festival of Trees community event held at Noble as an example, where masking was optional.

Pond said he feels that "there's a sense we are getting back to a certain normalcy, and I am hopeful that sense continues into the New Year."

Elise Cecil, administrator at Sharon Health Care Center, reported that as of Monday, Dec. 19 there were no COVID cases among staff or

residents at the skilled nursing facility, which is owned and operated by Athena Health Care Systems.

"At Sharon Health Care Center we are taking proper precautions to protect our patients, residents, and staff against COVID-19," as well as flu and RSV, Cecil said. "We are encouraging families and friends to visit only if they are feeling well to protect our residents and staff."

### Reinfections, but less severe illness

Both O'Connell and Pond said despite the latest COVID-19 spike, they are optimistic that relief is on the horizon for the nursing home industry.

O'Connell noted, "We're not seeing as many large outbreaks and people in the hospital. This strain of COVID is different than the original."

There have been instances where people are getting reinfected with the virus, and yet others who have avoided infection, said O'Connell. "It all depends on an individual's ability to fight off the disease."

"I've had it twice myself," despite being fully vaccinated and boosted, he said, noting that the vaccine was

## FOURTH ROUND OF FREE COVID-19 TESTS

Due to a surge in COVID-19 cases after the Thanksgiving holiday, and similar projections this winter following increased holiday gatherings and travel around Christmas and New Year, the federal government is once again making four free COVID-19 tests available through the mail.

As of Dec. 15, coronavirus cases were up 90% across the country, with nearly 3,000 deaths reported, with most of the fatalities involving people ages 65 and over, according to the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The free rapid tests, available through covid-tests.gov, started shipping this week after being suspended in September.

—Debra A. Aleksinas

never intended to prevent infection.

"It's really all about lessening the severity of the disease. Most people realize now that if you get it, it's like a bad cold. You get over it and move forward."

Nonetheless, O'Connell pointed to the worrisome combination of spiking COVID-19 transmission

levels and the public's lax attitude about masking and social distancing, particularly during indoor holiday gatherings with friends and family.

"While I always try to be hopeful, I am not hopeful that the risk is going to be any less severe as we head into 2023," said the Geer administrator.

## VIGIL

Continued from Page A1

Hook School in Newtown 10 years ago on Dec. 14th. As you all know, 20 beautiful and innocent six and seven year olds were killed, as were 6 educators. Their families were shattered forever.

"Several here — right in our community — have been directly impacted by gun violence and our hearts go out to you.

"We are also here to remember all Americans who have been killed or injured by guns."

Lee deBoer continued: "The violence is incomprehensible, and the data as well."

He cited a grim litany of statistics in the 10 years since Sandy Hook, concluding with: "Our nation's gun death rate is the highest in 30 years. Guns are the leading cause of death in children and teenagers."

Gun deaths and injuries this year near 79,000. Each day in America, 12 children die from gun violence.

"So, despite all efforts to date at the local, state, and federal levels, there is clearly so much work that needs to be done to make our homes, streets, towns, cities, and schools safe for everyone."

Pastor John Nelson of the Salisbury Congregational Church followed.

"Today we reach a round-numbered anniversary: 10 years since inhuman violence cut down 26 beloved lives, and more besides. Ten years of grief. Ten years of numbness and agony, of both life-shaking loss and the un-



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

### A large crowd braved the cold to acknowledge the victims of the Sandy Hook school shooting in Salisbury on Wednesday evening, Dec. 14.

stopping routines of living. One day of that grief, numbness, anger, loss, would have been too much. 3,652 days is beyond imagining.

"We are living what we can scarcely imagine, scarcely comprehend. And mad-deningly, the killings do not stop.

Nelson continued: "If, even amid the continuing, roiling madness of those who would trade our right to hold close a loved one for their right to pull a trigger — if even then you

keep breathing, keep organizing, keep bearing witness to the fragile and resilient power of life, then you are the prophets and neighbors whom we need.

"We are living what we can scarcely imagine, scarcely comprehend, and could not possibly survive without each other. In remembering, we bind ourselves to the power of life in its trouble and its beauty. We bind ourselves to one another. We keep on, together: determined, together, to follow the better angels of

our nature. Together, only together, we push back the darkness."

State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) spoke briefly, reminding the audience that the General Assembly has taken action on gun legislation since Sandy Hook.

The program finished with singing and with the bells of the Congregational Church ringing 26 times as the names of the Sandy Hook victims were read.

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

FILM: ALEXANDER WILBURN

## Have Yourself An Eerie Little Christmas with Tilda

For all the inter-planetary aquatic special effects on display in James Cameron's "Avatar: The Way of Water," Joanna Hogg's modest "The Eternal Daughter" needs only one — Tilda Swinton. The British actress plays both mother and daughter in this single-setting film, Hogg's confined tale of inexplicable dread, not unlike Henry James' "The Turn of the Screw." Under the bows of twisty tree branches in the Welsh countryside, an adult daughter and her aging mother arrive at a looming brick estate ever-shrouded in a pertinacious layer of fog. So gothic is the hotel, with its heavy brass room keys, that only the iPhones and their patchy signals give hints to our modern day.

Mentored after film school by the prominent avant-garde filmmaker and gay rights activist Derek Jarman, London-born Joanna Hogg also struck up a friendship with Tilda Swinton in her youth. Swinton had been a collaborator of Jarman's before the director died of AIDS complications in 1994, starring as Isabella of France in Jarman's 1991 adaption of "Edward II" based on the play by Shakespeare's famed rival, Elizabethan playwright Christopher Marlowe. Hogg's early films, more grounded in the subtleties of the here



PHOTO COURTESY OF A24

and now, focused on tense family dynamics in cloistered, even claustrophobic conditions. Her most ambitious — and more interpretive — project was a two-part fictional account of her own early twenties, "The Souvenir" and "The Souvenir Part II." Produced by Martin Scorsese, together they are a bildungsroman of treacherous heartbreak and the nasty wounds that love can leave. Detailing a romance gone wrong and the artistic, cathartic pursuits that come from that pain, Hogg tapped her old friend Swinton to play a version of her mother, named Rosalind, and Swinton's real life daughter, Honor Swinton Byrne, to play the young film student, a portrait of



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOVIESTILLSDB

Swinton reprises her role as a version of the director's mother from "The Souvenir" films.

a Hogg, named Julie. Sneakily, the mother and daughter in this latest film, now both played by Swinton, are Rosalind and Julie.

Continued on next page



© 2022 ALEX KATZ / LICENSED BY ARTISTS RIGHTS SOCIETY (ARS), NY PHOTO BY PAUL TAKEUCHI

Rose Bud by Alex Katz, at The Guggenheim

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

## The Artists Who Never Bow Out

If there exists a clear visual pipeline from the prestige art exhibitions of New York to the smaller galleries in Litchfield County, Conn., look no further than "Women," the show currently on display at Craven Contemporary in Kent, Conn., featuring female portraits by Alex Katz, in time with the artist's massive installation currently at The Guggenheim on Fifth Avenue.

Katz's "Gathering," which includes recent work painted during the pandemic, infuses the white helical ramp with splashes of bold color; large canvases coil upward to the Guggenheim's Byzantine-like oculus dome. It is an epic tribute to the eight-decade-long career of the 95-year-old painter.

Massive success in public careers can be fragile things, attached to ticking clocks. Athletes know this too well — this year Tom Brady, considered to be football's greatest quarterback, and the NFL's oldest MVP winner, has continued to deny the pressure to announce his retirement at 45 years old. Cristiano Ronaldo, another greatest of all time in football — or soccer, as we might say — is also rumored to be circling retirement at age 37, following his recent World Cup loss.

For painters who achieve

both critical acclaim and auction house stardom, the trajectory can look quite different. As New York Magazine art critic Jerry Saltz tweeted last week, "Artists: You don't retire from art. No one gets out of here alive." Separated from the trappings of an athlete or ballet dancer's physical exertion or a model or performer's expiration after youth's beauty, artists can have celebrated careers long into their twilight years. But is there something slightly grim in the fevered rush for these late-period works?

A Brooklyn native, Alex Katz has primarily worked in the very places his paintings reflect — New York City and coastal Maine. His portraits, much like his floral and botanical studies, bring the viewer in close, almost cartoonishly close, like being a fly on the wall in a land of giants. His painted faces and flowers are full of contradiction: stiff yet expressive; stripped of detail yet resplendent in their bright, prismatic presence; beautiful yet distantly wry.

Katz has never quite achieved the staggering financial success of some of his peers. As The New Yorker reported in 2018, "Katz's highest auction price, achieved at a

Continued on next page

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# TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

## North by Northwest

If anyone knows where the best martini in The Berkshires is, they will have to write in. One thing's for certain, if you're feeling inspired by Cary Grant and his group at the start of 1959's "North by Northwest," with their ornate glasses of gin, vermouth, and lashings of olives floating in the brine, you can't head to the city this winter to reenact the scene. The Plaza Hotel's Oak Bar, which Alfred Hitchcock recreated for the film, signaled "last call" and closed its doors in 2011, after what The New York Times reported as trouble with "noise levels, money, and alleged lease violations."

2011 was a year of stagnant economic growth and high unemployment in New York — and the country at large — and the vacancy of the prestige landmark drinking hole seemed to trumpet another blow to the memory of opulence and "Old New York." But then, something is always threatening the city's fabled opulence — now Four Seasons is closed, Eleven Madison Park has gone vegan, and since the pandemic, Eater New York has chronicled establishment closings on a monthly basis. This past September the now



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOVIESTILLSDB

Left, Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint in "North by Northwest," right, The Oak Bar photographed on Christmas Day in 2008.

closed Gramercy Park Hotel briefly reopened its doors for an everything-must-go liquidation garage sale.

The Oak Bar opened in 1907 as the men's only drinking establishment, paneled in dark varnished wood walls with a plaster ceiling, carved oak bas reliefs, foliate pattern motifs and city scenic frescos so large they felt like wallpaper.

The all-male club atmosphere eventually gave way to women permitted at certain times of the day — in the background of Hitchcock's 1959 film you'll see men and women having cocktails together — but the Oak Bar didn't go fully co-ed until the intervention of Betty Friedan. In the winter of 1969 the author of "The Feminine Mystique" led a group of members of the National Organization for Women

to, as Time Magazine put it, "brush by a Plaza assistant manager and the maitre d' to capture a center table." Following the protest, the Oak Bar officially overturned its long-held policy.

While the opening of Hitchcock's "North by Northwest" features the recognizable Manhattan cityscape — the interior shot of Grand Central Terminal's staircase and the exterior street shot of Tiffany on Fifth Avenue — The Oak Bar is actually a set. Hitchcock found the architectural columns in the room too distracting, so an almost-faithful set was crafted, complete with the art by Everett Shinn hung in The Plaza.

Shinn, who had died just a few years before production on the film, was an American painter and member of The Ashcan School, an early 20th

century urban realist movement dedicated to the depiction of New York's common street life. Edward Hopper is often associated with the movement due to visual similarity, but Hopper is inherently more poetic than realist.

Just a decade before the Oak Bar's closing, in 2001, Shinn's paintings in The Plaza Hotel received a \$100,000 restoration, removing, as The New York Times vividly described, "a dark and yellowing



The Canfield Gambling House, 1912 by Everett Shinn

layer of varnish, nicotine stains and occasional splatters of beer." The original Shinn paintings, blue moonlight views of the Pulitzer Fountain and Grand Army Plaza, may not appear in "North by Northwest" but look close at the Oak

Bar scene and you'll see a reproduction of Shinn's large scale depiction of the Vanderbilt House under snow and darkness.

Playing for one night, Dec. 30, at The Warner Theatre in Torrington, Conn.

## ...never bow out

Continued from previous page

Sotheby's sale in May, is nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars." In the art world, that's small change compared to the multi-million-dollar sales of work by the 85-year-old American artist Ed Ruscha. Yet Katz' show at The Guggenheim feels in conversation with last year's show at The Whitney, a mammoth collection of the work by 92-year-old American painter and Sharon, Conn., resident, Jasper Johns. While on a financial scale, Johns holds the distinction of his work "Flag" selling for \$110 million in 2010, setting the record for a living painter, both his and Katz's shows hold a certain air of finality. Despite the continued

work being produced by the artists (their British contemporary, David Hockney, could certainly fit in well here), it's hard not to read the subtext of these grand late-career shows as "if not now, it may be too late." Still, compared to history's breathless list of artists who retired into anonymity, who died in obscurity, getting a celebrated farewell tour,



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Ada Four Times #2 by Alex Katz

however a career ends, is a rare achievement. Take it while you can, Brady.

Alex Katz "Women" reopens for 2023 on Jan. 7 at Craven Contemporary in Kent, Conn.

## ...eerie Christmas

Continued from previous page

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This is not the first time Swinton has pulled

## At The Movies

double duty on a film. Most recently in Luca Guadagnino's reimagining of "Suspiria" she portrayed the formidable head of a modern dance company in 1970s Berlin, an aging male psychologist, and the morbidly grotesque head witch of a supernatural coven — with all three characters playing off each other in the bloody final act. "The Eternal Daughter" is less showy in its theatricality, so much so that you can easily lose yourself in the double performance and its tender nuance, hardly noticing the gimmick.

Begins on Dec. 23 at The Moviehouse in Miller-ton, N.Y.

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# GUEST EDITORIAL Full services needed at Sharon Hospital

By Deborah Ritter Moore

On Dec. 6, a marathon hearing took place in Hartford and by Zoom, with the fate of Sharon Hospital's labor and delivery services at stake. On one side, in favor of closing, were the evasive leaders of Danbury Hospital, which has morphed into something called "Nuvance," and currently owns Sharon.

The evasive leaders were accompanied by confused staff who were unable to articulate how a plan was actually going to work, a plan to close obstetrics in a rural location, far from any other hospitals, without compromising the care of area residents who had been served by that hospital for more than a century.

On the other side was the Save Sharon Hospital and the community. They contended that there is a crisis in rural health care, and especially in maternal morbidity and mortality in the USA, with "maternity deserts" blossoming, and this crisis has come to Connecticut, where no fewer than five hospitals have closed or are closing labor and delivery. The parties that testified in support of saving labor and delivery represented a true cross section of community including the medical profession, elected officials and industry leaders.

Here is the source of the crisis facing those five smaller hospitals in Connecticut. The unit cost (expense) of running the smaller or rural hospital is similar to the expense of running a metropolitan hospital. This is because the people, space, equipment and supplies basically cost the same in larger or smaller hospitals.

However, the unit revenues are lower, primarily because commercial health insurers believe they don't need all hospitals in their "networks" in order to sell insurance, so pay less to the smaller ones. The structure of American payment for hospitals is unlikely to change, and continues to create inequities. Therefore, new sources of revenue to maintain the services of low-volume hospitals in smaller communities are needed.

Since this is an ever-growing national problem, many states have sought solutions. California, Florida, Texas and many other states in the South and Midwest recognize this, and have created hospital districts to acquire and lease back nonprofit hospitals. These hospital districts are authorized in state statutes and operated through local communities, which have chosen to implement such strategies. Often the hospitals so supported "give back" through discounts to residents of communities contributing tax funds.

Georgia offers the Georgia Heart Hospital Tax credit program. The Georgia Department of Community Health qualified certain hospitals as rural hospital organizations to which individuals and corporate taxpayers may contribute and receive a 100% Georgia income tax credit. The status quo no longer works nor will following trend that has created a new problem we now need to tackle.

Success is most likely to be found in unity and collaboration with the state, the community and the ownership of the hospital itself. When we work together with a common purpose, we lift all parties up, especially the most vulnerable and needing of care.

This is how rural life works, and is why the community continues to fight for over 15 years to maintain full services at our hospital. It is what everyone needs.

*Guest editorial writer Deborah Ritter Moore is a lifelong resident of Connecticut, and a student of the CON process. She is a determined advocate for access to safe birthing in Connecticut. Moore lives in Sharon.*

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — December 1922  
The sleighing and wheeling are both excellent.

Neal Wyncoop has gone to Maine to visit friends and hunt deer for a few weeks.

LIME ROCK — Miss Clara Barnum has a nurse caring for her.

50 years ago — December 1972

Penn Central and the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority plan to close down the Pawling railroad station, local public transportation advocates learned this week. According to MTA senior engineer John Tone, notice of intent to close the

station has been filed with unions. The move could come within 60 to 90 days, he said.

Leading contestant (so far) in the "meanest thief of the Christmas season" competition is the person who stole the two small Christmas trees in front of the Apothecary Shop in Lakeville. Sometime Tuesday night the culprit (or culprits) took not only the trees which had been installed by the Chamber of Commerce, but the strings of lights and even the extension cords.

Salisbury Town Clerk Lila Nash is mourning the loss of her car, her beloved



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

### The voices of the season

The Salisbury Congregational Church choir wowed the crowd on Sunday, Dec. 18, with carols and John Rutter's "Magnificat." The church's handbell choir opened the concert with six seasonal pieces. Conductor David Baranowski led his first choral concert since being named church music director in June, 2022.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Sharon Hospital is at risk, could need saving

I read with interest Lloyd Baroody's guest editorial in last week's Lakeville Journal. I, too, have lived here for decades, practicing internal medicine and cardiology and treating patients for more than 40 years at Sharon Hospital. My late wife had our three children there and she and I were treated in the ICU.

Since the Covid pandemic, the demographics of the tri-state area have shifted due to an influx of young families from New York. The housing market, infant formula sales and school enrollment reflect this trend. Many of the speakers at the Dec. 6 public hearing before the Office of Health Strategy were new residents who want to have children here.

If Health Quest had not threatened closure of the maternity unit here in 2018 and had Nuvance not done so in 2020, Sharon Hospital would probably be maintaining its

historic 250-260 deliveries yearly. With proper marketing of our exemplary unit, the number of deliveries could exceed 300.

Studies have shown that hospitals that close maternity eventually close. Nuvance claims it is losing money and that maternity loses \$3 million annually. Community members with financial expertise dispute these figures, noting that Nuvance failed to bill for services provided by Sharon Hospital, failed to credit other revenue, and loaded all expenses for after-hours surgery onto maternity. Nuvance claims that it must cut maternity, the ICU and 24-7 surgery.

For its last reported fiscal year, Nuvance showed a gain of \$105 million (excess revenue over expenses), positive cash flow from operations, an increase in net assets of \$242 million, and \$3.8 billion in total assets. Thus,

the stated \$3 million L&D operating loss is neither significant nor material given the assets and earnings of Nuvance.

Since the hospital was first sold in 2002, five owners, for-profit and not-for-profit, have reduced or closed services (oncology, pain management, sleep medicine, neurology, radiology, etc.). Closing maternity, downgrading the ICU and terminating surgery capability after business hours are cuts too far.

Save Sharon Hospital is mobilizing the community to preserve vital services. Responsibility for most 2021-22 losses must be laid at Nuvance's feet. In 2020, the first year after promising state regulators it wouldn't cut services for five years after they approved the merger that formed Nuvance, Dr. Mark Hirko, then president of Sharon Hospital, told ma-

ternity and ICU staff their units were closing — NOT may be closing. Not surprisingly, many staff members left, forcing Nuvance to hire very expensive traveling nurses rather than hiring cost-effective permanent replacements.

Nuvance must face the realities of rural hospitals today. It must be transparent with its finances and plans. It must form a partnership with the community as well as the state and federal government to increase reimbursement rates and take other steps to maintain vital services in rural areas like ours.

If not, Sharon Hospital will end up like the 134 rural hospitals that closed nationwide between 2010 and 2020. The hospital will close not because of Save Sharon Hospital, but because of mismanagement.

David Kurish, MD  
Sharon

### Nuvance's dedication to the hospital being tested

The guest editorial Dec. 15 advocating for a new slogan to Save Sharon Hospital makes an interesting point about the way a prospective employee might view the slogan. The rest of it draws on anecdotal evidence about the region's demographics and what I see as clearly phony economics from Nuvance.

While there may be more "older" folks here, there are still plenty of young people here having or planning to have children. Maybe not on Belgo Road, but in places like The Hotchkiss School, Indian Mountain School, Salisbury School, Salisbury Central School, Sharon Central School, Housatonic Valley Regional High School etc. there are plenty of teachers younger than the general population. How hard will it be to recruit teachers to these schools if there is no L&D in Sharon Hospital?

The editorial guest says he is worried that if we keep the "...clearly underutilized Labor & Delivery unit...it might contribute to the eventual demise of the hospital..." The opposite is true. Shutting down L&D is the precursor to closing the whole hospital. You don't have to be a Wall Street Analyst to know that the financial justification to shut down any part of Sharon Hospital's services is entirely made up.

Nuvance won't share the data that went into the analysis. We don't know what went into the equation and we don't

know if the analysis they used is applied fairly across all Nuvance hospitals, or just the ones it wants to eliminate. You are welcome to your opinion, but if no one pushes back on the phony calculations and unless they share the data and prove it is unbiased, then eliminating the hospital becomes a foregone conclusion.

It takes a lot of money to keep the lights on and the hospital heated and staffed. Those costs won't change much when the L&D is closed, but what will change is that those costs will have to be absorbed by fewer services and then Nuvance can claim that they don't cover the overhead of the Hospital and that's the ball game.

Sharon Hospital needs more activity going on under its roof, not less. Solving a business problem by cutting core elements rather than trying to expand activity, is all you need to know about how dedicated Nuvance is to our hospital.

Theodore Rudd O'Neill  
Lakeville

Another letter next page.

### THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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Continued next page

# Viewpoint

## I will write you soon with some thoughts that seem ever so empty now

**SOVEREIGN STATE**  
**LONNIE CARTER**

That's my pal Walter "Mac" Davis about the death of Betsy Howie, the mother of our daughter Calpurnia. He is referring directly to "Callie's Talley", Betsy's book detailing with, to the penny, the first year of Callie's life. What it cost. Some people took offense. How dare Betsy! A mother putting a dollar, no a penny, on a life! All the stuff! Diapers, you name it. Others thought it hilarious. Yes, that is what it COSTS! I? I was living it. In the house. Making the meals. I made most of them. Calpurnia learned to love salmon. Don't think she's had a bit since.

People seem to be dying a lot lately, or perhaps I'm just noticing. An old high school chum Bobby Goldberg, the only Jew in Notre Dame High School for Boys, brand new in Niles Illinois, right down from Ann Margret's. Who? Bobby, a fine point guard on our fine basketball team, who became the President of the Chicago Board of Trade, no mean job. Then in his late forties he sold a company for zillions and began a decades

long career coaching girls' basketball. So how did this Jewish boy wind up at ND? If I'm writing the story, and I am, I'll write that his Italian Catholic mother got her way over the Jewish dad who said, Just keep putting out the mostaccioli and you can send Bobby to the Gulag for all I care. (His old man was probably kinder than that, but he did mangia Ma's pasta.)

But returning to Mac's "some thoughts that seem ever so empty now." Yes. "Sorry for your loss". Heard that a lot. And I don't at all mean to denigrate. What do you say? A multi-talented, much-loved woman in her prime, felled by golf ball-sized abdominal tumors, bringing tears to these already too old eyes, yes, Betsy, in so many ways we barely knew ye. Our 21 year old daughter, Calpurnia, to be born the day before the Ides, named after Julius Caesar's wife, the lady with the dream. Don't go to the Senate today, you vainglorious toad, he who did not listen, at least for long, our precious daughter with whom you fought all throughout high school, I trying to mediate, What's the point, Would you please stop fighting, and eat your Coho, then reconciling and loving each other so tightly no bond could ever break them apart; Betsy, with no food too spice-less for your Martin Luther 95 Theses taste, who wrote thousands of jokes for Scholastic Magazine, some of which were even funny, Betsy, who once asked Warren Beatty and Jack Nicholson to dance at some posh night club, Beatty politely turning her down, then Nicholson approaching her, after impolitely turning her down, saying You know why I turned you down? Because I get paid to make a fool of myself; Betsy, having organized the re-opening of Ellis Island, then having something with Kojak's Telly Savalas (Who loves ya, Baby? I never asked what), Betsy who wrote speeches for luminaries, one for Ronnie Reagan, the old man not the shirt-collarless son, a "perfect gentleman", said Betsy; Betsy who called the Hunt Library's auction to acclaim and laughter; Betsy for whom all thoughts seem ever so empty; Betsy whom we hardly knew ye and surely not enough. Who loves ya, Baby? Telly. And all the rest of us.

Lonnie Carter is a playwright, Obie winner and his signature play is "The Sovereign State of Boogedy Boogedy."

People seem to be dying a lot lately, or perhaps I'm just noticing.



## My French lesson on Josephine Baker

According to Joni Mitchell, "In France they kiss on Main Street." Oui and non. Some kissing, mostly smoking. Sorry Joni. Actually, while in France, I asked for the location of Main Street. The confused look I received told me that "Main Street" is not really a thing in France or, more likely, they had no idea what I was trying to say. My French language skills are more like a dog with a large vocabulary. And that's before I try acting it out, which I think is endearingly annoying. My wife says I'm half right — annoying.

Three things you can always count on when visiting France: fabulous food, great wine, and a labor strike. We hit the trifecta. And with good weather to boot. As usual, I waged a losing battle trying to take a shower without flooding the bathroom. Is a proper shower door too much to ask? Before getting on a nationalist high horse and piling on the French about mundane cultural differences I must acknowledge that France put us to shame in the treatment of one of our own: Josephine Baker.

A visit to her home in the Dordogne region, Chateau des Milandes, now a national

historical monument, was an eye-opener. We mostly know Josephine Baker as the Black Jazz Age cabaret entertainer scantily clad in a banana skirt. But she is so much more than that. Growing up dirt poor in St. Louis, uneducated and subject to virulent and violent racism, she witnessed Black families being b u r n e d out of their homes. Despite many obstacles, she made her way to Broadway and achieved modest success. Moving to France changed everything. She became one of the most successful entertainers in the world. France loved her and she loved France. Josephine Baker was an American original who was never truly embraced by her country. Returning to the United States at the height of her popularity, the Stork Club in Manhattan refused to serve her. Hotels remained strictly segregated and off limits and when she fought back, famed columnist Walter Winchell accused her of Communist sympathies.

Patriot, civil rights activ-

ist, humanitarian, Josephine Baker led by example. She joined the French Resistance and served in the French military during World War II. We're not talking about celebrity public service messages. We're talking about espionage. She risked her career and her life spying for French counterintelligence. After the war, in addition to being awarded a French Resistance medal, and the Croix de Guerre, she received the ultimate accolade, the Legion of Honor from President Charles de Gaulle.

In the United States she refused to perform for segregated audiences despite threatening phone calls from the Ku Klux Klan. In 1963, at the March on Washington, proudly wearing her French Resistance uniform, she spoke out against discrimination before Martin Luther King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. Back home in France, she adopted 12 children from around the world, her "rainbow tribe," to show that children with different religions and different

cultures could live and thrive together.

In 2021, she was posthumously given France's highest honor: induction into the French Pantheon. She was the only Black woman and only American to receive that honor.

As I mopped up the latest shower monsoon in my hotel bathroom I felt a little foolish criticizing the French over an inconvenience. France welcomed and honored Josephine Baker. America disapproved and ignored her. Despite the delicious meals we had enjoyed, learning of our indifference left a bitter taste.

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

### NEWS OF VERY NARROW INTEREST

M.A. DUCA

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

Continued from previous page

Dr. Elbert Gross, president of Music Mountain Inc., was given a \$2,000 gift certificate of a Caribbean first-class cruise for two by Walter Nagel, president of the Hapag-Lloyd lines at Mr. Nagel's Falls Village home last Sunday. It will be the first prize in a raffle, limited to 750 tickets, with proceeds to be devoted to needed improvements in the Concert Hall and musicians' cottages.

John MacLeod recently purchased the Falls Village Plumbing and Heating firm from its original owner, Ralph Kirkpatrick. Mr. MacLeod said that he plans no great changes in the business and the firm will continue to maintain the town's water system. Mr. Kirkpatrick will continue to work on a consultant basis.

25 years ago — December 1997

"Everything always happens for the best." For his family and the hundreds of mourners who came to his memorial service, those words, often repeated by the late Dr. Vincent J. Peppe, may have been difficult to believe at the time. But they took some comfort in the fact that he was able to enjoy his friends and family right up

until he passed away. "Doc" Peppe died Dec. 10 after a brief battle with cancer.

WEST CORNWALL — Hedgerow's Market, no longer just a place for fresh meats, fish, produce, deli products and dry goods, now serves a Sunday brunch buffet and dinner three nights a week. The establishment run by chef/co-owner Russell Sawicki has moved in to fill a need for more local eateries following the demise of Cadwell's Corner restaurant.

The singing talents of Region 1 Superintendent Marvin "Muff" Maskovsky and board chairman Robert Loucks were displayed at the end of Monday's meeting. Trying to encourage members of the public to leave so the board could go into a closed session, the pair harmonized on a round of "Good Night Ladies." The room did clear out.

The historic 19th century farmhouse on Undermountain Road in Falls Village destroyed by a Dec. 2 blaze will be razed by its owner, the Naugatuck Fish

and Game Club, a club official said this week. Falls Village native Bill Holcomb, 86, escaped the fire that consumed the home he was born in, although the farmhouse built in the 1800s will not survive. Local building inspector Bill Conrad surveyed the extensive fire damage this week and advised that the badly burned structure be torn down.

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

Letters to the editor deadline for the Jan. 5 issue is 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 2. No issue is published Dec. 29. No more than 500 words. Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com.

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of The Lakeville Journal and the Journal does not support or oppose candidates for public office.



Cartoon by Anoush Froudjian

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Compass topics: timing was off base

I read the most recent issue of Compass and was surprised by the tone. These are certainly fraught times we're living in, but then seeing stories about: "Lars Von Trier's Vision of Hell" and "The Hell of the NYC Homeless Crisis." And opening it up to "Where Are You Going? Heaven or Hell" and "The Scent of Angels, The smell of Christmas memories, but oh so dirty." "The Hell of Your Home" and "Purgatory of Pain." The disturbing photo on page 10. All too much. I have enough going on in my life, trying to wrap my head

around the sad state of affairs in this country and worrying about my grandchildren and what the planet will be like for them in the future without seeing this "bold artistic effort." I get the concept, but this is not the time for it. (P.S. I grew up in Lime Rock where I spent many a happy Christmas at the darkest time of the year.)

Sarasota, Fla.


Jan Dorsett

More letters previous page.

### Realtor® at Large

A modern version of the Christmas story is unfolding this week as the Salisbury Housing Trust is both buying and selling a beautiful house to a wonderful local family right before the holidays. This would not be possible without the generosity of the following:

Lee and Barbara Collins, Jennifer Kronholm Clark, Leo and Judy Gaffney, Diana Basselle, Mark Capecelatro, Terri Carlson, Susan Dickinson of Litchfield Bancorp, Will Bassett, Heather Finn of Curtis Insurance Agency, Dave Dzenutis and William Pitt Sotheby's Realty. It takes a community effort to create and support affordable housing in our town and all of these deserve our appreciation. This endeavor does not happen by magic, so please consider a donation to support further affordable homes to the Salisbury Housing Trust at: [www.salisburyhousing.org/donate](http://www.salisburyhousing.org/donate).



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# Our Towns

## Trinity Retreat Center plans for 2023

By Debra A. Aleksinas

WEST CORNWALL — The 55-acre Trinity Retreat Center, an Episcopal mission of Trinity Church Wall Street, is entering 2023 with a new administrator and new schedule of retreats.

Jason Coppola has been assigned to the position of interim executive director, replacing former co-executive directors Heidi and Joseph Rose, who served at the center since 2016 and

were instrumental in a major renovation and revival of the facility, which had previously been shuttered and reopened in 2017.

“We are continuing to serve our neighbors’ needs with weekly worship services, and we’re serving our larger community through in-person and online retreats,” according to Coppola. “In fact, we just announced our 2023 retreats on our website.”

Located on a 55-acre campus situated along the

Housatonic River and next to more than 700 acres of state forest, the campus includes a circa 1935 stone chapel, conference rooms, 26 guest rooms, a newly constructed river house, remodeled kitchen facilities, a community hall, a monastic garden, hiking trails, sports courts and quiet spaces for rest and reflection.

Since 2016, shortly after the Roses were assigned to the center, it became home to several rescue donkeys, who

reside in a red barn with an outdoor enclosure and have become a beloved attraction to those who visit the center.

Visitors also have the opportunity to connect with nature and community by participating in the common life chores at the retreat center, such as gathering bounty from its gardens, farming, chopping wood or feeding the donkeys.

The schedule for 2023 retreats can be found at [www.trinityretreatcenter.org](http://www.trinityretreatcenter.org).



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Retreat participants enjoy a visit with donkeys at the Trinity Retreat Center in West Cornwall.

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