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The Lakeville Journal

TriCornerNews.com

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LOOKING BACK AT 2022

Making strides on affordable housing

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SALISBURY — Creating affordable housing for young singles and families, seniors and those who work in the state's rural Northwest Corner communities was the focus of ongoing collaboration and conversation throughout 2022.

Working in tandem with state and municipal officials, regional housing groups and residents, local housing organizations made strides on many fronts, including acquiring acreage, expanding existing housing developments and purchasing single-family homes

for resale at a subsidized cost as affordable housing to those who qualify.

This past year several communities drafted and/or adopted Affordable Housing Plans specifying how they intend to increase the number of affordable housing developments within their borders.

Kent adopted its Housing Plan for 2022-2027, which calls for at least 20 dedicated affordable housing units to be created in the next five years. The plan was created in accordance with a new law, 8-30j,

See HOUSING, Page A6



Winter hoops

HVRHS freshman forward Wesley Allyn goes for a layup against O'Brien Technical High School during the Winter Tournament in Torrington on Thursday, Dec. 29. For more, go to page B2.

PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Sharon Hospital

A year of non-stop public resistance

By Debra A. Aleksinas and Patrick L. Sullivan

SHARON — In the fall of 2021, NuVance Health unveiled plans to phase out Sharon Hospital's Labor and Delivery unit and convert its Intensive Care Unit (ICU) into a progressive care unit, citing low birth rates and millions of dollars in financial losses.

In response, a fast and furious rallying cry from the public reverberated throughout 2022. The opposition was led by the grassroots group, Save Sharon Hospital (SSH), which originally formed in 2018 when the hospital, under its previous owner, HealthQuest, announced plans to shutter maternity.

At that time, the Connecticut Office of Health Strategy (OHS) required Sharon Hospital to maintain all services for the next five years as part of its Certificate of Need (CON) process.

Fast forward to 2022 and the

See HOSPITAL, Page A6

Covered bridge closed

West Cornwall's one-lane Covered Bridge on Route 128 was closed on Christmas Eve after a pickup truck driver towing a trailer with cargo failed to clear the roof of the bridge at approximately 11:30 a.m., driving the length of the bridge and damaging the roof joists. The driver, Edward Hodge, 39, of Colchester, told troopers he originally thought his rig was below the 10'11" clearance level for the bridge, but then heard a loud bang halfway

See BRIDGE, Page A6



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Region One interviewing for substitutes

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Region One will host three "Sign and Sub" recruiting events for substitute teachers in January: Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Sharon Center School; Friday, Jan. 6, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Kent Center School; and Tuesday, Jan. 10, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at North Canaan Elementary School.

Applicants should bring two forms of ID and can fill out the application in advance or on-site at the event, and will be interviewed immediately. College students who are home may apply; Region One will help with obtaining a waiver for the usual requirement of a bachelor's degree. Retirees are also welcome to apply.



PHOTO BY ELIAS SORICH

Bethany Sheffer and McKenzie Hunter on the lookout for a cedar waxwing during the Trixie Strauss Christmas Bird Count.

Trixie Strauss Christmas Bird Count

A national tradition of citizen science

The 2022 Trixie Strauss Christmas Bird Count (CBC), organized by the Sharon Audubon Center, started Dec. 18 at 5 a.m. with a quest to draw the owls out of hiding. Moonlight and the crunch of snow underneath our feet gave the morning a lunar tone, and with warm beverages in tow, we made our way across the Sharon Audubon Center's property.

Led by Bethany Sheffer, volunteer coordinator and naturalist at Sharon Audubon, we were on the hunt for barred, great horned, screech, and "the heart-meltingly adorable" saw-whet owls.

Rather than hoping to luck into a sighting, birders attempt to

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

ELIAS SORICH

peak the curiosity of local owls by playing or vocalizing their various calls. Often, this draws them near or elicits a hoot in response. Sheffer gave Laura Marris, a volunteer on our early-morning voyage, a Bluetooth speaker, which Marris held aloft like a banner as hoots and trills emanated from it across the landscape.

As the sun began to rise and

See BIRD COUNT, Page A6



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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.

Tree in the road

On Friday, Dec. 23 at approximately 7 a.m. Monte Lynn Stone, 68, of Burlington, Vermont, was traveling westbound on Taconic Road in Salisbury in a 2007 Volkswagen Jetta when he collided with a fallen tree in the road. No enforcement action was taken.

Tree fallen on Route 41

Susanna McCarthy, 22, of Sharon was traveling northbound on Route 41 in Sharon on Friday, Dec. 23 at approximately 7:15 a.m. in a 2013 Volkswagen Jetta when she became distracted trying to work her windshield wiper controls and struck a tree that had fallen in the road from high winds. The vehicle was towed from the scene. No enforcement action was taken.

Failure to yield

At approximately 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24 a 2003 Subaru Baja driven by Conrad Stickles, 82, of Ame-

This 'n' That store closing in North Canaan

By Patrick L. Sullivan

NORTH CANAAN — The Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Connecticut retail store, This 'n' That, is closing this month with two final sales.

Executive Director Evan Cooper said in a phone interview Dec. 23 that closing was a difficult decision.

"It came down to the economics," he said. Cooper cited the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the number of available volunteers as one problem. "It just wasn't working out."

The main store, barn and annex on Route 7 in North Canaan will host two big sales on successive weekends, Friday Jan. 6 to Sunday, Jan. 8, and again Friday, Jan. 13 to Sunday, Jan. 15.

Correction

A photograph on the front page of the Dec. 22 issue incorrectly identified the 55-acre Pope property on Salmon Kill Road and owned by the Town of Salisbury as the Pope Preserve. The Pope Preserve is a 79-acre tract owned by the Salisbury Association Land Trust and is located north of town off Route 44 and adjacent to the Appalachian Trail.

nia, New York, was traveling eastbound on King Hill Road in Sharon. Stickles failed to yield at the intersection of Hospital Hill Road, striking the driver's side of a 2012 Chevrolet driven by Hubert Pellegrini, 65, of Stan-fordville, New York. Both operators were transported for minor injuries and both vehicles were towed from the scene. Stickles was issued a written warning for failure to yield right of way.

Improper U-turn

At approximately 3:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 27 a 2013 Toyota Rav driven by Luz Monsalve, 73, of Canaan, was traveling northbound on North Elm Street in North Canaan and was making a U-turn and pressed the accelerator, causing the vehicle to strike a downed tree. Monsalve was issued a verbal warning for improper U-turn. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

Snapped telephone pole

On Monday, Dec. 26, at approximately 8:00 p.m., William Penn, 46, of Bridgeport, was driving a tractor trailer northbound on North Elm Street in North Canaan and was turning from North Elm to Route 7 northbound when his truck struck low hanging wires, snapping a telephone pole and pulling down wires. Penn was found at fault for failure to obey a sign.

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 GRIFFIN COOPER

A "Noon Year's Eve" celebration was held on Saturday, Jan. 31, at the Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury.

Scoville Library's 'Noon Year's Eve' party for young revelers

By Griffin Cooper

SALISBURY — Local youth enjoyed the opportunity to ring in the new year a bit early this season thanks in part to the efforts of the Scoville Memorial Library and its "Noon Year's Eve Celebration" event held on Saturday, Dec. 31.

The event was held at 11 a.m. to give children and parents the chance to celebrate the new year without having to stay up too late.

Kendra Percy, the library's director of Children's Services, kicked off the festivi-

ties with an interactive story hour followed by a joyful release of balloons and an arts and crafts workshop where children made their own party streamers.

As the clock approached the noon hour the children, alongside their parents and Percy began the ceremonial holiday countdown and when the clock struck twelve the young revelers celebrated with a confetti party.

Online This Week

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

Holiday hoops tourney in Torrington

Housy boys basketball in action over the winter break. See the video at www.tricornernews.com/multimedia.

New Year's festivities at Scoville Library

Balloons, confetti and sparkling cider. See the video at www.tricornernews.com/multimedia.

Canaan Child Care accepting applications

NORTH CANAAN — The Canaan Child Care Center is accepting applications for full and part time slots in its School Readiness Pre-school 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).

Contact Fran Chapell at (860) 824-0597.

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HVRHS 21st Century Fund gets \$10,000 AT&T grant

FALLS VILLAGE — The 21st Century Fund for HVRHS has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the AT&T Foundation to support HVRHS STEM programs.

The funds will be used to help the First Robotics, Envirothon and Electric Car teams to meet expenses incurred by students participating in competitions around the state and region. Funds will cover fees, travel expenses and supplies needed to train students.

Mark Burdick, the advisor to the Electric Car team, said "The Electrathon is a hands-on opportunity for team members to solve complex engineering problems through cooperation, problem solving, hard work and professionalism. Participants learn how to apply what they learn about electricity, welding, fabrication, design, gear ratios, physics, physical properties, math calculations, tool usage and most importantly the safe/best practices involved in all these fields."

John Emra of AT&T said "Every student deserves

an opportunity to make their dreams a reality. At HVRHS, they are dedicated to advancing a 21st century education and giving their students opportunities to not just learn about STEM fields, but to become active participants and put their ideas in motion. Creative, fun, and innovative programs like these provide students with valuable experiences."

The 21st Century Fund is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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.salisburyct.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

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF CANAAN

Pursuant to Sec. 12-145 of the Connecticut statutes, the Tax Collector, Town of Canaan gives notice that she will be ready to

receive Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes and the 2nd installment of Real Estate & Personal Property taxes due January 1, 2023 at the Canaan Town Hall, PO Box 47, 108 Main St., Falls Village, CT 06031.

Office Hours: Monday's 9-12, 1-4 and Wednesdays 9-Noon.

Payments must be received or postmarked by February 1, 2023 to avoid interest.

All taxes remaining unpaid after February 1, 2023 will be charged interest from January 1, 2023 at the rate of 1.5% for each month from the due date of the delinquent tax to the date of payment, with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00. Sec. 12-146

Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer of their responsibility for the payment of taxes or delinquent charges. Sec.12-30.

Rebecca Juchert-Derungs
CCMC
01-05-23
01-26-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF PETER M. DENNIS Late of North Canaan (22-00449)

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:
c/o Kevin F Nelligan
The Law Offices of
Kevin F. Nelligan, LLC
194 Ashley Fls Rd
PO Box 776
Canaan, CT 06018
Beth L. McGuire
Chief Clerk
01-05-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF BARBARA KLAUS Late of Sharon (22-00447)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated December 13, 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:
Mortimer N. Klaus
c/o Frank A Pugliese
Cozen O'Conner
3 WTC
175 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10007
Megan M. Foley
Clerk
01-05-23

The deadline for legal notices is Friday at 4 p.m. for publication the following Thursday.

Notices can be emailed to legals@lakevillejournal.com or mailed to The Lakeville Journal, ATTN: Legal Notices, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

Go to www.tricornernews.com/legalnotices to view current and past legal notices.

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Our Towns

Three major Sharon projects made advancements in 2022

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — As the months passed and pandemic fears lessened somewhat, some old traditions rekindled and progress was made on three major expansion projects in 2022.

After years of study of available options for internet expansion to serve all properties in the town, the Sharon Connect Task Force guided the way to a November Town Meeting where a plan for a \$1.6 million town partnership with Comcast was overwhelmingly approved by taxpayers. By year's end, a Contract Performance Manager was hired, clearing the way for the contract to be signed. Work will begin in 2023.

Construction began in June on the expansion of the historic Hotchkiss Library, a featured landmark on the Town Green. A successful fundraising campaign had

raised \$3.5 million. Work continues on renovations that will bring ADA compliance for handicapped patrons and others through a convenient rear entrance, as well as providing reconfigured accessible interior spaces.

Plans for expansion of the Town Hall rear parking lot to add additional parking spaces were approved by the selectmen, clearing the way for work to begin. The project will improve drainage and allow for installation of two EV charging stations.

During the summer in recognition of a seemingly declining pandemic, a giant white tent signaled the return of two traditional events, the annual Cake Auction, dubbed "Let Them Eat Cake" to benefit the Sharon Historical Society in July, and the Book Signing to benefit the Hotchkiss Library in August. The latter event was

hosted on the grounds of the historical society while the library was under construction.

A Little Green Bus was determined to be a suitable use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to help to narrow the learning gaps resulting from the pandemic. The traveling bus will visit recreational locales in town offering children fun activities and books to promote learning during warm weather months. Watch for Little Green Bus to make appearances in 2023.

Traffic and speeding motorists continued to be of concern throughout the year, particularly along Hilltop Road used by vehicles as a connector road between Route 41 and 4.

The town tentatively agreed with the concept of engineered speed humps, among other possible solutions.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Dr. Anna Timell of Cornwall stepped into the Community Health and Wellness Center's mobile clinic on May 4, 2022, at the Union in West Cornwall, marking the first time in three decades that residents didn't have to travel out of town to get health care.

In 2022, Cornwall emerged to enjoy community 'in-person'

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Similar to the black bears common in the area, Cornwall began 2022 in a residual state of hibernation.

Cautious of the ongoing pandemic, Cornwallians did their part to stop the spread. The town square remained indoors throughout the winter as residents found solace in events like online trivia night (hosted by the Cornwall Association in January).

But as the bears emerged from the confines of their caves, so too did the people of Cornwall.

On April 9, the community returned to the town green for the first in-person event in recent memory: Cornwall Park and Recreation's Community Spring Fest.

Easter games, hunting for eggs, and a visit from the Park and Rec Bunny sparked a trend that would lead to an eventful year in the village.

In July, the renowned Cornwall Rummage Sale returned from its pandemic hiatus, offering bargains galore and drawing customary crowds.

The trend continued with the 63rd Rose Algrant Art Show, featuring work from over 50 artists and proceeds benefiting the Cornwall Housing Corporation.

Also in August, the inaugural Taste of Cornwall filled the green with the jazzy sounds of Wanda Houston

and delightful smells of locally sourced food.

In September, the Cornwall Ag Fair returned to celebrate the harvest and honor the area's farmers. The fair would not have been complete without the blessing of the animals by Pastor Elizabeth Krentz-Wee.

The summer provided a time for progress as voters approved the West Cornwall Wastewater Project at a referendum in July. By August, the Wastewater Management Committee was formed to oversee construction.

In September, the Little Guild of St. Francis, a local animal shelter, announced that it would remain at its present location, rather than moving to another town for a bigger facility. Its board decided to construct a new facility on site, a \$4 million project, and announced

plans to request \$50,000 to \$75,000 in ARPA funding to assist with project costs.

As autumn returned, the yearning for outdoor activity persisted in Cornwall.

In October, the 9th annual Little Guild Wag & Run 5K crowned repeat champions Brittany Telke and Mazikeen as the fastest human-dog running team in the state.

Running around town continued with the inaugural Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day.

Even in the nipping cold of December the spirit of community kept them together, as witnessed during the Gingerbread House Competition in December. More than 100 Cornwallians joined together to sing Christmas carols outside the library while judges determined the winning gingerbread houses.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Kent Falls deep freeze

As the year came to a close and temperatures dropped to single digits, Kent Falls became an icy sculpture on Tuesday, Dec. 27.

Kent completed sidewalk work, preps phase II in 2023

By Leila Hawken

KENT — In 2022, after years of volunteer planning by the Streetscape Committee, the first phase of construction of new concrete sidewalks and granite curbing for the town center was accomplished. Work began on Aug. 1 and was completed before cold weather.

Planning and design work is now underway for the second phase that will provide new sidewalks south and east of the main intersection during the coming year.

Technical upgrades, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), for the town hall's large meeting room will help with hybrid meetings and video conferences, adding capabilities made necessary during the pandemic. The equipment was installed in the fall.

The Eric Sloane Museum celebrated its 50th anniversary on July 2 with a special exhibit, visiting dignitaries, and speeches, followed by a luncheon.

In early August, the town assumed responsibility for the Soldiers' Monument in honor of Civil War veterans at the intersection of Routes 7 and 341. Plans for renovation of the nearby historic Swift House to allow for public use continue to develop as cost estimates are being gathered.

The environment and

green energy options were the subject of an October Green Energy Initiative forum sponsored by the Kent Memorial Library at Kent Center School. The event attracted a large audience and remains an ongoing interest for the town and the region.

Speed and traffic continue to be a concern to residents.

A referendum vote in mid-December failed to earn approval for the hiring of a second state trooper who would have served as a School Resource Officer at Kent Center School, but when school was not in session, would have provided additional traffic control coverage to the town.

Salisbury and Sharon food waste diversion program grew

SALISBURY — In June, the Salisbury-Sharon transfer station expanded its food waste diversion program.

The pilot program began in May 2021, with the goal of getting organic food waste out of the municipal solid waste stream. Some 120 households participated in the pilot.

The expansion added another 280 households, to bring the total to 400.

— Patrick L. Sullivan

Correcting Errors

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

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 Setsuko Thurlow
 The *Vow from Hiroshima* is a documentary film about the life of Setsuko Thurlow, a 90-year-old survivor of the world's first atomic bomb, dropped on Hiroshima in August 1945. The film takes us from Thurlow's teenage memories of Hiroshima to her activism in the anti-nuclear movement, culminating in the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023 • 10:30 A.M.
 The Moviehouse, Millerton, NY
 Admission free. Doors open at 10 a.m.
 Q and A will follow with Susan Strickler, the film's producer and director, and producer Mitchie Takeuchi, a second-generation survivor of the atomic bombing.
 All persons are required to wear a face mask in the theater.
www.salisburyforum.org

OBITUARIES

Emma Carberry Paley

SHARON - Emma Carberry Paley, 95, of Sharon, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022.



Emma was born on Sept. 12, 1927, the daughter of Lena (Clum) and Joseph V. Carberry. She attended Sharon Center School and graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1945. Emma attended nursing school in Albany, New York, and became an LPN. Following graduation, she worked in the maternity department of Sharon Hospital. She married Morris Paley in 1948 and they shared 62 years of marriage until he predeceased her in September 2010.

Emma will be remembered for her kindness and her sense of humor. She was a good listener and usually one of the first people to show up when a family experienced a loss. She had particular compassion for families that lost young children. Among her belongings, were letters of thanks from strangers that she had reached out to over the years when they lost a child.

Emma's childhood home had no running water and no electricity. At six years old, her family moved to a "modern" house across the valley, right next door to the man she would someday marry. As one of 13 children during the Depression, she had many household responsibilities especially when her mother was sick with cancer. One of her jobs was to bake a cake for her family every day. Because of that, Emma could whip up a cake in no time!

Emma and Morris' home was a lively, welcoming place. As the mother of eight children and a farmer's wife, every day was full of the unexpected. In addition to caring for her children, feeding the hired men and running errands for the farm, she still found time to be part of the Sharon Beach Committee, the American Legion Women's Auxiliary and the Sharon Center School Nurses' Association. In later years, Emma and Morris traveled around the country to attend antique car meets where they had many adventures and made lifelong friends. Morris and Emma also hosted several antique car events and many still remember the apple pie she served on the front porch of the farmhouse. When the youngest child finally left for college, Emma and Morris

began spending their winters in Florida where they made many new friends. After Morris' passing, Emma joined a small group of widows for Monday night dinners at the Sharon Hospital cafeteria. The small group grew to a tribe of more than 20 women that still gather as often as possible. One of Emma's last outings was a celebration of a dear friend's 90th birthday.

Emma was predeceased by her brothers; Vincent (Idella), Robert (Doris), Joseph (Sophie), Paul (Frances), Donald (Beth), Francis (Dorothy), and Thomas (Mary), by her sisters; Virginia Kendall (Frank), Dorothy Frasier (Thomas), Helen Passante (Julius) and Mary Lango (Joe), her sisters in law, Lila Zlotoff and Mae Benson and by her sons, George (Judy) and Douglas, and her grandson, Ben.

She is survived by her beloved sister, Barbara McEnroe (Joseph) and her sisters-in law, Dorothy Carberry and Gladys Paley. She is also survived by her children Will (Elaine), Susan Kent (David), Roberta, Elizabeth Tong (David), Charlie, and Sarah Coon (Chris).

Emma adored her 12 grandchildren and had a special relationship with each one of them: Dalton, Austin, Max, Amanda, Jack, Katie, Emily, Ben, Sam, Nathan, Ashley and Anna. She was blessed with nine great-grandchildren: Wyatt, Easton, Asa, Tyler, Georgia, Emma, Lila, Maren, and June. She loved her many nieces and nephews, as well. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Ben Paley Scholarship, c/o Berkshire Taconic Foundation, 800 North Main Street, Sheffield, MA 01257. (Please write Ben Paley Scholarship in the memo.) Donations can also be made online at berkshiretaconic.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?unit_id=1855

The family would like to express its deepest gratitude to Emma's many caregivers over the past several years, especially her niece, Donna Carberry DiMartino, Joanne Lunning and Hazmik Hovhannisyian.

We will miss you, Mom. You will live on in our hearts forever.

A funeral mass was held at St. Bernard's Church, 52 New Street, Sharon, CT on Thursday, Dec. 29 at 11:00 a.m.

Matthew Hiram Paniagua

CANAAN — Matthew Hiram Paniagua passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 19, 2022, at the age of 25.

Our family was not expecting for Matt's life to be cut so short so soon. We are all devastated by this huge loss and he will be forever missed. He had a kind soul, was passionate and loved whole-heartedly.

Matt was born with a deep love for music, aspiring to one day write and produce his own songs. He enjoyed hiking, especially with his beloved dog King. He had a talent of drawing and loved spending time with his family.

He was preceded in death by his best friend, Lukas Kosko, on July 21, 2018. He missed him deeply every single day since then.

He will always be remem-

bered with much love by his mother Victoria Paniagua and step-father Michael Gow, father Hiram Paniagua, brother Dustin Lawrence, sister Ashley MacDonald and her husband Joshua, brothers Devon Paniagua, Ayden Gow, David Gow and sister Elena Paniagua, and a long list of grandparents, aunts, uncles and extended family.

He also leaves behind King, his sweet pitbull who is now missing his favorite person.

He was also greatly loved and will be missed by the many friends he made everywhere he went.

Because Matt celebrated life, no formal funeral service is being planned, instead, he will be honored with a celebration of life to be held at a later date.

Mehdi Farhangi

MILLERTON — The youngest of eight siblings, Mehdi Farhangi was born in a tiny village in the Alborz Mountains of Iran in 1932. He grew up in Biblical conditions: no running water, electricity or roads to his beloved village of Artoon. He could remember the first time he ever saw a car. In his telling, he had an idyllic childhood playing under the walnut trees and in the vineyards of Artoon. One of his great joys was visiting Artoon with his grandchildren for his 80th birthday, and showing them the hammam, walnut grove, old stables, vineyards and poplars his father planted 100 years ago.



Mehdi followed his father, Saadra Farhangi, and several brothers, into medicine, graduating from the Tehran School of Medical Sciences in 1953. He practiced in Gorgan, Iran, for several years, before immigrating to the United States in 1958. There, he met his wife Melinda at a hospital party for student nurses. They married in 1960.

Mehdi specialized in hematology/oncology, working first at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, then moving in 1975 to the University of Missouri, Columbia, where he was a Professor of Medicine until he retired in 1996. He made many contributions to research, notably in his specialty, Multiple Myeloma.

A kind, gentle, and gen-

erous man, Mehdi was an inspiration to his extended family.

Several relatives followed him to the United States and into medicine. In his retirement he split his time between Columbia, Missouri and Millerton, before moving to Millerton full time in 2020. He enjoyed the Unitarian Church in Columbia, and his dogs, Dandelion and Rafiq, whom he spoiled mercilessly. He enjoyed oil painting, and telling the stories of his childhood with the help of the writing group at the UAA Church.

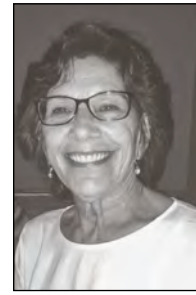
Mehdi was predeceased by his parents, Saadra and Madineh Farhangi, and his brothers and sisters: Ibrahim, Abolghosem, Batool, Ozra, Javad, Ismail, and Homaoun. Survivors include Melinda Farhangi, his daughter Leslie Farhangi (John Tuke), grandchildren Caleb Tuke, Zack Tuke, and Asa Tuke, and his son Edward Farhangi and grandchildren Celeste Farhangi and Liam Farhangi.

There are no calling hours. Funeral services will be private. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

Donations in memory of Dr. Farhangi to support a cause dear to his heart, civil liberties in Iran, may be made to United For Iran (www.united4iran.org/en/donate.html) To send an online condolence to the family please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

Sherry Lee AuClaire

SHARON — Sherry Lee AuClaire, 71, a longtime resident of Sharon, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022, at her home in Sharon, surrounded by her loving family. Sherry was the assistant branch manager at Union Savings Bank in Sharon for 20 years, retiring in 2014. She was also a private duty caregiver for many years.



Born on Sept. 19, 1951, in Poughkeepsie, New York, she was the daughter of the late Theodore W. and Margaret C. (Polanis) Chamberlin. In Sharon, she married Joseph AuClaire who predeceased her on Nov. 17, 2006.

Sherry was always the life of the party, bringing a smile to everyone around her. Sherry had a deep love for fishing, dancing and especially her family. Sherry was also a devoted volunteer of the Greysen's Smile Toy Drive, in honor of her grandson, which supports the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford.

She was the beloved mother to Dana Davis and her husband, Robert, of Dover Plains, New York, Mary AuClaire of Sharon, and Darren Peterson and his wife, Toni Ann, of Was-

saic. Sherry is also survived by three grandchildren, Samantha Davis and her companion, Al Denaut, Jo Marie and Mitchell Peterson; a sister, Janice Young of Winsted, Connecticut and three brothers, Linden Chamberlin of Millerton, Gary Chamberlin of Waterbury, and Winston Chamberlin of Amenia. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, Sherry was predeceased by a grandson, Greysen AuClaire and a brother, Theodore Chamberlin.

Calling hours took place from 4 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023 at the Huffcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY. Graveside services and burial will take place at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023 at Hillside Cemetery (Sharon Burying Grounds), Cemetery Road, Sharon, CT with Rev. R. Kent Wilson officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Greysen's Smile Toy Drive, C/O Mary AuClaire, P.O. Box 1039, Sharon, CT 06069. To send the family a condolence, please visit www.huffcutfuneralhome.com

Carolann Tyler

WEST CORNWALL — Carolann Tyler (Maule), 67, of West Cornwall, passed away peacefully at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital on the Equinox of the Winter Solstice on Dec. 21, 2022. She was the loving wife of Earle Tyler.

Carol was born Jan. 19, 1955, in Torrington, the daughter of the late Almerico Ronald Maule and Harriet Ann Maule (Armogida). She attended Lewis Mills High School.

She is survived by her brother and his wife, Ronald and Rhonda Maule of Springfield, Tennessee; her sons, Carl Allen of West Corn-

wall; Marc (wife Sue) Allen of Norfolk; Jason Allen of Canaan; Sean Tyler of West Cornwall, and her daughters, Heather Tyler of Harwinton; and Mandy Allen-Fischer (husband Michael) of Thomaston, six grandsons and two granddaughters. She was predeceased by her brother Gary Maule of Bristol.

Memorial and burial services will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department, 289 Sharon Goshen Turnpike, West Cornwall, CT 06796.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Douglas Library portrait show

NORTH CANAAN — Career artist, educator, and illustrator Dan Howe has an exhibit of portraits and portrait studies now 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.

The exhibit is open during library hours and will stay up through January 2023.

Worship Services

Week of January 8, 2023

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

<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p> <p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock In person services on Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 A.M. Livestream at 10:30 on www.trinitylimerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Pastor Joy Veronesi 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, January 8 at 10:30 a.m. Janis: Ancient God of Beginnings and Endings For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer Pastor Sun Yong Lee 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 a.m. Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd., Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online Bible studies and Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3003 Rev. Robert Landback The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge MASS SCHEDULE SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart WEEKDAY MASSES Monday & Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart Tuesday 9 AM - St. Bernard</p>
<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mngates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.</p>
<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>	

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More obituaries appear on page A5.

Our Towns

North Canaan fixed Route 44 traffic flow

By Leila Hawken

NORTH CANAAN — A significant highlight of the past year has to be the state Department of Transportation construction project along Route 44 through the town's center. The inconvenience and diverted traffic resulted in measurable improvements to the highway and traffic movement.

Construction was no hindrance to new commercial development in the town center where new businesses opened and are flourishing in a positive business climate as pandemic pressures appear to be easing.

A continuing effort to develop a Housatonic River access point at the site of the former Masonic Hall is beginning to come together.

During the past year, a Friends group was assembled, and is now ready to move toward proposing a project. The group's efforts will align with the process used when the Friends of Beckley Furnace assembled that project. The coming year will bring updates.

Another group formed in the spring to organize its efforts to block potential development of a warm asphalt plant in East Canaan. The Blackberry River Val-

ley Protection Alliance, Inc. (BRVPA) is the new name for Stop the Asphalt Plant (STAP). With a wider focus and newfound funding, it plans to expand its years-long battle to stop the plant on conservation and environmental fronts.

Applications are still being considered for use of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. During the year the selectmen approved requests from emergency and public safety services aligned with ARPA guidelines.

The fire department received funds for equipment upgrades and the ambulance corps will be able to purchase a new ambulance. The town hall received needed computer upgrades.

Window replacement at the North Canaan Elementary School and fencing for the day care center are projects under consideration by the town's application for Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant funding.

Nearing the end of a one-year moratorium on cannabis, the town continued the process of developing a policy regarding growing and selling cannabis. The coming year will see additional public hearings on the issue.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Students Taking Action

Housatonic Valley Regional High School students staged an abortion-rights rally on May 20.

Salisbury got back to business in 2022

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The year began with First Selectman Curtis Rand warning of the increased number of COVID-19 cases and the extreme contagiousness of the omicron variant.

The Scoville Memorial Library's new director, Karin Goodell said in January that she was exploring the "nooks and crannies" at Scoville, and coping with the inevitable difficulties that come with old buildings, including some recent water damage on the lower level.

The Planning and Zoning Commission was busy, approving a new zoning map, reaching a satisfactory conclusion on preserving a view on Taconic Road, and approving a plan for Lime Rock Park that included new garages and kitchen facilities.

Flashing beacons were installed at crosswalks on Main Street (Route 44) Salisbury village and where the Rail Trail crosses Salmon Kill Road.

Further along Salmon Kill Road, the bridge between Brinton Hill Road and Route 112 was closed for repairs in September and is scheduled to reopen in the spring.

Salisbury village also got a new sidewalk between the library and about 100 yards past Salmon Kill Road (heading west on Route 44).

At Twin Lakes, Camp Isola Bella underwent a \$700,000 expansion and renovation, and the town reinstated a part-time police patrol in response to ongoing noise complaints from lakefront property owners.

Noble Horizons celebrated its 50th anniversary with a community picnic July 12, and an exhibit at the Academy Building, among other activities.

National Iron Bank founded in 1847, celebrated 175 years of service to area

communities.

Indian Mountain School celebrated its centennial with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new field house and soccer field on Oct. 14.

The Passports antique and gift store on Main Street closed in September after more than 15 years in the community.

One sign that the COVID-19 pandemic was on the wane was the return of the annual clambake and fundraiser for the Jane Lloyd Fund at Satre Hill on July 30, after a two-year hiatus.

In church facility news, St. John's Episcopal Church in Salisbury had a new steeple affixed in August. The church had been steeple-less since May 2017.

Trinity Episcopal Church in Lime Rock dedicated its newly restored stained glass windows in June.

And Salisbury Congregational Church had a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new "net zero" green energy system in May.

Housing, internet access on town's 2023 agenda

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — In January the Board of Selectmen approved adding two stop signs at the intersection of Main Street and Beebe Hill Road, making the intersection a four-way stop.

The intersection was also the site of a community art project, completed in June. The crosswalk across Beebe Hill Road features motifs celebrating the town's natural beauty and inclusive attitude.

In February, the selectmen voted to sign up with the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) plan to ship the town's garbage out of state for a five-year period. They did so reluctantly.

First Selectman Henry Todd said that Falls Village, like most of the 49 towns that used to send municipal solid waste to the closed MIRA trash-to-energy facility in Hartford, doesn't have a better option.

Stacey Calo, the new principal at Lee H. Kellogg School, was the focus of a "virtual meet and greet" on Feb. 3. Robin Faust acted as interim principal for the first part of the 2021-22 school year.

Calo credited Faust for a smooth transition, and said she was impressed by the commitment of town residents to the school.

The fate of the former firehouse at 35 Railroad St. remained unknown.

At a June 1 meeting an audience of about 45 people heard two presentations from individuals who wished to buy the former firehouse, and there was a written communication on a third offer.

Also in flux was the affordable housing proposal on River Road. Proponents of an affordable housing project made a second attempt to obtain \$1 million in funding through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that would be earmarked for infrastructure work at River Road Homes, a proposed 16-unit affordable rental housing development.

An hour-long public hearing on the CDBG infrastructure proposal took place via Zoom on May 2, and drew close to 50 participants. In a sign of a return to pre-pandemic norms, the Falls Village Car and Motorcycle Show on Sunday, July 10, drew a massive crowd. Judy Jacobs of Jacob's Garage, the sponsor, said there were 550 vehicles registered and probably another 30 unregistered. At 9:30 a.m. the village was already packed.

Joel Jones was chosen as the new chair of the Board of Finance at the regular monthly meeting (online) on June 13. Jones replaced Dick Heinz.

Meg Sher is the new executive director of the David M. Hunt Library. She started the job Oct. 1, replacing Erica Jonczyk, who retired.

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

OBITUARY

Justin Michael Carroll

CANAAN — Justin Michael Carroll, 39, a lifelong area resident died unexpectedly on Tuesday, Dec. 20 in New Haven. Justin worked as a professional automobile mechanic at Jim's Garage in North Canaan and also for Arnold's Garage in North Canaan for many years.



sted and Tyler Gelbar of Taiwan; his sister, Regan Carroll and her husband Michael Hogan of Southfield, Massachusetts; his nephew, Remington Hogan and his niece, Lillian Hogan of Southfield and several, aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.

Calling hours took place on Wednesday, Dec. 28 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. A funeral service was held at 7 p.m. following visitation. Pastor William Mayhew officiated. Memorial contributions may be made to Youth Challenge of CT, Inc., 15-17 May Street, Hartford, CT 06105 or To Write Love On Her Arm (TWLOHA) P.O. Box 2203, Melbourne, FL 32902. To send an online condolence to the family, plant a tree in Justin's memory or to send flowers, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

More obituaries appear on page A4.

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It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a "Moon-Like UFO," the one that made headlines in The Lakeville Journal back in 1966!

Or maybe it's really Santa Claus and his sleigh and reindeer, wishing all our readers and supporters Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and all the other variants of seasonal good cheer.

A gift to The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News will mean even more than usual this year because one of our own local Santas has already pledged a matching grant of \$100,000 for donations made by January 15!

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 into the new year.

Noreen Doyle, Chair

Janet Manko, CEO, executive director

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BIRD COUNT

Continued from Page A1

no owls had yet been heard, Sheffer offered measured wisdom.

"You know the birds are there, it's just a matter of them showing up on the actual day."

The Trixie Strauss CBC is one among the hundreds of bird counts organized as a part of the Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count. In Sharon, a Christmas count has taken place since at least 1961, but the CBC can trace its roots in the U.S. all the way back to 1900, putting it in its 123rd consecutive year. For a sense of how the tradition has grown, during last year's CBC, 1,871 distinct counts took place across the 50 states and Washington, D.C. This year's should be no different.

Groups that participate in the Christmas count must conduct it between Dec. 14 and Jan. 5, and each count covers a 15-mile wide circle of territory. On the designated day, volunteers divvy into groups that follow specific routes within those 15 miles. Those groups then venture forth and record as many birds as they can for as many hours as they are able.

Sheffer, captain of the South Sharon route for the past three years, reported that she had stayed up until 1 a.m. the previous night baking cookies for volunteers, which did little to hold her back during the 14-hour day. As we trekked through trails and drove along back roads, knowledge dispensed included tips and tricks for identification, the possible benefits of pair bonding for bird species, the habits of river otters, and the patterning of holes drilled by yellow-bellied sapsuckers. Paired with the stunning scenery at Sharon Audubon, it was a treat.

Birding through the countryside

From the Center, we hopped into a minivan and made our way to the Benton Hill Preserve, where a pair of sharp-shinned hawks were spotted, then onto Troutbeck before looping back along the Mill Brook river. On the quiet roads of the Northwest Corner and eastern Dutchess County, Sheffer would pull off to the shoulder and roll down the windows, from which our birding binocu-



PHOTO BY ELIAS SORICH

The evening roundup at the Sharon Audubon Center. Did anyone see a dark-eyed junco?

lars and large telephoto lenses would extend. Looking, probably, to passersby like some mysterious surveillance crew, we scoured the landscape for signs of wing and feather.

Keen-eyed Mackenzie Hunter, former intern at Sharon Audubon, made many seemingly impossible roadside sightings, picking out the well-camouflaged plumage of perching red-tailed hawks and Carolina wrens from a tangled and woody backdrop. A quick flash of red, black and white alerted us to a Pileated Woodpecker, which we peered at for nearly 10 minutes.

As Sheffer, Hunter, Marris and I covered our route, 22 other volunteers and Sharon Audubon employees were out and about on similar adventures. Citizen science efforts like the Trixie Strauss CBC rely on community participation en masse to collect data that, over the span of decades, can paint a picture of macro-level changes occurring to bird populations.

As a result of the differing skill levels of volunteers — all are encouraged to join the Trixie Strauss CBC — these data sets cannot necessarily be relied upon for more granular study. But according to Zachary Adams, data compiler for the Trixie Strauss CBC, the length and size of the Christmas Bird Count is what makes the information precious to the scientific community.

"It serves as this really big, long-term data set, and we just don't have many data

sets that compare ... It can be used to say, 'Oh, there are noticeable changes in this giant data set,' which can spawn a whole new set of questions for future study."

During the 2021 Christmas Bird Count, 39,001,827 individual birds were observed across the nation, representing the collective work of 51,181 participants. If the initial numbers for 2022 are any indication — as of this writing, 274 counts were compiled, with 4,478,050 birds counted — the 123rd CBC will continue that tradition of robust citizen science.

Though the data contained within those numbers might be more telling on a macro level, Adams, speaking after the event, indicated that hints of interesting national trends are still visible within the data collected during the Trixie Strauss CBC.

"I definitely have noticed some of the trends that are talked about. We've had low counts of dark-eyed juncos, which, like almost every other forest-dwelling bird species, are in decline. Those changes are noticeable, just visually looking at the data.

"It's likely that, this year, we'll break our circle record for Carolina wren, northern mockingbird, and probably American kestrel and hermit thrush. So that's four species that we might get high counts for, which is interesting for species that are right on the edge of their wintering range in Sharon. It's possible that if those are increasing trends regionally or in the last 30 years, that there might be

something to say about the winter populations of those species."

Bird-bragging and evening chili

As the sun began to set, we in Sheffer's group attempted to wring a last few hot spots out of the day, lucking into a local bird feeder where chickadees, nuthatches, downy woodpeckers and a few purple finches were among the species spotted.

After that, it was back to the Center to participate in the final tradition of the CBC: the evening count-up. Fueled with chili provided by

Eileen Fielding, center director at Sharon Audubon, the roughly 10-15 participants left standing after a tiring day in the field gathered in the rustic and warm nature center to swap stories, brag about coveted sightings, submit data, and chow down.

As Adams ran down the list of species likely to show up during the winter season, each group would raise their hands if they had made a sighting. Certain birds, such as the red crossbill, elicited near-cheers while others, when no hands were raised, elicited murmurs, sighs or even an "Oh, wow, really?"

While endearing, these responses also tell a sad story. Many species native to the region, such as the American kestrel, have declined steeply in number over the previous century and into this one. Decimated by habitat loss and disrupted by the ecosystem changes brought on by invasive species, many birds beloved by birders are far rarer to spot than they once were.

The volunteers at the Trixie Strauss CBC seemed keenly aware of these trends. By and large well-informed enthusiasts with decades of birding experience under their belts and years of regional conservation efforts

behind them, the CBC represents a compelling opportunity for such folk to both contribute to a growing understanding of the ecological shifts occurring across the country and also to witness those changes first-hand on the local level.

In spite of the existential concerns in the room, the atmosphere as the evening closed out was warm and familiar. As much as anything, the opportunity to share a love of birds and a passion for the natural world is what brought the community out in force. Adams, a bird enthusiast from a young age, spoke to feelings of connection that such traditions can engender.

"The Christmas Bird Count is happening in places all across the world, and that's really cool. Just the fact that there're so many people out birding in this window of time, you get this big connection with people. It's fascinating."

With all said and done, the species count for the day rang in at 79, far above the previous year's total of 66 and a couple notches up from 2019's total of 73. A cause for celebration? A single data point in a larger downward trend? We might not know for another couple of decades.

HOSPITAL

Continued from Page A1

closing of Labor and Delivery again dominated headlines.

Throughout the year, Nuvance communicated its transformative plan through numerous community in-person and online forums, with a clear and consistent message: Its goal is focused on growth and a sustainable future for Sharon Hospital.

Nuvance leadership has maintained that the cuts are financially necessary and that in order for Sharon Hospital to remain open and stable in the long term, it needs to staunch the bleeding of red ink to the tune of \$41 million annually, a situation described as "unsustainable" in an independent analysis from the hospital consulting firm Stroudwater Associates.

As part of its plan, Nuvance has been boosting investment in key services tailored to the demographic it serves, which is an older population, on average, than Connecticut and national averages.

SSH has argued that Nuvance is not accounting for the population growth that

took place during the COVID pandemic as evidenced by a rise in Region One school enrollment, nor is it taking into account the need for residents in the communities it serves to have safe, local access to healthcare, including pregnant women who would face up to an hour's drive to another hospital to deliver their babies.

Those opposed to the hospital's plans contacted state and local officials through signed letters and petitions, attended numerous rallies and public forums organized by SSH leading up to a marathon public hearing held Dec. 6 by the state on the requested closure.

During the nearly 12-hour online forum, hospital officials reiterated their position that labor and delivery is a low volume service and is economically unviable, and that its closure is critical to its overall plan to expand and add other vital services tailored to the community's needs.

SSH, which appeared from Sharon Town Hall as

intervenors on the Zoom hearing, argued that transporting pregnant women in emergency situations to other hospitals is a poor substitute, especially given the terrain of Northwest Connecticut and Dutchess County, New York, and the severe winters.

SSH further took issue with the hospital's claims of major financial losses, and questioned the ability of Sharon Hospital's emergency room doctors to handle difficult maternity cases.

A running tally of the public comments, many from former or current medical professionals and elected officials as well as people with emergency services experience, showed 10 supporting the hospital's plan and 27 opposing.

Witnesses for SSH who spoke at the public hearing included State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64), Kent First Selectman Jean Speck, and Sharon First selectman Brent Colley.

A decision by OHS on Nuvance's pending application is expected in 2023.

HOUSING

Continued from Page A1

which requires all towns in Connecticut to create a housing plan every five years.

Throughout the year, numerous forums and "conversations" with affordable housing advocates and the public were held. One such event in May was moderated by documentary filmmaker Bill McClane and featured a discussion between longtime affordable housing advocate Maggie Coley and urban planning and New York University policy professor Ingrid Gould Ellen.

The talk, which drew about 65 attendees, focused on ways Cornwall can create affordable housing that supports a "gentle density increase" in town by amending zoning regulations, helping homeowners renovate homes to increase occupancy and assisting seniors with making their homes livable to help them age in place.

In late May, Salisbury's housing efforts got a huge shot in the arm when former first selectman and longtime resident Jim Dresser donated a five-acre parcel situated 200 yards from Salisbury Village to the nonprofit Salisbury Housing Committee (SHC) as a potential site for affordable housing.

Two months and several public meetings later, a proposal to use town-owned property for access to a proposed affordable housing development on the property was overwhelmingly approved by a town meeting vote of 291 to 50, allowing the project to move forward.

Also last year, the construction of 10 new affordable housing rental units at the Sarum Village III Project on Cobble Road in Salisbury moved one step closer to breaking ground when Salisbury selectmen approved a request from the Salisbury Housing Committee for \$20,000 to go toward the construction of the new Sarum units.

Currently, the Sarum Village complex comprises 24 rental units built over two phases. Once complete, the Sarum Village III project will bring rentals at the site to 34.

The SHC also acquired the Lakeview Apartments building on Millerton Road.

Salisbury Selectmen also gave a nod to a request from the Salisbury Housing Trust for \$10,000 from the Affordable Housing Fund to renovate a recently purchased home at 70 East Main St.

In October, a Litchfield

County Housing Affordability Summit Kickoff event in Goshen drew about 80 people, including state and local officials, regional housing groups, representatives of nonprofit organizations, housing advocates and interested citizens.

The purpose of the event was to "facilitate a regional response" to presenting affordable housing in Litchfield County, said Jocelyn Ayer the director of the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity, who referred to the need as a "big and urgent challenge" heading into 2023.

BRIDGE

Continued from Page A1

across. Hodge continued to proceed all the way, continuing to hear loud banging noises, he told troopers. He then proceeded to Route 7 and parked. Troopers issued an enforcement action. The Connecticut Department of Transportation, which advised the bridge will be closed until repairs can be made, set up detours at both Route 128 and 125 and Route 4 and 7 intersections.



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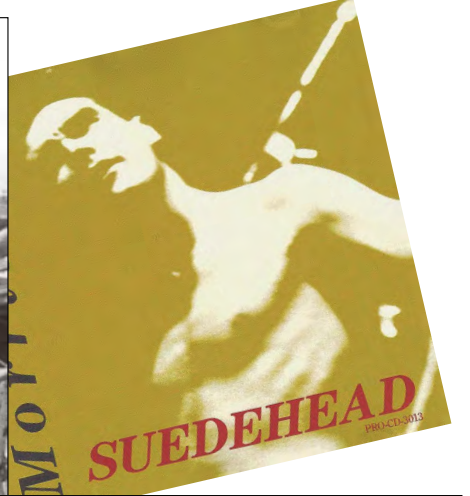
Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

FILM: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Where are the working class teens in cinema?

In 1969 two working-class teenage lovebirds travel to West London on a date to see the post-Oscars run of Carol Reed's Best Picture-winning musical "Oliver!" As low on London's food chain as Dickens' 19th-century pickpocketing orphans — Del (Del Walker) is a 17-year-old welding apprentice who engages in small-time larceny, while Irene (Anne Gooding) is a high school student who dreams of a typing job — they are disheartened to discover they don't have enough money for movie tickets. With few options for places to spend time together, they head to a chain burger joint. This is the rare youth-centered film where the inability to afford something isn't a tragedy or a sign of moral failure, but a typical reality for real people with real economic limits.

Barney Platts-Mills' 1970 film "Bronco Bullfrog," shot in London's East End using non-actors, is a matter-of-fact observational artifact of a time and place, an almost anthropological archive of the mundanity of working-class life far removed from the attention-nabbing scene of sexual liberation and fashionable consumerism. The jocular gang of Cockney boys, often subtitled to help audiences pierce through their thick accents, awkwardly fumble toward a kind of courtship with the mini skirt-clad girls they come across. Scenes hold the silence of inarticulate flirtation while Director of Photography Adam Barker-Mill floods the screen with moody monochrome shots of East London's smoky urban landscape. It's



more realism than romanticism, like if the wordy lovelorn Parisians of Godard's New Wave "Masculin Féminin" had never read a lick of Marx.

"What I love about the film is that it's universal, it's about kids falling in love and wanting to get out of their boring life, but conversely it's super specific within this culture of East London," Gabriele Caroti told me. His production company Seventy Seven bought the scarcely-seen film from the British Film Institute with the hope of giving it a second life fifty years after its brief theatrical run. Currently available for streaming on Criterion Channel, Seventy Seven has taken "Bronco Bullfrog" on an arthouse tour, including at Film Forum in New York last year and an upcoming screening at Nighthawk Cinema in Brooklyn.

Caroti, who splits his time between New York City and Sharon, Conn.,

is the former Director of BAMcinématek. He said he was originally drawn to the film for its ties to the musical subcultures of the 1960s, specifically "reggae, the early suedehead scene, and the skinhead scene, which was all working-class kids listening to ska music. But the kids in this film aren't really into all that. 'Bronco Bullfrog' turns out to not really be about the music, yet the movie evokes a time period that's the opposite of a Swinging London or Carnaby Street — it's real. I was drawn to it from a subculture perspective, but it turned out to be very different from what I expected."

Listeners of Morrissey might be familiar with the singer's 1980s track

"Suedehead," titled after the working-class youth culture of the '60s. These boys were known for the look seen in the film — mopy bad-Beatles shag cuts, brogues and other dress shoes, along with collared shirts and wool cardigans. Fairly dressy attire for the affable delinquents who aren't above a break-in or two. Platts Mills' boys aren't entirely satisfied with the limitations of their lot — manual labor, little pay, and the threat of incarceration ready to slap them down — but they're also refreshingly resigned to the smallness of their lives.

but it's not bleak," Caroti said.

"Bronco Bullfrog" doesn't warn us about troubled youth the way S.E. Hilton did in her novel "The Outsiders," later adapted for the screen by Francis Ford Coppola, or attempt to frighten the world with lurid authenticity like Larry Clark and Harmony Korine's 1995 film "Kids." The suedeheads don't have any run-ins with the recognizable cultural figures of the decade like the young fame-chasers in Paul Thomas Anderson's "Licorice Pizza" and they don't leave town for a new life at college, like

FILM STILL COURTESY OF SEVENTY SEVEN. POSTER COURTESY OF MOVIESTILLSDB

at the end of Greta Gerwig's "Ladybird." Much of the character's prospects in life remain the same by the end of the film, and there's a dignity in their understanding that this is the only life they'll know — a far cry from Oliver Twist's ascension to the comforts of the gentry.

Twenty-five years old when he directed "Bronco Bullfrog," Barney Platts-Mills meant to create something accessible, reflecting the Cockney culture of London as it really was. These days, egalitarianism in the entertainment field is hotly debated online — populism vs elitism — enough for the Oscars to toy with a "Popular Film" category, suggesting there was a stark divide between the films deemed artistically worthy of praise and the films people actually went to see. There is some irony that the studio films made for hundreds of millions of dollars would be seen as belonging to "the people," while arthouse cinema, with little financial backing, is meant for the elite. Studio blockbusters hold appeal as escapist fantasies, but as the levels of income inequality grow to extraordinary heights and the middle class continues to decline, where are the stories of normal life among the working class?

"Bronco Bullfrog" will screen on Saturday, Jan. 7, with an introduction by writer and critic Sasha Frere-Jones at The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y.





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BRONCO BULLFROG: Sat. January 7 @ 6:30 PM
With intro by Sasha Frere-Jones

ALL THAT BREATHE: Sun. January 8 @ 2 PM
With intro and Q&A. Presented with: 

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Sports

A year filled with cheers for the Mountaineers

By Hunter O. Lyle,
Riley Klein,
and Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Sydney Segalla was the primary topic of conversation in the world of Housatonic Valley Regional High School sports in 2022.

Heading up a girls basketball team that went deep into the state tournament, Segalla hit the 1,000 point career mark during an away game against Litchfield High School on Jan. 31. In the 83 years of school history, only 10 HVRHS athletes have achieved this benchmark.

Segalla finished with a total of 1,183 points, fifth overall for points in program history.

"I think it was such a big deal for me because everyone knows me for soccer, so then to show that I can do this in basketball too — I was really happy," Segalla said. "I wasn't always planning on playing [basketball] for all four years, because of soccer, but I'm really happy that I did."

In July, Segalla was named Connecticut's Gatorade State Player of the Year.

The award, which honors student-athletes who not only show prowess in their sports but also in their education and community work, is given out to one athlete in every state plus the District



PHOTO BY HUNTER O. LYLE

Sydney Segalla (13, center) celebrated with her basketball teammates after a March 4 tournament victory over Windsor Locks High School. Segalla won the Gatorade State Player of the Year in 2022 for her efforts in track and field.

of Columbia. Segalla won, not for soccer or basketball, but for track and field.

"The most astonishing thing is that this is her first year running track," said HVRHS Athletic Director Anne MacNeil.

Segalla also earned a soc-

cer scholarship at Boston College.

The girls basketball team had a good showing in the state tournament, winning the first two games before dropping a 40-25 decision on the road vs. Coventry on March 8. Both Segalla and

Tori Dodge received Berkshire League All-League honors, with Segalla making First Team All-League and Dodge earning a spot on the Second Team All-League. Also this season, coach Steve Dodge reached his 100th victory, and now sits at 104 wins.

The Gilbert/Northwest-ern/HVRHS Yellowjackets

co-op football team finished the regular season with a six-game winning streak, and a league record of 7-1.

Starting with a 41-7 home win vs. Oxford Oct. 7, GNH went on a tear, winning their next five games, often by lopsided final scores.

In the regular season, the Yellowjackets outscored their

opponents 433-168.

In the state tournament (Class SS) GNH began with a 34-0 victory on the road against Windham High School, but the team met their match Dec. 4 in the semifinal showdown versus the Valley Regional/Old Lyme (VROL) Warriors in Deep River, losing 26-14.

Four area teams compete in winter holiday tournament

By Riley Klein

TORRINGTON — Four area high school basketball teams faced off over the holiday break for the 2nd annual Winter Tournament in Torrington.

The cross-conference showdown featured the Housatonic Valley Regional High School Mountaineers, Gilbert High School Yellowjackets, O'Brien Technical High School Condors, and Wolcott Technical High School Wildcats.

HVRHS opened the tournament with a game against Gilbert on Tuesday, Dec. 27. With a limited bench, Mountaineer coach Kurt Johnson started one senior, one junior, one sophomore and two freshmen.

Gilbert got off to a hot start and secured a 20-point lead by halftime. The Yellowjackets kept their foot on the gas the whole game as they pressed full court on the Mountaineers and forced turnover after turnover.

Gilbert won in the end with a final score of 74-33.

In the game between tech schools later that day, Wolcott defeated O'Brien 55-43.

As Gilbert advanced to



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

The HVRHS Mountaineers matched up against the Gilbert Yellowjackets on Tuesday, Dec. 27, as part of the Winter Tournament in Torrington.

the championship game versus Wolcott, HVRHS was relegated to the concession game against O'Brien Tech on Thursday, Dec. 29.

The Mountaineers once again faced a full-court press that they could not answer.

After putting up only three points in the first quarter, the young Housatonic squad went back to the drawing board.

"Work together to get the ball," said Coach Johnson as he rallied the team.

As the game went on, the Mountaineers moved the ball well and found good looks down-court. They didn't shy away from contact and earned their points on the free-throw line, led by senior guard Carter Sneller who scored a team-high 12-points and hit 8 of 11 from the stripe.

Housatonic's momentum came too late and O'Brien Tech could not be caught. The Condors secured third place in the tournament with a 56-29 victory over the Mountaineers.

As for the championship game, Wolcott Tech prevailed over Gilbert in a 65-58 win.

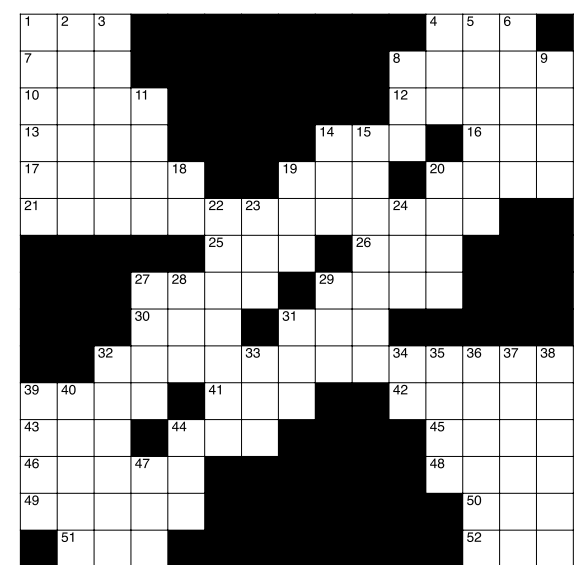
Next year the Winter Tournament will be hosted by HVRHS and will feature the same four schools.



Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

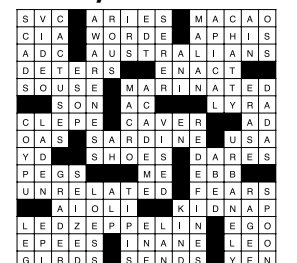
1. Basics
4. Swiss river
7. Constrictor snake
8. Building occupied by monks
10. Discount
12. Deal a blow to
13. Relating to the ear
14. Thyrotropin
16. Loud, unpleasant noise
17. Large intestines
19. Move with a curving trajectory
20. Witnesses
21. You need both to live
25. Dash
26. Network
27. Dig
29. C. European river
30. Supplement with difficulty
31. Corporate executive
32. Carroll O'Connor's onscreen wife
39. No variation
41. Airborne (abbr.)
42. "Heidi" author
43. Affirmative
44. Pie ___ mode
45. W. Asian country
46. Grotesque or bizarre
48. Delicacy (archaic)
49. Textile
50. Denial
51. Electronic data processing
52. Attempt



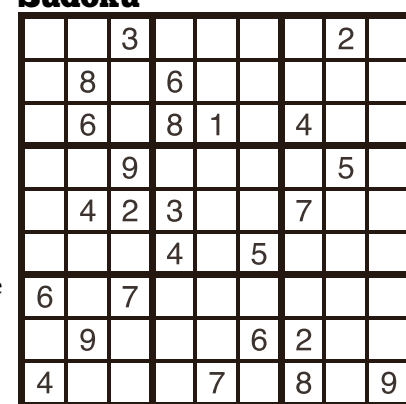
9. Hankerings
11. Outer
14. One-time aerospace firm
15. Seafood
18. Commercial
19. Epoxy hardener (abbr.)
20. Samoan monetary unit
22. Type of gland
23. Arrest
24. Check
27. Past participle of be
28. Alias
29. A major division of geological time
31. Kids programming channel (abbr.)
32. Joked
33. Helps little firms
34. Roman numeral 50

35. Impressive in size or scope
36. Domineering leader
37. A person who delivers a speech
38. One after 89
39. Young hawk
40. The scene of any event or action
44. A team's best pitcher
47. Integrated data processing

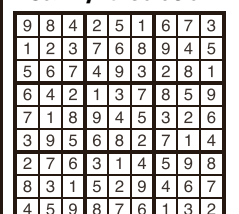
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EDITORIAL

Teachers need support and recognition

While many professions have had unique challenges during the pandemic, teaching is one that all of us should pay close attention to now. It has become harder and harder to recruit new people to teach (though Region One has been fortunate to find many new teachers for the 2022-23 school year).

Why? There is more intense opportunity to acquire illness in the Petri dish of schools, with so many children of all ages as well as adults bringing in viruses and passing them among one another. This year has been particularly challenging with the flu, RSV and COVID all floating around us, as well as what we used to call the common cold, which seems so quaint now.

That is tough for teachers, not only because they themselves are exposed, but because their students disappear from class at any time for more extended periods of time than was usual before COVID took over human society.

Another aspect of challenges for teachers: The danger of school shootings has changed the way American schools operate since the attack at Columbine High School in 1999. The activity of running regular active shooter drills alone in all classrooms, from preschool on up, has dramatically changed the way students and their educators experience their school days and their lives.

There's no easy way to solve this, but as those in authority try to find ways, it could help if we are all aware and offer gratitude and support to the educators we know. Their goal is to teach our children how to best handle their lives, gathering tools to face whatever obstacles arise as they try to achieve their goals. The least we all can do is try to understand teachers' challenges and recognize their successes with their students every day.

While Kent was considering having a state trooper in its elementary school, the voters in town decided that was not the best route to take to keep the school safe and support educators and students. And many teachers say they themselves would not want to be armed in school, that it wasn't what they trained for in preparing to be educators. So again, the answers aren't simple.

But in the aftermath of the 10-year anniversary of the Sandy Hook massacre of 20 six- and seven-year-olds and six adults in Newtown, it should now be time for the government to ban assault weapons. Both our Connecticut senators are active in trying to get that legislation passed, and the president is supportive. It would have made a big difference in many of the most lethal mass shootings if the weapons used hadn't been rapid fire and high volume in rounds released.

If the message is it's just too late, there are too many weapons out there already, we may as well call our society a loss.

Support families in need throughout the region

I tend to be rather quiet about which organizations Tent supports, but recently over family dinner I had an interesting conversation with my husband and twin girls about who benefits from that silence. At the end of the discussion, my husband Michael said, "If you don't let anyone know who you support, how will people learn about these worthy organizations and perhaps choose to donate to them too?"

Every year for the past couple of years, Tent has sponsored backpacks for the children of families served by the Food of Life Food Pantry

in Amenia, N.Y. Michael and I, along with our daughters, would put together approximately 150 backpacks filled, not with presents and toys, but with shampoo, socks, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Basic essentials. Things these local kids really needed but didn't have.

This year, in an effort to empower parents and families, the priest at St. Thomas' suggested that, instead of creating the backpacks, Tent would simply donate a gift card to each family in order for them to buy what they would like for their children.

Of course, this was a wonderful idea — but it presented a quandary. Part of the joy for Michael and me has been the activity of putting together these special backpacks every year with our girls. It has become part of our Christmas tradition and something we really enjoyed doing together as a family.

It was also important to us for our daughters to see how rewarding it is to make an effort to do something meaningful for others. In the end, we decided that this year we'll have to find other things to do together because we believe that empowering families with the means to provide for their own children is a simple, yet much more powerful gift.

Food of Life Pantry is right here in our backyard and is a worthy cause in need of support. Tent is honored to sponsor this vital work and I encourage you to consider including Food of Life Food Pantry in your giving this year. I can guarantee firsthand that your donation, whatever the size, will have an immediate and lasting impact. Go to stthomasamenia.com.

Darren Henault
Founder, Tent New York

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — January 1923

Mr. and Mrs. James Marston of Copake spent last week end at Fred Marston's in Salisbury.

Walter Loucks Jr. of Lakeville spent Sunday with his grandmother in Lime Rock.

Fishing through the ice is

the sport of the local nimrods these days.

Little Florence Crippen had the misfortune to fall on the ice in front of the post office last Friday and fracture her right forearm just below the elbow.

Have you litchted to write 1923 yet?



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

A fine winter's walk at Sharon Audubon

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Florida governor DeSantis officially on a roll

The freshness of a new year can be crushed by stale, insipid attacks of not just insults but of fatal harm spawned among a number espousing violence including lone wolves, a, conspiratorial green woman, and an Ivy League official condemning health saving guidance and amazing vaccines with unsubstantiated claims of foul play. Florida's governor steam rolls Covid lifesaving methods, medications, and the professionalism of thousands of medical practitioners while refusing to disclose his own personal behaviors regarding protection of his family and himself during a pandemic he denies. Viktor Orban used Covid in 2020 in Hungary to extend his powers — many liken DeSantis pugnacity to Orban power initiatives.

Over a million Americans have died in the U.S. Covid pandemic — a virus not yet truncated here or globally. In Florida, about 3,500 die in car incidents annually, so Covid, taking 83.6 thousand Floridian lives over the past three years, is significant. DeSantis has not questioned auto deaths in his state or rescinded seat belts and airbags — as yet manufacturers of these devices haven't pierced his thin skin as have Mickey and Pluto.

Florida teachers, schools are DeSantis targets, victims of his wrath. The governor winds up, throws his body against individual teachers and Stop the WOKE Act, insisting that the American Revolution was solely responsible for the movement to abolish slavery. Absurd DeSantis idiocy from a Yale man — the Brits abolished slavery on their ships in 1807, invoked full emancipation in 1832, while the U.S. in 1860 engaged in a Civil War killing 620,000 men (6 million in 2022 equivalency) over the issue/advancement of slavery. The U.S. abolished slavery in 1865.

DeSantis, over his years as Florida governor, has emerged as an unwieldy tyrant who relishes bullying teachers, doctors, kids, gays, transgenders, Disney and immigrants entering Texas. DeSantis denies health, demonizes discovery, distorts data, deceives, distorts, dissembles, disinforms, dupes.

Already DeSantis is puffing up to compete with his 99\$ lard card mentor, sharpening his piercing untruths for a base he seeks, he successfully woes, and who, regardless of its loyalty, fails to constitute a national electorate as Trump has demonstrated from 2016 to 2022.

In assessing leadership credentials of would-be-Presidential contenders, it is imperative to retain a full portrait of the candidate — views, beliefs, actions, positions on salient issues over time — the full reel rather than just current snapshots. DeSantis's resume is replete with headline grabbing proclamations, dismissals, accusations, untruths and it but the beginning of 2023 — more surely to come. Be wary, remember his full cadre of "credits."

"But could not our situation be compared to one of a menacing epidemic? People are unable to view this situation in its true light, for their eyes are blinded by passion. General fear and anxiety create hatred and aggressiveness. The adaptation to warlike aims and activities has corrupted the mentality of man; as a result, intelligent, objective and humane thinking has hardly any effect and is even suspected and persecuted as unpatriotic." — Albert Einstein

Kathy Herald-Marlowe

Sharon

How to celebrate 2023

As we see in the new year
We should be of good cheer
But our country is divided
And common sense derided
Elsewhere In the world it's worse
Putin is the curse
Waging war just for his ego
His brain size of a mosquito
Here at home it's no better
It's time to send a letter
To Trump to report
At once to the court
To be sentenced to years in prison
So hope can be newly arisen
Now we march into twenty-three
Optimism must be the key.

Michael Kahler

Lakeville

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Continued next page

Viewpoint

Designing a prison at Guantánamo for the short term, now over 20 years old, with no end in sight

A monumental miscalculation

Part one of two

Many readers do their utmost to forget that America continues to hold captive 35 Muslim men at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. But as the 20th anniversary of the prison has just passed, I thought it appropriate to write this reminder. It's a problem that won't go away until our nation finally deals with its vestiges. Originally, the United States imprisoned almost 800 men and boys there, while indulging in fantasies such as they're the "worst of the worst." But fabulist bubbles have a way of bursting. George W. Bush quietly released several hundred of the prisoners, and Barack Obama transferred out a couple hundred more. Currently, 35 prisoners remain. Twenty have been approved for transfer (though actualizing a transfer authorization often takes years, sometimes several); 12 fall under the purview of the military commissions: three have been convicted, and nine — including the five 9/11 defendants, whose case has continued seemingly forever in that their torture has complicated the case enormously — who are yet to be tried; and three never-charged but nonetheless imprisoned men. Sen. Dick Durbin, chair of the Judiciary Committee, had this to say about the last category: "Holding people without charge or trial for years on end cannot be reconciled with the values we espouse as a nation..."

(My client, known as Abu Zubaydah, is one of the three; I will write about him in Part Two.)

Yet given the aging prisoner population, the brutal torture inflicted on many of them that guarantees significant health

problems (both physical and mental), and other considerations, the U.S. is now trapped in an ever-more-dire financial disaster. Recently, the military was forced to abandon the ultra-secret maximum-security Camp 7, where the so-called "high-value detainees" had been held. The camp cost \$17 million to build, but then it began to crumble.

Raw sewage sloshed through the tiers, the power sometimes went out, and some cell doors would not close. Elsewhere, fungus was growing in a new \$10 million "tiny-house village" being assembled at the military court compound to house lawyers. An M.R.I. device, which had cost \$1.65 million in 2012, suffered a "catastrophic failure" from neglect during the pandemic; the plan to lease a replacement may drag on for months. In another part of the base, construction of a \$115 million dormitory is a year behind schedule.

The cost of the Guantánamo prison has been staggering. To date, \$7 billion has been spent on it. "At Guantánamo, they continually put Band-Aids on instead of coming up with realistic solutions," said retired Brig. Gen. John G. Baker, who formerly oversaw military defense teams at the prison.

The facility costs \$540 million per year to operate, including about \$100 million for military commissions. That comes to \$15 million for each prisoner, when, for example, a year at the Supermax federal prison at Florence, Colo., costs the government (actually, us taxpayers) only \$78,000. I believe that no prisoner has ever escaped from a Supermax prison.

But Congress, playing politics as usual (these men are so-o-o dangerous), continues to block any transfer of a

Guantánamo prisoner to the U.S. mainland, no matter how securely he will be held. The Biden administration is trying to untie that Gordian Knot. Negotiations, which have been ongoing since at least March 2022, have continued between the prosecution and defense teams in the 9/11 case. The deal would center on guilty pleas by the defendants in exchange for the prosecution dropping its request for the death penalty. I can offer no prediction on whether they might succeed. But if they do succeed, will Congress, at long last, drop its posturing, and permit the prisoners to spend the rest of their days at a Supermax prison, so it can cease burning its taxpayers' dollars?

If the negotiations fail, it is anyone's guess when the trial will begin. On March 20, 2022, The New York Times's indispensable Carol Rosenberg stated that "jury selection cannot start before mid-2024 — and that is according to the most optimistic estimate." The case began for the second time on May 5, 2012. (The first charges had been dismissed, with the prosecution having the right to file new ones.)

Biden has appointed a special representative, Tina Kaidanow, to focus on finding a home for those cleared for transfer. But, alas, unlike the similar representative appointed by Obama, Ms. Kaidanow does not report directly to the Secretary of State.

Salisbury's Charles Church is a lawyer who serves as co-counsel for Abu Zubaydah, on whom Part Two will focus. His comments, of course, reflect his own views, and not those of this newspaper. Church offers special thanks to Carol Rosenberg, who has been reporting on matters relating to the Guantánamo prisoners since January 2002, four months after 9/11. Many of the facts in this piece were reported by her.

FIELD NOTES FROM A BATTLEGROUND

CHARLES R. CHURCH

Communities are the key to the survival of local journalism

"...and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter"

— Thomas Jefferson (1787)

The internet has introduced a brave new world for consumers worldwide, but it has also created enormous challenges for local journalism.

Whether or not your local newspaper survives in the years ahead, is up to you.

We are in the third decade of a continuing collapse in print media. Suffice it to say that without outside help, thousands of communities will end up with no access to local news. This is happening at a time when threats such as climate change, health emergencies, and political turmoil will make local news vitally important to all of us.

Two areas, advertising

and subscriptions, have traditionally provided the lion's share of sales and profits for newspapers. Both have suffered from the internet incursion by internet giants such as Google and Facebook. Social media now controls more than 75% of locally focused digital advertising revenue. The lion's share of those revenues is lost forever to print newspapers.

Fundamentally, digital advertising offers a greater reach to consumers at sub-

stantially lower costs. How low? As far back as 2015, the cost to advertisers to reach

400,000 readers on Google Search was \$16 versus the Los Angeles Times print costs of \$40,000, according to a white paper on local journalism by the U.S. Senates Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

To make matters worse, dominant internet players aggregate local news content and data for their own sites, while forcing local newspapers to accept little-to-no compensation for their journalism output and intellectual property. If an individual newspaper squawks, they will soon find themselves cut off from what little revenue stream they can eke out from these giants.

In response, print journalism has scrambled to develop and enhance their own digital versions of the local newspaper with some success. But sadly, it will take years to fully grow that side of the business. In the meantime, how to survive is the burning question for print media.

Newspapers across the country have turned to the non-profit arena for help. The logic is unmistakable: newspapers contribute to the public good. Without them, American democracy may not survive, so receiving

support from foundations, donors, and the community at large makes a lot of sense.

However, tapping the non-profit market for funds is a stop gap measure at best.

It will require years to transition the traditional newspaper business model over to the digital arena. At the same time, the product side of the local news business will require even more investment. Advertising will likely become less of the revenue pie, which leaves new subscribers to carry the load.

Berkshire Eagle Publisher, Fred Rutberg, sees non-profit activity "as a potential way to get from point A to point B."

As for The Berkshire Eagle, "the challenge will be leveraging our strong base of print subscriptions, while increasing our digital subscriptions, when a whole generation of potential readers are accustomed to getting their news for free through the internet," Rutberg explained.

That may not prove to be as difficult as it sounds. I believe the impact of climate change on local conditions will create more demand for unbiased, in-depth local news. Fox News or CNN, for example, are not going to cover flooded bridge out-ings or down electric lines

on your local commute, or if brown drinking and bathing water presents a hazard to your town's health and welfare.

In summary, whether you are an individual reader, a business, or a non-profit entity, there are actionable avenues you can take right now to ensure the health of newspapers and your own well-being on the local level.

If you don't subscribe to your local newspaper, do so this week. Consider the money and investment in your own streaming service that will provide you unbiased, accurate and valuable information in the uncertain times ahead.

Advertise, advertise, and then advertise some more, if you are a business that depends on the local community for everything from customers to schools, to healthcare, and more. Finally, those who are considering donations to address critical issues, or are a local or national non-profit entity, get involved, establish links with your local paper, and provide the relief they need. Time is of the essence.

Bill Schmick is registered as an investment advisor representative of Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshire's. Bill's forecasts and opinions are purely his own and do not necessarily represent the views of Onota Partners, Inc. (OPI). Email him at bill@schmicks-retiredinvestor.com.

THE RETIRED INVESTOR

BILL SCHMICK



Cartoon by Anoush Froudjian

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

Continued from previous page

First Selectman and Mrs. William B. Barnett are leaving today to spend the remaining winter months in Florida. Mr. Barnett plans to "commute" between Florida and Connecticut, returning for a few days each month for selectmen's meetings and meetings of the board of directors of the National Iron Bank. This will be the Barnetts' first trip to the home they have had built at Fort Myers Beach, about 25 miles south of Fort Myers.

Falls Village now has a price tag to ponder on that 70

acre tract bordering the Hollenbeck River and viewed by town fathers as, among other things, a potential landfill site. The price, reached after two negotiating sessions with owner Stewart McMillan, is \$125,000. That is about twice the land's assessed value, but about \$40,000 less than the price Mr. McMillan reportedly asked in an earlier proposal.

Navy Seaman Recruit Candace L. Dakin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dakin of West Cornwall, has graduated from recruit

training at the Naval Training Center in Orlando.

25 years ago — January 1998

The "ice-in" date on Lake Wononscopomuc came Monday, Dec. 22, earlier than the average date of Jan. 4 for this event by nearly two weeks. Rodney Aller, who keeps track each year of when the lake freezes over, attributes the earlier date "possibly to El Niño."

A popular local gathering place reopened its tavern doors and kitchen facilities

this week to an eager public following the recent closing of the Falls Village Road House on Railroad Street. The Inn at Falls Village, as the business was known under a previous ownership, returns to town with Mark Wasdo, owner of AJ's Steak & Pizza in Goshen as the new proprietor.

These items were taken from The Lakeville Journal archives at Salisbury's Scoville Memorial Library, keeping the original wording intact as possible. For more, go to www.scovillelibrary.org.

Deadline for letters is Monday at 10 a.m. 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.

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Climate change is becoming a major concern for future planning in Connecticut. An excellent resource can be found in the CTDEEP website at portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/Residential-Buildings. There you will find information ranging from advice on making one's home more energy efficient to how to reduce your carbon footprint. Of particular interest may be the State sponsored programs offering energy assessments of your home and upgrades. To find out more, please visit: energizect.com/energy-evaluations/income-eligible-options.

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Our Towns

Severe drought gripped region in late summer

By Riley Klein

A summer of high temperatures and unusually low rainfall left the Northwest Corner in severe drought during the months of August, September and early October.

Area experts reported failing crops on farms, reduced landscaping activity, and exacerbated forests as trees struggled to recover from defoliation by Spongy moths in the spring.

Joan Nichols, executive director of Connecticut's Farm Bureau, detailed the challenges farmers experienced as a result of the drought.

"Some dairy and poultry farmers have had to ship water in, with others pulling water from the municipal water systems because their wells have gone dry," said Nichols.

The effects of a severe drought can linger into the following season, hindering farmers as they prepare for



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

The Blackberry River in North Canaan was running low in September.

next year.

"Hay production [was] way down," said Nichols. "Many farmers [were] unable to get a second cutting in."

Compounding stress factors have placed increased strain on wildlife and agriculture year after year. Whether it was caused by floods in 2021, spongy moths in spring 2022 or a late summer drought, the resilience of nature has been repeatedly put to the test.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Eileen Fielding, center director of the Sharon Audubon Center, on June 17 stood by a stately oak at the society's entrance that for two years has been stripped of leaves by spongy moth caterpillars.

Spongy moth attack made return in 2022

The Northwest Corner saw another damaging year of infestation by spongy moths in 2022.

Hardwood trees were defoliated on a wide scale after a hard-hitting attack in 2021 by the invasive insect, formerly named the gypsy moth before a name change that recognized it contained an ethnic slur.

Thanks to a strong feeding and breeding season in 2021, when healthy egg masses were deposited across the region, the hatch in 2022 was extensive.

"The hatch is the biggest I have ever experienced. Only a week old and they are already stripping leaves off the white oaks, their favorite meal. The webs are everywhere," Bruce Bennett of Cornwall, the tree warden of Kent, said in May.

"Our 2021 state-wide egg mass survey, especially in northwestern Connecticut, showed large amounts of spongy moth egg masses, which leads us to believe

there will be a continued hatch and extensive caterpillar activity in 2022," said Dr. Victoria Smith, deputy state entomologist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES).

Over the summer, whole hillsides turned brown, though by midsummer there were signs that many trees were getting a second wind and putting out new leaves.

Over 45,000 acres of forest in Litchfield County were defoliated by spongy moth in 2022, according to a recent tabulation by CAES. This followed a 40,000-acre defoliation in 2021 over much of the same area, centering on Sharon and Cornwall. Many of the trees hit hard by spongy moth two years in a row are likely to die.

Hardwoods most severely affected can generally regrow leaves once, although they become more susceptible to drought and disease. But the double punch is often fatal.

— Staff roundup

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