



The Lakeville Journal

TriCornerNews.com

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**Celebrating Our
125th Anniversary**

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



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) waited with supporters outside North Canaan Town Hall on Tuesday, Nov. 8, as voters arrived.

ELECTIONS 2022

Hayes hangs on for a third term

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — Jahana Hayes (D-5) won a third term in the U.S. House of Representatives (5th District) in the elections on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Incumbent Gov. Ned Lamont (D) and Lieutenant Gov. Susan Bysiewicz (D) led the way as Democratic candidates swept statewide offices: attorney general, secretary of the state, treasurer, and comptroller.

Lamont/Bysiewicz, running on

the Democratic, Working Families and Griebel Frank for Connecticut lines, received 709,772 votes (55.92%) to Republicans Bob Stefanowski and Laura Devlin's 547,090 votes (43.10%).

Attorney General William Tong (Democratic and Working Families) received 714,718 votes (57.08%). Republican Jessica Kordas received 518,569 votes (41.40%). The remainder was split between Independent and Green

See ELECTION, Page A8

Sharon voters approve Comcast's plan to expand internet service

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Seven years of effort to provide internet expansion throughout the town came to fruition on Thursday, Nov. 10, when residents gathered for a town meeting and resoundingly approved a proposal for a public-private partnership with Comcast.

The vote was 159 in favor and two opposed, with five abstentions.

By their action, voters approved entering into a contract with Comcast to provide \$1.6 million as the town's share of the cost of extending broadband internet along 28.5 miles of unserved roads to reach

250 unserved or underserved homes. Comcast has agreed to cover the balance of the project's costs.

Resident Patricia Chamberlain was elected to serve as moderator of the town meeting that was held at Sharon Center School to accommodate an expected large turnout.

Jill Drew, co-chair of the Sharon Connect Task Force, was present to field questions and provide project details.

Several residents praised the Task Force for its persistence in bringing the project to a town meeting vote.

Residents who spoke in favor of the partnership focused on the necessity for all homes to have access to robust and reliable internet service.

See COMCAST, Page A8



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN AND PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Saluting our Veterans

Students across the Northwest Corner met with military veterans to commemorate Veterans Day and learn about the experience of serving in the military. See stories and photos on pages A3, A4.



Sharon Hospital

Public hearing set for Dec. 6

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — The Connecticut Office of Health Strategies has set Tuesday, Dec. 6, as the date for the public hearing on the proposed closing of the labor and delivery unit at Sharon Hospital.

The hearing was originally scheduled in October but was

postponed.

The hearing is online, and begins at 9:30 a.m. Public comment begins at 3 p.m., and sign-up for speaking begins at 2 p.m.

The Zoom log info is:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/MeetingID:82873390892](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/https://us02web.zoom.us/j/MeetingID:82873390892)
Passcode: 736640
Dial in: 1 646 876 9923

The Save Sharon Hospital group, which opposes the closing of the labor and delivery unit, is holding three community roundtables before the public hearing:

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m. at the Cornwall Library; Tuesday, Nov. 22, 6:30 p.m. at Geer Village in North Canaan; and Thursday, Dec. 1, 6 p.m. at Troutbeck in Amenia.

Why invasive species matter

Every one of us is familiar with invasive species. They are the bright yellow dandelions dotting our lawns, the startlingly green honeysuckles spilling over our roadsides, and the swarming spongy moth caterpillars prematurely emptying our forest's canopy last summer. But what is it that makes these organisms so invasive in the first place?

Being an invasive species requires two things. First, the species must be nonnative, or from so far away that it only got here because people moved it. Second, the species must be invading, or causing harm to the place it has been moved to. People often disagree about how distant or harmful a species must be to truly count as invasive, but from an ecological perspective, a few nefarious culprits clearly stand out.

A healthy, well-functioning

See NATURE, Page A8



PHOTO BY ALISON ROBEY

**NATURE'S
NOTEBOOK**
ALISON ROBEY

A leaf of the invasive plant tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), the host plant of the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*).



See COMCAST, Page A8

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Regional

In The Journal this week

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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.

Collision at intersection

On Saturday, Nov. 5, at approximately 1:30 p.m. a 2015 Volvo XC70 driven by Dolores Shapiro, 85, of Great Neck, New York, was at the intersection of West Main Street and Route 41 in Sharon, and took a right hand turn, hitting a 2018 Ford Fusion driven by John Perotti, 75, of Sharon. There were no injuries. Shapiro was issued a written warning for failure to grant right of way at an intersection.

Salisbury Bank holds food drive

Salisbury Bank announced its 15th annual Fill-the-Basket food drive through Dec. 16.

All fourteen branches, located in Berkshire, Litchfield, Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties, will collect donations of non-perishable food items and household supplies. Cash donations will also be accepted.

All donated items as well as the monetary contributions collected will be donated directly to local food pantries serving each area.

Local pantries are in need of a variety of donations including, but not limited to:

Arrested on warrant

On Sunday, Nov. 6, at approximately 3 p.m., Mary E. Rickevicius, 45, of Goshen, was arrested on North Route 7 in Canaan on an arrest warrant for evading a motor vehicle accident resulting in injury and failure to grant right of way. Rickevicius was released on a \$500 non-surety bond.

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

canned goods, cereals, macaroni and cheese, cake mix, peanut butter, condiments, rice, and sauces.

Household necessities such as paper towels, diapers, shampoo, and soap are also appreciated.

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

Check them out inside.

- Herrington's
- Oblong Books
- Ocean State Job Lot



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Straight shot

After recent road work, Library Street in Salisbury is now a straight shot between Main and Railroad streets.

Kent Memorial Library hosts Thursday nights for young adults

KENT — Kent Memorial Library will hold a series of game and refreshment nights on the third Thursday of ev-

ery month for those who are 21 to 30 years in age starting on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 32 North Main St.

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

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

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Online This Week

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

Veterans Day at Salisbury Central School

Some 20 veterans came to Salisbury Central School for a Veterans Day assembly. See the video at www.tricornernews.com/multimedia.

Pickleball comes to Cornwall

Todd Piker led a pickleball clinic at the new court at Foote Field Saturday, Nov. 12. See the video at www.tricornernews.com/multimedia.

Falls Village filmmaker Sadeh hosted at Hunt Library Dec. 1

FALLS VILLAGE — On Thursday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. the David M. Hunt Library will host "Journey of a Young Filmmaker" with Falls Village resident Yonah Sadeh.

A film student at Bard College, Sadeh has produced films showcasing local farms, community art projects, student fiction works, and local issues such as affordable housing. He will talk about his love of film and the process of becoming a filmmaker, and will share two of his films, "Housing our Neighbors," a documentary short recently created for the Falls Village Housing Trust (See story, page A6) and "Lament," a narrative fiction piece that Yonah wrote and directed in 2021.

For more information, call 860-824-7424 or go to www.huntlibrary.org.

WELCOME

MARK A. TAYLOR, II, MD
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Specialty care in the Berkshires just got even better.

Dr. Taylor has joined East Mountain Medical Specialty Services, a Rural Health Clinic of Fairview Hospital, and provides minimally-invasive surgical care. His clinical interests include:

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- Breast cancer surgery
- Hernia repair
- Endoscopy
- Colonoscopy



For an appointment with Dr. Taylor, ask your primary care provider for a referral or call East Mountain Medical Specialty Services, 413-644-6499



Berkshire Health Systems

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC AUCTION

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, a public auction consisting of miscellaneous personal property, furniture and household goods will be held at Stor-It-All, Inc., 325 Ashley Falls Rd and 13 Clayton Rd, Canaan, CT 06018 at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, December 7, 2022. Stor-It-All, Inc. reserves the right to cancel a sale at any time, for any reason.

Since due notice has been given to the owners and all parties known to claim an interest therein, you are each notified your personal property will be sold unless all storage and related charges are paid in full.

13 Clayton Rd:
 15 - Leda Ida Blouin aka Leda Blouin

99 - Eric Carroll Hodge aka Eric C Hodge

325 Ashley Falls Rd:
 589Z - Justin C. Fechteler

Items to be sold as is, no warranty is expressed or implied. Items to be more specifically described at time of sale. Terms of payment: CASH or CERTIFIED CHECK.

Stor-It-All, Inc. P.O. Box 1105, Canaan, CT 06018.

11-17-22
 11-24-22

Legal Notice

Pursuant to Section 10-153d(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the ratified contract between the Kent Board of Education and the Kent Education Association, is on file in the Town Clerk's office for public inspection.

Dated at Kent, this 7th day of November, 2022.

Darlene Brady,
 Town Clerk
 11-17-22

Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following actions were taken by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on November 7, 2022:

Approved—Special Permit Application #2022-0200 by owner Ian Findlay, for a detached apartment on a single-family residential lot in accordance with Section 208 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 15 as Lot 58-1 and is located at 42 Prospect Mountain Road, Salisbury.

Approved—Application #2022-0201 by owner Abigail Raymond-Salaway, for a two-lot residential subdivision in accordance with the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 67 as Lot 7 and is located at 300 Between the Lakes Road, Salisbury.

Approved—Special Permit Application #2022-0204 by owner Janet Block for vertical expansion of a nonconforming residential building and attached apartment on a single-family residential lot in accordance with sections 503.2 and 208 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 54 as Lot 15 and is located at 4 Main Street, Salisbury.

Approved with

Conditions—Site Plan Application #2022-0206 by Salisbury School INC to construct two new two-family dwellings for faculty housing in accordance with the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 15 as Lot 41 and is located at 251 Canaan Road in Salisbury.

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

Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
 Martin Whalen, Secretary
 11-17-22

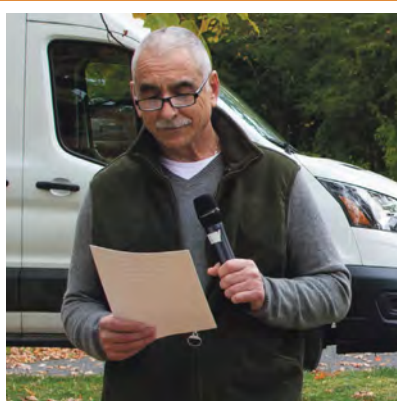
NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

JOHN W. CLOUSER, SR.
 Late of Falls Village (22-00437)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 4, 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 fiduciaries are:
 Kimberly J. Ketchen and John Clouser, Jr.
 c/o Donna D Vincenti Law Offices of Donna D Vincenti, Atty LLC
 12 Porter Street
 PO Box 1399
 Lakeville, CT 06039
 Beth L. McGuire
 Chief Clerk
 11-17-22

SAVE SHARON HOSPITAL



From the October 16 rally, L-R: Dr. Howard Mortman and Dr. David Kurish spoke

Community Roundtables

Learn what's happening at Sharon Hospital from the doctors themselves. Speakers include Dr. Howard Mortman, Dr. Edward Kavle, and Dr. David Kurish. No reservations needed.

The Cornwall Library:
Thursday, November 17 at 7pm
 30 Pine St., Cornwall, CT

Geer Village in Canaan:
Tuesday, November 22 at 6:30pm
 77 South Canaan Rd., Canaan, CT

Troutbeck in Amenia:
Thursday, December 1 at 5pm
 515 Leedsville Rd., Amenia, NY

There is still time! Testify at the Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 6

You still have time to testify against Nuvance's application to close Maternity.

- Submit your written testimony by emailing OHS@ct.gov any time before December 6
- The public hearing starts at 9:30am on December 6 via Zoom. **Public testimony begins at 3pm**, and you can sign up to speak starting at 2pm via Zoom (visit our website for link).

Learn more at www.savesharonhospital.org

Our Towns

Salisbury honors veterans

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — There were two Veterans Day ceremonies in Salisbury.

On Thursday, Nov. 10, 20 veterans came to the Salisbury Central School gym. The K-5 students sang to them and presented them with handmade expressions of gratitude.

The invitation was extended to all veterans, not just those living in Salisbury.

The veterans also took the microphone and gave their names and branches of service.

On Friday, Nov. 11, at the war memorial at Town Hall, about 40 people gathered for a concise ceremony.

Bill Morrill (Marines) led the Pledge of Allegiance and Barbara Schoenly read the invocation, dedicating it to the late Ron Solon.

Lloyd Wallingford sang "God Bless America," with the crowd joining in.

David Bayersdorfer spoke of how Veterans Day originated with Armistice Day after World War I.

"Today we honor all our veterans, who unselfishly placed their lives on the line for our freedom."



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

David Bayersdorfer explained the history and purpose of Veterans Day at Town Hall on Nov. 11.

The color guard was made up of Bill Becker (Army), Jerry Baldwin (Air Force), and Skyler Ohmen, a fifth grader at SCS and son of Chris Ohmen (Army).

Officiating was Chris Williams (Marines).

The veterans at SCS on Thursday, Nov. 10, were: Greg Emberline (Air Force), John Hill (Air Force), Chris Sorrell (Marines), Tom Key (Navy), Peter Oliver (Marines), David Bayersdorfer (Marines), Jerry Baldwin (Air Force), Randy Cannon (Air Force), Michael Kashmer (Army), Jason Panella (Army), Jim Kennedy (Coast Guard), Scott Salmon (Marines), Larry Conklin (Army), Don Stuber (Army), Marc Dittmer (Army), Chris Ohmen (Army), Don Hurlburt (Army), Carl Jenter (Army), Tracy Firth (Army), Peter Tuthill (Marines).

Cornwall students host Veterans Day

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — The students at Cornwall Consolidated School hosted seven local veterans of the armed forces on the morning of Thursday, Nov. 10, to commemorate Veterans Day.

The retired servicemen represented more than 40 years of combined service, ranging back to 1954 in the Korean War.

"I think it's great the kids are getting together to honor vets and learn about our past," said Army Colonel Kirk Harrington.

The eighth graders welcomed each veteran and took their breakfast order. The

students conversed with the veterans as they shared experiences about their service.

"What I like is the mutual recognition from kids and the realization of what the day means," said Dave Cadwell, who served as an Army medic in Vietnam.

The eighth graders then escorted the veterans to the gymnasium for a student-led ceremony. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and national anthem, each grade presented the servicemen with gifts of gratitude. Gifts included handmade bracelets from the first graders and the performance of an acrostic poem by the fifth graders.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Army veteran Bill Dougherty at the Veterans Day breakfast with grandchildren and Cornwall Consolidated School students Braelyn (8), Brynn (8) and Pierce (4).

Upon completion of the ceremony, the students broke into groups and were paired with a veteran to learn more about their experiences. Questions included: "Where were you stationed?" and "What vehicle did you ride

or fly in?" After the veterans regaled the students with tales from the past, the morning of education and gratification came to an end. "Thank you for your service!" exclaimed the children.

Sharon Center School meets veterans

By Leila Hawken

In a program organized by the Student Council in observance of Veterans Day, students at Sharon Center School (SCS) gathered for an assembly on Thursday, Nov. 10, to honor the service of two local veterans.

As it turned out, both veterans being honored for their service had children presently enrolled at the school, and 11 other veterans being individually recognized were relatives of students or staff, adding a sense of community.

Honored for their service were Stephen Valyou who had earned the rank of Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army and Tate Begley, who earned the rank of Sergeant in the U.S. Marines. Valyou is the father of SCS student Ashlynn, 9 (soon to be 10), and Begley is the father of SCS students Gunnar, 11, and Kora, 8.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Veteran Stephen Valyou was honored by students at Sharon Center School on Thursday, Nov. 10.

Valyou joined the military following the 9/11 attack, serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. He spoke of loss brought by wounds, the victim of sniper fire that impacted his spine and caused him to lose use of his legs. He had served as a skydiver

in the service. Before his injury, he had done 64 jumps, injured only once when he had broken a leg.

Other injuries endured and recovered from were due to exploding IUDs on occasion.

He told his audience that

his son and daughter have no memory of him when he could walk.

In June of 2016, Valyou was presented with a "Smart Home," in Millerton, fully handicapped accessible, presented to him and his family through the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. On move-in day, he recalled, the community turned out and saw him skydive into the front yard of his family's new home. Favorable wind conditions and good fortune combined with his skill and he hit his target, he said.

Representing the third generation of his family's military service, honoree Begley spoke of patriotism and his family's commitment to fighting for and protecting the country. He served for four years in the Marines.

Begley noted that this Veterans Day represents the 247th year in the history of the U.S. military.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Salisbury Central School students gave veterans handmade presents during a visit on Thursday, Nov. 10.

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THE SALISBURY FORUM

Where Ideas Matter

AMERICA'S CONSTITUTION: THE WORDS THAT MADE US AND ARE REMAKING US

Akhil Reed Amar
Yale Law School's Akhil Reed Amar will discuss the origins of America's Constitution in the late 18th century, and the link between this document and the jurisprudential earthquake that occurred at the end of the 2021 Supreme Court term in landmark cases involving abortion, guns, and religion.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2022 • 7:30 P.M.
Hotchkiss Walker Auditorium, Lakeville, CT
Admission free.
Please register for this event at www.salisburyforum.org.

A free copy of Prof. Amar's latest book, *The Words that Made Us: America's Constitutional Conversation, 1760-1840*, will be available to the first 125 who register and reserve a copy.

All persons are **required** to wear a face mask throughout the speaker event.

Find us on

www.salisburyforum.org

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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Falls Village veterans came to the Lee H. Kellogg School for a Veterans Day ceremony Wednesday, Nov. 9.

Kellogg School students salute veterans Nov. 9

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Five Falls Village veterans came to the Lee H. Kellogg School Wednesday morning, Nov. 9, for a Veterans Day ceremony.

The students sang two songs, “Proud of Our Vet-

erans” and “For the Good of the Many,” and the Kindergarten students performed a dance.

The veterans were Matt Gallagher (Navy), Patrick Hafner (Army), Lara Mit-
taud (Army), James Gulyas (Army), and Jeff Haegler (Army).

Millerton plan Festival of Lights

MILLERTON — Miller-
ton will hold its Annual Festival of Lights Weekend from Friday, Nov. 25 through Nov. 27.

Events kick off on Black Friday and go on throughout the entire weekend.

Schedule of events: Friday, Nov. 25

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Ice carving demonstration at Veteran’s Park.

11 a.m.: Free screening of “The Polar Express” at The Moviehouse (seats are first-come, first-served; show starts promptly at 11 a.m. and includes popcorn and beverage)

1:15 to 1:30 p.m.: Children’s raffle at Veteran’s Park. Prizes include: bicycles, scooters, gift baskets and gift certificates that have all been sponsored by various local businesses. Must be present to win.

1 to 3 p.m.: Cookie decorating and live music at North East Community Center, 51 S Center St.

1 to 4 p.m.: Hot cocoa and cookies at Veteran’s Park; and free hayrides (pickup at Veterans Park and Dutchess Ave.)

2:30-4:30 p.m.: Salisbury Brass Band at Veteran’s Park

5 p.m.: Festival of Lights Parade and tree lighting

OBITUARIES

Michael Loening

SALISBURY — Michael Loening, 91, of New York City and Salisbury died peacefully at home after a short illness. Born in 1930, he was a true gentleman, with impeccable manners and a gracious demeanor. “How wonderful!” was a phrase he often uttered, expressing genuine delight. He was described by many who knew him, including his friends, colleagues, the staff in his coop building, and car mechanic, as “the nicest, kindest person I ever met.”

A devoted husband, father and grandfather, he also absolutely loved being a lawyer. Never one to dream of retirement, he worked full time up until he fell ill, three weeks before his passing.

Highly respected in the field of international tax law, he was known for his meticulous attention to detail and thoroughness. For many years he was a partner in Everett, Johnson & Breckinridge, a boutique tax law firm in New York City. In 1995 he joined Leboeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae as of counsel, and in 2003 in the same role he joined Emmet, Marvin & Martin, one of the nation’s oldest continuously operating law firms. He

advised public and privately held international businesses in a variety of industries on complex U.S. corporate tax issues. He also advised U.S. and foreign nationals on a wide variety of U.S. income, gift and estate tax planning matters. In addition, he served as a trustee for numerous trusts and as a corporate board director.

A graduate of Loomis Chaffee School, Williams College and Harvard Law School, he was a sharp wordsmith and grammarian who edited all his son Brooke’s Personal Growth columns for The Lakeville Journal. He did yoga and lifted weights; he was accomplished bridge player and had a good game of chess.

He is survived by his wife Edith, of 60 years, his sons George and Brooke Loening, and his daughters-in-law Kimbrough Towles and Cybele Loening, and grandchildren, Heidi, Lola, Chloe, Luke and Ruby, as well as his sisters’ children, Peter and Annette Kerckhoff, and their families, in Germany.

To all who knew and loved him, he leaves a legacy of kindness, courtesy and integrity that will never be forgotten.

**More obituaries
appear on page A5.**

Send obituaries
to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

Robin Deitrick Dee

SALISBURY — Robin Deitrick Dee, 89, of Salisbury, passed away in Fairfield, Connecticut, on Oct. 29, 2022, after a brief illness.

Born Rosamund Lucinda Snow Deitrick in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1933, Robin graduated from Swampscott High School in 1952. While attending Colorado Women’s College, graduating in 1954, she met Jack Heffernan of Philadelphia, whom she married in 1956. Robin and Jack moved back East, eventually settling in Rowayton, Connecticut, where they raised their four beloved children, Justin, Jessica, Kerry and John.

In 1976 Robin graduated from Sarah Lawrence College, with a degree in anthropology – no small feat for a “housewife” with four young children, but indicative of her determination and her intellect. She was a lover of both history and world cultures, and continued to read voraciously and educate herself throughout her life.

In 1979 she took a job at a small local startup called Physicians Health Services — one of the very first health maintenance organizations, or HMOs, in the United States. She rose to the position of Vice President of Marketing, and went on to work at Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York for several years before her retirement.

Robin’s first marriage ended in divorce; in 1979 she married Richard “Dick” Dee. She and Dick moved to Salisbury in 1990, where Robin was an active member

of the community, serving as board member and president of the Lion’s Head Association and the Salisbury Visiting Nurses Association, as well as other local nonprofit organizations.

Robin is survived by her four children, her two stepsons Christopher and Jonathan, six sons- and daughters-in-law, a multitude of loving nieces and nephews, and eleven grandchildren: Jonathan, Gillian, Thea, Liam, Kieran, Teddy, Andy, Alex, Joshua, Elizabeth and Claire. She is predeceased by her cherished husband Dick and by her three treasured sisters, Charlotte, Louise, and Fritzie. She leaves an abundant legacy in all of her children and grandchildren.

Robin was revered for her wit, her dignity and her unassuming elegance by all who knew her. We are grateful for the long and rich life she lived, and for all the love we shared together. We will miss her dearly.

In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to the Caregiver Appreciation Fund @ SVNA Home Assistance in memory of Robin Dee (mail to SVNA Home Assistance, 30A Salmon Kill Road, Salisbury, CT 06068, or use the following link: www.vnhlc.org/giving/donation-form/, specifying ‘Caregiver Appreciation Fund’ in the comments).

A memorial service for Robin will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at the Congregational Church of Salisbury, 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT, 06068, followed by a small reception at the Parish Hall.



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As healthcare evolves, Sharon Hospital is growing the services our community needs most.

We are here for you: please reach out to sharonhospital@nuvancehealth.org with any questions.



Our Towns



PHOTO BY JONATHAN BARBAGALLO

Crews were at work in Norfolk last week removing contaminated soil along Route 44 after a tanker truck spilled more than 8,000 gallons of gasoline into the town's drainage system on Saturday, Nov. 5.

Norfolk continues spill cleanup

By Emily Edelman

NORFOLK — Emergency response efforts continued this week in the wake of the Saturday, Nov. 5, rollover of a gasoline tanker truck on Route 44, spilling more than 8,000 gallons of gasoline into the town's storm drainage system.

Route 44, which had been closed off east of the Village Green to allow for cleanup work, was reopened on Friday, Nov. 11.

Learn to make holiday cards at Hunt library on Dec. 3

FALLS VILLAGE — On Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to noon, the David M. Hunt Library will host a holiday card and tag making workshop with printmaker Meg Musgrove.

Participants will print up to ten cards and ten large gift tags using simple, playful print techniques and water-based inks.

Musgrove, a printmaker living in Millerton, produces her own line of screen printed textiles which can be seen at www.megmusgrove.com.

This workshop is limited to ten participants and registration is required. Call 860-824-7424 or go to www.huntlibrary.org.

The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), Verdant environmental consultants and Environmental Services Inc. joined the town's public works department and sewer district, the State Emergency Operations Center, the Connecticut West Incident Management Team and several area fire departments in preparing for last weekend's rain event, which turned out not to have the negative impact officials had feared.

Absorbent pads and booms were placed around the brook on Maple Avenue as well as downstream to collect any gasoline remaining on the water surface.

Ground monitors continued to show gasoline underground emptying into the brook.

According to Jonathan Barbagallo, the town's assis-

tant emergency management director and public information officer: "All efforts to clean and monitor . . . properties are being done and will be done well into the future even as winter approaches.

Concerns about future property values and the long-term health and financial effects to local businesses is something that we all want answers to but can't get easily or quickly due to the nature of this incident."

Local fire departments have continued to monitor air quality in homes.

The state Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security provided geographic information system mapping, which greatly increased the ability of involved parties to share information.

Cleanup and monitoring will continue throughout the week.

Salmon Kill bridge progresses

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — At the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen Monday, Nov. 7, First Selectman Curtis Rand said the replacement of the Salmon Kill bridge is "making headway."

"There have been some unforeseen items."

He said the state Department of Transportation is inspecting the work daily.

Rand reported that the Pope Land Design committee has come up with "three or four concepts" for future use of the Pope property purchased by the town in 2017.

Rand said he thought that more locations (the Pope property area and Salisbury village) will be added to an ongoing Lakeville traffic study. The other selectmen agreed, and voted to spend an additional \$20,000 for the purpose.

Sharon bake sale Nov. 19

The Sharon Woman's Club will hold its annual Bake and Soup Sale on Saturday Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to noon in front of the Sharon Pharmacy. Holiday wreaths will also be for sale. All proceeds will benefit the Sharon Community Foundation.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

From left, Justin Potter, president of Kent Affordable Housing; Jocelyn Ayer, director of the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity; and Sean Ghio, policy director of the Partnership for Strong Communities in Connecticut, discussed the film "Housing Our Neighbors" on Wednesday, Nov. 9, at The Moviehouse in Millerton.

Film examines housing, community connections

By Leila Hawken
MILLERTON — A new documentary film, "Housing Our Neighbors" engagingly explores the housing pressures prevalent throughout towns in Litchfield County's Northwest Corner and eastern Dutchess County.

The film was shown for the first time to a sold-out audience at The Moviehouse in Millerton on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

Producer Felicia Jones, who serves as development director for the Falls Village Community Development Corp., said, "Our goal was to highlight the intersections between housing and the things most people really

care about in the community: education, healthcare, small business including food production, as well as the environment."


The film's director is Yonah Sadeh, who took six months to produce the documentary.

"I think sometimes we don't realize that moderately priced housing and an abundance of rental properties are essential to a sustainable and thriving community," Jones added.

To view the film, go to the website of the Falls Village Community Development Corporation at www.falls-villagecdc.org or find it on its YouTube channel.



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Adopt A Tree

Dear Friends,

We hope this letter finds everyone happy, healthy and enjoying this warm Fall we are having. It is hard to imagine that Christmas is right around the corner but it is!

This year will mark the 19th anniversary of our Adopt A Tree Program where the beautiful main streets of Salisbury, Lakeville, Sharon and Canaan are lit with Christmas Trees sponsored by our Chamber members, sponsors and residents of these towns. Each year at this time, The Tri-State Chamber of Commerce appeals to the community for support of this annual holiday tradition that brings smiles to all those who pass through our quaint town. This effort requires many hours of volunteer time, and some paid expertise in the fields of horticulture and electricity.

As most of you know, last year we tried a new look of solar lights. While we worked hard to make it a success, it was not the outcome we had hoped for. We asked for input and solutions to be able to provide the beautiful lights we have become accustomed to. The cost of labor for electricians to help run the cables and plug in at each location (an insurance requirement) was running us in the red. Combined with the rise in cost of trees, we are fortunate to have the following solution.

Thanks to the generosity of Elyse Harney Real Estate, Juliet Moore, Salisbury Bank and Herrington's, we have ordered new strands of the traditional lights that you have come to love. While we will keep the cost the same as last year, there will be one major change to the program. The Tri-State Chamber, along with the Salisbury Garden Center and the Salisbury Town Crew will stake, place and tie the trees and string the lights. We will leave one extension cord at the base of each tree and it will be the home and or business owner's responsibility to plug the tree into an outlet. It will also be the home and or business owner's responsibility to purchase additional extension cords if necessary. For those businesses in Salisbury and Lakeville that have cords that will cross the sidewalk, we will have an electrician come to your locations and keep the cords off the ground and plugged in.

Please consider adopting one of these happy little trees as none of this is possible without your support. You can also purchase a star to commemorate a loved one if you wish.

To sponsor a tree, visit our website at www.tristatechamber.com, email treasurer@tristatechamber.com or call Lisa Duntz at 860-671-0136.

Adopt a Tree for \$65.00 • Add a Star for \$20.00

Trees will be put up on Monday, November 28th, 2022.

With Many Thanks,

The Tri-State Chamber of Commerce-Board of Directors:
Lisa Duntz, Linda Robertson, Kendra Chapman, Noemi Media, Lorraine Oler and Kaki Reid

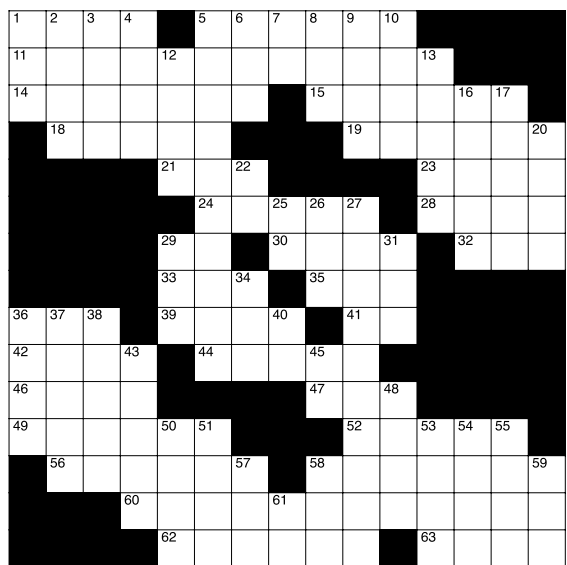
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Greek mountain
5. One dependent on something
11. Gratitude
14. Glazed ceramic ware
15. Paddling
18. Step
19. More greasy
21. Upper-class young woman
23. Light beige
24. Belief in a supreme being
28. Indigenous people of Scandinavia
29. A beloved princess
30. Transfer property
32. Field force unit
33. Automated teller
35. When you hope to get there
36. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
39. Politicians Fischer and Conroy are two
41. Blood type
42. Stringed instrument
44. Curses
46. Barbary sheep
47. Belonging to a thing
49. Supporters
52. Leaf-footed bug
56. A shower of water
58. Attribute to
60. Intermittent
62. Soda waters
63. Scottish island

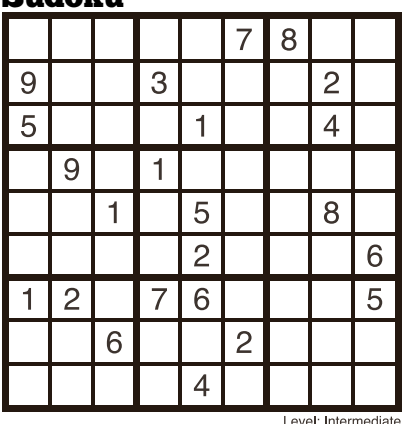
CLUES DOWN

1. Klutz
2. Relaxing places
3. Expel saliva
4. The extended location of something
5. Certified
6. Cease to exist
7. Powerful legal pro
8. The OJ trial judge
9. Popular greeting
10. "90210" actress
11. Spelling
12. ___ Blyton, children's author
13. "This Is Us" star Fitch
16. Battery cell with a nickel alode



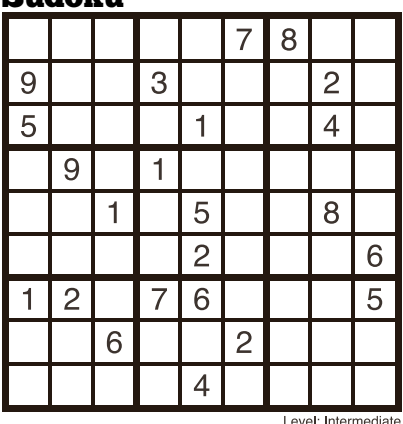
17. Full of bacteria
20. Remains of an old building
22. Exist
25. It gets you into places
26. Witness
27. The spreading of a disease to another part of the body
29. Father
31. Touch gently
34. Licensed for Wall Street
36. Herring-like fish
37. Lute used in N. Indian music
38. Mirabel shouldn't talk about him
40. Atomic #62
43. Religious
45. Silvery-white metal (abbr.)
48. Influential civil rights organization
50. Acknowledgment (abbr.)
51. Turn away
53. Kidney disease (abbr.)
54. Smooth-feeling fabric
55. Competently
57. Sea eagle
58. General's assistant (abbr.)
59. It helps you see
61. Emerging technology

Nov. 10 Solution



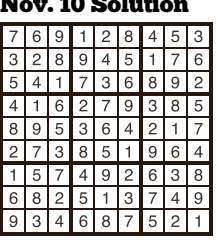
Level: Intermediate


Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

Nov. 10 Solution





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Sports

A little blue line and a warm November day

SOMEWHERE IN NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT — The plan was to corral the Master and the Novice, take advantage of the clement early November weather, and hike to the obscure brook trout stream. There I would take many spectacular photographs and listen intently while the Master imparted Wisdom to the Novice.

The resulting column would return “Tangled Lines” to the award-winning list.

The plan started to fall apart Saturday, Nov. 5, when the Master bailed out. After further review, as they say in pro football, the notion of a) getting on the Mass Pike at 5 a.m. in order to get to the trailhead by 8 a.m. followed by b) the long, death-defying hike in, followed by c) three or four hours of fishing in difficult terrain, followed by d) the long, death-defying hike out, mostly uphill, followed by e) driving back to Boston seemed unusually insane.

(The Master shall remain anonymous, even though his name is Ian Davison, who is married to my cousin Julie. They live in Natick, Mass. But you didn't hear it from me.)

So when I met Andrew Corrigan Sunday, Nov. 6, and we suited up, I reasoned that what I was losing in gnomish utterances from the Master I was gaining in, er, non-gnomish utterance.

We also noted that the official wild guess from the weather experts -- warm and cloudy, with maybe a light shower in the afternoon -- was wrong on the last count.

And of course the point and shoot camera decided to conk out midway through the exercise. Apparently



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Andrew Corrigan connected with the first fish of the day using a Parachute Adams.

TANGLED LINES

PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

getting a little damp is all it takes.

But hey — enough of my yakkin'. How was the fishing? The fishing was pretty darn good.

At spot number one, where I traditionally take the first whack, I courteously stepped aside so young Andrew could have the honors. (I also crossed the stream so I could get a photo.)

Andrew stuck a big Parachute Adams dry fly right in the soft water of the plunge pool, and right on cue a suicidal brook trout rose and snapped at it.

Andrew missed that one but he connected a few minutes later, and we were off.

I hovered around him like a nervous nanny for a while, ostensibly to get photos but also because I wanted to see if he had mastered the most essential technique of angling. Yes, could Andrew successfully ignore the idiotic, garbled instructions shouted at him from a distance and find out for himself what works and what doesn't?

He could, and did. I worked my lanes with

a Parachute Adams, and when that got chewed up, I switched to a gigantic foam beetle thing (GFBT) that looks like hell and works really well.

The winning combo, eventually, was the GFBT with an unweighted Light Cahill nymph on a shortish dropper of about a foot.

Then the light shower scheduled for the afternoon turned into a regular rain, nothing special but highly irritating.

Andrew had prudently brought some rain gear. I trust my weather experts so I did not. This is how the camera got wet.

We leapfrogged each other moving downstream. From afar I could tell Andrew was getting along fine, so I concentrated on more pressing

matters, such as not breaking my neck on the slick rocks.

I first introduced Andrew to little blue line fishing on the Wachocastinook (aka Riga Brook) back in June. I loaned him a little 6 ½ foot 4 weight fiberglass rod, and he subsequently bought one of his own.

Watching him covertly, I noticed he was duking and dapping, rolling and snapping, and a lot of other groovy stuff I don't have a name for. He was also chucking 30 feet when the situation called for it. So I don't think I can make that “novice” label stick.

After about four hours we clambered out. My back filed a formal complaint, and my progress up the World's Longest Staircase was halting. Andrew considerably waited



A representative sample of the wild brook trout encountered on a fishing expedition Sunday, Nov. 6.

for me to catch up, and then loped off at the pace that is only possible when Social Security is a vague idea for the future and not an immediate threat.

So where is this stream? I am not going to tell you. Regular readers know the policy. If a stream is listed in the state's official anglers guide (like the Riga brook) then I will name it.

If it isn't, I won't. The reason for this is simple: Wild brook trout are a precious resource and

we don't want legions of galoos yanking them out of the stream and throwing beer cans around in the process.

Besides, the entire thing is nuts. Two grown men, solid citizens, sober and industrious, spending hours in considerable discomfort and inconvenience to catch little fish that they are not going to eat.

Does this sound rational to you? It does?

Well, in that case drop me a line in private and next time you can tag along.

GNH football keeps rolling

By Patrick L. Sullivan

WINSTED — The Gilbert/Northwestern/Housatonic co-op football team drubbed host WCA 55-6 Nov. 10 to improve to 7-2.

The regular season finale is Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 24, 10 a.m. vs. St. Paul at Gilbert.

Housatonic Regional

High School girls soccer lost to Lyme/Old Lyme in the first round of the state tournament, 3-1 on Tuesday, Nov. 8. They finished the regular season at 9-5-2.

The HVRHS volleyball team also lost in the first round of the tournament, on Monday, Nov. 7, 3-0 to St. Paul. The team finished the regular season at 8-10.

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ELECTION

Continued from Page A1

party candidates.
 U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D) defeated GOP challenger Leora Levy to win a third term.
 Blumenthal, running on the Democratic and Working Families lines, received 724,521 votes (57.46%) to Levy's 536,388 votes (42.54%)
 In a nailbiter, the incumbent Hayes (Democratic and Working Families) received 127,776 votes for 50.39%. Challenger George Logan (Republican/Independent lines) came up short with 125,801 votes for 49.61%.
 The CT-5 race wasn't called until Wednesday evening, Nov. 9.
 State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) won reelection easily, with 7,363 votes for 63.99% (Democratic, Independent and Working Families lines).

GOP challenger Chris DuPont received 4,182 votes for 36.01%.
 The GOP's Stephen Harding takes over for the retiring Craig Miner in the 30th State Senate district, with 24,404 votes (53.81%) to 20,945 for Eva Bermudez Zimmerman (20,945 votes for 46.19% on the Democratic, Independent and Working Families lines).
 The new probate court judge is Republican Jordan M. Richards, who won with 10,387 votes (50.84%) to 10,044 (49.16%) for the Democratic candidate, Kristen Mostowy.
 All results are from the Secretary of the State website as of Sunday, Nov. 13.
 On Wednesday morning, Nov. 9, several town clerks reported difficulties with reporting results to the state.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Townpeople turned out in force for a town meeting on Thursday, Nov. 10, to discuss and later approve a Comcast proposal to partner with the town, extending internet service to previously unserved or underserved residences and businesses.

COMCAST

Continued from Page A1

To fund the town's \$1.6 million share of the partnership costs, voters approved the town's plan to fund the first half as a project deposit (\$800,000) using the town's Undesignated Fund. The second half will be due when work is completed. That amount would be borrowed in the form of a bank loan, the loan amount to be reduced by any grant funding that might be identified by then.
 Under the Comcast plan, Drew said, the company will offer to extend cable to homes. If a homeowner has a long driveway, then Comcast will extend the cable line up 300 feet of driveway. If a driveway is longer than that, then the homeowner would need to pay for the remainder of the distance.
 If there are homes within the expanse of roads leading to the 250 homes, and a homeowner declines the Comcast service, then the cost saving to the project would result in an amount being placed into a fund that could help to extend service to the homes getting service but needing more line than the 300 feet allowed for.
 Frontier Communications had provided a draft alternative plan in advance of the town meeting, a proposal that will need to be scrutinized and considered by various town boards and commissions.
 While not opposing the Comcast plan, a few residents favored a pause to await Frontier's proposal in order to compare the two before needing to vote on the Comcast plan. Comcast is offering high-speed XFinity hybrid fiber on the poles

If there are homes within the expanse of roads leading to the 250 homes, and a homeowner declines the Comcast service, then the cost saving to the project would result in an amount being placed into a fund that could help to extend service to the homes getting service but needing more line than the 300 feet allowed for.

and coaxial cable from pole to home. Comcast's service is a different technology from Frontier's, Drew explained.
 If the installation crew passes by a buildable parcel of land that might contain a home in the future, then Comcast will install a connector along the line, to enable an easy future service connection, Drew reported.
 According to Drew, the next steps for the town, after the contract is signed in the coming days, will be to hire a contract performance manager to monitor the project's progress, reporting to the Board of Selectmen and serving as a liaison between the project, homeowners and the Sharon Connect Task Force. Comcast will immediately begin applying for the necessary construction and pole permits to begin the network expansion.

"Comcast is motivated," Drew said.
 Residents who have any questions about the project as it progresses are urged to email the Sharon Connect Task Force at sharonctconnect@gmail.com.

Send news tips to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

NATURE

Continued from Page A1

ecosystem typically has many diverse species, each of which consumes and competes for resources like food, water and sunlight, while also providing resources for something else. This competition for survival ensures that different species can coexist without any one of them becoming so plentiful that it displaces the rest. The issue with invasive species is that they sidestep this system.
 Many invasive plants, for example, are adapted to different climates than our own, so they avoid competition with native plants for sunlight by holding onto their leaves later into the fall. That's why, right now, most of the green leaves in our woods belong to Norway maples, Russian olives or Japanese barberries.
 They also have the advantage of being unpalatable to our herbivores. Many native insects will only eat the specific native species they've evolved to digest, while even our voracious white-tailed deer refuse to munch on most invasive plants until they are on the brink of starvation.
 Because of these inherent advantages, nothing stops invasive populations from getting too big. While this can be a problem in and of itself, as an ecologist, I find the most troubling invasive species to be those that facilitate the success of others. This domino effect can be

disastrous for entire ecosystems, but it also provides rare opportunities to handle a whole set of invasive problems by focusing on just one species.
 The quintessential example in Litchfield County is an aggressive vine called bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*). While native vines cause some damage to trees over time, bittersweet is far more destructive because of the way it climbs: Instead of relying on minuscule roots to clamber up tree bark, it winds repeatedly around the trunk like a constricting snake, eventually choking the tree out by slicing into its bark as it grows.
 Because bittersweet is so efficient at killing trees of all sizes, it quickly diminishes forest canopies and stops disturbed areas from regrowing. With the tree cover reduced, rapidly growing invasive shrubs with few predators take their place. On riverbanks, bittersweet invasions facilitate Japanese knotweed, a bamboo-like plant that shades out competitors and dismantles erosion control; deeper in the forest, they make space for Japanese barberries, European privets and multifloral roses, which create boggy thickets that are difficult to navigate and optimal for ticks.
 Luckily, consistently removing bittersweet vines from our trees effectively slows down the other

sun-loving invaders, protecting both the forest's overstory and understory. Unluckily, there's another invasive cascade headed our way and this time, the culprit is one of the trees.
 The deceptively named tree-of-heaven is an Asiatic, colony-forming tree with long, fern-like leaves and abundant clusters of stinky, off-white flowers. Popular for landscaping due to its low cost and quick growth, it now persists abundantly along our yards, roads and waterways. While its aggressive spread was already pesky, the issue has been made much more pressing by the recent introduction of the spotted lanternfly.
 Spotted lanternflies, which gained fame recently by infesting most of Pennsylvania, are a sap-sucking insect from China. Their eating habits extensively damage many of our agricultural and native plants, from grapes and apples to maples and birches. However, while they will happily eat any of the above, they have a lot of trouble reproducing without their preferred host plant: the tree-of-heaven.
 Where invasive tree-of-heaven populations are not already established, spotted lanternfly invasions usually cannot establish, either. Though the bugs' population has yet to explode in Connecticut, we likely have enough tree-of-heaven now

for them to cause devastation akin to the spongy moths soon.
 Because our native ecosystem has no way to check the population growth of the lanternflies, the task instead falls to us. Some management options will be available once they arrive, but in the meantime, we can take important, preemptive steps toward limiting the damage by restricting tree-of-heaven spread and instead promoting the growth of our native forests. Take a look at what's growing in your yards today: Our trees are counting on us!

Alison Robey is a volunteer at the Sharon Audubon Center and a second-year PhD student in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Yale University.

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

FILM: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Where have you been, Joyce?

Blond tumbles across the screen, blond hair catching the lights of the mall, refracting in the glimmer of the sun, as gold as the gold-painted convertible jalopy that stalks her. This is Connie, she is 15, a little taller, a little more mature-looking, but still very much a child, trying on the identity of adult femininity like trying on a new lipstick at the retail counter. "Everything about her had two sides to it, one for home and one for anywhere that was not home: her walk, which could be childlike and bobbing, or languid enough to make anyone think she was hearing music in her head; her mouth, which was pale and smirking most of the time, but bright and pink on these evenings out," wrote Joyce Carol Oates in her short story "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" First published in Epoch Magazine in 1966, it's an eerie ode to the serial killers of the Sixties and the youth folk ballads of Bob Dylan. It's that wild innocence that attracts Arnold Friend to Connie's door one afternoon when she's home alone; an older man who lures and threatens her with a ride in his car. In the 1985 film "Smooth Talk," Joyce Chopra directed Treat Williams and Laura Dern as Connie, based on a script by Chopra's husband, Tom Cole. Previously, Chopra had been a documentary filmmaker, whose work included a notable self-reflective video essay on new motherhood and career goals with a confessional but matter-of-fact sensibility called "Joyce at 34." Later, she would adapt another of Oates' works, "Blonde," a fictional account of the life of Marilyn Monroe. Now a resident of Charlottesville, Va., Chopra previously lived in Kent and Roxbury, Conn. Her



"I couldn't think of any women directors, I thought I was crazy to even think of something like that."

new book, "Lady Director" takes a look back at her multi-decade career — Joyce at 86.

Alexander Wilburn: Your film "Smooth Talk" was recently inducted into The Criterion Collection, how did they approach you?

Joyce Chopra: It was all through the producer of the film, and Criterion was very happy to have it, and they took other films of mine as well, all the others are documentaries. I'm so honored to be in The Criterion Collection, it's wonderful.

It must feel like a real moment as a director. I would imagine there's a thrill getting the Criterion copy.

Absolutely. Yes, you understand, I was thrilled.

I think it really means you've created lasting art, which doesn't always end up being true for every director.

I have two films I feel that way about. I did a documentary called "Joyce at 34" which is in the permanent collection in the Museum of Modern Art, and when that happened — my god, I have a film in the

Museum of Modern Art. Criterion was wonderful to deal with, they went through the negatives and color-corrected and cleaned them up, they did a great job.

You're there with a fairly small number of female directors in Criterion, Claire Denis, Agnès Varda, Sofia Coppola... not a ton.

There can't be, because there aren't that many prominent women directors. I haven't looked to see what the percentage is, but when you think of how few feature films were made by women it's not surprising.

What was the landscape for you like when you were starting your career?

In 1958 I couldn't think of any women directors, I thought I was crazy to even think of something like that. There weren't any film schools and there weren't any history books about women who made movies all through the 1920s and 30s. There were quite a few. Dorothy Arzner... that all disappeared in the 1940s. It was not easy to do something like that. But I did. I just kept

trying to get a way in, some way or the other. It's still not great for women as film directors, but it's gotten a lot better for women as television directors.

It really does feel like our present television industry has opened a landscape for women that has been closed off in film.

I think it's changed in the years, particularly after the MeToo movement. I did an episode of "Law & Order: SVU" in the early 2000s, they were

that up until three or four years ago, and now about 40% of episodic television is being directed by women. Not features... but that'll come, that'll come.

How did you first encounter the Joyce Carol Oates story "Smooth Talk" is based on?

I found it in the O. Henry Prize short story collection. Joyce Carol Oates and my husband, Tom were both selected for prizes that year. I could never forget the story, it just terrified me.

sibly film that ending. My husband wrote the script and we couldn't bear to kill our character. We wrote the ending while we were filming, we just learned so much through the filming process based on how Laura Dern was playing Connie.

Another big change from story to the screen was the time period.

We tried to be vague about it, but on the other hand, we made it in 1985, but there are no computers, no cell phones. So it's hard to... when did you think the film was set?

I did feel like there was the shadow of Reagan over the film. But maybe that's my interpretation of it, looking back at it as someone who wasn't alive then.

Possibly. In the story there aren't many details, there's no father, there's no town, and there's a lot for the reader to fill in, so in a way, it was an easy story to adapt. Joyce Carol Oates suggests with a sentence here and there what would become whole scenes in the film. Most of the story is Connie's confrontation with Arnold Friend, which we changed very little of, although Treat [Williams] changed some of it. He didn't want to say what Arnold says in the story, "If you don't come out I'll burn your house down." He changed it to "What if I burned your house down?" It fits in more with the way he was playing Arnold. Do you know how I found Treat Williams? He went to The Kent School. He was roommates with the man who became head of the school, Father [Richardson] Dick Schell. I was talking to Dick, we were rather friendly, and when he mentioned his former roommate Treat Williams I said, "Oh I'd love to cast him as this character." So hurray for Litchfield County!

I read Laura Dern was discovered on the beach in California.

Yes, my producer was on the phone with a woman who lived on Malibu Colony Beach, complaining about how we hadn't found anyone to play Connie. And this woman said, "I know

Continued on next page

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JANUS FILMS



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW DAY FILMS

going into their fourth season, and there are... I don't know, 20 episodes a season? They had only hired two women in those four years. When they hired me, the producer who ran the show was constantly over my shoulder, found fault with everything I did, and made me so nervous. He was really horrid to deal with and I was never, quote end quote, "asked back." It really was like

It's a very unnerving story about youth, even if the end is quite interpretative.

What do you mean by interpretative?

Open to interpretation I should have said. It's not conclusive, you imagine with some horror what happens to Connie in the end once she gets in Arnold's car.

It's allegorical. We changed the ending because we couldn't pos-

Pleiades mixed medium on canvas 54" x 44"

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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Decision To Leave

Director Bong Joon-ho may have taken home the Oscar for his 2020 Best Picture winner "Parasite," but Park Chan-wook can still be credited for first bringing the twisty delights of South Korean psychological thrillers to a broad American audience. His 2003 film "Oldboy" became mandatory dorm room viewing for cinema students with its berserker sense of violence, shocking turns and that infamous scene where a live octopus is eaten on screen. His lush 2016 period romance "The Handmaiden" was a wild, erotic crime saga perfumed in mystery and suspense. Go into his new film prepared only to be unprepared.

Starts Nov. 18 at The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VARIANCE FILMS



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ELISHA WHITTELSLEY COLLECTION

On The Horizon: Art And Atmosphere in The Nineteenth Century

The air of an era — aeronauts took their balloons to the skies while artists took to the outdoors, working *en plein air*. A new exhibit, which includes a mezzotint of Joseph Wright's "Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump" opens on Nov. 19 at The Clark Museum in Williamstown, Mass.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

joy study (pre-drop palms) by EJ Hill

EJ Hill 'Break Run Helix'

"Throughout the twentieth century, African Americans challenged segregation at amusement parks, swimming pools, and skating rinks not only in pursuit of pleasure but as part of a wider struggle for racial equality," Victoria W. Wolcott writes in "Race, Riots, and Roller Coasters." Queer Los Angeles, Calif, artist EJ Hill captures the looping path to Black joy with his first solo exhibit, which includes a fully rideable bubblegum-pink coaster (reserve your seat in advance). Now at MASS MoCA in North Adams, Mass.

...where have you been, Joyce?

Continued from previous page

her." She was acting as if Connie the character was a real person. She said, "She's walking by my window right now." It was very odd. But the girl was Laura Dern. So I called Laura to set up an audition, and on her answering machine was playing the song that's in the script, "Handy Man" by James Taylor. There's another coincidence. James at that time was living in Kent. This was a Kent production. That's why I'm happy to come back and talk there. James Taylor was a neighbor, he came by our house one night for dinner. He knew Tom and I were writing a script and were excited about it. He asked to read it and he came back the next night and said, "I want to be part of this, I want to write music for it." I was very fortunate with all these connections, and then Laura was

perfect.

She's a great reactor on screen, you can read so much into her face during that very long scene she does with Treat Williams.

I have no idea how she does it, but she's very in the moment. Treat was very active at that point, he was booking a lot of film jobs, so he could only give us one week of his time. We ran out of time and we still had to film the close-ups of Laura behind the screen door. Treat had left, so I read off-camera for Laura. She could have performed with a lamppost.

You would never know that watching.

You could never tell in a million years.

You had a screening of "Smooth Talk" recently and another coming up on Nov. 20 at Film Forum in New York.

There's a film festival where I live in Charlottesville called The Virginia Film Festival and they showed it the other night. For me, it was a big night, and it was a big audience. I think the reaction was bigger than ever. People were, I can't say awestruck, that's so ridiculous, but I felt the audience was really knocked out about it.

There have been other adaptations of Joyce Carol Oates' work since "Smooth Talk," including some French films like "The Double Lover" by François Ozon, but you were one of the first.

And now there's "Blonde" that's just come out on Netflix.

I was going to ask you about that.

Have you seen it?

I have. You had your own adaptation of the book.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JANUS FILMS

CBS did a miniseries of "Blonde" in 2001. I wasn't involved with the script writing, but I directed and we did have a terrific cast. It's strange now that the new "Blonde" has come out, and I've been doing interviews. People want to know what I thought of it, and I'm not very eager to say. I was told it would be really good publicity because Hollywood Reporter wanted to interview me, but I said I don't want to say negative things about

it and I didn't want to see it. [Andrew Dominik] has been trying to make "Blonde" for 10 years, and I sympathize with that. I finally... got talked into it. So I watched the new "Blonde" the night before the Hollywood Reporter interview, but I managed to avoid saying what I really thought. I don't like saying negative things about another director. I wouldn't want anyone to do it to me.

Dominik's film has been controversial with critics, some have written it feels exploitative of its female character when it came to your

adaptations of Joyce Carol Oates' work, do you think there was something about having a female director adapt a female author's fiction?

My husband Tom, who unfortunately died a while back — we shared in conceiving the scenes, but he did the actual dialogue writing. He would always surprise me, with things I never would have thought of. When Tom died The New York Times did an obit, and they called Laura to ask what it was like working with him. I'll misquote her, but she said something like, "Here was this 50-year-old male MIT professor telling me what it was like to be a teenage girl... And he was so wonderful and so able to help me with this role." That was the biggest compliment Tom could have gotten. I don't feel my being a woman had to do with anything, it was working with Tom, that was the world we wanted to create.

Joyce Chopra will discuss her book "Lady Director: Adventures in Hollywood, Television and Beyond" on Nov. 18 at House of Books in Kent, Conn.



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EDITORIAL

Keeping government open to all of us

Now that the midterm elections have wrapped, at least in Connecticut and New York, it's time for all those elected to think about governing. Sounds so simple, but it's really not, is it? Especially in the current divided climate, it will take deep thought and commitment to public service to be effective in office now. Whether the successful candidates are new to the job of serving the electorate, or returning to the position, there should be basic tenets of American democracy that are foremost in their minds. At least we can hope that's the case.

One such concept is that while elected officials belong to a specific party (unless they're independent), they represent all their constituents and should serve all of them with equal respect and care. This has been a tough sell during the recent years of extreme polarization in American politics. We saw the other extreme when Donald Trump was president, when he was often clear that he favored states with his party's control.

Knowing if the agenda for any elected official strays from ethical political discourse and behavior is key in making choices when one is casting a vote. The American people embraced that idea during the midterm elections, refusing to support the majority of Trump's choices in races across the country. While some election deniers and conspiracy theorists have gained public office, it certainly was not the widely predicted "red wave" of Trump's hand-picked leaders winning office.

Another one of those basic democratic ideals essential to good governance is maintaining transparency in all matters that must be open to the public. Open government does not happen automatically or easily, however. It takes vigilance on the part of those who believe in it to keep government accountable to those it serves. In New York state, the path to filing a Freedom of Information request can be found at www.ny.gov/programs/open-foil-ny, where there is a form that can be used for multiple Freedom of Information requests to different departments.

But the support of a full office of experts is significantly stronger in Connecticut, where the state's Freedom of Information Commission has been in force since 1975. That is when the state's Freedom of Information Act was instituted, beginning with the words: "The legislature finds and declares that secrecy in government is inherently inconsistent with a true democracy, that the people have a right to be fully informed of the action taken by public agencies in order that they may retain control over the instruments they have created ..."

On Nov. 10, at the Mark Twain House in Hartford, the first Mitchell W. Pearlman Awards were given to two public officials, a group of members of the public, and a journalist in honor of Pearlman, the first director of the Freedom of Information Commission. He served from 1975 to 2005, and has remained active in the world of open government since his retirement. He currently is a lecturer in law and journalism at the University of Connecticut. For decades, he has acted as an open government consultant across the globe, as well as in the United States.

Pearlman's effect on government transparency has made Connecticut a model to which states and nations can look to form their own laws controlling information. The public's debt to him cannot be overstated. Thanks go to him, and all at the Freedom of Information Commission, and all the volunteers who work at the Connecticut Foundation for Open Government and the Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information. All these groups reinforce the state's strength in keeping information available to all state residents.

For more, go to www.ctfog.org, and to www.portal.ct.gov/FOI. If you want government to function for you, it's important to keep track of it and to know your rights as a citizen.



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

Above, Mitchell Pearlman spoke at the Mark Twain House on Thursday, Nov. 10.

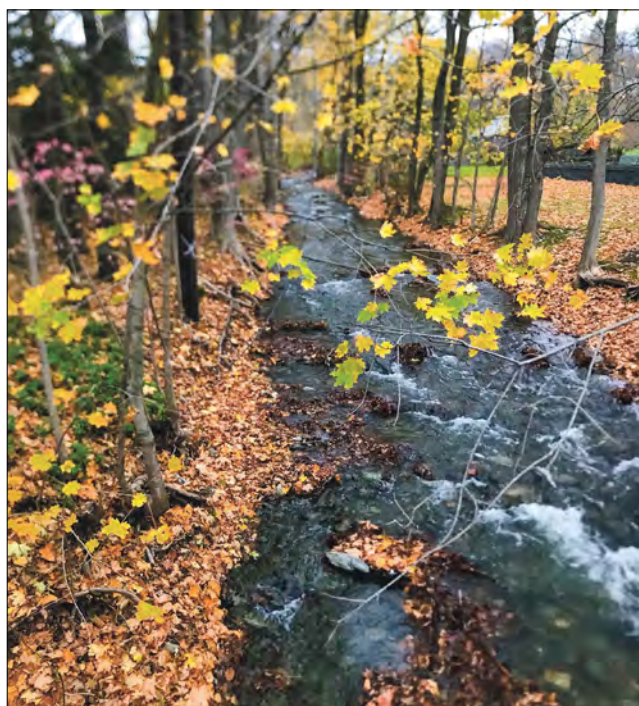


PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

Lakeville stream, running again

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

One physician's view of SH issues

With regard to the Sharon Hospital transition plan, in the 23 years that I have practiced medicine from my small office in Millerton, our community has been impacted by the many changes wrought by the corporatization of health care. We have half the number of primary care doctors, and lost every endocrinologist, rheumatologist, dermatologist, hematologist/oncologist, nephrologist and neurologist.

Local lab and radiology services have been largely outsourced. The deterioration of services was well underway prior to the 2017 deal with Healthquest/Nuvance as

small community hospitals have struggled everywhere. Nuvance is merely planning the coup de grace by closing labor and delivery, overnight anesthesia and surgery coverage. These losses I believe will impact what Emergency Department doctors are willing to sign up for when surgery and anesthesia support are limited.

Nuvance offers the trade-off for cutting these services by promising to bolster primary care. However their track record is poor. Since 2017 they brought in one new MD and lost at least three. There has also been a net loss of nurse practitioners.

What is going to get us out of this tailspin? I believe Nuvance needs to acknowledge that with regard to Sharon it's in for a penny in for a pound. Also, local philanthropies need to get involved in a consistent significant way. There needs to be more aggressive work toward good access to telehealth.

I am planning on living in this idyllic place until I die. Hopefully with access to the great health-care services that we have been privileged with in the not so distant past.

Kristie Schmidt
Millerton
Another letter next page.

Join me in recognizing National Hospice and Palliative Care Month

As we enter the upcoming holiday season, it's important to also acknowledge that November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month. This month, we seek to honor the compassionate caregivers who provide hospice and palliative care, the patients navigating their long-term care journey, and the families who support their loved ones every step of the way, including, but not limited to, their final days.

Palliative care is essential for patients with serious chronic diseases as they chart long-term care strategies based on their individual needs and goals. For many patients, the palliative care journey spans many years, so it is crucial that we enable them to live their lives as fully as possible while managing their illness. Nuvance Health has worked diligently with leaders across the system in recent years to invest in and reinvigorate palliative care, with an eye toward empowering patients to live with respect, dignity, and independence throughout their care journey. I see this investment

come to life each day in my role as the system's chair of palliative care, and it is truly an honor to lead a team who shows such tireless dedication to providing the highest quality of care and support to patients and their families.

As our patients near the end of their lives, hospice provides them with necessary care tailored to their preferences and needs, in our healthcare facilities or at home. Beyond the medical treatment these patients require, hospice staff are also skilled at providing emotional, spiritual, and compassionate support to both patients and their families. Our teams thoughtfully care for each patient, remaining sensitive to cultural and religious values and personal wishes. Whether at home or in a facility, our hospice staff provides comfort and dignity to patients, allowing them to navigate the final stage of their lives surrounded by those most important to them.

Together, Nuvance Health's hospice and palliative care teams improve quality of life and reduce

suffering for patients across our region, empowering them to live their lives without fear following their diagnosis. These compassionate teams provide skilled care of immeasurable value to so many people across Western Connecticut and the Hudson Valley, and I wish to applaud them for their incredible work.

This Hospice and Palliative Care month, let's all take a moment to honor those facing serious and chronic illness, recognize the loved ones who support them, and thank our hospice and palliative caregivers for continuing to empower our patients and lend our shoulders to their loved ones.

Mark J. Marshall, DO, MA, FACP, FHM
Vice President of Medical Affairs, Sharon Hospital Sharon

Grant Finkle is laid up with lumbago this week.

Some girls can chew gum and be called vulgar while others can smoke a cigarette and be fashionable.

The mild autumn weather has helped out the coal bins. As one of our citizens remarks, I wish fall would last till March 31st and spring begin April 1st.

50 years ago — November 1972

Argosy magazine editor Milton Machlin of Amesville was acquitted Monday of the charge of refusing to pay his fare on a Penn Central commuter train in August. His trial in White Plains Municipal Court received widespread attention. According to testimony by witnesses, Machlin had intended to pay his fare, but after a few minutes on the train, and faced with "insufferable" and "inhuman conditions," he declined conductor John Strilowichi's request for payment. The train, witnesses testified, was late and overcrowded. In addition, the air conditioning was not working, which was confirmed by Strilowichi, the lone witness for Penn Central.

The spectacular gingerbread village which has charmed Salisbury School children and adults for years is featured in a full color spread in the December issue of Woman's Day magazine. The village, displayed annually at Salisbury Central School and the White Hart Inn, is the creation of Olive DuBois, who works at the inn and whose husband, Jim, is a custodian at the school.

One accident related to Tuesday's heavy rains was at the Lakeville Food Center, where the sump pump gave out and allowed the basement to flood. Fortunately, employees were able to get the pump going again before there was any serious damage to stored merchandise.

25 years ago — November 1997

Electricians from Orsini Electrical Services of Oakville and workers from F.B. Mattson Co. of Waterbury have installed the heating coils in the handicapped-access ramp at the post office in Lakeville. The coils will keep the ramp free of ice and snow. The project

Continued next page

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After the elections?

Election night is over, what a relief!
We are better off now is my belief
Now to consider what is next
Not so simple but complex
How do we stop idiots from running again
And ensure it's only for the sane
Yes, the country is better off now
No more Georgia, take a vow
And Florida is just as bad
Wish DeSantis is a fad
Fetterman is the man
The wizard of Oz
To make sure he is a was.

Michael Kahler

Lakeville

Letters to the editor: Early deadline for the Thanksgiving holiday issue of Nov. 24 is Friday, Nov. 18, at 10 a.m. No more than 500 words. Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com. Please include a phone number for confirmation.

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

Viewpoint

'Don't worry, we will always be together'

The first time that I changed the world was on an autumn night in 1992. I was 7; Diana Tcholakian was over for a sleepover; my grandmother was still alive; and "Sister Act" was out on VHS. The night got off to a rough start when I learned that Diana actually got scared by movies like "The Addams Family,"

and in her final "EHHH!" as Gomez carts Fester around to the melody of "Oh Little Playmate," I shot up to my feet with no plan of action, except knowing that I had to pause the tape immediately. Mom was out of ideas; Diana was a wreck; no one was touching the popcorn; and as I ejected the assassin from the VCR, I knew that I

ANOUSH TALKS ANOUSH FROUNDJIAN

had to come up with a plan to not only rescue my friend, but to also protect my standing as the best sleepover host in the 2nd Grade. I thought, "What's a safe place where I could take Diana, where I know she'd have a good time, laugh hard, and feel a little 'at home?'" That's when the doorbell rang and it was Mima.

Maybe you knew my grandmother, Sara Dadourian. She was tall, had a face like Merle Oberon, and wore thin, gold bracelets on her wrists, and wasn't just the epitome of grace, but also smart, and ran committee after committee — and even founded the Armenian day school that Diana and I went to. She lived 5 minutes away from us, always stopping in to make sure everyone was okay, and now with all of us there, I knew where I would take the evening — to a little place called The Moonlight

Lounge.

And, we were off as Deloris took the stage with The Ronelles in those perfect sequin dresses! Diana was laughing; Mima walked in with two vanilla ice-cream parfaits that she happened to pick up on her way; and Mom gave me a glance from across the room in a "You done good, Kid" kinda way; and in one kick-off-Harvey-Keitel "UHHHHHH," I knew that the night was ours.

I always had trouble with things coming to an end. Like, when guests would go home, or when I'd finish the food on my plate, or when TV shows went to commercial, and as much as I loved watching the pope clap as Deloris and the Sisters belted out "I Will Follow Him," I also knew that it was only a matter of time until it would all be over. And, I understood very early that grandparents get sick and die, but I'm also the oldest grandchild, and I have all of these memories that my younger cousins and younger brother simply don't have.

I'm the one who speaks Armenian and was on a first-name basis with the mem-

bers of the school committee, and who remembers the mini bar and swivel chair in Papa's study and the yellow kitchen table or that baby grand in the fancy living room where I'd practice my scales, and I remember thinking, "What's the point in having all these feelings if nothing lasts forever?" I kept them to myself for years until a day in May of 2020.

"I think we need to give some thought to what we want to do with our lives."

My husband came home to our Brooklyn apartment dropping a bag of folded laundry onto the floor. I turned around mid-dinner-prep, chef knife in hand, watching him wipe the early-summer-New-York day from his brow. We were in the middle of lockdown, and we both knew that the world was changing, and that it might behoove us to make some decisions, or at least think about, where we saw ourselves living next. All we knew was that we wanted the Northeast or somewhere down South, places where we would be closer to either of our parents.

'I think we need to give some thought to what we want to do with our lives.'

One Zillow search later, we saw that a house on the same block as my parents was up for rent. We looked closer and saw that it was the house next door, and in a flood of boxes, bubble wrap and packing tape, we began our next chapter joining our new neighbors as a pack of N.Y. transplants, claiming one street in a charming town in northwestern Connecticut. In a new house, which, thanks to my husband, has a piano, on a block where both homes have access to The Moonlight Lounge, and where the question is no longer, "Will this last forever?" but more of a simple, "My place or yours?"

Anoush Froundjian is a storyteller and cartoonist living in Lakeville. You can hear her stories at themoth.org and see her drawings at @AnoushTalksToStuff on Instagram.



TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

Continued from previous page.

is expected to be completed soon.

SALISBURY — A near error during Wednesday's recount almost changed the makeup of the Board of Finance and sent last week's winner Bill Willis out of the race. The near-miss for Mr. Willis came during the recount of the absentee ballots, when the totals at first revealed he had lost to Herb Gustafson by one vote. Then a check of the figures against last week's totals showed a

difference of 20 votes. The missing ballots were discovered and counted. The final tally was Willis 574, Gustafson 571.

The organizers of the Goshen Turkey Trot, the Kimball and Lang families, have announced that the winners' cups for the first-place men and women are being renamed in memory of Adam Ross Laschever. Mr. Laschever, who grew up in Goshen, died of melanoma Feb. 19, 1997, in Virginia at

the age of 36. He was an enthusiastic participant in the annual Thanksgiving Day 10-kilometer run from the time he first ran it in 1989 and encouraged his friends and siblings to take part in the early morning race each year thereafter.

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

Reflections on 30 years for the Sunday in the Country Food Drive

How time flies! Who would ever have thought in 1992, with two turkeys, which by the way were donated to us, that the food drive would still be here in 2022? It all started in 1992 at WKZE AM 1020 where the late Bob Chatfield AKA Chocolate Cupcake and myself, Nascar Dave, gave two turkeys to families we knew could use them for Thanksgiving. Bob had a Sunday Morning in the Country show to which I contributed the weekly race report. In 1993, seven donated turkeys followed by 1994, which saw 14 turkeys. It was at that point we contacted the Sharon Food Pantry and donated them to the pantry. In 1995, we moved to Lakeville and Q103 FM, where the donations continued. That's when volunteer Randy Christensen came up with, "We're going for 103 turkeys."

So we started door to door solicitation. We made that goal and started adding pantries. As more and more donors came onboard we started adding dry food to go with the turkeys. The late Dave Waldron came onboard as well as Nitro Dave Watts and helped raise the bar each year and worked tirelessly to reach our goal. Unfortunately, both Daves passed away too early. I still think of them often along with co-founder Chocolate Cupcake.

This was in early 2000. Our very first public fundraiser was the chicken cook-off in which Ancram Fire Dept. participated and donated all the chicken and did so for years, even when it grew to 200 halves. Linda and Jack Gregory along with the late Diane Kelly and her daughter, Kathleen Howard, and I wanted to do a dinner dance. The first one was hugely successful and was at Silo Ridge. Rob Cannors, the general manager, and the owner donated the space, food and servers for that event. We raised \$15,000 with that one event. We continued that event for a number of years. So by now we're getting known mostly through the radio show on

Sunday mornings and were now up to 13 pantries in three states and fundraising was averaging \$25,000 a year. Along with Thanksgiving we added Christmas.

Lots of folks came on board. We partnered with SWSA, the Canaan Exchange Club and most importantly the Maplebrook School which all continue to support us. Maplebrook brings me a lot of great memories. Colleen McGhee-Anstett approached me about allowing her students there to go to the businesses and make the communities aware of the organization. It was a winner and the event with Maplebrook continues today. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Stacey Moore and her team at Moore and More Printing. We have partnered with this organization, the Adopt-A-Family Program, which she runs each year. Stacey is one person who is the ultimate community go-to person who gets very little recognition for her service. There are so many who helped over the years, from all the Tri-state region, you are too numerous to mention here but all so appreciated.

In 2018, Chris and I decided to retire to Florida, but we were not sure if the food drive would continue.

When we let the core group know our plans, Bill and Colleen Anstett stepped up and agreed to continue along with the entire old and new group. So on they go with COVID pandemic and now having to deal with new fundraising techniques. They have conquered that and are very successful in keeping the needs of our community met.

At this writing, I believe about 600 meals are needed for Christmas. In closing, the thought of 30 years is overwhelming. I want everyone to

know this is not about what was started in 1992. It was and is about need in the communities and the generosity of neighbors helping neighbors. The food drive is truly a Tri-state area event. Thank you for all the success.

If you'd like to contribute, send to the Sunday in the Country Food Drive, P.O. Box 789, Millerton, N.Y. 12546. In Nitro Dave's words to all the recipients, "You are our friends and neighbors and we say, 'You're welcome.'"

Nascar Dave MacMillan worked tirelessly on the Sunday in the Country Food Drive every year from 1992 until he and Chris moved to Florida in 2018.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sharon Hospital must be saved

In the more than 23 years I have lived in this bucolic region — first in Salisbury and now West Cornwall — change at Sharon Hospital has been a constant. I've seen numerous CEOs and changing owners, including a notable shift from nonprofit to for-profit in the early 2000s, then back to nonprofit in 2017. Unfortunately, none of these owners or leaders have been able to solve the hospital's financial instability.

Today, Sharon Hospital's nonprofit parent organization, Nuvance Health, is faced with the challenge of addressing more than two decades worth of financial challenges to get Sharon Hospital out of the red, so it can continue serving our community. It's clear that to do this, leaders must make changes, including the difficult one to close its maternity unit.

I remember the excitement around the new maternity unit at Sharon Hospital. Expectant mothers couldn't wait to have their babies in the beautiful unit, which was equipped with the latest state of the art equipment and overlooked the beautiful rolling hill landscapes. The hospital's owner at the time also hoped that this new unit would drive patient volume, helping bring Sharon

Hospital back into the black financially. Unfortunately, while the unit has continued to provide top-notch care, it hasn't had the desired impact on increasing patient volume. Instead, it has had the opposite effect — as our birth rates decline and high-risk patients migrate toward facilities equipped with neonatal intensive care units, the unit remains dramatically underused and is endangering the very survival of the rest of the hospital.

I would hate to think appealing to maintain the minority (one unit) can possibly outweigh servicing the majority (the full hospital), including expanding key services our community needs most. This could have disastrous consequences to health-care access in our region.

Over the years, my family of four has relied on Sharon Hospital countless times for a wide array of needs. We have visited the ED at all hours, had both scheduled and emergency surgeries, required sedation for procedures, repeatedly visited the lab for blood work, received annual screenings, and benefited from both physical and speech therapy sessions. None of this will be possible if Sharon Hospital is forced to close.

Sharon Hospital, as a small community hospital, cannot provide every possible service. While I know how special Labor and Delivery has been to our community, we must look to the evolving demographics of our region, and ensure Sharon Hospital is equipped to provide a range of high-quality services for everyone; men, women, children, and the elderly. Clearly, having both hasn't worked. The only way to save Sharon Hospital is to make difficult decisions regarding underused services.

Silloo S. Peters-Marshall
West Cornwall

More letters previous page.

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Our Towns

Cornwall examines how land, conservation needs coexist

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — The 35th annual Cornwall Conservation Trust meeting drew more than 50 attendees to hear about the future of development and conservation in Cornwall.

The meeting featured a panel discussion to examine the barriers to coexistence between affordable housing and conservation efforts.

“There is land for more conservation and affordable housing, we just need to be careful about how we manage those two mandates,” said Bart Jones, president of the Cornwall Conservation Trust.

Of Cornwall’s total acreage, 38.56% has been designated for conservation, which is more than 11,000 acres.

“We have a steeper hill to climb with affordable housing than we do with conservation,” said Ingrid Ellen, panel moderator and professor of urban policy and planning at New York University.

The Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) reported that presently there are 36 units of affordable housing in Cornwall. An additional 84 affordable units are needed to reach the State of Connecticut’s recommended 10% target.

“The town has good potential when it comes to land for affordable housing. The town’s goal is 30 more units in 5 years,” said Ginni Block, president of the Cornwall Housing Corporation (CHC).

Block said the aim is to find land that can be devel-

oped without changing the feel of the town.

P&Z recognized that land regulations need to be examined, particularly in the area of multi-family housing: 95% of housing in Cornwall is single-family detached units, compared to 74% county-wide and 59% state-wide.

“There is a huge need across Litchfield County for rental housing stock across any price range,” said Jocelyn Ayer, director of the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity. The panel examined options including the restoration of existing houses and modification of larger homes to become multi-family buildings. These types of measures would serve to cut costs on new affordable units while preserving more land for conservation.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Ready for ‘Annie Jr.’

Students in the SOAR production of “Annie Jr.” rehearsed at Salisbury Central School on Wednesday, Nov. 9. The show plays at Housatonic Valley Regional High School on Friday, Nov. 18, at 6:30 p.m. and two shows Saturday, Nov. 19, at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Admission is free — donations are appreciated and the money goes back into the SOAR/SCS theater fund.

Sharon considers speed humps

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Responding to a petition from Hilltop Road residents along with years of study and public discussion, the Board of Selectmen at its meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 9, unanimously recommended installing speed humps to slow traffic along the long incline of that short road.

Action on the recommendation is contingent upon budget approval.

Hilltop Road often serves as a convenient shortcut connector for traffic between Routes 4 and 41, allowing vehicles to pass between the two state highways without using the main street that parallels Hilltop Road. Most residents living along the street indicate that they do not need less traffic volume, but they do ask that the vehicles observe the speed limit.

Flashing speed control signs have also proven useful where they are placed in

town. Those presently in use were provided by the state, noted First Selectman Brent Colley. Colley suggested that the town could look into the cost of buying more such signs.

An alternative idea of installing rumble strips might not work, given the composition of the road’s surface pavement, according to Colley. Selectman Casey Flanagan said that he would not recommend anything until the budget process starts.

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