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The Lakeville Journal

TriCornerNews.com

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

As recruitment tanks, the military aims for more boots on the ground

By Debra A. Aleksinas

FALLS VILLAGE — Earlier this month, a U.S. Air Force recruiter manned a table at Housatonic Valley Regional High School's (HVRHS) cafeteria.

Armed with swag and promotional pamphlets, he fielded questions from curious students and touted the merits of a military career.

Army recruiters also paid the school a visit in 2023, and a spokesman for the Marine Corps said the Region One school is due for a visit from its local recruiter soon.

"When the military comes, they are very well received," said Kirin Terni, HVRHS's college and career center coordinator. "The students seem engaged" in conversations with the uniformed visitors, she said, adding, "We are very open to any career paths they consider."

While it is not unusual for representatives of all the major branches of the Armed Forces to visit high school students throughout the school year, the pressure is mounting for recruiters to put more young

See MILITARY, Page A10



PHOTO COURTESY U.S. AIR FORCE
Airman Basic Isabella Hartley, a recruiter for the Air Force, during a late November visit to Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

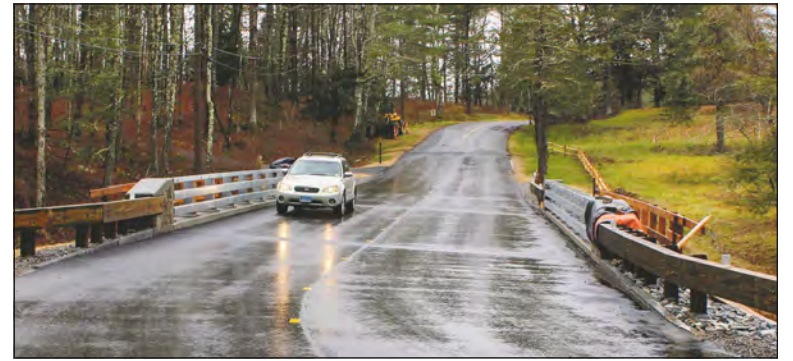


PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

A car tested the recently completed Salmon Kill bridge, Dec. 11.

Salmon Kill bridge reopens

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The new Salmon Kill bridge is finished.

First Selectman Curtis Rand made the announcement at the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen Monday, Dec. 4.

Rand said the work on the bridge was complete and it should be open to traffic "early next week."

In fact, it was open as of Saturday morning, Dec. 9.

The "road closed" signs were gone, but some heavy equipment and traffic cones remained on the site.

The bridge, between Brinton Hill Road and Route 112 in Lakeville, is a popular shortcut.

It was confined to a single lane of traffic in April 2020, and closed for good in September 2020.

Looking ahead to 2024, Rand said upcoming issues include the

Connecticut River hydrilla, an invasive aquatic plant, and the threat to the town's lakes.

Rand noted that the town closed Lake Wonoscopomuc and Long Pond to boat launching in September, but the town has no control over the car top state boat launch at East Twin Lake.

On the affordable housing front, Rand said future discussions will include the town's sewer capacity: "It's not unlimited."

On speeding, Rand said that while the state Department of Transportation has refused the town's request to lower the speed limit on Main Street (Route 44), the agency recently agreed to Kent's request to lower the speed limit on its Main Street (Route 7) to 25 miles per hour.

"I'm happy to try again," Rand said.

The selectmen went on to approve a series of appointments to town positions and commissions. Learn more online at www.tricornernews.com.

\$5.64 million capital improvement project for HVRHS goes to voters

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Region One Board of Education unanimously voted to send a \$5.64 million dollar capital improvement and renovation project at Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) to voters after a public hearing Monday, Dec. 4.

The issue will be decided by voters in a referendum vote Monday, Jan. 8, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the town halls of the six Region One member towns: Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon.

The original motion was for a \$5.6 million project.

The scope of the improvements and renovations is extensive. They include:

- Cafeteria and auditorium renovations, including new seats in the auditorium and new furniture in the cafeteria.

Both the cafeteria and auditorium

will get significant upgrades in audiovisual equipment, as both are often used for all-school and community events.

- Replacement of the air handler unit in Room 133 at HVRHS (an auditorium-style lecture hall) and installation of air conditioning.

- Installation of a new air handler unit for heating and cooling in the central office.

- Remodeling of the boys and girls bathrooms in the science hall.

- Rehabilitation of the tennis courts located north of the HVRHS campus.

- Installation of a new whole school generator in the southern end of the school.

- Inspection and repairs to all masonry.

- Installation of a new fire alarm system.

- Upgrades to all old circuit breaker boxes.

See HVRHS, Page A10

CT lawmakers propose nixing tipped minimum wage — again

By Erica E. Phillips
CT Mirror

Members of the Connecticut General Assembly want to revisit a legislative proposal to eliminate the lower minimum wage assigned to hourly employees who earn tips, establishing instead a single minimum wage that would apply to all workers.

The legislature's Labor and Public Employees Committee approved a similar bill, S.B. 1177, during the 2023 session, but it didn't come up for a vote in either chamber. In a press conference Tuesday, Dec. 5, committee co-chair Sen. Julie Kushner, D-Danbury, said she intends for the 'One Fair Wage' proposal to be on the table again in 2024.

See WAGE, Page A10



Parade lights up Salisbury

Santa came to Salisbury for the Parade of Lights through the center of town on Tuesday, Dec. 5.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN



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Regional

Amenia withholds action on zoning change for Hudson River Housing

By Leila Hawken

AMENIA — Based on significant opposition voiced by neighboring residents, the Amenia Town Board, at its meeting Thursday, Dec. 7, declined to move forward on a zone change request for the Spruce Hill neighborhood.

The zone change is being requested by Hudson River Housing (HRH) of Poughkeepsie in connection with an affordable housing project being proposed for Spruce Hill. Concerns raised by neighbors led the Town Board to agree to delay any decision until more information could be assembled.

The action being requested of the Town Board was that it agree to move the zone change request on to the Planning Board for its consideration.

Mary Linge, HRH vice president for real estate development and home own-

ership, presented a brief overview of the project and the requested zone change to accommodate the multifamily units being proposed. Preliminary plans for the Spruce Hill site include the building of seven duplex units and one seven-unit apartment building.

The zone change proposal from HRH asks the town to amend its zoning to change the 16-acre parcel from its present designation in a Suburban Residential Zone to a Hamlet Residential Zone (HR), the latter permitting the building of multifamily dwellings.

Attorney Ian MacDonald of Mackey, Butts and Whalen in Poughkeepsie, representing HRH, said that the affordable housing project would be “good for Amenia and all of Dutchess County.”

One of the adjacent neighbors, Salvatore La Rosa, indicated that he and his wife

bought their home in 2022, expecting a quiet retirement. His comments defined the various concerns that were later echoed by other neighbors.

The recreational trail proposed by the developers, La Rosa said, would endanger the public as it was a former quarry that now has a cliff that drops down to a deep lake. The common driveway planned to access the affordable housing units as well as the public trail would skirt La Rosa’s property, he said, concerned about the additional traffic flow.

Other concerns included the introduction of “spot zoning” if the change were approved, as La Rosa indicated that there are no contiguous parcels with the HR designation. As there is currently no home delivery postal service for Spruce Hill and residents need to access mail at the post

office, La Rosa said that 42 more post office boxes would be needed to serve the units of affordable housing, placing additional stress on the limited parking available at the post office.

Plans for the septic leach fields place those fields uphill from the existing residents’ homes, La Rosa pointed out.

As the entrance to the affordable housing complex would be situated on a curve along Route 22, La Rosa raised concerns about adequate sight lines and traffic safety.

Charlie Miller, chairman of the Housing Board, spoke in support of the HRH plans for the property that were the subject of an initial community forum in October 2022, when residents met to discuss the need for affordable housing and HRH made a preliminary presentation of the project.

In The Journal this week

LEGALS.....A2	SPORTS.....A8
REGIONAL.....A2	SHOPPING.....A9
OUR TOWNS.....A3-4	COMPASS.....B1-5
OBITUARIES.....A5	CALENDAR.....B3
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VIEWPOINT.....A7	SPECIALIST.....B6

Online This Week

Sharon sculpture honors the fallen

A sculpture display in Sharon commemorates Pearl Harbor. More on www.tricornernews.com

Salisbury preps for election year

Registrars have announced key voting information for 2024. More on www.tricornernews.com

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.

Chain-reaction collisions in the wee hours

On Saturday, Dec. 2, at approximately 1 a.m., Jesse Morey, 42, of Salisbury was traveling westbound on Bragg Street in North Canaan and disregarded a Stop sign, continuing through the intersection of West Main Street. Morey’s 2009 GMC Sierra K1500 struck a parked 2007 Honda Ridgeline owned by Jerry Cox of North Canaan. Morey’s vehicle then struck a dumpster that then struck a parked 2006 Toyota Scion owned by Rachael Cox of Winsted. Rachael Cox’s vehicle then struck a snowblower and a parked 2006 Dodge Charger, both owned by Jerry Cox. Morey then attempted to evade the scene, but reversed into a fire hydrant, abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot. Jerry Cox reported the incident to Troop B. Enforcement is pending.

Smoke shop violation

Parental complaints about their minor children allegedly purchasing tobacco and other tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) products in North Canaan led to an investigation. On Tuesday, Dec. 5 at approximately noon, Troopers from Troop B, in conjunction with the state Mental Health and Addiction Office of Tobacco Prevention and Enforce-

ment (TREP) and the state Consumer Protection Drug Control Division conducted an age-check verification and inspection of Smoker’s Choice, 11 East Main St., in North Canaan. During the on-scene investigation it was determined that the business did not possess a tobacco distributor’s license, an electronic nicotine delivery certificate, or an adult-use cannabis retailer license, and was retailing tobacco and marijuana products in plain view. The cannabis substances also exceeded the legal limit of what can be sold in Connecticut. Troopers seized all cannabis substances and closed the business. The case remains open for further investigation. [Editor’s note: Smoker’s Choice has reopened and is selling tobacco products with a license.]

Covered bridge scrape

On Wednesday, Dec. 6, at approximately 6 a.m., an unknown driver was traveling westbound on Route 128 in West Cornwall and was attempting to cross the Cornwall Covered Bridge, but got stuck. The driver continued to cross, causing damage to the overhead beams. The bridge was determined to be structurally sound and was opened for traffic. The driver has not been located.

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



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Powder on the mountain

Mohawk Mountain Ski Area has begun the process of powdering the slopes for the upcoming season. Snow-making machines lined the mountain last week to create a fluffy-white paradise for winter sports enthusiasts in the Northwest Corner.

Correction

The A1 article on trash disposal in the Dec. 14 edition of The Lakeville Journal incorrectly stated the Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station handled 29,000 tons of municipal solid waste in the last fiscal year. The correct figure is 2,900 tons.

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

Check them out inside.

- Ocean State Job Lot

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For more information, or to submit your paid announcement, please email publisher@lakevillejournal.com.

LEGAL NOTICES

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

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on December 4, 2023:

Approved Site Plan Application #2023-0236 by Pinnacle Peak Inc. for the Change of Use from Low Turnover Restaurant to Professional Office and Apartment. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor’s Map 49 as Lot 33 and is located at 327 Main Street in Lakeville. The property is owned by 327 Main ST Lakeville LLC.

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

Town of Salisbury
Planning &
Zoning Commission
Martin Whalen, Secretary
12-14-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF ISABELLE CROCKER OSBORNE Late of Cornwall (23-00042)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 21, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
Christopher J. Meninno
c/o Louise F. Brown
Ackerly Brown LLP
5 Academy Street
P.O. 568
Salisbury, CT 06068
Megan M. Foley
Clerk
12-14-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF JILL S. GHI Late of North Canaan (23-00462)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 28, 2023, ordered that all claims must be

presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
Philip J. Ghi
c/o Douglas K O Connell
Howd, Lavieri & Finch,
LLP
682 Main St.,
Winsted, CT 06098
Beth L. McGuire
Chief Clerk
12-14-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF PATRICIA ANN BUNNELL Late of Cary, NC, AKA Patricia S. Bunnell, AKA Patricia A. Bunnell (23-00457)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 30, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
David M. Bunnell
c/o Donna Vincenti
Law Offices of Donna V Vincenti, Atty LLC, 12 Porter Street, PO Box 1399, Lakeville, CT 06039
Beth L. McGuire
Chief Clerk
12-14-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF MARY P. LAMB Late of Sharon AKA Mary Pitcher Lamb (23-00458)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 21, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
Donald W. Lamb, Sr.
c/o Linda M. Patz
Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP
P.O. Box 101
Canaan, CT 06018
Jordan M. Richards
Judge
12-14-23

Our Towns

Cornwall approves new affordable housing commission

By Patrick L. Sullivan

CORNWALL — Voters approved the establishment of an affordable housing commission at the annual town meeting Friday, Dec. 8, at Cornwall Consolidated School.

About 28 people attended, in addition to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance chair Joseph Pryor.

The moderator was Scott Cady.

The motion for the ordinance establishing the Affordable Housing Commission had to be amended to include the number of members to be appointed by the selectmen. There will be eight members, four of whom will have two-year terms and four with four-year terms.

Asked how members will be chosen in the future, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

About 28 people came to the annual town meeting at CCS on Friday, Dec. 8.

said he wanted to get the commission up and running before deciding whether to continue appointing members or to go to electing members.

Asked if the commission will have a budget, Ridgway said the initial plan is to provide \$10,000 in town funds, but that question will be decided during budget season by the Board of Finance.

Ridgway said the idea for

the commission came from a similar ordinance in Salisbury.

The commission will not be in the construction business, Ridgway said.

Rather, it will act as an advocate for affordable housing, and provide research, seek grants, and otherwise help facilitate the creation of new housing.

The town meeting also passed the town's five-year

capital plan, increases in building permit fees and received the town report.

All four items on the agenda passed unanimously.

Awards for service

NORTH CANAAN — Canaan Fire Company has recognized six officers for dedication and service to the town. The following firefighters were honored after achieving significant service milestones.

5 Years

Chris Curtis
Isaac Freund
Connor McGuire

30 Years

Steve Kroehle
Craig Whiting

55 Years

Rick Weaver



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

HYSB honors Dodge

Stacey Dodge, director of the Town Grove in Lakeville, is this year's recipient of the Donald T. Warner Community Service Award given by the Housatonic Youth Service Bureau. She was honored at a reception Thursday, Dec. 7, at the White Hart Inn in Salisbury.

National Iron Bank names new board leadership

LAKEVILLE — On Tuesday, Dec. 5, National Iron Bank announced the appointment of Kevin L. Dumas as chairman and Thaddeus I. Gray as vice chairman of the bank's board of directors.

Dumas, who has served on the bank's board since 2006, succeeds Richard D. Wardell, who died earlier in 2023.

Gray, who has served on the bank's board since 2017,

succeeds Dumas as vice chairman.

"Kevin and Thaddeus have decades of high-level professional experience in the financial services industry and will provide strong leadership on our board for the foreseeable future," said National Iron Bank President Steven T. Cornell. "Their strong knowledge of the bank's operations and philosophy and their deep ties to the community we serve

will provide the bank with excellent continuity as we transition to a new generation of leadership."

National Iron Bank maintains branch offices in Salisbury, Washington Depot, Norfolk and Cornwall Bridge, Connecticut. As of Oct. 30, 2023, the bank had assets of \$298 million. While the bank maintains a national charter, most of its lending is concentrated in Litchfield County.

Soja to leave IMS

LAKEVILLE — Judy Reilly Soja, head of Indian Mountain School (IMS) since 2015, is leaving at the end of the academic year to take the helm at The Loomis Chafee School in Windsor.

In her letter to the IMS community, Soja noted she began her teaching career at IMS in 1999.

"IMS has given me and my

family so much, not the least of which is the company and collegiality of amazing educators. My two sons benefitted from the support, guidance and teaching from remarkable adults and loved spending their childhood on this bucolic campus. The entire Soja family will be forever grateful for the time we spent growing, living and learning at IMS."



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Sharon Hospital

Our Towns

Kent adopts two ordinance amendments

By Leila Hawken

KENT — Amendments to two town ordinances passed with little public comment at a seven-minute town meeting held Wednesday, Dec. 6, at the Town Hall, attracting 33 residents to consider the proposed changes.

A change to the Inland-Wetlands Watercourse ordinance in the section regulating citations was adopted by a vote of 21-7. The revision would strengthen enforcement by implementing a system of fines for violations or noncompliance with regulations. The fines will be \$1,000 for each citation for prohibited activity within a wetland or watercourse, and \$500 for each citation for

prohibited activity within a setback or upland activity.

Speaking in opposition to the ordinance was resident Matt Starr, who said that the change is “premature,” and that regulations are lacking fairness and consistency as they presently stand. He felt that the public may not understand the consequences of implementation.

No questions or comments were raised in connection with an ordinance change affording property tax abatement to local emergency personnel, including firefighters, EMTs, paramedics and ambulance drivers under the Kent Volunteer Fire Department. The vote to adopt the change was unanimous.

Prindle celebrates a life in art

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Longtime Housatonic Valley Regional High School art teacher Warren Prindle’s career in art was on display at the Kearcher-Monsell Gallery in the school library on Friday, Dec. 8.

Prindle, who is retiring at the end of the school year, circulated through the crowd, accepting congratulations.

Four students, Lilly MacMillan, Elinor Wolgemuth, Birdie Boyden, and Addie Diorio, handled the setup of dozens of pieces, which were arranged in a roughly thematic fashion, with distinct areas for conceptual work, observational pieces, and Prindle’s work as a professional illustrator.

The work is for sale, with part of the proceeds to benefit the HVRHS Fine Art Society. The show is open through the end of January. To schedule a visit, call Cindy Fuller at 860-824-5123, ext. 0.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Students helped with the setup of the Warren Prindle retrospective art show at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. From left, Lilly MacMillan, Elinor Wolgemuth, Prindle, Birdie Boyden, and Addie Diorio.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Lighting the menorah in Sharon

Carl Chalet of Sharon led a group Thursday, Dec. 7, on the Sharon town Green during the lighting of the menorah on the first night of Hanukkah. More than two dozen people gathered in a circle for the ceremonial lighting and to sing songs.

Salisbury GOP caucus Jan. 9 Mechare stays as head of regional school board

SALISBURY — There will be a caucus of all enrolled Republican electors of the Town of Salisbury on Tuesday, Jan. 9, 5 p.m. at Town Hall to endorse candidates for the Salisbury Republican Town Committee.

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Pat Mechare of Falls Village will continue as the chair of the Region One Board of Education.

The regional board, in a special meeting Monday, Dec. 4, also elected John Sanders of Cornwall as vice-chair, Sara Cousins of Sharon as secretary, and Jenn Duncan of Kent as treasurer.

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Citations for FCH’s work

State Rep. Maria Horn, D-64, left, with Nancy L. Heaton, president and CEO, Foundation for Community Health, center, and New York Assemblymember Didi Barrett, (D-Dutchess/Columbia) with citations for the foundation and Heaton for service to her community at its 20th anniversary celebration at the White Hart Inn Thursday, Nov. 30.



PHOTO BY SARAH KENYON

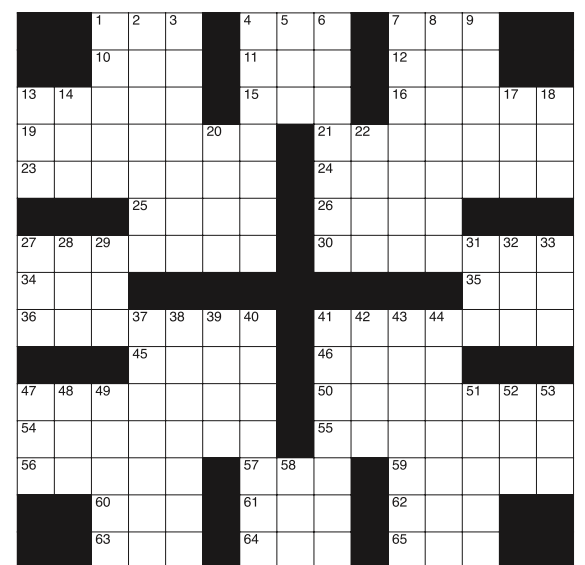
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Mimic
4. Payroll firm
7. Perform in a play
10. Opine: __ philosophical
11. Crony
12. Political action committee
13. 1991 Wimbledon winner
15. Affirmative
16. Exclamation of disgust
19. Action of connecting
21. A way to calm
23. Especially fine or decorative clothing
24. Walked proudly
25. Group of people related through male heir
26. Supplemented with difficulty
27. Soft touch
30. Erases
34. Spanish river
35. A princess can detect it
36. Clouds of gas
41. A way to get through
45. Part of a book
46. Southwestern US state
47. Fields where rice is grown
50. Area in Ghana
54. Sayings
55. Involve deeply
56. Compels to act
57. “Ignore all rules”
59. Indoor entertainment space
60. Born of
61. Back muscle
62. Sea dweller
63. Tools that resemble an axe
64. Prefix denoting class or kind
65. Tooth caregiver

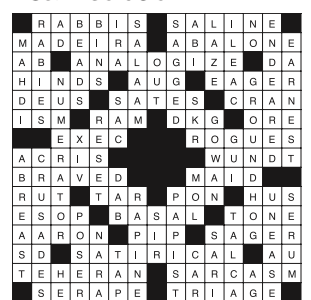
CLUES DOWN

1. Inspiring
2. Put into a box
3. Breathes out
4. Pacify
5. Patriotic society for women
6. Fell down

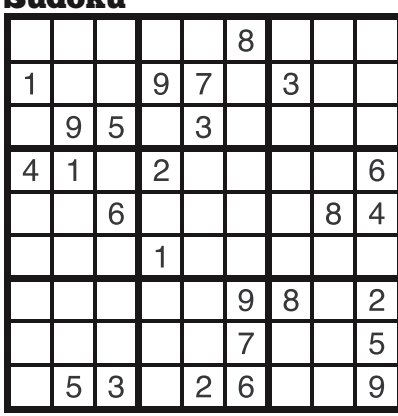


7. Clothing
8. Dishwasher detergent brand
9. Former French republic
13. Single lens reflex
14. Men’s fashion accessory
17. Consumed
18. Marry
20. __ up: intensifies
22. Body of water
27. People of southern Benin
28. Decorate a cake with frosting
29. Snag
31. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
32. Records brain activity (abbr.)
33. Car mechanics group
37. Brought up to snuff
38. __ faire: Economic approach
39. Phil __, former CIA
40. Affixed
41. Period of adolescence
42. Substance
43. Danced
44. Baked without its shell (abbr.)
47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
48. Satisfaction
49. Balkans river
51. Christmas carols
52. Partner to tonic
53. “The Godfather” character Johnny
58. Swiss river

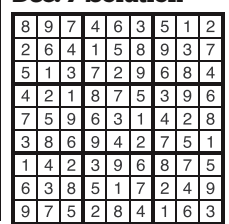
Dec. 7 Solution



Sudoku



Dec. 7 Solution



Level: Intermediate

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OBITUARIES

Wilmer Clayton McCauley III

MILLERTON — Wilmer Clayton McCauley III, 62, a lifelong resident of Millerton, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, at his home in Millerton.

Mr. McCauley worked as a professional landscaper and gardener at the Salisbury Garden Center in Salisbury, for over 40 years. In his younger years he lived and worked on the Frank Perotti Farm on Silver Mountain in Millerton with his family.

Born April 15, 1961, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Wilmer Clayton "Sonny" and Patricia (Palmer) McCauley, Jr. Mr. McCauley attended Webutuck School and was a junior varsity basketball coach at Pine Plains High School for several years. He also enjoyed watching the Dallas Cowboys and the Boston Red Sox in his spare time.

He will be dearly missed by all.

Mr. McCauley is survived by his brother, Ronald R. McCauley of Millerton; two nieces, Patricia and Amber; three nephews, Christopher, Zane and Ethan and his dear friends, Wayne and Dawn Conklin of Claverack, New York.

There are no calling hours. Funeral services will be private. To send an online condolence to the family or plant a tree in Wilmer's honor please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com Memorial contributions may be made to the North East Baptist Church, 1 Maple Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

Joseph Schaefer

NORTH CANAAN — On Nov. 24, 2023, Joseph Schaefer known affectionately to his loved ones as "Papa" entered into eternal rest.



He began the first chapter of his life as a Roman Catholic priest for almost 20 years, taking pride in guiding his community. Soon after, he fell in love with his best friend and partner Joan, the woman who would help him write the next and best chapter. Together, they raised three children, as well as four grandchildren.

Joe started a position working for the City of West Haven for almost 30 years, continuing to serve his community even after leaving the priesthood.

Joe was a man of many interests, but he loved nothing more than his family. From personally curating antique collections for each of his children to teaching his grandchildren how to body surf in the Rhode Island waves, he was always looking for ways to share his passions and wisdom with those who were special to him. He also loved to put a smile on the face of everyone around him, especially those of his grandchildren. There are only so many times you can consecutively put a whoopie cushion on someone's chair before they catch on, but Joe always let the kids think that they had tricked him yet again.

Joe was also a proud Russian immigrant (he was not, but he certainly fooled everyone at Saint Clare church in Misquamicut into thinking so during one church service).

Joe was an avid antique collector, specializing in clocks. He frequented clock shows as often as he could until he was no longer able to travel for them. Each win-

ter, he loved to make maple syrup for his friends and family, much to the chagrin of his wife whose kitchen he monopolized during the sap boiling process. Joe would always keep a sharp eye out for good maple trees during this time, even going as far as to ask permission from friends and strangers alike to tap their trees with the promise of a fresh bottle of syrup in return.

One constant throughout Joe's life was his love for humanity and his sense of justice. He frequently partook in volunteerism and protests and always endeavored to make the world a better place in any way that he could. He used his affinity for languages to expand his efforts to many people, with a special focus on the Spanish-speaking community. It was important to Joe to spread love and care to all, and to make everyone feel at-home around him. He was always proud to do good in the world, and leaves behind a legacy of honor, kindness, and selfless love.

Joe is survived by his son Matthew (Patrizia) Schaefer of Wallingford; daughter Carol (Collin) Bradt of Ft. Meyers, Florida; and son Michael (Stacey) Montanaro of North Haven; as well as four grandchildren: Michael Montanaro, Jr., Francesca Zuppari, Christian Schaefer, and Aidan Schaefer. He was preceded in death by his parents George and Ana (McCaffrey) Schaefer; his beloved wife Joan (Zito) Schaefer; and brother George and sister Mary Schaefer.

Calling hours were held on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Martin of Tours Parish, St. Joseph Church of Canaan, Connecticut on Monday, Dec. 11, at 10 a.m.

Nancy Lou Ann Gandolfo

NORTH CANAAN — Nancy Lou Ann Gandolfo passed peacefully in her sleep Nov. 16, 2023. God rest her soul.



I'll remember her as a strong, independent, loving woman who was dedicated to her family. My momma has always been my hero and I her champion. Coming up from humble roots, the daughter of John and Amelia Pezze, she spent much of her adult life building community.

Heavily involved in local politics in North Canaan, including elected Select Person, Registrar, Democratic Committee member, she served as the secretary for the Northwest Connecticut Rod and Gun Club for over forty years. As an outdoorsman and naturalist, she loved nature and promoted conservation. Professionally my

mother was employed by The Canaan National Bank for many years and retired as the housing manager for Station Place in North Canaan where she made her mark with integrity.

Her presence is sorely missed in our lives but her spirit lives on all around us. She is resting in solitude high upon a mountaintop overlooking the Salmon River at 'The Rockin' J' Ranch in Eastern Idaho.

My mother wished that donations be made directly to The Sharon Audubon Society in her honor. "Uva Uvam Vivendo Varia Fit"

She is survived by; Jason "Jake" Gandolfo, Mario Louie Gandolfo Jr., Nanette Van Patten-Hardy-Timmins, Jack Timmins, Rebecca Hardy, Leah Alexander and Brynn Alexander.

Send obituaries to johnc@lakevillejournal.com



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Walk in the woods

The one-mile North Canaan Greenway was opened Saturday, Dec. 2, after a citizen group took the initiative to do a bit of fall cleanup. The easy trail rises to an elevation almost 800 feet and loops through an invasive-free woodland bordered by moss-covered stone walls. The Greenway, near the North Canaan Elementary School, can be reached by walking between the town pool and the ball field, then following tree markers.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Stick by stick

Brandon Smith, left, and Chris Milano, both of Millerton, put new roof framing on the cow barn at Elm Knoll Farm in East Canaan. On March 15, a heavy snow caused a roof collapse, killing two pregnant heifers at the dairy farm owned by David Jacquier.

Emergency assistance available for winter bills

SHARON — The Sharon Community Foundation announced a grant award from the Northwest CT Community Foundation Marion Wm. & Alice Edwards Fund on Tuesday, Dec. 5.

The purpose of these funds is to provide emergency assistance for rent, heating, gas and food cards.

Melia Hill, the social service agent in Sharon, said: "The majority of my clients are looking at electrical bills that are triple what they were just a month ago, even when they're on more affordable

payment plans. All cost-of-living assistance is welcomed this year with these unexpected cost hikes."

Donna DiMartino, president of the Sharon Community Foundation, said, "We are thrilled to have the support of the Northwest Community Foundation and are busy with our annual fund drive through both individual letters to all Sharon residents as well as the debut of our Sharon Community Foundation Website as we prepare to help residents through the year."

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

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www.christchurchsharon.org

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Rev. Paul Christopherson
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www.stjohnssalisbury.org
860-435-9290

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"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-435-9496
Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

The Sharon United Methodist Church
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Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits
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No Sunday School in Summer
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-364-5634
sharonumc5634@att.net

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Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT
Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons
The next meeting will be Sunday, January 14 at 10:30 a.m.
For information, contact Jo Loi at jokiau10@gmail.com
All are Welcome

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EDITORIAL Winter Solstice

We are about one week away from that planetary orbital reality, the Winter Solstice. As happens every day, the Sun appears in the East and sets in the West. We can count on that. The observed path of the Sun crossing the sky is a result of the Earth turning on its axis. The Earth's axis tilt is what gives us seasons of the year, and the Winter Solstice for us in the Northern Hemisphere marks the time when our planet's pole reaches maximum tilt away from the Sun. It marks the shortest day of the year north of the Equator, and the beginning of longer days to come.

That event this year will occur on December 21, when we'll experience seven hours and 14 minutes of daylight. At 10:27 p.m. ET, Earth's axis will be tilted the farthest away from the sun.

Down through the ages the Winter Solstice has spawned a tradition of festivals and celebrations, a host of superstitions and even supernatural meanings to note the return of the sun. Old traditions surrounding the solstice have held some influence on religious holidays that we celebrate today, including Christmas and Hanukkah. Britannica lists a half dozen solstice traditions still honored today across the world.

A common thread running through these traditions that mark the seasonal change — the established rhythm of life on our planet — is the festival and its community celebration. It is a time when people come together, gathering to sing carols on doorsteps or as a tree is lighted in the town green. It's when communities hold their version of a "festival of lights," a communal recognition of the "return of the sun," an ancient notion. Driving along our roads after dark is a visual treat, seeing how homeowners have decorated with brightly colored lights that outline the roofline of their home, or highlight the contours of a tree in the front yard. Blow-up Santas and reindeer beckon memories of childhood, and for children, fuel imaginations.

In community after community, people come together to connect on common ground, even as we as a nation are increasingly polarized. America's partisan divide continues to widen on issues such as gun control, abortion, global warming, immigration and others, including education and the role of the federal government.

While as a people we may struggle to agree on political, cultural and other matters of society, it is an indisputable fact that the Earth rotates around the Sun and that on December 21 at 10:27 p.m. ET the Earth's axis will be tilted the farthest away from the Sun. This celestial event is one that we share, just like the town holiday parades over the past few weeks and the roadside holiday decorations that make the season bright, appealing to us with a warm and sometimes whimsical spirit of community and meaning.

Let's welcome the Winter Solstice.

Concern about Grove Street affordable housing project

It was my understanding that the proposed affordable housing project at the site of the former Grove Street school was "in the very early stages" of consideration/planning. It was also my understanding that the process of determining the appropriateness of this site would be "open and transparent." Why is it that now this process will be pushed along to procure "some funding opportunities?"

This project was proposed a number of years ago. A group of concerned citizens, including myself, met at the park. A number of factors in the proposal were either in error or not fully considered.

The measurements provided were grossly inaccurate. There were surveying flags marking dimensions of the houses. There was not enough room for proposed driveways to the three structures. Members of the group remeasured boundaries to prove this during the meeting. Snow plowing and snow removal of said properties was not even considered. There would

have been no room to plow or push snow aside.

The town's tree warden, George Kiefer, a former selectman, attended. He indicated that the historic trees at the entrance of the school yard could not withstand the proposed construction or wear and tear over their root systems that the combined traffic of White Hart parking and three residences would incur.

Another resident had researched the property and found that it was deeded to remain a park and was not available for consideration for building. If Salisbury is also in need of parks and recreational areas (not my words — noted in a town report) could this area not represent that need?

After our meeting the group was told that the proposal for three housing units at this site was no longer a viable option and would be abandoned. What has changed? The same property is still right where it was ten or 15 years ago. I look at it everyday.

Claudia Barnum
Salisbury

Don't forget the hostages

Regarding the front page picture in the Dec. 7 issue titled "Taking a Stand in Salisbury" I can see several large signs with numerous demands relating to the war between Israel and Hamas. I did not see a sign demanding

the Immediate Release of the Hostages. Perhaps this was an oversight, but hopefully it will be there this Saturday and every Saturday until they are all released.

Alan Friedman
Salisbury



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sharon's future: bleak or bright?

The controversy surrounding the proposed solar energy installation for Sharon Center School is based on what we townsfolk feel is most important. Some feel the land that was partially donated, partially paid for, by the town to be a nature park should remain just that. Others feel that utilizing 25% of the 2.83 acre property to provide 85% of the energy for the school is a wise choice. I see it as a "both-and" proposition because we can keep the nature park while taking a bold step into the future.

The park's intention was to be a place for people to experience nature and a teaching tool for the school. The reality is that the "nature trail" is merely a mowed path that winds around a neglected parcel of land. The school has not used the land in recent

years. Trees that were planted are now in sad shape because invasive plants have gone unchecked. Some of the trees are missing and others are dying. The field that comprises most of the property consists of mainly non-native European grasses and provides nothing for pollinators. The vegetation around the edges of the parcel is the same: almost completely composed of non-native invasive plants that are spreading and taking over healthy native plants. This is all to say that this parcel of land is anything but a pristine example of "nature". The neglect of this property has allowed for unchecked proliferation of invasive plants which sends a negative message to anyone that wants to enjoy it.

A fresh vision for this property would breathe

new life into this land and our town. We are all aware that clean, cheap, renewable energy is the way of the future. And this plan will not cost the taxpayer one dime because it's all paid for by the Green Bank. What's even more important than money is the costs to our personal health — both physical, emotional, and environmental. Ask almost any young person and they will tell you they fear for their future. This project can do something about that, and at the same time the land can be brought back to ecological health. I have spent more than 50 years of my life as an ecological landscape restorationist. Invasives can be controlled, new native plantings can be introduced. The plants will not only greatly improve the habitat quality of this land, but also help screen the solar panels for the neighbors that abut the property. It can be a property you would want to experience firsthand. School kids and adults alike can enjoy nature and observe interactions between native flora and fauna, all while walking around solar panels making clean energy from the sun.

We need this positive step into the future. Please vote YES on Jan. 5. Gandhi said it best: "It is true we can do but little, but we should do it right away."

Michael Nadeau
Sharon

represents today. And the ongoing conflict in the West Bank settlements (which should never have been permitted) further demonstrates the cluelessness of the Israeli government.

But there is another side. Anyone who has watched even thirty seconds of the body-cam videos of the Hamas assault on October 7th can only come away sickened and horrified by what was done. That cannot be excused or ignored, as Mr. Baroody ignored it in his letter. Israel is right to believe that there is no safety for them as long as Hamas remains in power. And Hamas's stated goal of wiping Israel off the map is almost certainly not going to succeed, nor should it.

Almost 80 years ago, the British (who had no business being decision makers about this in the first place) proposed a two state solution for the protectorate of Palestine, which had been in a sort of limbo ever since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire at the end of World War I. Though today that solution seems farther than ever from being realized, what other alternative is there? It merely requires that both the extremist government of Hamas and the extremist government of Israel fall from power to allow a way for more rational and humane heads to wrestle this intractable problem to the ground.

Simple, right?
Frederick Peters
Sharon

LETTERS

Importance of your editorial's six last words

Regarding the editorial of Dec. 7, Housatonic's football team — "Joining forces" — I'd like to submit a bit of history.

It was 70 years ago, September, 1953, when Housatonic began its first eleven man football team under coach Bedini. Seventeen boys, "for the love of the game" gathered to try something new and different and, by November, against all odds, ended up with an unforgettable, undefeated season.

I'm uncertain as to whether Housatonic has had other undefeated seasons and, in fact, that is not important. What is important is that Housatonic students are still able to play "for the love of the game."

Peter C. Smith,
Housatonic "53" team member

Taconic

Thanks for Lakeville Community Conservancy

The other night I was rushing to get to some appointment or other when I spotted Susan Galluzzo of the Lakeville Community Conservancy down on her hands and knees planting a holiday tree. It was only then that I realized that all of the beauty we see in Lakeville and Salisbury are the result of hard work by our neighbors.

Thank you to Susan and her team at the Lakeville Community Conservancy for the beautifully maintained garden in front of the post office, for the holiday decorations throughout town and for the garden next to the Patco, beautiful all times of the year.

Likewise, if you love what Salisbury looks like at holiday time and if you enjoyed Hometown Holidays Merry and Bright, remember that it is in large part due to Carolyn Piccirelli of Honeychurch Home in Salisbury and her dedicated helpers. I'd like to extend a heartfelt appreciation for all of the volunteers who have done so much to make our towns sparkle at Holiday Season.

Anne Day
Salisbury

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Viewpoint

Packing up the family farm, corn crib included

By Jennifer Almquist

NORFOLK — When Nikki Smith was faced with the sad task of selling her family's 200-year-old farm, she moved the corncrib from the fields of Mead Farm in Seymour to her backyard in Norfolk 50 miles away, filled it with memories from her grandparents' life, and created her "ancestral sanctuary and personal she-shed."

The proud little building was christened "Louise" after her mother, and also the clever acronym: Ladies Only Unless Invited for Special Event. The corncrib is a retreat from the pressures of the world and a journey to her family's past.

Years ago, the Mead family farmed in Greenwich near Round Hill. Faced with financial challenges, Smith's ancestors allowed the state of Connecticut to run the Merritt Parkway smack through the middle of their pastures.

The balance was lost so her grandfather Elmer Lincoln Mead sold the place and, in 1917, established Mead Farm, a 180-acre working dairy farm on the top of Bungalow Road in Seymour, where generations worked the land, tended the dairy herd, raised chickens, and grew berries for commercial sale.

Sadly, history repeated itself and Elmer sold the rights to the state of Connecticut to run Route 8 through his meadows. The beautiful farm was sold as a subdivision, Seymour Meadows, in 1979.

As family died and moved away, the farm lay fallow. The barns were razed and only the ancient farmhouse remained as Smith's mother's home. The last remaining farm building was the 20-foot-long corncrib. The new owner said that anything that was not removed would be put into a dumpster.

It was already a difficult time for the family. When Smith's 95-year-old mother, Marion Louise Mead St. Julien, moved in with the Smith family in Norfolk, Smith was already caring for her mother-in-law and her husband,

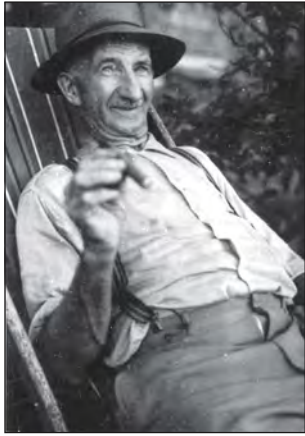


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Grandpa Elmer Lincoln Mead, dairy farmer.

Randy, who has Parkinson's disease. It was during the pandemic, and tragically her mother died of COVID-19. Smith needed a retreat, a place to recover.

Smith made endless trips bringing farm implements, tools, buckets, old lanterns, family photographs, the butter churn from the kitchen, parts of her grandmother Sadie Frances Mead's Glenwood stove. Just prior to selling the farmhouse, Smith was able to fulfill her mother's last wish that the corncrib be saved from the bulldozers and move with her to Norfolk.

Then came the challenge of the actual move. It took five years to find Spencer Parent of Laurel City Towing in Winsted who accepted the challenge of moving the old building intact.

Smith recalled the move: "Because of the height restrictions, the roof and gable ends of Louise had to be removed, the entire structure braced securely for the journey. That work was done by Ed Rowland, a carpenter and old family friend."

"Louise was strategically loaded onto a flatbed tow truck with only inches to spare, driven 50 miles, and lowered into her new home — my backyard. While there was a bit of collateral damage, she was delivered in fine form." Moloney Landscaping in Winsted did all the excavation work.

Despite the doubts of her family as to her state of mind, Smith transformed



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Above, Nikki stood in the doorway of "Louise" and welcomed guests. Right, Randy and Nikki Smith of Norfolk.

the once utilitarian building into a magical space. The front step to enter Louise is the fieldstone that Smith used to sit on as a child. Her uncle Norman Wishart built the corncrib in 1917 with her grandfather. They used the white oak and chestnut from the farm for the post and beam construction.

Light plays through the slats that slant from the new metal roof in toward the original floor, and there is an immediate sense of comfort.

Smith loves lying on the old brass bed with its draped netting, listening to the rain on the roof, reading under her quilt. A mantelpiece taken from the old farmhouse, its paint nearly worn off, anchors the space, leaning against the end wall. In the mottled light, your eyes adjust and the journey of memories begins: a white linen summer dress hung on a shutter, a straw hat, shoe stays from a relative who was a cobbler, silver brush and comb, croquet balls, shells from summer filling a bell jar, books with faded covers. Hidden beneath the butter churn, there is a miniature log cabin made by her uncle.

Smith is an expressive woman, a caregiver, old-fashioned yet clearly indepen-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Moving Louise to her new home in Norfolk.

PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

A salvaged egg scale from the family farm.

dent. She remembered: "The 180-acre farm was a very busy place...we visited each summer — producing my very happiest childhood

memories. We played croquet on the lawn with the cousins. We spent hours in the hayloft of the barn... there was a rope and pulley

system we swung from and dropped into the hay. There were large family picnics in the yard on Sunday afternoons. As a special treat, my grandfather would take me, all by myself, into Seymour. I would ride shotgun in his well-polished 1955 green Ford sedan. He would dress in his Sunday best to go to town...never ever wearing farm attire for errands."

"I always remember my grandmother bustling in the kitchen all day...never seeming to stop to rest. She went from one meal and task to the next. I remember her always stirring the farm-fresh unhomogenized milk to incorporate the cream layer on top before pouring. My grandmother cooked without ever measuring the ingredients. I am still in awe of her and her seemingly tireless work ethic. I could only aspire to be one-tenth of the woman she was. I would genuinely love another hour with her."

"There was a mucky cow pond and a babbling brook we swam in. My mom and my Aunt Flora used to walk me down far beyond the pastures to a secret place where the wild huckleberries grew.

"The very best thing of all were the rides with my Uncle Bud on the old 1954 Ferguson tractor. I would sit on the fender and hang on for dear life. Sometimes he pulled the hay wagon and we all piled on. We now have that tractor here in Norfolk. Uncle Bud left it to my son, Tanner, [a veterinarian] who gently and lovingly restored it. The farm was a place of freedom where we enjoyed hours of exploration and adventure."

This is a story of home, of missing loved ones, honoring the work of family, a time of simpler pleasures, and the tools of farming and cooking whose function is nearly forgotten. There is a universal quality to the memories — we all miss home, our childhoods, the laughter and rhythms of daily life past. Nikki Smith has found a way to hold on to her childhood, and the life of the Mead Farm.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — December 1923

A young man named Breuy of Lime Rock while driving a Paige runabout from Sharon to Lakeville on Saturday evening, came to grief near the residence of John Hall. His car hit the cement curb of a culvert while going at high speed. Both front wheels, axle and transmission were ripped off and the car buried its nose in the ditch. Breuy was somewhat cut about the mouth but not seriously. He was arrested later and taken before the court in Sharon where he was charged with reckless driving, driving while intoxicated and driving with wrong number plates and breach of the peace. He received a fine of \$60 and costs amounting to about \$120.

Little Mary Phillip had the misfortune to fall from the cellar door and fracture her left arm last Thursday.

A new boarder, Robert Henry Garrison, arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Garrison on Tuesday Dec. 11.

Mr. William Kane is having a wireless installed in his house.

A number of the men friends of C.H. Barnum gave him a pleasant surprise party on the occasion of his birthday last Saturday evening. Barney doesn't say how old he is, but he does say that the first hundred years are the hardest.

50 years ago — December 1973

Male suffrage may generally be assumed elsewhere, but it was dealt a sharp blow recently in Kent. At a meeting of the Provisional League of Women Voters last Friday, the members voted two to one to deny men admission to the organization. The vote followed a spirited debate on the subject.

Superior Court Judge Anthony J. Armentano Wednesday afternoon denied a motion by State's Attorney John F. Bianchi of Canaan to bar the press and public from court during arguments on a motion to suppress evidence in the case of Peter Reilly. Mr. Reilly, 18, is charged with the Sept. 28 murder of his mother, Barbara Gibbons, in their Falls Village home. Mr. Bianchi warned that press coverage of material to be presented in evidence might "create an inflammatory situation in the area." He singled out The

Lakeville Journal as having "headlines every week" on the Reilly case.

Fuel consultants James Husted and Walter Ullram appealed to business proprietors in Lakeville and Salisbury this week to restrict the lighting of store windows and signs during the energy shortage. In conformance with the policy outlined by Gov. Thomas J. Meskill, businesses are asked to illuminate only one sign describing the kind of business. The Governor has requested that other advertising signs and window display lighting be curtailed.

Welders were at work early this week on the reconstruction of the bridge over Salmon Kill on the Lime Rock Road. Town officials expect the bridge to be completed before Christmas, ready to carry two lanes of traffic where only one could pass before.

Canaan's night life will get a big lift next week with the opening of the Golden Spike, a new pub complete with peanut shells on the floor and buckets of beer. The new pub will open in the newly-renovated Union Depot on or before Dec. 20,

according to Chet Stover and Don Walker, sponsors of the new business.

Edmund Dean, who operates a farm in South Canaan, continued this week to sight a small dog-like animal which may well be an Eastern coyote. The animal has been seen around the farm on a number of occasions. Unusually bold for a member of such an elusive species, this animal has appeared in daylight and stayed in view for several minutes at a time.

25 years ago — December 1998

State Police continue to investigate an armed robbery which took place Saturday, Dec. 5, at Fife's Convenience Store at routes 7 and 63 in Falls Village. According to Patricia Fife, who owns the business with her husband Paul, her daughter-in-law was alone in the store when a masked and gloved gunman entered around 8:30 p.m. and demanded money from the register. Her daughter-in-law complied. Reached at work Wednesday Mrs. Fife said she couldn't remember how much money was taken from the register. When caught, the gunman will be charged with first-degree robbery and third-degree larceny.

The Northwest Connecticut Chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States holds its first membership business meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at the Holley House Museum in Lakeville. The meeting date is the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights by the General Assembly.

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

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The Salisbury Housing Trust has been asked how does affordable housing affect the property values of neighboring properties? We are fortunate enough to have Ingrid Ellen here in Cornwall who is the Faculty Director at the NYU Furman Center, which focuses on housing, neighborhoods and urban policy. Basically, her studies have shown that in strong neighborhoods that already have relatively high property values, there is either no impact or a positive impact when a relatively modest number of affordable housing units are built. The key is the quality of design and construction together with the maintenance and management of the properties to support property values. For more information, please go to: www.furmancenter.org/files/media/Dont_Put_It_Here.pdf



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Sports

Trinity Pawling basketball tops Salisbury 78-57

By Riley Klein

SALISBURY — The Crimson Knights' early season basketball struggles continued with a 78-57 loss at home against Trinity Pawling School on Saturday, Dec. 9.

Salisbury School kept even with the Lions for most of the first half before the Pride ran away with it in the second. Trinity Pawling's superior size created a dominant presence in the paint and gave Salisbury trouble on both ends of the court.

Salisbury School's Flood Athletic Center was buzzing Dec. 9 with a hockey game against Kent School just across the hall from the basketball court. Fans and students bounced between the two matches for a double feature of Saturday night sports.

Having started the season with four losses, the Knights looked determined to right the ship in front of a home crowd. They played Trinity Pawling close at the start, trusting the zone defense and creating strong scoring opportunities through a pass-first offense.

Salisbury pulled ahead 21-20 midway through the first when Chris Redhead lobbed an alley-oop to Bailey Coleman.

Just before halftime, Trinity Pawling caught wind and scored eight unanswered points. Salisbury's lack of reserve players added to the pressure of the starters, who appeared to be running on fumes after a physical half.

By the break, the Lions led 40-30.

Fans went back to the hockey game during intermission and Salisbury's team returned from the locker



Bailey Coleman took flight for a slam dunk against Trinity Pawling on Dec. 9.



Zyron Lord looked to penetrate the crowded paint.



Trinity Pawling's size gave Salisbury trouble down low.

room looking spent. Trinity kept adding to its double-digit lead as tensions rose on the court.

With about two minutes

to play, Redhead exchanged words with Trinity Pawling forward Benedek Maly. The scuffle resulted in a late shove from Redhead and an immediate ejection by the refs.

The game concluded 78-57 in favor of Trinity Pawling. The Lions were led in scoring by Jaice Martabano

with 27 points. Salisbury's top scorer was Bailey Coleman with 20 points including a pair of colossal dunks.

Salisbury moved to 0-5 on the season while Trinity

Pawling advanced to 2-1.

The Knights will play their next four games on the road before returning home to host Deerfield Academy on Jan. 13. Tip off is at 5 p.m.

Kent hangs on to beat Hotchkiss

By Lans Christensen

KENT — The Hotchkiss School's girls basketball team came to The Kent School Monday, Dec. 4, for the first of their two season meetings.

They arrived with an impressive record from last season: The 2022-23 Bearcats were the best team in school history with 18 wins, and were also finalists in the Class A Championship.

Kent did not seem intimidated, and the game started with two very well-matched opponents. Ball possession was relatively equal, and two points were the difference in the first quarter.

Kent used a full court press defense, which forced Hotchkiss into sporadic plays and desperate shots. Play at the Kent end was more controlled and baskets successfully sunk.

The second quarter saw Kent take a 4-point lead for the first time, and that was slowly built to a 34-19 lead by halftime. Outstanding offense and shot-making from Kent forwards Phoena Dawson and Morgan Johnson were the driving forces in the go-ahead.

Hotchkiss came back strong and determined in the second half. Ball steals, clutch rebounds and intercepted passes led to frequent Bearcat fast breaks and many baskets.

The start of the fourth period found Kent's lead slip to just four points with the score at 42-38. A competitive spirit to the game was palpable in the gym.

Kent led by a basket with one and a half minutes left. Hotchkiss, through superior rebounding, looked to even



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Above, Kent School's Nayia Chrysanthopoulos battled in the paint. Right, Kaya Nuttall ran the fast break for Kent. Below, Morgan Johnson set up Kent's offense from the rop of the key.



the score or better.

With only seconds left, Johnson sank the 3-point-

shot of the day, a perfect swish, and Kent held on to win 58-53.

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Dear Friends and Readers,

There is GOOD NEWS to report about The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News! We have added more journalists to our staff, expanded our news coverage and we are about to launch new websites for both papers with seven-day-a-week news coverage.

Like many newspapers across the country, we face financial pressures that threaten our ability to continue this vital work. Even after a successful matching campaign, we still need your help. As a non-profit news organization, we must close the gap between what we earn by selling newspapers and ads and our operating expenses. That's why we are reaching out to you, our loyal readers and community members.

The papers led the way this year in reporting on important issues to our community: Sharon Hospital, affordable housing, and environmental challenges to our lakes and state parks. And, of course, we remain the place to catch up on the police blotter, town meetings, local elections, local sports, festivals, movies, and the latest bear and wildlife sightings.

Since The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News were converted to non-profit status last year, you have kept us in business with your generous contributions. We are asking you once again to consider a tax-deductible contribution as part of your year-end giving. Every donation goes to support our journalists and the mission to deliver the stories that matter to you.

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The MILLERTON NEWS

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PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Troop B toy drive

Donated gifts piled up beneath the tree at State Police Troop B barracks in North Canaan. The annual toy drive runs to Christmas Eve.

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MILITARY

Continued from Page A1

people in uniform.

Except for the Marine Corps, all major branches of the military missed their recruitment goals in 2023, making it the worst recruiting year since the institution of the all-volunteer force in 1973, according to local recruiters.

Simply put, the U.S. military is in a war for talent.

A number of factors are causing young people to shun Uncle Sam, said military officials.

To name a few: A hot job market; increased competition from the state's community colleges, which are offering free tuition; fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns, which, for two years, prevented face-to-face contact with the public; and escalating global conflicts.

"There are a lot of programs helping students get into the workplace where they qualify for immediate employment" in addition to lofty bonuses and on-the-job training, noted HVRHS Principal Ian Strevor.

According to Defense Department polling data, when asked, only 9% of Americans expressed a willingness to serve in the military. On top of that, the number of people eligible for service has dropped to 23%, with obesity and low test scores being major barriers to enlistment.

To solve the recruiting crisis, it is essential to bridge the gap between the military and the public, said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Nagle, the

"We're pushing out the Space Force. That's our shiny, new tool."

—Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Nagle, U.S. Air Force

marketing NCO in charge of the 319th Reservists Squadron, which oversees recruitment in six New England states.

She cited differences between the Gen Z population, who are the prime age for recruiting but lack interest in enlisting, and previous generations, who were more familiar with and supportive of the military.

"We're hitting social media to get the word out, giving bonuses quarterly and we're pushing out the Space Force. That's our shiny, new tool," which has generated "a lot of interest. We're feeling confident heading into 2024 and want to do everything we can to keep our Air Force running efficiently."

In an effort to target the Gen Z population, the Navy recently introduced its new ad campaign, "Forged by the Sea," featuring videos of soldiers explaining why they chose to enlist.

According to recruiters, a young person is more likely to enlist if they come from a family of military veterans.

Recruiters are most effective when they have boots on the ground meeting face-to-face in local communities, which, until recently was limited, said Capt. Matthew Sims, Future Ops OIC, who

oversees the Army's Northeast Battalion headquarters covering the Hudson Valley up to Albany, New York, plus Connecticut, Vermont and Massachusetts.

Earlier this year, all major branches of the military were represented at a job fair sponsored by the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, including recruiters from the Armed Forces Military Recruitment Depot in Torrington, which covers the Northwest Corner. Their presence was a popular draw with attendees.

"People are very respectful and honorable, and I think our country still believes in the military, but there is a lack of understanding of how differentiated opportunities are," said Sims. He noted that while the enticements from fast food chains look good on the surface, young people fail to equate it to what the military has to offer.

"They don't think of the opportunities for upward mobility, career satisfaction and benefits, that are basically unparalleled, and the Army is taking steps to communicate that through the "Be All You Can Be" campaign, Sims explained.

He compared roles within the military to a professional sports organization. "You

need equipment managers, coaches, physical therapists, engineers, medics. We have all that to support our combat arms athletes in the field."

Sims, who enlisted as a medic out of high school and worked his way up the ranks, noted that "people do come in with concerns" about the possibility of deployment to a war zone, and that a military career "may not be for everyone."

"It is a commitment, and the possibility of seeing combat," even if a chosen career, does not necessarily involve the front lines is made very clear to recruits and their families, said Sims. "When you raise your right hand, it is because you're willing to go to conflict areas."

According to a fall 2022 poll by the Department of Defense of youth ages 16-21, physical and emotional trauma (70% and 65% respectively) are the most common reasons for not considering joining the military, followed by leaving family and friends (58%), other career interests (46%), and dislike of military lifestyle (40%).

On average, one or two HVRHS students per graduating class enlist in the military, according to Terni.

"We had two or three sign up a couple of years ago, but that was an anomaly," she explained. "Since the pandemic, a student's plan for the future has become more ambiguous between the family's decision and the student's. It's not as clear now."

WAGE

Continued from Page A1

Kushner said when the legislature agreed to raise Connecticut's minimum wage in 2019 — via incremental annual increases and now pegged to a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics index — "we left some people behind."

Connecticut's minimums for tipped workers remain where they've been since 2017: \$6.38 for waitstaff and \$8.23 for bartenders. Tips are expected to bring those wages up to at least the full minimum wage, and in cases where they don't, employers are required by law to pay the difference, known as a tip credit.

"That's why we have a Department of Labor and wage inspectors, and that's how you resolve this. We already have laws in place that get them to minimum wage right now," said state Rep. Tim Ackert, a Coventry Republican and ranking member on the Labor Committee.

But Kushner and other advocates said restaurant workers are often reluctant to raise the issue, let alone seek legal recourse.

"What we don't do in other industries is allow employers to pay less than the minimum wage, and that's where we really run into trouble here," Kushner said. "If we guarantee one fair wage, then we are actually lifting the bottom, we're closing that crack, and we're making it possible for people to have a more stable existence."

Representatives from the restaurant industry argued that servers prefer the tipped-wage model as it is. A recent survey of servers and bartenders conducted by the Connecticut Restaurant Association found the average hourly wages for these positions, including tips, came out to more than twice the statewide minimum wage.

In an emailed statement, Scott Dolch, president of the Connecticut Restaurant Association, said, "If passed, this legislation would completely change how servers in Connecticut are paid, putting at risk a system that currently benefits thousands of servers, small business restaurant owners, and Connecticut's local economy." Dolch went on to say if restaurants paid servers the full minimum wage, that could discourage patrons from tipping. "It would also give an inherent

advantage to large national chains, harming Connecticut small businesses and resulting in less local choice for Connecticut consumers."

Ackert pointed out that the tipped minimum wage helps keep prices down for consumers. "The reason why we have a tipped wage in the state of Connecticut is really the cost of going out to dinner, going out to a bar, to get a meal," Ackert said. "That reduces the overall cost that an employer or a restaurant has to charge."

Still, Ackert said, he's open to eliminating the state's tipped minimum wage, incrementally over a few years, as long as restaurant owners and employees are included in the conversation and agree that it would work for them.

"I don't see why not," he said.

The One Fair Wage movement is gaining momentum nationally. Lawmakers in at least half a dozen states are considering legislation similar to Connecticut's proposal, and several other states could see the issue come before voters on the 2024 ballot. Seven states already require most or all employers to pay tipped workers the full minimum wage.

Advocates for eliminating the tipped minimum wage often point to the historical origins of the system.

"The subminimum wage for tipped workers was a direct legacy of slavery," Saru Jayaraman, president of the national One Fair Wage campaign, said at the press conference Dec. 5. "It was created after Emancipation to allow restaurants to hire newly freed Black people — Black women in particular — not pay them, and force them to live entirely on this new idea ... called tips."

Jayaraman is now testifying before state legislatures around the country to end the system for good. And she'll likely be back in Connecticut during next year's legislative season, when Kushner, Ackert and the rest of the Labor Committee hear testimony for the second time on the proposal.

The 2024 session convenes Feb. 7.

The Journal occasionally offers articles from CTMirror.org, a source of nonprofit journalism and a partner with The Lakeville Journal.

HVRHS

Continued from Page A1

— Replacement of the cupola on the roof of the main building.

The tennis courts were the subject of some discussion. The plan is to use post-tension concrete, which lasts longer than asphalt, which is currently crumbling. The courts were opened in 2001.

Tennis coach Jeff Tripp said a "coaches' alley" would be a useful addition, allowing coaches to better confer with players during timed matches. This required adding another \$40,000 to the package, which the regional board ultimately did after the hearing.

Replacing the seats in the auditorium means the capacity will be reduced by 29 seats, from 541 to 512.

There will be new lighting and sound booths in the rear.

The balcony will also get new seats.

Region One business manager Sam Herrick said that one big reason for promptly moving the project to a referendum vote is because of volatility in prices. HVRHS facilities manager Jeff Lloyd said, if the referendum passes, supplies will be ordered immediately lest the prices go up.

There is a recurring bad smell in the boys bathroom in the science hall, which will require demolishing a wall and looking for the source.

The new generator will replace a 60 kilowatt system installed in 1999 with a 300



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The crumbling asphalt tennis courts are just one item in a \$5.64 million capital improvement and renovation project proposed for Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

kW system that will allow the entire south wing of the school to be on standby emergency power.

Locations identified for masonry work are: the north and south porticos, the concrete walkway south of the main entrance, the wood shop entrance, the artgarage, the five-bay garage, the maintenance building, the football locker room and building, the southwest wall, and the stone wall in the courtyard.

The current fire alarm is about 20 years old and the school is having trouble with the current vendor on support issues.

The proposal is to replace it with a system approved by the Falls Village fire marshal, which will go beyond minimum code requirements

and include sound strobes in the hallways and building entrances.

The cupola, which Lloyd noted is a favorite hangout of the local chimney swifts, is in rough shape.

The plan is to keep it looking much the same, but to remove the exterior siding and trim and replace it with Boral TruExterior poly-ash material. The project allows for frame and slate roof repairs and an analog clock.

Herrick said the financial impact of the project on the 2024-25 Region One budget will be \$138,000. The new bond issue of \$439,900 for the building project will replace an earlier bond issue payment of \$288,193, which comes off the books June 30, 2024.

Herrick provided additional financial information. Total Region One debt for the current fiscal year (2023-24) is \$851,311. If the project is approved, and a 20-year bond issued, the total Region One debt for the 2024-25 fiscal year will be \$990,170 and for 2025-26, \$779,264.

Using the current budget as a base, and adding in the cost of the bond issue for the building project, Herrick calculated the impact on the towns for the 2024-25 budget as follows:

- Cornwall: \$17,928.
- Falls Village: \$11,051.
- Kent: \$17,778.
- North Canaan: \$49,009.
- Salisbury: \$30,270.
- Sharon: \$13,453.

Herrick also reminded the audience that the method of calculating how the cost of Region One is shared among the six towns is set by state law and relies mostly on how many students each town sends to HVRHS. Any change in that formula must be made by the General Assembly.

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Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

HOLIDAYS: JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Wreath-making workshops

Woodsmoke curling above the small, weathered barn and, within the faded green doors, the smell of fresh-cut pines and cider warming on the woodstove made a perfect setting for the annual wreath-making workshops at Great Mountain Forest (GMF) in Falls Village.

For decades, folks have enjoyed creating their seasonal masterpieces using evergreens, berries, and pine cones gathered from the woods nearby.

On Saturday, Dec. 2, the first pair of workshops took place at the Mountain House Barn on Canaan Mountain Road under the expert guidance of GMF staff: director of programs and operations Matt Gallagher and office manager Vicki Muni Nelson. [The second set of workshops took place Saturday, Dec. 9.]

Participants in the wreath-making ranged from two women who learned about the workshops from a friend they met at Yellowstone to a local family with two young daughters, and to everyone's delight, U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-5) and Barbara Ellis, her friend and campaign manager at Friends of Jahana Hayes, arrived ready to join the fun.

Gallagher welcomed the 20 or so wreath makers and explained the names and origins of the various pine branches lying on the rough floor in great piles. A blaze of red winterberries in a large bucket stood next to baskets filled with pine cones gathered from various types of conifers that grow in the



Barbara Ellis and U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-5) made wreaths at Great Mountain Forest on Dec. 2.

GMF. There were large bows of various ribbons: red, shiny gold, brocades, patterns of vintage trucks, burgundy velvet, and even some reindeer images. The staff had made educational signs with the specific names of the conifers and cones, listed with their Latin names.

Muni Nelson demonstrated the methods of wreath making, which involved metal rings, spools of green garland wire, wire cutters, hot glue guns for adhering the cones, and wired stakes for the bows. A patient teacher, Muni Nelson worked with each maker during the session. A father and mother said they were making some good family memories. After some guidance, the two girls set right to work making their own wreaths that they held up proudly at the end.

Hayes said she was happy to spend time with her friend and, yes, have some personal time, which is in short supply. After another difficult vote in Congress the day before,

Hayes felt respite in the barn working with her hands. She laughed as she twisted her greens with wire and created a festive bow: "You must know that I am very competitive, even with crafts!" Later, she wrote on her social media page: "I have found another CT-05 gem! Had a fabulous afternoon at Great Mountain Forest holiday wreath making workshop. Craft, laughs, and hot apple cider—a great way to get into the holiday spirit!"

Norfolk artist Bevin Ramsey came with his petite mother, Maureen, who had traveled from Ottawa to spend time with her family and celebrate a granddaughter's birthday. The joy between them was contagious.

Each worktable was a flurry of activity. Ellen Walsh of Winchester Center showed off her steel-toed work boots as she tackled her huge wreath.

Journalist Avice Meehan chatted with Hayes, both having recently attended former Gov. Weicker's memorial

service. Meehan had been his press secretary. Susannah Wood from Norfolk worked solo, while Norfolk tax collector Sarah Brusco shared her table with Martha Mullins.

According to The New York Times in a Dec. 25, 1988, article: "Ancient Pagan people, endowing trees with spirit, sheltered the branches of life-preserving evergreens through the frozen winter. Early Romans gave gifts of green branches at New Year's, bestowing the wish for health and vigor upon family and friends. The evergreen wreath its circular shape an emblem of perfection, unity, and the enduring sun-later became a symbol for Christ's suffering. Evergreens embody eternal life... today's wreaths communicate a sense of joy and a desire for peace."

As they joined in spirit with an ancient, symbolic and traditional craft, the Norfolk makers proudly hung their wreaths on the gray barn walls for the group to admire. One by one, the jolly revelers walked away through the surrounding meadow bearing their festive wreaths home to grace their doors and windows.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Carey Mulligan and Bradley Cooper in "Maestro."

FILM: ALEXANDER WILBURN

The Triplex Returns with Movies, Music and 'Maestro'

Thanks to a dedicated group of film-loving residents, the once-closed Triplex Cinema in Great Barrington, Mass., turned its projectors on again this November.

The three-screen theater is moving full steam ahead with plenty of winter programming to bring audiences back to the movies. On Sunday, Dec. 17, Nina Bernstein Simmons, Leonard Bernstein's youngest daughter, will join a live conversation following a screening of the new Bradley Cooper-directed film, "Maestro." Cooper plays the late American conductor and composer, co-starring with Carey Mulligan as his wife, Felicia Montalegre Bernstein, and Matt Bomer as his friend and collaborator, the late American clarinetist David Oppenheim. Nikki Wilson, president of Triplex Cinema's new board of directors, discussed the upcoming events.

Alexander Wilburn: How did the programming with Nina Bernstein Simmons come about?

Nikki Wilson: We knew "Maestro" would be a significant release when it opens at The Triplex on Friday, Dec.

15, as much of it was shot in the Berkshires at Tanglewood. So why not honor Leonard Bernstein himself? So, in addition, we're screening all of the films that he composed music for: "On The Waterfront," "West Side Story" and "On the Town." We reached out to Nina and invited her to come to the Triplex and do a talkback after the screening of "Maestro" on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 1 p.m. Deborah Reinisch will be interviewing her after the film. She taught film at NYU and Columbia. Deborah will lead two other talkbacks during the week: "West Side Story" and "On The Waterfront." To complete the Bernstein on Film series will be Julianne Boyd, the former artistic director of Barrington Stage Company. She was responsible for "On the Town's" production in The Berkshires and bringing it to Broadway. So she'll be coming to talk after the film's showing on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 2 p.m.

AW: How did the revival of Triplex Cinema come about?

NW: The Triplex closed this year in June, and it was going to be a dark theater, but a grassroots group came together. We raised over \$1 million with the help of over 1,000 donors and purchased The Triplex from the longtime owner Richard Stanley. With buying the theater, there was a lot to renovate, so we're in an active campaign to continue fundraising. On Nov. 15, we opened the doors and started screening "The Holdovers." On Dec. 15, we will open the third, largest screen to start showing "Maestro."

Continued on next page



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www.CrescendoMusic.org

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

The 12x12 Art Show Turns 12

The annual “12x12” art sale at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village celebrated a thematically relevant anniversary as the display was unveiled Saturday night, Dec. 9 — the show is now in its 12th year of displaying small works by area residents.

Hung clustered on the library walls, the “12x12” show, as the title would suggest, showcases work on uniform 1-foot by 1-foot canvases. However, some artists chose to break the mold while staying within the obligatory dimensions. Yonah Sadeh, a recent graduate of Bard College at Simon’s Rock, offered a vintage-style photograph of The Great Falls from his hometown of Falls Village, oxidized over a white porcelain square. Sadeh’s documentary, “In Our Backyard,” detailing the lack of affordable housing in Falls Village, was recently awarded first place in the Berkshire Film and Media Collaborative’s Bridging Divides, Healing Communities Youth Film Challenge.

Other notable pieces included an abstract tetrptych by Sam Posey of Sharon. The 79-year-old painter is a neighbor of American artist Jasper Johns and was honored at Lime Rock Park in Salisbury with the front straightaway named after him in a ceremony held in 2013. An accomplished former race car driver, Posey was also the voice behind a series of Formula One narrated



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

12x12 submission by Danielle Mailer

montages for the NBC Sports Network. Salisbury resident Terre Lefferts is known for her bright New England scenes of barns in Sheffield, Stockbridge streetscapes, and festive depictions of children at Christmas in the style of the late American “painter of light” Thomas Kinkadee. Here she showed a more minimal, stripped-back still life of pears scattered on white linen.

The Hunt Library also included a whimsical rooster by Danielle Mailer in the year-end show. Mailer has been an instructor of art at both Indian Mountain School and Salisbury School. Salisbury residents will

recognize her large-scale animals on display at the front entrance of Scoville Memorial Library. Mailer was profiled in The New York Times in 2016 when the city of Torrington teamed up with her to create an enormous aquatic-themed mural as part of a public art project near The Warner Theatre.

“Ms. Mailer’s fish — trout, to match those found in the river —

carry intricate patterns and bright, almost neon colors,” wrote Jan Ellen Spiegel. “[The fish] mimic the longstanding style in her earlier paintings, which are packed with dense patterns and vivid color reminiscent of Frida Kahlo combined with cutouts by Matisse, among Ms. Mailer’s favorite artists.”

The “12x12” show is on display at The Hunt Library through Jan. 12, 2024.



PHOTO BY COLIN BAZZANO

Hither Lane is located in the front space of the refurbished Colonial Theatre in North Canaan.

HOLIDAYS: JOHN COSTON

A pop-up finds immersion

“Tell me two things about a person, and then let me tell you what to get.”

Those are the words of Jaclyn Ryan, the proprietor of Hither Lane, a pop-up in the Colonial Theatre building on Railroad Street that is one of the latest incarnations of the North Canaan renaissance.

Ryan, who is from Ancram, New York, has strong roots in retail and said that she “really likes meeting customers on the floor.”

Her shop, located in one of the street-facing rooms of the Colonial, offers an eclectic mix

of kitchen, barware and pantry-focused gifts that are in a price range that is accessible, she noted, ranging from \$7 to \$100. Some of her specialty items include vases, cheese plates, salts, olive oils and chocolate bars.

The store is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Ryan started Hither Lane about one year ago as a business centered around an at-home model. She said that she has had difficulty finding rental spaces while looking around Hudson, New York, and in Dutchess

Continued on next page

...triplix cinema Continued from previous page

AW: You’re also holding a special fundraiser for The Triplex that weekend as well, right?

NW: We will be joined by actors like Jayne Atkinson, who was on many television shows like “Criminal Minds” and “House of Cards,” Michel Gill from “The Gilded Age,” and David Rasche from “Succession.” Maureen O’Flynn,

an international opera singer, will join the group. She’s been on all the world’s great stages. Our program is going to present scenes from famous holiday films, but acted live, as well as songs performed from holiday films, including “The Sound of Music,” which has nothing to do with the holidays but is considered the Number

One holiday film people watch on television each year on CBS. It will be a fun-filled evening for people of all ages at Bard at Simon’s Rock’s beautiful 300-seat McConnell Theater in Great Barrington. The event will have two showings on Dec. 16, one at 3 p.m. and an encore at 6 p.m. The script is so much fun. There are scenes from “Elf” and “Love Actually,” and some of the

old classics like “Shop Around the Corner,” “Miracle on 34th Street,” and what’s a Christmas show without a scene from “A Christmas Carol,” with Scrooge saying “Humbug, humbug.” David Rasche is even going to be crooning “White Christmas.”

Tickets for the special screening of “Maestro,” the “Bernstein on Film” screening series, as well as “Bring Back the Movies: Holiday Edition” live at Bard at Simon’s Rock are available at www.thetriplex.org

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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. All entries can be found at www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar. To submit calendar items, email editor@lakevillejournal.com

...pop-up *Continued from previous page*

DECEMBER 15

Dinner with Santa and the Grinch

Cornwall Consolidated School, 5 Cream Hill Road, West Cornwall, Conn.

Park and Recreation invites everyone to a pasta dinner with Santa and the Grinch at Cornwall Consolidated School, Dec. 15 from 5 to 8 p.m. Enjoy food, crafts, cookie decorating, and a gift basket silent auction to benefit the eighth grade class trip. Suggested donation \$5. Canned food items or arts and craft supplies will also be accepted. Children 14 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Sandy Hook Vigil

In front of The White Hart Inn, Salisbury, Conn.

Please join us in remembering the victims of Sandy Hook and all victims of gun violence on Friday, Dec. 15 from 5 to 6 p.m. Meet in front of The White Hart Inn. Please bring your own candle.

Poetry Workshop with Sally Van Doren

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

On Friday, Dec. 15, from 2 to 4 p.m., there will be a poetry workshop with Sally Van Doren at the Scoville Memorial Library.

This intensive, immersive workshop is designed to give writers the time we need to generate new work and to hone in on whatever it is that is begging us to bring it to the page. Guided by prompts and in-class writing assignments, we will dive deep and emerge transformed. Workshop leader Sally Van Doren is the author of four books of poetry and a winner of the Walt Whitman prize. To register, visit scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/11516492.

DECEMBER 16

Carols for the Earth — Festive Old and New Holiday Music

St. Paul's Church, Stockbridge, Mass. and Trinity Church, Lakeville, Conn. crescendo.org

Crescendo will present "Carols for the Earth — Festive Old and New Holiday Music" on Saturday, Dec. 16, 4 p.m., at St. Paul's Church in Stockbridge, and on Sunday, Dec. 17, 4 p.m., at Trinity Church in Lakeville, Conn.

For more information and tickets, visit Crescendo's website: crescendomusic.org/programs/liveperformances/.

Book Signing

The Wish House, 413 Sharon Goshen Tpke., West Cornwall, Conn. wishhouse.com

The Wish House will be hosting a Children's Book Signing on Saturday, Dec. 16, 3 to 4:30 p.m. with local author Caroline Nastro and her new book *Outside Amelia's Window* to benefit the Cornwall Child Center. More info at wishhouse.com.

ExtraSpecialFabulicious Saturday Morning Storytime with Miss Rita!

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

On Saturday, Dec. 16 from 10 to 11 a.m., join Miss Rita in the Buttons Garden or around the storytime rug in the children's library for stories and sweets! Please register for this program to ensure there are plenty of sweet treats to eat! For parents preferring to bring their own treat, there is no need to register.

Mindfulness and Meditation for the Holiday Season

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibrary.org

Take some time for yourself in the countdown to Christmas. Join Marion Williams Saturday, Dec. 16 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. to learn simple mindfulness techniques that you can easily integrate into your daily routine. She will lead you through a soothing meditation. No previous meditation or expressive arts experience is required.

If interested in registering please visit: hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com/event/11601888

Storyfaces: An Innovative Storytelling and Art Performance

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

On Saturday, Dec. 16, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., come by the library after the early dismissal from school to see Christopher Agostino paint the faces of audience volunteers to illustrate stories as he tells them.

DECEMBER 17

Twelve Days of Christmas

West Cornwall, Conn.

From Dec. 17 to Jan. 7, works by local artists will be tucked into windows throughout downtown West Cornwall. Participating artists and institutions: Eama Andrews, Lory Bevans, Cornwall Consolidated School, Cornwall Library, Bill McClane, Treasa Pattison, Rebecca Schultz, Melissa Silveti, Connie Steuerwalt, Sally Van Doren, Rita Vitalis, Ben Wiseman and Brian Levy. Opening party on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. Food, fun and music by The Ballyhack School Boys.

Speaker Series

Triplex Cinema, 70 Railroad St., Great Barrington, Mass. thetriplex.org

In conjunction with "Maestro", Bradley Cooper's new Netflix film about Leonard Bernstein, which opens at the Triplex on Dec. 15, the Triplex will begin the "Bernstein on Film" series revolving around Mr. Bernstein's life and film work. The first talk, following the 1 p.m. screening of "Maestro" on Dec. 17, will feature Nina Bernstein Simmons, the younger daughter of Mr. Bernstein, in an intimate conversation with Stephen Wadsworth, a longtime collaborator

of Mr. Bernstein, with whom he wrote the opera "A Quiet Place". Visit us at thetriplex.org.

DECEMBER 18

City Meadow Public Meeting

Norfolk Hub, 2 Station Place, Norfolk, Conn.

A meeting to discuss the next steps for City Meadow (norfolkfoundation.net/town-of-norfolk-city-meadow-project) has been called for Monday, Dec. 18, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Norfolk Hub. Land care consultant Michael Nadeau will join the conversation on what needs to be done, including invasive remediation and control, proposed yearly maintenance and future plantings.

DECEMBER 20

Christmas Services at Church of St. John in the Wilderness, Copake Falls

Church of St. John in the Wilderness, 261 NY-344, Copake Falls, N.Y.

On Wednesday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m., there will be a Blue Christmas Service at the Church of St. John in the Wilderness in Copake Falls, N.Y. All are invited to this low-key service designed for those who may be grieving a loss or for whatever reason find Christmas a difficult season, and anyone seeking a quiet respite from the hustle and bustle.

There will also be a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Sunday, Dec. 24, with carols at 7 p.m. and service at 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 23

The Audubon Presents: Birds of Prey!

Kent Memorial Library, 32 North Main St., Kent, Conn. kentmemoriallibrary.org

On Dec. 23, at 11 a.m., in Kent Memorial Library's Junior Room, learn all about bird biology, conservation, ecology, and adaptations for survival through the use of live birds of prey and bird-related props. Various species of live hawks and owls will accompany Sharon Audubon Center Staff to demonstrate their beauty, power, and connection with the natural world. Similarities and differences of these amazing birds of prey will be discussed and several props will also be on hand for viewing.

Kent Memorial Library is located at 32 North Main Street, Kent, Connecticut, 860-927-3761. Visit kentmemoriallibrary.org for more information.



PHOTOS BY COLIN BAZZANO

Kitchen, barware and pantry-focused gifts at Hither Lane in North Canaan in the Colonial Theatre are in a price range from \$7 to \$100.

and Columbia counties.

She opened the pop-up before Thanksgiving and said it will be in the location through the end of December.

But Ryan, who moved to the region from Brooklyn during the pandemic, also has been charmed by the sense of rejuvenance in North Canaan.

"I'm drawn to the small towns around here, and I want to experience the renaissance," she said. "I certainly feel that's happening here."

Railroad Street re-

cently has become home for Ilse Coffee and a new branch of Covered Bridge Electric Bike, which has locations in West Cornwall and Kent. Down the street, Homegrown Cafe offered pretty much only source of smoothies for miles around, but plans to close. Not to forget, the Colonial Theatre is becoming a big draw as a community space.

Ryan's message is: "We have gifts for anyone in your life without having to think too hard." One display in the shop offers

ideas for "beer lovers, cheese lovers, spice lovers and cocktail lovers."

She said her experience in this holiday pop-up is making her consider a longer-term relationship.

"I'm being convinced by the community to stay," she said. "Maybe expand into other categories and become something like a general store."

"It has been touching to become immersed in this community," she said.



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PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

A variety of holiday musical favorites and new compositions, performed by the 14-member Smithfield Chamber Orchestra, welcomed the season at The Smithfield Church on Saturday, Dec. 2. The occasion was the 18th annual Christmas Concert and Tea.

MUSIC: LEILA HAWKEN

Christmas Concert delights at Smithfield Church

Now celebrating its 18th consecutive year of holiday music, the Smithfield Church's annual Christmas Concert and Tea packed every pew and left more standing.

The traditional event was begun by local rector, the late Katharine Dunlop, and now continues as a part of the Bang Family Concert Series.

A variety of holiday pieces, some old favorites and some new compositions, were performed by an assemblage of 14 gifted regional musicians comprising

the popular Smithfield Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Matt Finley.

The concert, held in the festively decorated historic sanctuary, opened with a poem, "It's All in the Music," composed and read by Kevin T. McEaney, poet laureate of Smithfield Valley, followed by a new arrangement of "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

There were the sprightly notes of "The Nutcracker" played by the ensemble; "White Christmas," was performed as a clarinet solo

by Norman Baker.

Finley welcomed the audience, noting their importance to the occasion.

"Were it not for the audience," Finley said, "these musicians would just be here as if for a practice session." He noted that some of the performers have been at each of the 18 preceding years, and that trombonist Steve Hubbert was new this year.

Contemporary pieces and Brazilian jazz interpretations were also performed.

"If there is something

that you don't like, just wait a couple of minutes and we'll be on to something else," Finley quipped.

The concert concluded with Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus. Finley had told everyone at the onset that it would not be necessary to stand, as King John was assuredly not present.

They stood anyway at the end, and were rewarded with an encore of "Sleigh Bells."

THEATER: MAUD DOYLE

Ancram Opera House becomes Ancram Center for the Arts

Ancram Opera House is becoming Ancram Center for the Arts, announced co-directors Paul Ricciardi and Jeffrey Mousseau and board President Cathy Redlich at a community open house Saturday, Nov. 25.

"Paul and Jeff's vision was never just about producing theater; it was about creating a space where storytelling in all its forms — from plays to music to personal narratives — could enrich and connect a community," said Redlich in her remarks.

"As it has grown, Ancram Opera House's offerings to the public have kept pace, with free workshops, programs, and events. The new name, Ancram Center for the Arts, not only captures the breadth, depth and creativity of its diverse programs but also serves as an umbrella for the Center's future growth."

Mousseau said, "The change aligns our identity more closely with our vibrant array of performances and community events."

He also described the team's vision for the new Annex building:

"Our new campus will comprise the existing Ancram Opera House building, with accessibility upgrades, and a recently acquired

neighboring house, built in the 1780s, that we're calling The Annex. Once rehabilitated, The Annex will provide much-needed space to house interns and guest artists, as well as space for the community programs that are core to our vision."

The Annex will provide space for workshops in playwriting and storytelling for local adults.

The Annex community room will also be put to use for the storytelling workshops that Ricciardi created for fourth, fifth, and sixth graders at Taconic Hills Elementary School, which have been part of the school's curriculum since 2020.

Work on improving accessibility has already begun, with the conversion of office space off the theater lobby into an accessible restroom. Next is the construction of permanent ramping to the theater's entrance, to be followed by parking upgrades and a covered porch between the two buildings.

"The evolution of Ancram Opera House from when it reopened its doors eight years ago to today has been nothing short of astounding," Redlich said.

For more information go to www.ancramcenter.org

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Taconic Learning Center winter courses open

SALISBURY — Registration for the Taconic Learning Center winter term 2024 is now open.

Classes run mid-January through late February and early March at Geer Village in North Canaan, Noble Horizons in Salisbury, or online.

Upcoming courses include:

Miles Davis' Kind of Blue: The Greatest & Most Influential Jazz Recording of the 20th Century.

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and Romeo and Juliet. For more go to www.taconiclearningcenter.org

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COMPASS

MUSIC: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Celtic Christmas Carols at Amenia Town Hall

On Saturday, Dec. 9, the Amenia Town Hall Auditorium offered a heartwarming gift to the community, transforming into a hub of Celtic melodies and Christmas cheer.

The free Celtic Christmas concert featured a lineup of exceptional artists, led by David Paton and Joseph Sobol, along with their talented friends.

Paton, inheriting the rich folk music legacy of his parents, Sandy and Caroline Paton, graced the audience with his expertise on the hammer dulcimer and English concertina. Joining him was Sobol, a recent Amenia resident and nationally recognized player of the cittern, a 12-stringed instrument resembling a lute that dates from the Renaissance. Sobol also played a 12-string cutaway acoustic guitar, offering a beautifully warm tone and complex harmonies.

The concert also fea-

tured guests Isa Simon, a wonderful fiddler and singer from New York City, and Ambrose Verdibello, who played both the fiddle and mandolin. All of the instruments and deft musicianship created a tapestry of melodies, with a repertoire ranging from holiday songs to dance tunes, both familiar and new.

The evening showcased Andrew Forbes on flutes and percussion, whose opening bagpipe tune magically transported the audience to the rolling hills of Ireland. The concert featured an intriguing mix of performances, from Yeats poems set to song to melodies from British accordion player Chris Wood, like "Mrs. Sags." A highlight of the night was the humorous and engaging "Miss Fogerty's Christmas Cake," a song about the perils of fruitcake.

John Nowak, a local music promoter and custodian at the Town

Hall, was the mastermind behind the festive gathering. The idea was born from a casual conversation with Sobol, who came into Town Hall in November to pay his water bill. Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti had shared with Nowak that she was disappointed there wasn't going to be a holiday event at Town Hall this year because the usual children's program is taking place at Webutuck. Nowak floated the idea to Sobol, and the evening took shape quickly and seamlessly.

The nucleus of the band plays every Sunday at the Bulls Bridge Inn in Kent, and Paton, a regular at these Sunday gatherings, provided the sound system for the evening. The event came together organically and was a delightful gift to local residents, who packed the auditorium, filling it with a warm, celebratory atmosphere. Nowak aptly remarked, "Everyone is going to

walk away from this evening saying, 'Wow.'"

Indeed, the concert was more than just a musical event; it was

a beacon of warmth in challenging times. The blend of Celtic tunes, holiday spirit and communal joy served as a

reminder of the power of music to bring people together, offering joy and hope in the heart of the holiday season.



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

The free Celtic Christmas concert was held on Saturday, Dec. 9.

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THE TOWN OF PINE PLAINS: is accepting applications for the immediate opening of a position for Heavy Motor Equipment Operator. Is a full-time, permanent position. Applicants must have a CDL Class A or B license valid for the State of New York. The ability to perform manual labor, including heavy lifting in all weather conditions is essential. The job will include operation of equipment and machinery as well as a variety of tasks in connection with the construction, repair, snow removal, drainage and maintenance of Town owned roads. Contact Highway Superintendent Carl Baden at 518-398-6662 to obtain an application. The Town of Pine Plains is an E. O. E.

HELP WANTED

THE TOWN OF KENT: is seeking candidates for its Park and Recreation Director. This is a full-time position and the person is responsible to coordinate, promote, supervise and evaluate a comprehensive, year-round recreational program for the children, teens, adults, and seniors of the Kent community, including but not limited to sports and seasonal programs, after-school program, bus trips, community and special events, and maintenance of the parks. Works with the Parks and Recreation Commission to develop long-range plans for programs, parks, and facilities to accommodate town goals and recreation needs. Candidates should have a Bachelor's Degree and/or relevant life experience and interest in Park and Recreation. Salary range is \$60,000 to \$63,000. The full job description is available at www.townofkentct.org. Send cover letter, resume and three references to adminassist@townofkentct.org prior to Jan. 5, 2024. Subject line should include candidate's name and Park and Recreation Director Applicant.

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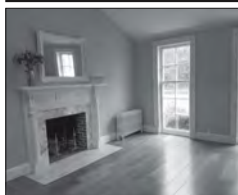
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