

Tri-Corner
Calendar
Page B4

Hotchkiss
vs.
Salisbury
Page A8



Rand
clarifies
rumors
Page A3

Valentine's
Day dessert
Compass
Page B3



Setting records,
Column, Letters
Pages A6-7

Tag Sales,
Help Wanted,
Services,
Real Estate
Pages B5-6

National
FFA
WEEK

Special banner
Page A9

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



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Rural pride

From left, Chris Crane, Sydney Crouch, Hannah Johnson, Hayden Bachman, Lauren Sorrell and Sasha McCue represented Housatonic Valley FFA with a floral demonstration booth at the Eastern States Exposition last year. FFA chapters across the country will celebrate National FFA Week from Feb. 17 to 24. This annual event is a time to highlight the impact of the program on its members. Full story on page A9.

Rising in the East: a closer look at geopolitical shifts

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The most recent installment of the Salisbury Forum featured an informative discussion of U.S.-China relations led by Bonnie Glaser.

The Forum was held online Thursday, Feb. 8.

Glaser, managing director of the German Marshall Fund's Indo-Pacific program and author of "US-Taiwan Relations: Will China's Challenge Lead to a Crisis," which was published in April 2023, said relations between the two governments were cool during the first two years of the Biden administration.

The Chinese objected to the American characterization of China as a "competitive" country in relation to the U.S., and smarted under tariffs and restrictions on technology that could be sold to China.

Xi Jinping, the Chinese president who is in an "unprecedented

"[Xi Jinping] appears to be confident that China is on a path to becoming stronger than the U.S."

— Bonnie Glaser

ed" third term, has a firm grasp on power and is promoting a program of "national rejuvenation" by 2049, Glaser said.

"He appears to be confident that China is on a path to becoming stronger than the U.S."

Glaser said Xi's belief is that China is rising as the West is declining, and that "democracy has failed around the world."

That is not to say that Xi isn't dealing with problems. Glaser said there is lingering resentment over China's harsh COVID-19 lockdown measures, more willingness to criticize the central government, and a sputtering economy.

However, "there is no opposi-

tion to his rule."

Biden and Xi met in November 2023 at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco.

In the wake of that meeting, Glaser ran through what she termed "Areas of Progress" and "Areas of Divergence and Competition."

Under "progress," Glaser said that while China did crack down on domestic manufacturers and exporters of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, it has not done much about the production of precursor chemicals that are shipped to clandestine labs in Mexico and turned into drugs there.

She credited U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), the Senate majority leader, for pushing the issue during a visit to China by a congressional delegation in October 2023. A joint working group was established last month.

Under "defense relations," Glaser said that restrictions on military-to-military communications that were enacted by the Chinese

See FORUM, Page A10

Norfolk marks midwinter with Imbolc

By Mike Cobb

NORFOLK — On Thursday, Feb. 1 a small group gathered in the Great Hall of The Norfolk Library to attend a workshop led by Eileen Fitzgibbons and Bina Thomson.

The group gathered in a semi-circle in front of a cozy fire, the hearth bearing the library's Latin motto "Inter Folia-Fructus" which translates to "fruit amongst the leaves" referring to the pleasure from knowledge that can be found in books. Topping the mantle, the owl of wisdom looked down upon the group.

Fitzgibbons and Thomson spoke about Imbolc, an Irish holiday with deep pagan roots that marks the first day of spring and celebrates St. Brigid's Day, the patron saint of Ireland as well as the moment between the Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox.

"In Ireland there's a national holiday dedicated to Brigid. In many ways, she represents all women, and recognizes the equality of the feminine and masculine in society. While too early to plant, it was a time to start thinking of what you wanted and needed to plant and harvest. It celebrates a time to reaffirm life and is a commitment to



PHOTO BY MIKE COBB

Eileen Fitzgibbons shared her knowledge of Imbolc on Feb. 1.

rejuvenation." Fitzgibbons said.

Brigid was the Celtic fire and fertility goddess. Elements such as water symbolize healing, while fire represents alchemy. Christianity adopted Brigid as the patron saint of Irish nuns, newborns, midwives, dairy maids, and cattle, while smiths, poets, artists, and others who create stories are also

celebrated.

"St. Brigid and the goddess are very similar. She's a mother earth figure," Fitzgibbons said.

She also explained to the group how the Celts made dolls from oat or wheat, which young girls would offer door to door as gifts.

See IMBOLC, Page A10

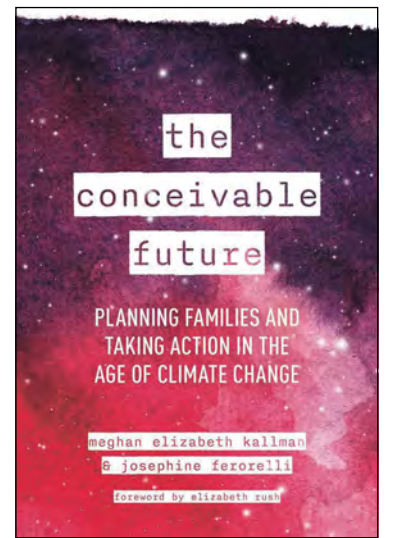
Millennials rethink parenthood amidst climate crisis

By Alexander Wilburn

CORNWALL — Should potential parents fear the future? Yes and no.

A new book released this February from Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, "The Conceivable Future: Planning Families and Taking Action in the Age of Climate Change," tackles reproductive planning from the point of view of millennial couples — ages 28 to 43 — contemplating bringing new life into an environmentally uncertain world. Written by Meghan Elizabeth Kallman, a member of the Rhode Island Senate from the 15th district, and Josephine Ferorelli, a writer and climate activist, the two met ten years ago at a concert. There they bonded over their views on how inequality, heat, fossil fuel pollution and other eco-concerns intersect with reproduction.

At Cornwall Library on Friday night, Feb. 9, Kallman and Ferorelli celebrated the launch of their book



BOOK COVER ROWMAN AND LITTLEFIELD PUBLISHERS

and discussed challenging rhetoric on population control as a remedy for climate change and messaging that burdens those with the least power with the responsibility of solving the Earth's problems.

So what are millennials' sig-

See PARENTHOOD, Page A10



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In The Journal this week

LEGALSA2	SPORTSA8
OUR TOWNSA3-4	FFA WEEK.....A9
OBITUARIESA5	COMPASS.....B1-4
OPINION.....A6	CALENDARB4
VIEWPOINTA7	CLASSIFIEDS.....B5-6

Online This Week

Housing plan adheres to POCD

Salisbury's housing proposal on Undermountain Road was deemed to be in agreement with the town POCD. More on www.lakevillejournal.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.

Juvenile gun threat

On Friday, Feb. 2, at approximately 2:45 p.m. troopers were dispatched to a residence on Hollenbeck Road in Cornwall for the report of a juvenile who made threats to bring a firearm to school to shoot his classmates. An investigation determined that an altercation had occurred prior to the arrival of the troopers. The juvenile was issued a summons for disorderly conduct and was scheduled to appear in Juvenile Court in Torrington.

Sideswiping flower pot

On Sunday, Feb. 4, at approximately 1:30 p.m., Rebecca Conn, 55, of Cornwall Bridge, was traveling north on Upper Main Street in Sharon in a 2022 Toyota Tacoma and attempting to make a left turn onto West Main Street. The vehicle sideswiped a concrete flower pot lane separator. Conn received a written warning for improper turn.

Rear-ended on Rt. 44

On Thursday, Feb. 8 at approximately 1:30 p.m. Alison Kist, 56, of Salisbury, was traveling eastbound on Route 44 near Deely Road in North Canaan in a 2014 BMW and slowed down due to traffic in front. Christina Melius, 43, of Torrington, also was eastbound on Route 44 in a 2000 Dodge Dakota and rear ended Kist. Melius was issued an infraction for following too close and a written warning for no insurance.

Avoids animal, crashes

On Friday, Feb. 9, at approximately 10:30 p.m., Spencer Lucas, 21, of Sharon, was driving southbound on White Hollow Road in Sharon in a 1987 Jeep Suburban when he swerved to avoid an animal in the road. The Jeep struck a wooden fence and a tree. Lucas was transported to Sharon Hospital with minor injuries. The Jeep was towed from the scene and Lucas was issued an infraction for insufficient insurance and a written warning

for illegal use of registration, restricted turns and operating an unregistered vehicle.

North Canaan assaults

On Saturday, Feb. 10, at approximately 10:45 p.m., troopers received a report of an active disturbance on at a Main Street address in North Canaan. Enroute to the call a trooper was flagged down by a motorist who reported an unrelated domestic disturbance that she witnessed in the center of North Canaan. Troopers made contact with Christopher Fasolo, 35, of Canaan, and a female, who was uninjured. Fasolo was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and assault, 3rd degree and was released on a \$1,500 non-surety bond. Further investigation of the disturbance at the Main Street address led to the arrest of a juvenile for an assault on an elderly woman.

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.

Help available for summer camp costs

Salisbury Family Services, a local nonprofit organization serving residents of the Town of Salisbury, will provide scholarships to summer camp for the children of qualifying families. Assistance is given for resident and day camps, special needs, arts and sports camps. Contact Patrice McGrath at 860-435-5187 to apply.

McEnroe Farm Stand and Eatery closes; compost facility and farm remain open

By Judith O'Hara Balfe
The Millerton News

MILLERTON — McEnroe Market and Eatery announced Thursday, Feb. 8, that it would be closing its doors at 5400 Route 22.

For 10 years, the little market has stood among the rolling green hills and the long, low, red-shingled building.

At first, it seemed only to be closed for a winter break. Then came the final word: "After a decade of serving the community with farm-fresh produce and delectable organic cuisine, McEnroe Farm Market and Eatery announces its closure."

McEnroe Organic Farms, which has been around since 1952, will continue farming organic food but will now only be distributing it wholesale, for local restaurants and food markets.

McEnroe Organic Compost and Soils at 194 Coleman Station Road will remain open, and will continue to serve the public for bulk and bagged soil purchase.

McEnroe Market and Eatery was known to locals for baked goods, sandwiches, fresh salads, frozen yogurt, prepared foods, cherry and oatmeal cookies, fries and array of ciders.

The produce was always fresh, and given that there is no retail food market in Millerton, farm stands are important to the locals, and McEnroe's was a favorite. It was also relied on as a place to get plants in the spring, sunflowers in August, and pumpkins in the fall.

When asked why the business was closing, Olivia Skeen, manager of development, said that COVID-19 had had an impact, as did climate change and other factors that caused financial

Clarification

The recent sale of tennis pro Ivan Lendl's Cornwall estate for \$12 million set the record for the highest residential sale in Litchfield County, but not the highest real estate transaction in county history, as was stated in a Feb. 2 article.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

McEnroe Farm Market and Eatery at 5400 Route 22 is closed after 10 years of serving the public food, cider, produce and memories.

constraints.

Skeen said, "We are currently determining how we will use our market location going forward."

She also wanted the community to know that the compost facility will remain open and that CSA options will be available. Customers will also be able to order certain food products, like beef. Despite the farm's turn towards wholesale, she said, any excess produce will be offered to the public via social media.

The farm will still give public tours, and all of its educational programs, which started in 2007, including apprenticeships, will be in place. Its commitment to the

community remains intact, said Skeen.

On behalf of the McEnroe and Durst families, Skeen said: "We deeply appreciate the community support we

have received throughout the years. The feedback we have received of our market and eatery closing is a testament of our integral part of the community over the years."

Salisbury kindergarten registration dates approaching

Salisbury Central School kindergarten preregistration for the 2024-2025 year is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024; Tuesday, March 5; and Wednesday, March 6.

In response to new Connecticut Legislation, Public Act 23-208, Section 1, children must turn five before

Sept. 1 to be eligible to enroll in kindergarten.

If a child turns five between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, they will be eligible to enroll in the early kindergarten program at Salisbury Central School.

Call Pat in the school office at 860-435-9871 to schedule an appointment.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application #2024-0237 by Robert Tucker for a detached apartment on a single-family residential lot at 177 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Map 40, Lot 45. The owner of the lot is David Nathan. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 5:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The application, agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at www.salisburyct.us.

Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to landuse@salisburyct.us. Paper copies may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
Martin Whalen, Secretary
02-08-24
02-15-24

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application #2024-0238 by owner Salisbury Housing Committee for "Dresser Woods" 20-unit affordable multi-family housing in the Multi-Family Housing Overlay District at 37 Railroad Street, Salisbury, Map 56, Lot 56 per Section 405 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 5:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The application, agenda and meeting instructions will be

listed at www.salisburyct.us. Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to landuse@salisburyct.us. Paper copies may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
Martin Whalen, Secretary
02-08-24
02-15-24

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 February 5, 2024:

To amend the Town of Salisbury Zoning Regulations adding subsection 207.20 - Publicly Accessible Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS), subsection 703.11 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations and a new definition for Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) effective February 15, 2024.

Town of Salisbury
Planning & Zoning Commission
Martin Whalen, Secretary
02-15-24

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TOWN OF SALISBURY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024 7:30 P.M.

A Special Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings in the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut, will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, Connecticut and virtually (Zoom information below) for the following purposes:

- To receive and act upon the report of the Town

Officers and to recognize the Town Report dedication.

2. To receive and act upon the audited financial report from the Chairman of the Board of Finance and Treasurer of the Town for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023

Zoom Webinar
When: Feb 21, 2024 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Special Annual Town Meeting
Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87554106009?pwd=O6ZRWL5j5y0XxsfjP6Nbuzzlkw8w6A.mq8qKklpIiD8G7>
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Or Telephone:
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Dated at Salisbury, Connecticut this 25th day of January, 2024.

Curtis G. Rand, First Selectman
Christian E. Williams, Selectman
Katherine Kiefer, Selectman
02-08-24
02-15-24

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF ARNOLD FRANKS Late of Sharon (23-00439)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 18, 2024, 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:
Gregory Franks
c/o Andrew Stephen Knott
Knott and Knott, LLC
125 Main Street
Cheshire, CT 06410
Megan M. Foley
Clerk
02-15-24

CONTACT US


John Coston
Editor-in-Chief
johnc@lakevillejournal.com

Riley Klein
Managing Editor
rileyk@lakevillejournal.com

Alexander Wilburn
Special Sections Editor
alexw@lakevillejournal.com

Sandra Lang
Circulation Manager
circulation@lakevillejournal.com

James H. Clark
Publisher, CEO
jamesc@lakevillejournal.com



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Our Towns

Rand sets the record straight on Community Field rumors

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — At the Board of Selectmen's regular meeting Monday, Feb. 5, First Selectman Curtis Rand pushed back on recent social media posts regarding Community Field in Lakeville.

"There is no plan to pave 30% of Community Field," he said. "It's absurd."

As for the idea of building a sidewalk alongside Factory Pond to the town Grove and Lake Wononscopomuc, Rand said that and other ideas, including creating a parking area at Community Field, were discussed at length during a well-attended meeting in March of 2023.

[See accompanying story.]

Rand also took issue with reports about the status of a future parking lot at the Pope property, with lighting and room for 100 cars.

"That's patently untrue," Rand said. He pointed out that on a typical summer weekend day, with Little League baseball at the existing ball field, there are already 60-80 cars parking "all over the place."

At the Pope Land Design Committee's Feb. 1 meeting, member Lisa McAuliffe said that a parking area next to the Housatonic Child Care Center had been removed from the current concept plan.

Selectman Kitty Kiefer

observed that for any or all of these projects, "the permitting process hasn't begun."

The selectmen voted to approve advertising for a consultant to work on yet another affordable housing proposal, the Dresser Woods property in Salisbury.

This is a 5-acre parcel located in Salisbury village that was donated by Jim Dress-

er to the nonprofit — and private — Salisbury Housing Committee (SHC) as a potential site for affordable housing.

The property is situated on East Railroad Street along the Rail Trail, about 200 yards northeast of La-Bonne's Market.

The donation occurred in May 2022. At a town meeting

July 28, 2022, a proposal to use town-owned property for access to a proposed affordable housing development on the property was approved by a vote of 291-50, allowing the project to move forward.

The SHC's application for Dresser Woods is on the Planning and Zoning commission's agenda for Tuesday, Feb. 20.

No 'official proposal' for paved parking

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — The hubbub over the future of Lakeville stems from a forum sponsored by the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) at the town Grove Saturday, March 18, 2023.

At that event, Lakeville residents heard and discussed several ideas for revitalizing the Lakeville village area. The presenters were from Colliers Engineering and Design of Madison.

The idea was to give residents an overview of the Colliers planning study, commissioned by the PZC, and to receive feedback.

One proposal was to change "Community Field" into "Community Park" and create a designated parking area on the current Community Field, behind the Patco gas station, with room for 30 to 40 vehicles.

It is worth noting that

people park on Community Field now, on the grass.

The PZC issued this statement, available on the town website under Planning and Zoning Commission/Lakeville Village Planning Study:

A social media post by the Lakeville Conservancy followed by a subsequent newspaper advertisement have come to the attention of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Land Use Office. Both the social media post and Lakeville Journal advertisement incorrectly assert that the PZC is "moving forward to officially propose" paving substantial portions of municipally owned parks and green spaces in the center of Lakeville.

The PZC has not made any "official proposal" to alter municipal facilities. The PZC, in its statutory planning capacity, have retained planning consultants to provide outside perspectives, identifying and providing strategies to address long-term community needs. These studies are part of the

PZC's statutorily mandated 10-year update to the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

The Lakeville Village Planning Study, conducted by Colliers Engineering in 2023, contains concepts and recommendations. These may or may not be ultimately implemented by the town. However, these concepts and recommendations will be considered by the PZC for inclusion in the POCD. Once the PZC has adopted its draft POCD, a public hearing(s) will be held prior to its official adoption.

Inclusion of a concept or recommendation in the POCD does not constitute an "official proposal" for development. It is not the role of the PZC to implement development projects. Rather, the PZC, through its POCD, provides an advisory framework to address long-term community needs consistent with the Growth Management Principals of the State of Connecticut's Conservation & Development Plan.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Katelin Lopes made her debut on guitar at the Midwinter's Night in the Village on Saturday, Feb. 10.

Celebrating winter in Falls Village

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The David M. Hunt Library's annual "Midwinter's Night in the Village" fundraiser Saturday, Feb. 10, was well attended.

There was a bit of a scrum surrounding the long table piled with homemade goodies. The lineup included, memorably, chocolate mice, which prompted "there are

mice in the library" jokes.

Rebecca Bloomfield and Adam Sher kicked off the music. Sher noted that the two play together "once a year, here."

Katelin Lopes, a junior at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, made her debut on acoustic guitar, doing Stephen Foster's "Beautiful Dreamer." She said she has been playing guitar for just six months.

Norfolk: Frosty fun in 'Icebox of Connecticut'

By Mike Cobb

NORFOLK — Now in its eighth year, Winter WIN (Weekend In Norfolk) will take place Saturday, Feb. 24, and Sunday, Feb. 25.

Celebrating its status as "The Icebox of Connecticut," Winter WIN features exhibitions, events and workshops around the heart of Norfolk in the Station Place/Robertson Plaza area directly off Route 44 as well as in multiple locations throughout town. Most offerings are free, and the festival highlights local talent to showcase what makes Norfolk so special.

When asked how this WIN will compare to years past, organizer Sue Frisch said: "Last year there was a concert just before Winter WIN, and it was so well received that we decided to have live music again on Saturday and Sunday afternoons."

The Curling Club will be open to visitors both days; club members will be on hand to answer questions. Also on both Saturday and Sunday, visitors will have a chance to view the sun through a special solar telescope. We hope the weather cooperates. And there are a couple of great free workshops, one on winter photography and one on fly fishing and fly tying."

Photographers Chris Keyes and Doug McDevitt will give a workshop on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 9 a.m. to noon. The first part of the workshop will take place indoors at the Norfolk HUB, 2 Station Place. The second half will be a two-hour outdoor photo safari where participants can perfect their winter photography skills with guidance from two pros.

Matthew Johnson and members of the Aton Forest Ecological Field Station will allow the public to view the heavens through a high-pow-

ered telescope at Robertson Plaza on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 2 p.m. Johnson will provide insights about solar observation and astronomy.

For those seeking unique gifts, Winter WIN's "pop-up" Farmers Market takes place Saturday, Feb. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. inside Botelle Elementary School on Route 44 (128 Greenwood Rd. East). Visitors can find baked goods, jams, oils, soap, health and beauty products, locally raised meat, pottery, jewelry and other handmade items made local artisans. Local musician Andy Styles will perform, and a moderately priced catered lunch will be on offer.

Ever popular, ice skating will happen at the town rink located at 50 Mountain Road Saturday, Feb. 24, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. A family favorite event, there will also be a bonfire, free s'mores, and hot chocolate.

For history buffs and music lovers, the Norfolk Historical Society's exhibition "Shedding Light: 200 Years of Art and Music in Norfolk" opens Saturday, Feb 24, from noon to 4 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. The exhibition documents the contributions of the many famous artists and musicians that made an indelible cultural mark on Norfolk and the world.

On Sunday, a free fly-tying and fishing workshop will be held at the Norfolk HUB from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The workshop is designed to enhance skills by reviewing appropriate gear and demonstrating the art of knot tying and fly picking.

The Norfolk Curling Club, 70 Golf Drive, opens its doors to visitors from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Step into the past Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 5

p.m. at Wildwood. Originally built as a grand summer home in the 1880s, it was converted to an inn in the 1950s. Visitors can enjoy complimentary mulled cider, cheese, and charcuterie in an elegant setting.

The Battell Chapel, 12 Litchfield Road, is open on Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. for visitors to view the stunning stained glass windows by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Immaculate Conception Church, 4 North St., has equally spectacular stained glass created by Franz Meyer of Munich. Docents will explain them Saturday and Sunday.

The Norfolk Library will host a dramatic reading of "Alabama Story" on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 3 to 4 p.m. Make sure to see photographs on display by local photographer Jennifer Almquist, who is also a correspondent for The Lakeville Journal. This stunning show highlights her work from 1966 through 2024.

The Royal Arcanum Building, 3 Station Place, features Ukrainian artist and author Adoriana, who will have a pop-up show Feb. 24 and 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Her colorful paintings are a window into her cultural past. Across the street, the Norfolk HUB will host "Un-IN-Hib-It-ed" featuring works by young artists from Norfolk, Colebrook and Barkhamsted elementary schools.

A huge undertaking, WIN involves many volunteers. Without a doubt, the primary spark behind WIN is Norfolkian Sue Frisch, who coordinates so many people and programs.

"It's always challenging to manage everything when so many organizations and people want to put on events. But it's fun, and very rewarding to see visitors (and Norfolk residents) enjoying themselves," Frisch says.

Visit weekendinnorfolk.org and facebook.com/weekendinnorfolk to keep track of updates.

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Our Towns

Norfolk Library unveils teen lounge

By Jennifer Almquist

NORFOLK — To meet the need for more activities and a greater sense of community for the region's teenagers, Norfolk Library has created a welcoming space called the Owl Cove.

Ann Havemeyer, Norfolk Library executive director, said, "The board of trustees and I felt that creating a dedicated space for teens was a crucial step towards building a sense of belonging. It sends a strong message that they are valued and welcome."

The idea was hatched in 2021 after community discussions of teen mental health revealed that young people did not feel a sense of belonging in the town. To begin the creation of a teen-friendly space within the historic library, designer Deanna Dewey was given the task of giving life to the vision.

Havemeyer and Dewey worked closely with Leslie Battis, assistant director of the library, to learn what the teens' needs were, determine the location of the space, choose furniture, define technology needs and decide what color to paint the walls. Renovations began with the removal of existing oak shelves and cupboards to make space for a technology cyber bar where the youths can plug in and work on their laptops. A large screen with Roku was installed on the wall, and a HP color laser printer.

Entering the hushed silence of the Norfolk Library, the elegant architecture of the vast space, designed by George Keller in 1888, invokes awe. Past the oak library tables, the stone fireplace used on certain evening embers of silent reading, and the soft Persian carpets, there are two alcoves at the north end of the Great Hall opening to the left and



Carter Nadeau, Liam Heller and Wilson DeShazo at The Owl Cove.

right. The walls of one alcove now glow with a deep saffron color, wobble stools with orange seats were added for some extra punch, there are low floor-rocker seats, and across the way, surrounded by bookshelves is a worktable with four blue chairs.

A sign stating "Seating is reserved for teens — thank you" stakes out the turf. Colorful student artwork, and poems are displayed on a bulletin board.

Above each alcove there is a welcoming sign — a clever graphic design logo created by art director Jill Chase of a winking owl and the words "Owl Cove, our place to meet up, do homework, hang out."

Chase came up with the name. The owl was first introduced as a logo by Norfolk Library founder Isabella Eldridge, who included an owl standing on an open book in the invitation to the opening March 6, 1889. Architect Keller perched a terracotta owl created by sculptor Albert Entress above the porch entrance, and another Entress stone owl above the mantel of the large fireplace in the Great Hall. The library motto, "Inter Folia Fructus" or "Fruit Among the Leaves," is carved into the stone.

The Owl Cove is a contemporary oasis for young people in the town of Norfolk.

"Within days of opening, teens started showing up. They say it feels comfortable, homey and relaxing," according to Havemeyer, who continued, "We are so pleased to find teens using their space and look forward to their participation in customizing the Owl Cove to reflect their needs and interests."

In addition, the library has created a Teen Advisory Council (TAC) to connect with teens and define what programs they would like to have at the library. The TAC consists of six Norfolk teens in ninth through 12th grades, who are expected to engage with their peers on behalf of the library. TAC members are paid a monthly stipend as consultants, and responsibilities include attendance at monthly meetings, planning teen programs and reaching out to friends.

The young folks come from the five area towns represented by Northwestern Regional High School, and some have come to events from Litchfield. Plans include game nights, pizza parties, a possible craft fair for teens,

classes in bookbinding, and maybe cell phone photography or a photo contest. On Friday, Feb. 9, a total of 22 teens gathered to enjoy a teen-only pre-Super Bowl food party.

Sometimes the students gather to do their homework together. The library has worked hard to give the teenagers autonomy and clearly is showing them respect. The Owl Cove welcomes area teenagers to join its community. The TAC is full at present, but applications for openings will be on the website after the school year ends. Battis is the Owl Cove advisor. Check the Norfolk Library website for library hours and announcements from the Teen Advisory Council and the Owl Cove.

PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Cornwall receives grant for sidewalks

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Connecticut Department of Transportation has announced its selections for the Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP) grants.

Applications were submitted to the state in 2023 for infrastructure projects in rural regions of the state. By the deadline to apply, more than \$20 million worth of grant requests were received but only \$10 million was available in funding.

In the first week of February 2024, winners were announced. Cornwall was awarded \$868,000 for its proposal to improve walkability through sidewalks and crosswalks in both West Cornwall and Cornwall Bridge.

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) reviewed the project at a regular meeting Tuesday, Feb. 6.

In Cornwall Bridge, the proposed work includes a long stretch of sidewalk from the fire department to the country market. The crosswalk in front of the market will be improved with flashing lights and a smaller section of sidewalk will be added on the northern side of the street as a landing for the

crosswalk.

In West Cornwall, two speed tables will be added on the downhill portion of Cornwall Goshen Turnpike near 3 Guys Ski and Ride and the Wish House. Signage will also be installed to warn for the upcoming speed tables and for the low-clearance covered bridge. A crosswalk will be added in front of the Local building along with granite curbing on each side of the road.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said the goal in each section of town is to increase pedestrian safety and slow traffic down in those areas, particularly in West Cornwall.

"Super exciting. Big step forward for Cornwall and you can see these are really sensible improvements that are going to slow people down and establish quality of life in town," said Selectman Rocco Botto.

Early voting

In the coming election year, Connecticut has implemented new policies for early voting. At the Feb. 6 meeting, BOS updated voters on what to expect at the polls this year.

Full story on www.lakevillejournal.com

Lannen departs as Railroad Days planner

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — After decades in the role, John Lannen has announced his departure as the head of North Canaan's Railroad Days Committee.

"This was a very hard decision for me to make. I love Railroad Days, but our town needs to grow," said Lannen.

His remarks came at a Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting at Town Hall on Monday, Feb. 5, and coincided with the announcement of a new North Canaan Events

Committee.

First Selectman Brian Ohler thanked Lannen for his contributions to the town over the years and provided him with an award.

"I don't know one family in this town that hasn't been impacted positively in some way by Railroad Days," said Ohler. "We are forever grateful."

The newly formed North Canaan Events Committee will succeed the Railroad Days Committee and oversee the planning of all town-run events. Jenn Crane and Ann

E. Talmadge were named co-chairs of the new committee.

Crane recognized that Lannen did "tremendous amounts of work, and that's why it takes the two of us to be able to replace him."

North Canaan's Doughboy memorial statue is getting a face lift.

Renowned New England restoration mason Carl Munson has agreed to refurbish the iconic statue in the center of town. Munson, who recently renovated a monument in Norfolk, will restore the stone base, the metal plaques (including those that fell off some years ago), and the statue itself.

Of Munson's work in Norfolk, Ohler said, "It's a beautiful, beautiful display of how a true craftsman can make something that is old and antiquated and worn down to be pristine again."

The restoration is expected to be completed by Memorial Day. The cost of the work will be covered by a donation from Hugh Curtis of C&C Plumbing.

BOS discussed the ongoing drainage issues along Old Turnpike South at the Feb. 5 meeting. Ohler said the town is looking into solutions.

"We have an obligation to control the drainage and the basins on Old Turnpike South. We are going to be doing that."

An engineering consultant will examine the size of basins and drainpipes in the area to recommend solutions to the town.

Mattingly, Simmons tapped for top roles in North Canaan

NORTH CANAAN — Town Hall has announced the addition of two new hires.

Paul Mattingly has been selected to serve as North Canaan's new executive assistant. Mattingly will bring a wide-ranging skillset to Town Hall, supported by his master's degree in public policy and a graduate certificate in public management. Mattingly will take on a number of different tasks in addition to the overall functions of the front office, focusing intently on municipal relations, grant administration, personnel development, policy creation, and governmental collaboration.

Michael Simmons, a dedicated and long-serving crew leader currently serving with North Canaan's Department

of Public Works (DPW), has been chosen to lead the department. Simmons has been with the DPW for over 25 years. Simmons' vast knowledge of North Canaan's roads and infrastructure is a critical component when asked to lead such a high-impact department like the DPW.

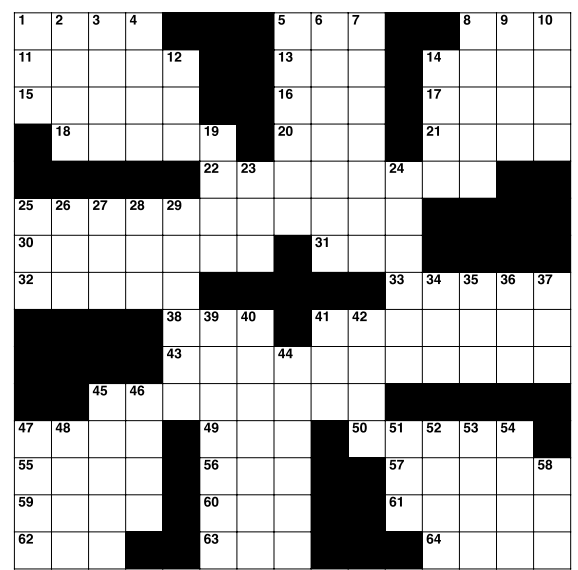
The new hires will have to fill big shoes as the two outgoing fixtures in town vacate their roles.

Longstanding superintendent of the DPW, Bryon Carlson will soon transition to the transfer station. Marisa Ohler, current assistant to the selectmen, has agreed to continue serving until approximately March 1 to ensure that her replacement could be trained on the many facets of the Town Hall's front office.

Brain Teasers

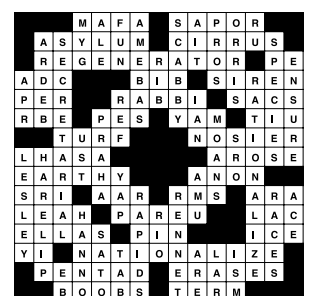
CLUES ACROSS

1. Golf scores
5. Shock therapy
8. Ballplayer's tool
11. Quench one's thirst
13. Female relatives of American war vets (abbr.)
14. Every one of two or more things
15. Member of Muslim people
16. Play
17. Type of cheese
18. Type of lounge chair
20. ___ King Cole, musician
21. Fellows
22. North, Central and South
25. In an early way
30. Foes
31. Georgia rockers
32. Cryptocurrency
33. Narrow path along a slope
38. Disallow
41. Joyousness
43. Inaccessible
45. Evoke emotions
47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
49. Boston Celtic punk rockers (abbr.)
50. Sword
55. Actor Idris
56. Affirmative (slang)
57. Afflicted
59. One point north of northeast
60. Born of
61. Arabic name
62. Traumatic brain injury (abbr.)
63. Extremity
64. Post

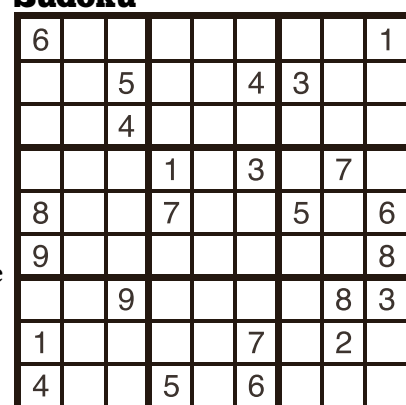


9. Breeze through
10. Therefore
12. Supplement with difficulty
14. Early kingdom of Syria
19. Satisfy
23. They confuse doctors (abbr.)
24. Brass instrument
25. Domesticated animal
26. Ribonucleic acid
27. Snakelike fish
28. Woman (French)
29. Economically-minded aircraft
34. When you hope to get somewhere
35. Tease
36. Actress Gretchen
37. Midway between northeast and east
39. Inoffensive
40. Yellowish cotton cloth
41. Consume
42. Does not tell the truth
44. Improved something
45. Spiritual leader
46. Abba __, Israeli politician
47. Fix
48. Evergreen tree genus
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Major C. European river
54. Long, narrow strap
58. Male parent

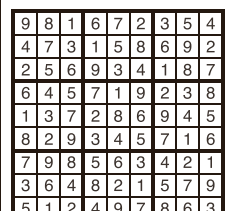
Feb. 8 Solution



Sudoku



Feb. 8 Solution



Level: Intermediate



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OBITUARIES

Lawrence Russell Chase

KENT — Lawrence Russell Chase passed away peacefully on Feb. 3, 2024, at Sharon Hospital. He was surrounded by his family at the time of his passing.



Lawrence was born March 4, 1948, in Torrington, the son of Elna (Kallstrom) Chase and Robert M. Chase. He was a lifelong resident of Kent who worked for many years at the Wassaic State school before retiring. Lawrence loved the outdoors, music, movies, and was an avid nature photographer. His greatest joy was his family.

Lawrence is survived by his three children; Wendy Pastore, Darin Anderson (Liz), and Robin Mollica (husband Jerry). He is also survived by his grandchildren; Kenny, Laura, Elizabeth, Alicia, Ashley, Brit-tany, Joshua, Jordan, and Riley. And, even more great grandchildren! Lawrence is also survived by his cousin, Howard "Kip" Kallstrom, his niece Sarah Chase, and his sister-in-law Karen Chase

(wife of Anders), and many more cousins. He is predeceased by his much beloved wife, Carol, who he married on Aug. 14, 1982, and his children, Julie and Kenny. He is also predeceased by his parents Robert and Elna, brothers Anders "Andy" and Marshall, a niece Linda, his nephew Marshall "Buddy," and his cousin Artie.

The family will have a celebration of life ceremony at a later date, with further details to be announced. The family wishes to thank Kip Kallstrom for the many days he spent with Lawrence and for helping to keep him in good spirits and comforted.

In lieu of flowers, the family ask that donations be made in Lawrence's honor to the Kent Volunteer Fire Department, and we especially thank the ambulance crew for their kindness and dedication to Lawrence, our family, and all the good people of this town.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Jennifer Strang-Thrasher

WASSAIC — Jennifer J. Strang-Thrasher, 50, of Wassaic passed away on Feb. 4, 2024, at Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie. Jennifer was a direct care worker at Cardinal Hayes in Millbrook for 30 years.



Born on Sept. 26, 1973, in Sharon, she was the daughter of Bonnie (Coons) Strang and the late Gordon Strang who predeceased her on Feb. 2, 2022.

Jennifer was a graduate of Dover High School class of 1992 and received

an Associates Degree from Dutchess Community College. On June 6, 2002, she married Daryl Thrasher of Poughkeepsie.

In addition to her mother and husband, Jennifer is survived by three sons, Andrew Thrasher of Palm Harbor, Florida, LeShawn Thrasher of Rochester, New York, and Teyvon Thrasher of Wassaic. She is also survived by an aunt, Pamela Rabideau of Dover Plains and many friends.

Calling hours took place from 4 to 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, at the Hufcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY. Funeral services followed at 6 p.m. at the funeral home with Rev. R. Kent Wilson officiating. To send the family a condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneralhome.com

In Remembrance

Edward S. Delapena, Sr.

AMENIA — Edward S. Delapena, Sr., a longtime resident of Amenia, died at home on Thursday, Feb. 1, at the age of 75. Those who spent any time in the town's central village knew Ed for his cheery greetings and helpful nature, having touched many local lives with caring and generosity.

Ed, or Eddie, as he was known to most, was a fixture in and around the post office. Always interested in the welfare of the other person, he helped the elderly and others who needed a chore done or just a periodic visit, regularly collecting and redeeming bottles and cans to be able to offer the proceeds to those he judged to be needier than he.

Ed was buried from Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

Thomas J. Giuseffi

AMENIA — Thomas J. Giuseffi, 68, a resident of Amenia, died on Jan. 27, 2024, at the Hudson Valley Hospice House in Hyde Park, surrounded by his family.



Tom had owned several delicatessens and then the local Owl's restaurant in Dover Plains with his brother, Jim. Tom finished his working career with the New York State Department of Transportation. Tom was a lifelong avid outdoorsman having belonged to several local hunting and fishing clubs.

Born on Sept. 15, 1955, in Hackensack, New Jersey, he was the son of the late Antho-

ny Giuseffi, Sr. and Virginia (Willan) Giuseffi. He is survived by a brother, Jim Giuseffi and his wife, Cathleen, of Stanfordville and two sisters, Gail Dunn of Wood Ridge, New Jersey and Jerilyn DelFino and her husband, Richard, of Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, Tom was predeceased by a sister, Clair Giuseffi.

Funeral service will be private. To send the family an online condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneralhome.com.

Larry Donald Tyler

LAKEVILLE — Larry Donald Tyler's valiant volley with cancer ended Feb. 4, 2024, surrounded by his loving family.



He was born on Oct. 16, 1956, to Douglas W. Jr. and Mary Alice (Colli) Tyler of Canaan.

Larry attended local schools and his indomitable spirit in athletics was as legendary as his sideburns. He possessed a dry wit and kindness that is rare to find in this world.

Larry's professional career was devoted to the family business, Tyler Carpet, later becoming proprietor of Black Cat Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning.

A devoted father and friend, he spent many years volunteering for the Lions Club and was deeply committed to the local recovery community. He will be remembered with remarkable admiration for his bravery and endurance. His calculated chuckle and perfectly timed comments will be missed in many local establishments.

Some of Larry's greatest loves were strong coffee, salty meats, and race cars. His dog Jordan was his closest comrade, and his grandchildren will always remember him being there to cheer them on. His friends who rallied around him in the end will never be forgotten, it's a

blessing that there are too many to name.

Larry's children Tanya P. Golden (Eric Ackerman), Jonathan S. Tyler, Whitney A. Tyler (Ryan Foley), Taylor Benatsou, and Chloe Fazio will carry on his legacy of unconditional love.

He married his longtime life partner Tiela Garnett on May 20, 2023, in an intimate ceremony in Boothbay Harbor, Maine.

He is survived by his mother, Mary and brothers Michael (Ellen) and Stephen Tyler. He also leaves behind his grandchildren Rachel, Mehali, Chase and Avery along with his nephews Josh, Justin and Keith. Larry was predeceased by his father Douglas, brother Anthony, first wife Lauren and nephew Brian.

Calling hours will be held Feb. 17, 2024, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Kenny funeral home in Sharon. A celebration of life is planned for Feb. 24, with details to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Larry's honor to the Jane Lloyd Fund to help support neighboring families afflicted by cancer.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Anne Lesley Nance

FARMINGTON — Anne Lesley Nance, 70, of Farmington, daughter of the late Jean R. and Angela (O'Brien) Liegey, was born on May 21, 1953. Never one to stay up for the bells, she passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 2023.

Those who had the privilege of knowing her knew that Anne approached life on her own terms. Even when she was diagnosed with terminal cancer seven years ago, she was determined to live by the following quote, which she had written on a plaque above her desk: "You don't have a right to the cards you believe you should have been dealt, you have an obligation

to play the hell out of the ones you're holding." Anne was certainly dealt some difficult cards but will be remembered not for her challenges but for her strength, resilience, determination, and kindness.

She is survived by her two children; Emma Nance of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Graham Nance, of Denver, Colorado, her former husband, Martin with whom she remained close, and her three dogs, Fenton and Milo, Chesapeake, and Twyla, her Cardigan Corgi.

A private memorial will be held in the spring at A Better Place Forest, Falls Village, CT. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Heifer International.

Barnett Epstein

SOUTH KENT — Barnett Epstein, 81, of South Kent, that he met his future wife, Nancy Schaefer, and they married in 1989.



Upon his retirement in 2008, Barnett and Nancy settled in the Litchfield Hills of Connecticut, not far from family, friends and his beloved Amenia, where he pursued his interest in family genealogy and indulged his love of reading and the New York Yankees.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Epstein is survived by his brother, James Epstein of Conway, South Carolina, and his sister, Mary Ann Epstein (Greg Baldaccini) of Ossining, New York, and their families. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his sister, Evelyn Epstein of Amenia.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date. To send the family a condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneralhome.com.



Worship Services

Week of February 18, 2023

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

<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>	<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 a.m., in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org Misa en español al mediodía (12 pm) el último sábado de mes The Revs. Heidi Truax & Felix Rivera trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, March 10 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>Chabad of Northwest CT On The Green 69 West St. Litchfield, CT 06759 Childrens Camp Shabbat Services Hebrew School CTeen YJP Judaism With A Smile! chabadNW.org 860.567.3377 office@chabadNW.org</p>
<p>Congregation Beth David A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>
<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>
<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall</p>
<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-3138</p>	

CHARLES JOSEPH THORNTON JR.
August 27, 1928 - February 11, 1974

50 YEARS

So many years,
So many tears

You were the best
Beloved husband
Loving father
Dedicated nurse
Caring son
Faithful brother
Helpful friend

Miss you every day

Love you always,
Jeanne
Charles, III
David
Scott
Douglas
Gary

In Loving Memory of Our Mom
Lois G. Shaffer
2/19/1926-4/28/2007

Dear Mom,
Happy birthday in Heaven.
We love and miss you so much.

Love,
Bubbles, Tammi,
Kathy & Timmy

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EDITORIAL Setting records

The Big Bang theory has it that about 13.8 billion years ago an explosion marked the beginning of the expansion of the universe. The word we're fixed on here is "expansion." The American economy is experiencing an economic expansion, and as long as the expansion continues, investor confidence appears ready to hang on for the ride. Last week we witnessed new milestones as major stock market indexes continue to rise.

The S&P 500, a broad index of stocks, crossed over the 5,000 level for the first time ever. The S&P 500 rose for the 14th week out of 15 by last Friday's close, something that hasn't happened since Richard Nixon was in the White House in 1972. The Nasdaq Composite, a tech stock barometer, also climbed, continuing a winning streak for the 15th week that it hadn't seen since 1997. So did the Dow Jones Industrial Average, a basket of 30 stocks. All three indexes ended the week with gains.

Investors have been buoyed by strength in the labor market — a job-growth report showing employers added 353,000 jobs — and by solid corporate earnings.

In Connecticut, the economic picture also remains positive, according to the Connecticut Business and Industry Association. Real GDP grew by 4.7 percent in the state in the third quarter last year, which was slightly below the national average of 4.9 percent but double the rate for all of 2022. In November, Connecticut's Department of Labor reported job growth for the third month in a row. And in the Hudson Valley, private sector jobs rose to 809,800, an increase of 6,100, over the year that ended in December, according to the New York State Department of Labor. Two of the New York region's private sectors — health care and social assistance — posted year-over-year growth of at least 5.2 percent, the department reported.

Yet we have another set of data points that don't relate to any kind of metaphorical Big Bang expansion at all. In an economy hallmarked by steady growth, approximately one in four households in our local region struggles to make ends meet.

According to the Connecticut United Ways, in its 2022 Alice report, an acronym that stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, 25 percent of the households in Northwest Connecticut earn more than the Federal Poverty Level but less than the basic cost of living in the area. The basics include: housing, food, child care, health care, technology and transportation. The United Way in the Dutchess-Orange County Region, reported in 2021 that the same percentage — 25 percent — of households in Dutchess County fell into the Alice category.

There are economic and market reports that set records, reflecting positive growth and aspirations for a continued expansion — with chronic shortcomings in the mix. In 2023 there were 1,111 households on waiting lists for affordable rental housing in the 21 towns that comprise the Northwest Hills Council of Governments. It's a similar story in Dutchess County, where, according to DATAUSA, 19.5% of the population was living with severe housing problems in 2022. From 2014 to 2022, the percentage expanded by 1.1%.

Need for local housing options

I would like to address the need for local housing opportunities for local natives of the Northwest Corner. There seems to be more discussion of the process of how we address the problem of severe housing shortage for locals rather than actually solving the problem. I've lived in the Northwest Corner for seventy-nine years and the problem is still with us.

DIP's (definitely inform people) get appointed to positions in local government boards of the town. They have created and installed their own property pricing that adversely impacts local folks who desire to live in the area they were raised in.

Since the pandemic, property square costs have risen \$400 per square foot to well over \$1,800.00 per square foot! And we wonder why local residents cannot afford to buy property in their home town?

I have a creative solution to the problem! For every sale of land or home, a portion of the sale price be set aside to stimulate local production of local housing. These funds should be placed

in a stipulated local account that promoted the development of local housing. An initial amount of 4% per sale would be a good start. Keep in mind property speculators come in all ages and sizes!

The process of denying local congregate communities is discouraging communities to build affordable housing. The Pope Land (which has both street side sewer and water access) was purchased by the town of Salisbury and voted and approved at a town meeting, yet the land trust organization has organized to limit housing opportunities not expand them! All those who advocate unlimited hours of planning are intentionally stalling the process of implementing affordable housing! What's wrong with that picture! The Pope Land is an example of this delay and deflection campaign that targets both the elderly and local workers WHO NEED A PLACE TO LIVE!!

So lets stop planning defective strategies and put the shovel in the ground and START BUILDING NOW!

Bill Kelsey

Ashley Falls



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

After state's decision, Sharon Hospital must act

The Executive Director of the CT Office of Health Strategy (OHS) has issued a Final Decision, dated Feb. 5, 2024, denying Nuvance's Application to close the Maternity Unit of Sharon Hospital. In the Final Decision, OHS found, among other things:

(A) "...[Nuvance] ...failed to demonstrate that [Nuvance's] Proposal aligns with [OHS's] goals of improving quality, accessibility, continuity of care (and its relationship to quality of healthcare services), financial stability, and cost containment," (B) "...the Proposal's negative impact on access to Medicaid recipients and indigent persons would exacerbate racial and ethnic healthcare inequities at the state, county, and town levels," (C) "...Nuvance had an excess of revenue over expenses of \$105 million, had an increase in net assets of \$242 million end-

ing the year with over \$1.7 billion in net assets, and by all accounts appears financially stable," (D) "...rural L&D closure results in bad quality and safety outcomes, including premature birth, low-birth weight, maternal mortality, severe maternal morbidity, increased risk of postpartum depression. Rural L&D closures also result in emergency department births, non-indicated induced c-section, postpartum hemorrhage, prolonged hospital stays, and an increase in perinatal mortality. There is no reason to believe that SH's experience would be any different," (E) "...[Nuvance] has not articulated a plan for ensuring that sufficient EMS providers are available when needed..." (F) "...if this Proposal is approved, there will be an impact on cost-effectiveness both for the general population as

well as indigent persons, and it will not be a beneficial one," (G) "[Nuvance] has not demonstrated that there is good cause for its reducing access to services by Medicaid recipients and indigent persons," and (8) "...the Proposal will result in a negative impact to the diversity of health care providers and patient choice for L&D services."

Nuvance must commit itself to the rule of law by adhering to the Final Decision and promptly:

1. Publicize to the entire community that the Maternity Unit at Sharon Hospital is and will remain fully operational.
2. Actively recruit full-time OB-GYN doctors offering competitive compensation.
3. Actively recruit full-time OB-GYN nurses offering competitive compensation.
4. Insure that Sharon Hospital has the doctors and medical staff required to address pediatric care and emergencies.

Nuvance must act now and in good faith so that the Maternity Unit at Sharon Hospital can thrive.

David C. Singer, Esq.
Salisbury

Sharon Hospital OB-GYN services

It is hard for me to imagine that Nuvance ever dreamed that it could or would ever close Sharon Hospital's obstetrical unit, given that there are no other places nearby where it is truly safe to have a baby. Obstetrical emergencies, when they occur, happen with speed and require quick, competent intervention. It appears that the administrative people don't care about the health and well being of mothers or babies, but care more about the bottom line.

I spent 28 years as a pediatrician at Sharon Hospital with privileges to go to the delivery room, especially when for emergencies. I am certain that administrators and insurance people have their place, but it is not in the delivery room.

I trust that Nuvance will now live up to their responsibilities, but they will need to be watched.

Malcolm M. Brown, M.D.
Active Medical Staff from 1973- 2005. First Selectman of Sharon from 2005- 2009. Now on Emeritus Medical Staff
Salisbury

Wilburn review strikes chord

Although I don't consider myself a true cinephile, Alexander Wilburn's review of Ileana Douglas's book Connecticut in the Movies... (Compass, Jan. 18) struck a chord. Having lived in Connecticut for most of my lifetime I've developed a sense of what is genuine and what is pastiche.

I agree that to a Manhattan audience Connecticut is Westchester County with an extra dose of cachet. On the small screen, Gilmore Girls' Stars Hollow is but a plastic imitation of Hollywood's concept of Litchfield County. We don't hold town meetings in a village square and no Nutmegger, to use a passe epithet, would ever refer to our shoreline Interstate as "the I-95."

Revolutionary Road I found so depressing that any faux pas escaped my notice.

Not mentioned in the review is Mystic Pizza, which was not only set in eastern Connecticut but was filmed here. Much of the action was not actually shot in Mystic, as it happened, but in Stonington, one town to the east. This was perhaps because the titled pizzeria, which was and is a real restaurant, is on a fairly steep incline and

not well suited logistically. A number of my friends made transitory appearances as extras. It's been a while since I've seen it, but the milieu seemed well suited to the story and vice versa.

To my mind, the quintessential Connecticut movie is Parrish, the 1961 film adaptation of Mildred Savage's novel of the same name. Starring Troy Donahue and Claudette Colbert, the story concerns the fortunes of two competing family dynasties in what was once a major Connecticut industry: tobacco. Of course, the business battles are accompanied by complex love stories, but what is most remarkable is that both setting and narrative come across as genuine. In large part that's because it was filmed in the "tobacco valley" of north central Connecticut with a few other recognizable landmarks in the mix, the Chester-Hadlyme ferry and the former Terra Mar resort at Old Saybrook among them. I first saw it shortly after release at the Colonial Theatre in Canaan, as I was living in Falls Village at the time.

Christopher "Kit" Foster
Gales Ferry, Conn.

Deadline for letters is Monday at 10 a.m. Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com.

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Viewpoint

Rethinking big lawns

Recently I learned a new word: “faux-meadow”. A fake meadow, in plain English. It came up in the context of a talk about turning conventional lawns into wildflower meadows, from scratch, in line with the modern trend to create a more beautiful, but also more nature friendly - if less tidy - environment using native plants. “From scratch” here means from seeds, spread onto carefully and expensively prepared, completely weed free ground, whereas the faux-meadow would be a lawn simply left unmowed but optionally enhanced with already mature meadow plants. Having struggled for over twenty years to maintain a wild, open field as a pleasing flowering meadow it finally dawned on me that just about any meadow or field in the North-East is a kind of a fake, a result of the US east coast being by nature forest, not prairie country. Just about all open land here wants to be forest again, not meadow. The trees after all reclaimed the farms abandoned a century ago, not grasses and other meadow plants; that is no different today. The native meadows which do exist in our area are wet meadows, by themselves an endangered habitat, with their own assortments of wetland plants. Such swampy meadows are too wet for trees, houses or front lawns.

Just like no forest will naturally grow in the prairies, in forest country any aban-

GUEST COLUMN

BY FRITZ MUELLER

doned hay meadow or corn field will eventually be taken over by tree sapling and shrubs, both native and alien. Most of what I see here on wildflowers along roadsides and in open fields are various goldenrods and asters, but nowhere near the variety as in a patch of North Dakota prairie. I have never seen in New York or Connecticut a purple coneflower outside a garden.

Today the first woody plants reclaiming an abandoned field are alien species from Eurasia. That is no coincidence; with agriculture and settlements and all that goes with it - roads, gardens - we have created the sunny and windy open spaces to which Asiatic shrubs and vines are much better adapted than our forest plants. See how forsythia, but also bush honeysuckles, multiflora rose, porcelainberry and barberry hug the ground to form impenetrable thickets; by hugging the ground they protect their soil moisture and in the process smother as well all plants below. These oriental shrubs and vines will stay with us and in time become quasi natives, just like the daisies in the meadows, because we have created for them the perfect habitat - open, sunny, windy. Quite the opposite of the calm

conditions in a forest. Forest shrubs like witchhazel and spicebush have an open and airy habit; in the woods the pinxter azalea always flowers a week earlier than in my open and windy garden. The lawns -into -meadows movement thus is joined to the big battle against invasive alien plants, which are now unfortunately forever part of our landscape.

A wildflower-meadow, no matter how you created it, is vastly superior to a large lawn, but it is still a garden. It is a mini prairie - artificial, and just like any garden in NW Connecticut not a self-sustaining natural environment. Once rose and bitersweet or native dogwoods have rooted, an annual mowing only prunes the ever more thickening rootstocks; to maintain an open meadow, those rootstocks and tree saplings have to continuously be cut or dug out. It still takes a gardener's spirit and sweat and optimism to maintain that beautiful wildflower meadow.

Wildflower meadows, as wonderful as they are and beneficial for our insect and bird populations, they are only one alternative to that too-large lawn or an abandoned field. As the prairies are famous for their abundance of wildflowers, so the east coast of North America is famous for its richness of native tree and shrub species. Here in NW Connecticut, where every open field wants to become woods again, it would make

sense to include woody native plants into the remake of an oversized lawn or abandoned field. Dependent on location, it can be a copse of native trees or shrubs, or it can mean bringing a forested border closer in. There is a tremendous variety of trees and shrubs to choose from; I recommend some of the neglected rarer species: sourwood, yellowwood and tupelo for example with their spectacular fall colors, but also hop-hornbeam, catalpa, bay magnolia sweetgum, hemlocks, all that with an understory of witchhazel and spicebush, fringetree, mountain laurel, blueberries, native rhododendron maximum and native deciduous azaleas - I get carried away by the sheer number of species. Below that canopy can grow the ferns, sedges and trilliums, the shade adapted goldenrods, and on a rocks mosses so characteristic of our native woods. Such a mini-forest plot with a multitude of textures and colors and flowers easily exists within a meadow and the now smaller lawn around the house. Specifics depend on location, terrain and soil properties and of course on one's own vision.

It takes some planning and patience and is forever an aspirational project, whose maturity you may never see, but is at every stage beautiful and enormously satisfying.

Fritz Mueller lives in Sharon.

Facing challenges after life of working

When Charles Aznavour wrote “Yesterday When I Was Young,” he touched on a theme that resonates with so many of us. I retired early last spring after a 40-plus year career on Wall Street, preceded by careers in television news and local NYC government, working for Mayor John Lindsay.

I soon learned that my newfound challenges, frustrations, disappointments and fears are not unique to me, but are happening to so many of us, as our lives suddenly take a 180-degree turn. It is not simply about age, tho I'll address that in a later column, but a realization that suddenly nothing seems familiar (although it is really a gradual process). We start to eat differently; we deal with a whole new set of doctors and medications; our exercise regime shifts; shopping is different; our travel habits change; our relationships with friends and family evolve; and nothing seems the way it was throughout our working lives.

I have always worked. I grew up in Westchester County in a lower middle class family. My father died when I was only 12, and my mother worked full-time to support me and my younger sister.

As soon as I turned 16 and got my “working papers,” I took two buses summer days to work at Korvette's department store, and when I was older I worked as a counselor at summer camps to help pay for college. I then worked my way through college in the cafeteria and library (in combination with loans and scholarships), and knew I'd have to have a job lined up the moment I graduated.

It was startling to learn that this new retirement gig is nothing like my prior life - the high heels replaced with sneakers; the suits and dresses with yoga pants and T-shirts; the corporate gym with walking on my road trying to avoid the local pit bull and the poison ivy; restaurant dining with takeout pizza; and subways, buses and taxis with my own Subaru (my very first car).

Accustomed to an intense working day, I initially busied myself going through closets and cleaning the basement, meeting friends for lunch (I'd not taken a real lunch break in over 40 years), sleeping late (I'd spent decades setting my alarm for 5:30 a.m. to go to the gym before work); and getting my first dog and suddenly becoming a “dog person” (growing up in apartment houses, my pets were turtles and parakeets and goldfish, and then cats once I lived in NYC). Some-

RETIREMENT—WHAT NOW?

GWEN GREENE

how I managed to fill my day, and then late last spring I left NYC for good, and that just drove home how much my life was changing.

So here I am trying to figure out what next, and I struggle. I love sleeping in, but feel guilty. I enjoy having friends for brunch and dinner, but miss dining out. It's so much more efficient doing my own nails - now quite short - but I miss treating myself to manicures. I love the quiet on my road, but I miss the energy of the City. Then there are all the new things I worry about, like black ice on the road or running out of gas, CVS not having one of my many new medications, or running out of Oatmilk, the house being a mess when someone drops in unexpectedly, new aches and pains I can't figure out, slipping on the ice, the deer eating my flowers, the dog eating the meat we took out for dinner, and so much more. These may sound like silly problems, and I am keenly aware that we live in a world and at a time when so many are suffering with very serious challenges, but for the purposes of this column, I hope to address the many issues that confront so many of us who, in one way or another, are just trying to acclimate to this new chapter in our life. I have actually compiled a list of 50 possible topics, but I expect many more will come to mind as I start to write.

Please feel free to reach out to me with your thoughts or questions at Gweng@millertonnews.com

Gwen Greene is retired and lives in Pine Plains with her partner Dennis, her puppy Charlie, and 2 Angus cows, also retired.

Do you have a family member or friend in the military who would be interested in the news from home?

Remember

The Lakeville Journal Company offers free online subscriptions to our website, tricornernews.com, for active duty military personnel from the Tri-state region. For more information or to set up a subscription, contact Sandra Lang at circulation@lakevillejournal.com or 860-435-9873, ext. 301.

With thanks to those who serve.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — February 1924

State policemen Preston and Mead captured three bootleggers and a considerable quantity of booze at Norfolk on Wednesday. The officers were out investigating the case of a driver who had left his team of horses out all night. While doing this they saw two cars running at a speed of about 40 to 45 miles an hour. This being somewhat unusual they trailed along. At Norfolk the two cars stopped to get gas. When the officers approached on foot the men immediately started to run away, but the officers captured three of them. The fourth managed to escape, and it was later learned telephoned back in time to stop a truck loaded with still more booze which was following. In the captured cars were 1100 bottles of beer and five cases of Scotch. Both cars and booze were confiscated and the occupants arrested.

Mrs. Fred Constantine has gone to Waterbury to visit her husband who is employed there.

Miss Esther Lowe of Lime Rock is suffering from an abscess on her arm.

Ice cream can now be bought of Philo Lyon.

50 years ago — February 1974

“Who in God's world would have believed we could have raised \$50,000,” Jean Beligni exclaimed this week, while talking about the latest development in the Peter Reilly murder case. Members of the Peter Reilly Fund Committee, residents of Falls Village and Canaan, working with defense attorneys

Catherine Roraback and Peter Herbst and a woman in New York, are making final arrangements this week to combine contributions for Reilly's \$50,000 bail bond. If all goes as planned, young Reilly may be released as soon as next week.

A new possibility arose this week of revived rail freight and eventually passenger service on the nearly defunct Penn Central Berkshire Line between New Milford, Kent and Canaan. A group of three young men based in New Milford announced plans for the section the Penn Central wants to abandon and disclosed that the Transportation Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly has already raised a bill to grant them a charter.

This week's Lakeville Journal comes to you with a slightly changed appearance - but it's still the same paper underneath. On page 1 we henceforth will have six columns instead of the previous eight, and we shall try to minimize the number of continued stories. At the top of page 1 we are moving our nameplate, or “flag,” to the right so as to help purchasers better identify the paper at newsstands. We are also placing the date on the right. One more noteworthy change: our classified advertising pages so prized by readers and advertisers are being moved into section B where they will appear henceforth. The newsprint shortage, like death, taxes and the energy crisis, is unfortunately still with us. We are promised enough for basic requirements, but we shall have to limit our space during the next few months

in order to stay within our allotment.

Peder Kongsli, a 6 foot 4 inch Norwegian jumping for the University of Vermont, captured Sunday's United States Eastern Ski Jumping Championship at John Satre Memorial Hill in Salisbury. He soared 195 and 200 feet in two jumps and won the Satre Trophy.

Canaan firemen were busy this week trying to find financial backing for the purchase of a new firehouse. The company is very interested in purchasing the property owned by the Getty Oil Company on the southeast corner of the intersection of routes 7 and 44. Dutchess Auto leases the building and lot from Getty.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Brewer of Lake Worth, Fla., were feted Saturday at the Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, the occasion being their 59th wedding anniversary. Mrs. Brewer is the former Alda Lindell of Canaan. Mr. Brewer is a native of Sheffield. In 1912 he and his brother Frederick started Brewer Bros., a bicycle and automotive business in Canaan. In 1916, the brothers, with another brother, the late Edward Brewer, opened a second outlet in Pittsfield where they sold Reo cars. Three years later they opened yet another branch in North Adams, and in 1926 a fourth business in Burlington, Vt. At that time they were distributors for the entire state of Vermont. In 1932 the firm switched to Plymouth and DeSoto products. The Pittsfield and Burlington businesses are now gone but Brewer Bros. retains its Canaan and North Adams outlets. Mr. Brewer was the first

president of the Pontoosuc Lake Golf Club, a director of the Pittsfield Third National Bank and a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

25 years ago — February 1999

LAKEVILLE - Marshall Miles' microphone at WQQQ (103.3 FM) is off. The general manager and morning show host, a well-known voice throughout the Tri-State area, resigned from those positions Feb. 3. Bob Chatfield will be taking over the morning show and Ron Lyon has been named general manager. While Mr. Miles was quick to point out that he and station owner Dennis Jackson of Wilton left on good terms, a memo he sent to Mr. Jackson and staff members hints that some tension existed. He says he puts the blame on no one but himself. While he said his aggressiveness brought both great profits and a large listenership to the station, it also brought him tremendous amounts of responsibility. Mr. Miles is very familiar with the area and he said it was because of this devotion that he worked so hard.

Paul Brazee, a 34-year veteran of the postal service, 20 at Lakeville, was recently inducted into the post office's Million Mile Club. He has driven 1,000,000 miles without getting into an auto accident. Mr. Brazee received a gold plaque, a certificate, and best of all, a full day of paid administrative leave.

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

Realtor® at Large

Continuing on the issue of road salt and its effect on the environment, it is worth visiting CTDEEP's website regarding their investigations of private water wells being impacted by sodium chloride, ie salt. Wells are vulnerable to be infiltrated by salt by two main pathways, excessive road salt and the discharge of the byproduct of water conditioners. So please visit portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Remediation--Site-Clean-Up/Road-Salt/Salt-Investigations. While there, another very interesting article, “Road Salt: More than just a grain of Salt” is worth reviewing to fully understand the issue, its effects and what to do if your well is testing high for sodium chloride.



JOHN HARNEY
Associate Broker with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Office: 19 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068
Email: jharney@wpsir.com
Cell: 860-921-7910
Instagram: @johnharneyjr

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Sports

Hotchkiss wrestling pins Salisbury

By Riley Klein

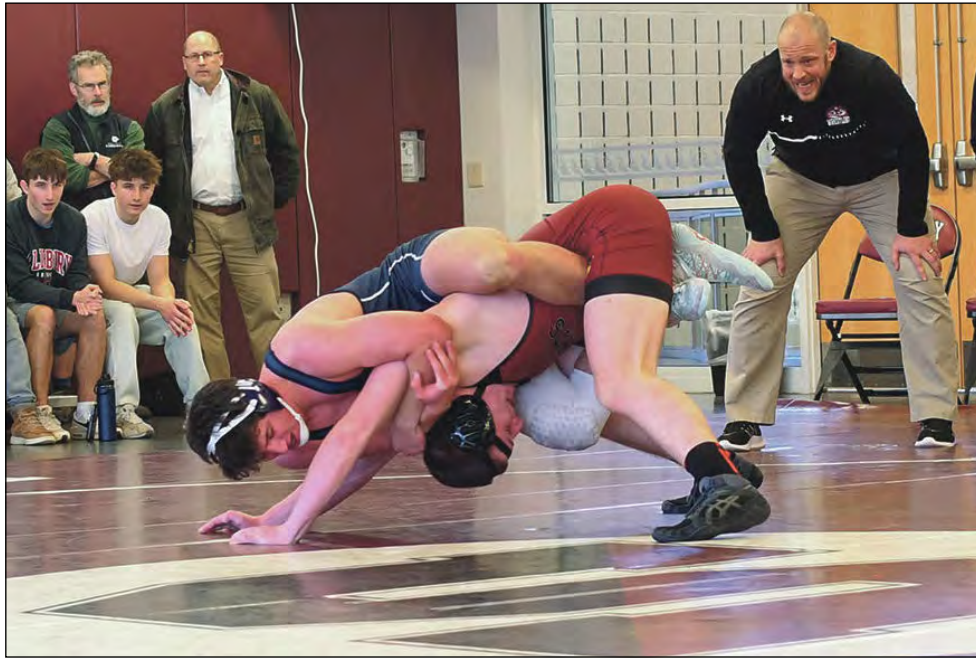
SALISBURY — The Hotchkiss School varsity wrestling team defeated Salisbury School 42-33 in the final meet of the regular season on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

The afternoon of sparring featured top-tier Founder's League competition inside Salisbury's Flood Athletic Center. Wrestlers paired up by weight for three rounds of two minutes each. Winners earned 6 team points for a win by pin or win by forfeit, and 3 to 5 team points for a win by decision.

Weight classes represented in the meet ranged from 106 pounds up to 285 pounds, but not all categories had counterparts on the opposing team. Including forfeits, 14 official matches took place when Salisbury hosted Hotchkiss.

Hotchkiss won two matches by decision and three matches by pin. Ihsan Yumak, Ethan Woo, and Daniel Zhang all pinned their opponent for 6 team points each. Winners by decision for Hotchkiss were Adam Wright and Shaan Patel, earning 3 team points each. Hotchkiss' remaining team points came from forfeit wins.

Two of Salisbury's wrestlers, Brian Lawson and Robert Madison, won their matches by pin for 6 team points each. Long Ngo won his match against Thanos Athanasios in a 9-7 decision for 3 team points. Salisbury's remaining points came from



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Hotchkiss' Adam Wright embraced his inner boa constrictor when wrestling Salisbury's Dom Valcin.

forfeit wins.

When the matches were over, Hotchkiss claimed team victory in the final regular season meet of 2024.

Between the two programs, 28 wrestlers went on to the Western New England Prep School Wrestling Association Championship in Fairfield Saturday, Feb. 10. Of the group, 13 qualified for the New England regional tournament Feb. 17.

Salisbury will send Luc Fillion-Raf (132 pounds), Robert Madison (138), Dom Valcin (175), Michael Taylor (215), and Jahnoi Prentice (285) to regionals.

Hotchkiss will send Nick Lucana (113), Ihsan Yumak (132), Adam Wright (175), Olivia Kwon (114), Ashley Opdyke (114), Anya Reppa (120), Aimee Carrasco (132) and Sadie Salter (138) to regionals.



Marcus McGregor of Hotchkiss slammed Salisbury's Beckett Rourke in the dual meet at Flood Athletic Center on Wednesday, Feb. 7, to close out the 2023-24 regular season.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

From left, Seth Gardner, Islay Sheil and Ariel Picton Kobayashi. Gardner served as Islay's SWSA coach and Kobayashi travels as her on-the-road mentor.

Sheil heads to Junior Nationals

The Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA) witnessed another leap forward in its junior jumping program when Islay Sheil was named to the 2024 Junior National (JN) ski jumping team.

The Lakeville 14-year-old qualified by placing third in the Female K65 competition Sunday, Feb. 4 of Jumpfest. Sheil, who has been training with Team SWSA since 2021,

received the honor along with 20 other jumpers from around the Eastern division, joining Seth Gardner and Ariel Picton Kobayashi as the only local jumpers to reach JN status in recent memory.

Gardner made the JN teams from 2018 to 2021 seasons and Kobayashi in 2004 and 2005.

Sheil will leave for Anchorage, Alaska, Saturday, Feb. 24, to compete.

HVRHS boys fall to Litchfield 72-44

By Riley Klein

LITCHFIELD — Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) Mountaineers basketball lost to the Litchfield High School Cowboys in a 72-44 decision Tuesday, Feb. 6.

The Mountaineers fell into a deep hole early on and were unable to climb out. Despite the deficit, HVRHS battled to the final buzzer.

The Cowboys came out of the gate on a blazing saddle. A.J. Quesnel and Travis Lipinsky combined for 19 first-quarter points and helped Litchfield pull ahead to a 24-8 lead.

HVRHS struggled to find a rhythm offensively as it was constantly corralled by a full-court press. Litchfield kept cruising with dominant rebounding and superior ball movement. By halftime, the Mountaineers trailed 41-14.

The game turned scrap-



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

HVRHS' Sam Marcus defended the wings on Feb. 6.

py in the second half and hard fouls were committed by both sides. At times, the

whistle seemed to only blow in one direction, which visibly added to the frustration

of HVRHS players.

With HVRHS down about 30 points in the fourth, Owen Riemer ate a hard flagrant one foul from Lipinsky. The two players squared off after the hit before their teammates split them apart. Litchfield's coach immediately benched Lipinsky for the unsportsmanlike foul and he did not return to the court. Riemer knocked down both technical free throws and followed it up with a long 3-pointer.

In the end, Litchfield won 72-44 and advanced to a record of 9-9 this season. HVRHS' record moved to 3-14.

Litchfield was led in scoring by A.J. Quesnel with 20 points and Travis Lipinsky with 15 points.

Anthony Labbadia and Flynn Ryan each finished with 11 points for HVRHS.

The Mountaineers will host Northwestern High School on Friday, Feb. 9. Junior varsity tips off at 5:30 p.m. with varsity to follow at 7 p.m.

Steve Blass little league registration now open

NORTH CANAAN — Northwest Connecticut Steve Blass Little League signups for the spring 2024 baseball season have begun.

Boy and girls aged 4-15 from the towns of Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon are eligible to register.

The deadline to sign up is Sunday, March 10. Registration can be completed online at the team website: leagues.bluecombrero.com/nwctsbll

Contact league president Bob Foley with questions at nwctll.pres@gmail.com.

Send sports tips to rileyk@lakevillejournal.com



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

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FFA takes ag-education into the 21st century

By Lauren Sorrell

FALLS VILLAGE — The National FFA Organization is developing the next generation of leaders.

Each year, FFA chapters around the country celebrate National FFA Week. It's a time to share what FFA is and the impact it has on members every day.

The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. FFA helps members discover their talent through hands-on experiences, which give members the tools to achieve real-world success.

A combined 850,823 students from throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have chosen to be a part of FFA. Of those members, 116 are from our chapter. Each year these numbers grow as more young people become a part of the organization. FFA was chartered in 1928 as the Future Farmers of America.

The organization changed its name from the Future Farmers of America to the National FFA Organization. The name changed because FFA is not only for future farmers, but it is for any and all students despite what their plans are for the future. It is an organization that provides countless opportunities and develops leadership skills that can carry over to all careers.

Housatonic Valley FFA (HVFFA) members are involved in local, statewide and national events throughout the year. This past summer, students attended the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC), the Sound

National FFA WEEK FEBRUARY 17-24, 2024



Melanie Rundall and Tyler Anderson worked at the FFA Holiday Store at HVRHS this past winter.

School chapter exchange, and the Alumni Picnic hosted at Laurelbrook Farm. While at WLC, students spent the week with fellow FFA members from all over the U.S. to develop leadership skills and ways to help their community.

This summer, HVFFA partnered with the Sound School in New Haven for a chapter exchange program. Members from our chapter were invited on a deep fishing excursion, and in exchange, we gave their chapter members a tour of agriculture in our part of the state. The Housatonic Valley FFA Alumni Association sponsors both of these summer activities.

HVFFA also has many activities and events throughout the school year to help

members learn and grow. Students prepare for and compete in numerous state competitions called Career Development Events (CDEs) and Leadership Development Events (LDEs). This past November, the Ag Communications team (Anne Moran, Simon Markow, Hannah Johnson and Chris Crane) and Creed speaker (Riley Mahaffey) competed at the National FFA Convention



Housatonic Valley FFA members attended the 2023 State FFA Convention last year.



From left, Mackenzie Corkins, Haley Swaller, Alyssa Tatro and Mackenzie Casey were recipients of State FFA Degrees, the highest degree that a state FFA association can bestow upon a member.

representing Connecticut. In addition, students attend IMAGE, COLT, JLC, State FFA Convention, and the National FFA Convention. We give back to our

community by helping with the Falls Village Car Show, volunteering at the Big E and the Goshen Fair, and sponsoring a rabies clinic over the summer.

HVFFA chapter members are looking forward to

spring competitions, conferences and our annual ag open house. We appreciate all the ways that the community supports our program.

Lauren Sorrell is a student reporter at HVRHS and a member of HVFFA.

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FORUM

Continued from Page A1

after then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) traveled to Taiwan in 2022 have been lifted.

And under “artificial intelligence,” the possibilities for cooperation are wide open.

“This is a completely new issue. There are no rules, no norms,” she said.

The goal should be “to build boundaries and common expectations.”

An example of that would be keeping “humans in the loop” regarding the use of nuclear weapons.

The list of troublesome items is longer.

While China has not sent Russia lethal aid for the latter’s ongoing war with Ukraine, “China has done nothing to stop the war.”

China has advocated for the “two-state” position regarding the war between Israel and Hamas. Glaser said this was somewhat surprising as China had previously had good relations with Israel. “But they threw Israel under the bus.”

Rather, China has attacked American policy in the hope of driving a wedge between the U.S. and its European allies.

Glaser said the Biden administration has tried to get China to use its substantial pull with Iran to get the latter to stop funding terrorist groups in the Middle East, to no avail.

China has been similarly uninterested in pressuring North Korea to be less beligerent.

The issue of the independence of Taiwan “is really dangerous.”

Glaser said she does not believe China, Taiwan or the U.S. are seeking a military conflict.

But the situation is dicey. China routinely sends aircraft close to but not into Taiwan’s air space. Taiwan will inaugurate a new president in May, who was elected with a 40% plurality in a three-way race. Glaser said Chinese propagandists will certainly seize on this fact to belittle Taiwan’s democratic process.

And on nuclear weapons, Glaser noted that China is actively trying to match the size of the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

Asked if Chinese shipping had been affected by ongoing

attacks by Houthi rebels on ships in the Red Sea, Glaser said “If it was damaging China, they’d do something about it.”

She said the Chinese Navy has started escorting Chinese ships through the area, but not as part of the American-led coalition.

Asked about China’s demographic problems, Glaser said that China has experienced “a serious decline in working-age people.”

She said the decline has occurred faster than anticipated, and one of the ways China is coping is by increased use of automation.

“The jury is out on this being the most problematic issue for China, Glaser continued. They have so many other economic problems.”

PARENTHOOD

Continued from Page A1

nificant concerns regarding family planning and climate change, and is anxiety around global warming actually halting childbirth for this generation in their prime childbearing years?

As Business Insider, among several other publications, reported recently, “Since 1950, the worldwide fertility rate dropped from an average of 4.7 children to 2.4 children. U.S. fertility rates peaked in 2007 before declining in 2008 during the Great Recession, and they accelerated their slump when the pandemic hit. Last year, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report found that the U.S. birth rate fell by 4% from 2019 to 2020, the sharpest single-year decline in almost 50 years, and the lowest number of births since 1979.”

It’s harder to pinpoint this data to one specific cause — recent decades have seen more significant access to birth control, increased student debt in the face of an exuberant child care affordability crisis — studies show numbers ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000 for the child’s first year of life — and more career and workforce opportunities for women which might be hindered by maternity leave. As the U.S. Census Bureau reported, more women are delaying marriage, with the median age for an American woman’s first wedding increasing from age 20 in 1950 to age 28 in 2023.

“So much of the discourse around the climate crisis says we must avert disaster for the children,” said Ferorelli. “When we love our children, our students, our siblings, our [nieces and nephews], our young friends, we understand it’s visceral. But in an equally true way, we are the children. [Millennials] were all born into this crisis.”

She addressed that the focus on reproductive planning in the book was a way to open a broader conversation on eco-activism, specifically geared toward women, whose bodies are centered in conversations around population control or decline. “For us, reproduction isn’t the whole story, but it reveals the story’s heart. Focusing on reproduction in the context

of climate change exposes the same unjust core that motivates many other social movements. It shows what’s at issue for all of us. As the climate changes, all stakes are raised. Some non-parents feel that their commitment to climate work would foreclose the possibility of parenting. At the same time, parents have described feeling locked out of activism or struggling to stay involved because time and money are short, activist spaces do not often accommodate children, or they find themselves dismissed as mere mothers, not meeting the conventions of radicalism.”

As Bryan Walsh wrote for Vox last year, “While it’s true that a child born today will be responsible for adding more carbon into the atmosphere... In a rich country like the U.S., a baby born today will emit less CO2 on average over their lifetime than their parents did; according to the International Energy Agency, if the world achieves carbon neutrality by 2050, the carbon footprint of those New Year’s babies could be ten times smaller than that of their grandparents.”

Using an extreme angle, Kallman pointed out that forgoing childbirth for the sole sake of reducing harm to the planet is as radical and unnecessary as suicide: “Rather than identifying the bigger forces acting on our lives, the innate climate problem of scale, that we’re tiny and helpless, is aggregated by isolation. But this cognitive dissonance is paralyzing and demoralizing. So, if you follow the personal footprint reduction strategy to its logical end, the most effective action you can take for the planet alone is to kill yourself now. And we don’t say this to be callous or macabre. The tragic reality is that some people who are no longer able to bear this devastation have ended their lives. But the example proves the point. Suicide doesn’t solve the climate crisis. One person fewer on the planet does not fix systemic injustices. So we can move beyond the view that our individual consumer or reproductive choices are the most meaningful contribution to the fight against climate consequences.”

IMBOLC

Continued from Page A1

“People took quiet walks, lit bonfires and celebrated with feasts. Fires symbolized the returning light; candles symbolized the growing sun,” she said.

In addition, traditional baked goods, winter vegetables, butter, cheese, and lamb were typically on offer. In this spirit, Fitzgibbons laid out her own delicious, home baked Irish Soda bread and a selection of tasty cheeses for the group to enjoy.

Attendees were invited to share poems and stories about how they celebrate this point of the year when spring is on the horizon.

Fitzgibbons also demonstrated how jars of honey, candles, yarrow, spruce, basil, and laurel and other elements such as antlers can be used to create an altar. And attendees were given brown paper bags to gather these elements and encouraged to create their own altars at home.

“Altars can be made in any corner in the house, on a window sill or a tabletop. They are created to be a place for beauty, intentions or meditations,” Fitzgibbons said.

Feeling satiated and informed, the group left enlightened, anticipating spring and brighter days ahead.



PHOTO BY MIKE COBB

Imbolc, also known as St. Brigid’s Day, marks the midway point between the solstice and the equinox on Feb. 1. Eileen Fitzgibbons, left, and Bina Thomson led a workshop at Norfolk Library on the holiday to share the history and traditions.

Cary offers new program to teachers

By Judith O’Hara Balfe

MILLBROOK — Starting this summer, nine teachers will be spending six weeks at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies doing collaborative research in ecosystem science.

They will have follow-up meetings during the school year to support one another as they develop curricula based on the experiences they gained at Cary, using innovative approaches to update and enhance learning experiences for their students.

Cary announced the program, stating that it is being funded by a three-year award from the National Science Foundation as part of the Research Experiences for Teachers Sites in Biological Sciences (BIORETS). The program will, Cary expects, build the teachers’ knowledge, skills and confidence in science.

This will allow teachers to help students to learn about ecology, and to relate to the needs and problems that exist. They will be familiar early on with STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), instilling confidence that they can pursue their interests in these fields throughout their lives. The teachers will be able to develop ecological learning

experiences that offer depth and understanding of critical issues.

Cary said the program will prioritize educators from groups underrepresented in STEM, and those who work in schools that serve significant minority populations. So far, teachers from four under-resourced Hudson Valley school districts, serving both urban and rural populations, have expressed interest in the program. Teachers from across the U.S. are invited to apply, with travel and housing covered. Participating teachers will receive an \$8,800 stipend.

Rebecca Van Tassell, program coordinator for Cary BIORETS, asserted that that the program isn’t just for biology teachers, saying: “We would love math teachers to apply. We would love computer science and chemistry teachers to apply. The sticky, urgent problems of global change need to be approached through the thinking of many different disciplines so that we can come up with novel solutions.”

Some of the projects that the teachers will explore are related to wildfire, aquatic ecosystems, disease ecology, forests, and nutrient cycling, all projects that Cary has an interest in. If the project

quires it, the teachers will have the opportunity to create and run simulations of future forest and fire dynamics, as well as conduct field surveys of tick density and distribution, something Cary had been at the forefront of for many years. They may also explore soil food webs, identify tree species, and will be encouraged to participate in skill-building activities.

Based on their research experiences, the educators may develop new materials to aid in their instruction in introducing ecological ideas to their students. They will have support from the Cary education staff and their fellow teacher participants, all of whom are expected to share their own learning experiences garnered over the six-week period, by contributing to a professional publication or conducting workshops to others in their districts. Drawing on their research experiences, teachers will design new instructional materials to bring ecological concepts to their classrooms, with support from Cary education staff and fellow teacher participants. Each educator is also required to share what they have learned, either by contributing to a professional publication, presenting at a conference, or conducting

workshops in their school districts.

During the ensuing year, Cary will host four virtual meetings supporting the teachers as they enfold their new experiences into their curriculum. The teachers will receive feedback on the teaching stratagems and the materials used to determine the effectiveness of the new methods and materials. Working together is one of the main points of the program, learning through sharing, using collaborative methods. Through critiquing, the teachers will be able to analyze, and make revisions when necessary.

The entire process is designed to be highly collaborative, with fellow teachers offering mutual support for each other’s learning throughout the program.

Cary has worked throughout its 40-year history with educators in creating curricula and fostering professional development. Van Tassell feels that part of the reason Cary BIORETS is unique is that it is tailored to each teacher’s interests and classroom dynamics. “By letting teachers engage as learners in this authentic and inquiry-based way, we can work with them to develop materials that allow their students to learn in the same way,” she noted.

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

FILM: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Joan Baez coming to The Triplex

The Triplex Cinema in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, is gearing up for an event Saturday, March 2, with a screening of "I Am a Noise" and a talkback featuring two of the film's directors, Miri Navasky and Karen O'Connor, alongside a special appearance by the subject of the documentary herself — the legendary Joan Baez.

"I Am a Noise" began filming in 2013 and took many years to complete. Navasky and O'Connor, longtime collaborators, paused production for a time to work on another film, "Growing Up Trans," for the PBS documentary series "Frontline." They resumed work on the Baez film when she announced her farewell tour in 2017.

"We started again with the idea that there had to be something really interesting following a woman who has been famous for 60-plus years coming to the end

of her career," O'Connor explained. From that point on, the filmmakers were driven by a shared vision to create a documentary that eschewed conventional techniques and celebrated Baez's unfiltered voice.

"We didn't want to have talking heads or famous people interrupting a narrative to talk about how wonderful she is," Navasky explained regarding some more typical devices used in documentaries. Instead, they sought to immerse audiences in Baez's world through the use of what would become unprecedented access to Baez's personal archive.

In an early scene in the film, Baez opens a rolling door to what is revealed as a treasure trove of archival materials — drawings, cassettes, recordings and letters, memories spanning her entire life and career. "We didn't know the extent of it," Navasky

admitted. "Even Karen, who's great friends with her, didn't realize the extent to which she, her mother, her sisters and her father documented everything in her life."

"It's not just an archive," added O'Connor, "but an archive that had an arc starting at 5 years old all the way through."

"Her family had done so much," Navasky added, "not only documenting, but writing. It was a way of them sorting through their own stories. I think, in some way, they were constantly thinking through writing."

Baez's artwork emerged as almost another character itself, an immersive tool to allow the viewer into her internal world. Meticulously captured by the filmmakers and lightly animated by the team at the Ireland-based Eat the Danger, the viewer is given a glimpse into Baez's creative genius and allowed a deeper explo-

ration into her emotional journey.

Said O'Connor, who has had a 30-year friendship with Baez: "She is incredibly creative in every way. One of the things Miri, Maeve [O'Boyle, the film's third co-director and editor] and I wanted to capture in the film was this kind of intense creativity. All those elements — that art, the photographs, the therapy tapes — we wanted each element to also have their own dramatic arc. So, you see the artwork from 5 years old all the way through. You hear the tapes from 21 to who she is now, so that you have a kind of trajectory of a life."

Having three filmmakers is quite unusual but the collaborative dynamic between Navasky, O'Connor and O'Boyle was instrumental in shaping the film's narrative. "We all have very different strengths," Navasky reflected. "Having Maeve, who is more



PHOTO BY FREDERIC LEGRAND/SHUTTERSTOCK

Joan Baez

brutal with the edit, and Karen, whose relationship with Joan made the film, was crucial."

Yet, navigating sensitive subjects like family trauma and personal struggles posed a unique challenge. "We had to make different choices as we made the film," Navasky acknowledged. "We didn't want to answer questions. We didn't have the answers." Maintaining ambiguity allowed the filmmakers

to preserve the complexity of Baez's story without imposing definitive conclusions.

Baez's own reaction to the film remains a source of pride and reflection for Navasky and O'Connor. "Every time we have a screening, she watches it," Navasky revealed. "Each time, she has a different reaction to different pieces of it. It's been interesting to

Continued on next page

ART: LEILA HAWKEN

Student art show shines with contemporary talent



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Gabe Heebner, a senior at HVRHS, was awarded "Best in Show" at the student art show at the KAA on Saturday, Feb. 10.

Now well into its 101st year of serving the community, the nonprofit Kent Art Association (KAA) opened its 32nd annual student art show Saturday, Feb. 10, attracting student artists, their teachers and the arts community to celebrate the wealth of young talent being nurtured in area public and private schools.

Participating in this year's show were students from seven area schools, including

Millbrook (New York) High School, Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS), Forman School, Marvelwood School, The Frederick Gunn School, The Hotchkiss School and The Kent School.

"We're here to encourage, support and mentor regional talent," said Debbie Shiflett-Fitton, KAA manager, speaking of the organization's ongoing mission since it was founded in 1923.

The current show has been co-chaired by Carl Chaiet and Mike Spross. Key to the story of the student art show was the deep commitment of the late Constance Horton, who served as KAA

president and is to be credited with beginning the student art show tradition. Spross recalled that he began by coming to the art show, then participating as a teacher, and is now hosting the show.

"There's no getting around it," said Chaiet. "Each year the artwork gets better."

"People have no idea what to expect. It's contemporary, using new technologies," Chaiet said. Speaking of the young artists, he added, "They are up on everything."

Seeing the show as a great experience, Michelle Cring, who teaches art at Millbrook High School, attended the exhibit with her husband and son, Maxwell, 1. She praised the value of gathering students' works from area schools, noticing the variety of themes and materials. Maxwell seemed to prefer the more colorful entries.

One participating student, Ellie Wolgemuth, a junior at HVRHS, used conte, first introduced to the art world in France as a drawing medium in 1795. It is a powdered medium, harder than pastels or charcoal, that

is mixed with a clay base, said to mix better in contact with paper.

Art teacher Warren Prindle was circled by his HVRHS students, using the exhibit as a teaching moment while appreciating and celebrating their achievements.

"We have motivated and talented students," Prindle said, adding that the quality of the HVRHS art program is greatly enhanced by his colleague, Patricia Vanicky, who specializes in teaching photography and sculpture.

One work from each participating school was selected by the judges for top honor and awarded a certificate. For HVRHS, the honor went to Finian Malone; for The Kent School, Phoena Dadson; for Millbrook High School, Sarah Marchant; for The Hotchkiss School, Quisha Lee; for The Frederick Gunn School, Jake Pellicane and Tobin Connell; for Marvelwood School, Sebastian Killin; and for Forman School, Llewelyn Davis.

The exhibit will continue through Friday, Feb. 23. For more information, go to www.kentart.org.

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PHOTO BY ELIZA OSBORNE

FOOD: PAMELA OSBORNE

Valentine's Day thoughts on how to find love, happiness and a really good dessert

Just a few days ago it was raining so hard the bounce could fill your shoes.

Snow this week, though, with plenty of dark days still ahead giving good reasons for staying close to home.

Winter does have its pleasures, I think, although the foods of the season can pale a bit as it goes on. And on. Palates can tire. Mine has, anyway, although I like cold weather roasts and stews. But after a while there is a certain long-cooked sameness about it all, and the variety and abundance of summer's fresh local produce can seem very far away.

Valentine's Day offers one bright spot in the dreariness of mid-winter. Remember how exciting exchanging valentines was in elementary school? We all had our little crushes. And still, now, the day offers a chance to think for a moment about the loves in your life — friends, family, your dog if you have one. So do that — think the good thoughts about the past and the present, and make a plan to shake up an otherwise rote menu. One suggestion follows for how you might brighten a meal and the day, or any other day.

Winter Fruit Stew, Spiced and Spiked

Serves 8
Start this one day ahead. Easy to finish and keeps well.
2/3 cup bourbon or brandy
3/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon allspice
3/4 cup granulated sugar

1 cup dried mission figlets, sliced in half and hard stems cut off

3/4 to 1 cup dried apricots, coarsely chopped

1 cup jumbo raisins, or regular raisins, yellow or black

3 ripe Bartlett or Anjou pears, peeled and medium chopped

2 teaspoons finely grated fresh ginger

Vanilla ice cream

1 1/2 cups coarsely chopped walnuts or pecans

I have a friend who has a stall on the boardwalk in Atlantic City — beat that, by the way — whose more serious business is supplying nuts to casinos. He recommended a place called nuts.com to me and I have ordered regularly from them ever since. Nuts, dried fruits, etc.; organic options, very high-quality products and good service. You might try them, although, of course, all the ingredients can easily be bought locally, weather allowing. Guido's has them, among many others.

Cook the bourbon, spices and sugar in a medium saucepan over medium-low heat, stirring until the sugar is dissolved. Remove from heat and stir in the figlets, apricots and raisins. Pour the mixture into a gallon-size zip-top freezer bag. Seal the bag, removing as much air as possible, and chill for 24 hours. The next day, put the mix into a large, heavy pot along with the pears and ginger. Heat this to a simmer. You can serve at this point, or refrigerate and later dip out servings into

a microwavable dish with a cover. For four servings, cooking about 3 and a half minutes will be enough. You're looking for nicely warm, not hot. Sprinkle with the walnuts or pecans, and serve with vanilla ice cream.

So that's the really good dessert. The advice? Love and happiness, I have learned, are a moving target. Sometimes you just have to take a shot. Go on.

Clarification: the end of my previously published column, Really Good Chicken and Rice, was altered from what I originally wrote. It should have read:

"Anyway, I was thinking about the grocery bagging. What you want to do is put the heavy stuff into small bags, and put those onto the floor of the back seat. Then take your big bag, which you've filled with good bread, soft cheeses, berries, tomatoes, potato chips — all the fragile things that make life worth living — and sit that on top. You can't ignore what's weighty, and these things are going to be there if you're leading an examined life. Keep them under control and in proportion. But you've got to protect the things that bring you joy. Keep them uppermost. Don't forget."

Several sentences were deleted from this paragraph, so that it appeared to offer only very basic instructions about how to load groceries into your car. I'm assuming most people already knew how to do this.

Pam Osborne lives in Salisbury.

FOOD: CHRISTINE BATES

Four upstate chefs nominated by the James Beard Foundation

The semifinalists for the James Beard Awards were announced Jan. 24.

In the Best Chefs in New York State category, four upstate chefs were recognized: Clare de Boer of Stissing House in Pine Plains, Doris Choi of Good Night in Woodstock, Shaina Loew-Banayan of Café Mutton in Hudson and Chris Mauricio of Harana Market in Accord. The final nominees will be announced in April, followed by an awards ceremony with the winners in June, complete with a red carpet, lifetime achievement awards, and lots of chefs wearing aprons.

Also, like the Oscars, the selection process and the judges who decide the winners are not revealed. FAQs on the foundation's website state, "The Voting Body, including judges chosen for their expertise per



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Stissing House in Pine Plains.

program, then reviews and votes on the eligible entries to determine the nominees and winners, as applicable to each program."

The yearly James Beard Foundation Awards include wide recognition in many categories including best chef, best restaurant, best new restaurant, outstanding bar, outstanding wine programs, pastry chefs, hospitality, and bakery. Last year, Stissing House was a

semifinalist for Best New Restaurant along with 29 other eateries across the country, and that's just one category. The Best New Restaurant winner last year was Kann, in the Pacific Northwest, serving Haitian-inspired cuisine.

The New York Times publishes its own list of 50 Best Restaurants and included Stissing House among only five restaurants in New York, including New York City, in its 2023 list.

...joan baez

Continued from previous page

witness her perspective evolve."

Baez will have another chance for yet another reaction March 2, when the film is shown at The Triplex. The cinema became a nonprofit in July when the community received word that the theater was closing in early June. Nicki Wilson, president of the board of directors of the Triplex, had a group of people in her living room April 1, where, she said, "we all decided we can't live in a town without a movie theater." The Save the Triplex movement was born, and by April 14, the group had formed a board and filed for nonprofit status. "Then

we just started getting donations from all over," said Wilson. "We put out the message in all the newspapers and, you know, donations started coming in at \$20, \$50 \$1000, \$100,000. It was insane."

With this grassroots effort, the group was able to sign a \$1 million deal July 24 with the owner of the theater, who holds the mortgage. Since then, the all-volunteer team, save for a few staff members who run the theater itself, has been working nonstop. The team has been able to redo three of the four theaters and the lobby, and opened Nov. 15, 2023, with a screening of

"Maestro" that included a talkback by Nina Bernstein, Leonard Bernstein's daughter.

Said Wilson: "We have done a few fundraisers since with local stars Karen Allen, Lauren Ambrose, David Rasche from "Succession," Jane Atkinson. We've had a nice group of people supporting us from the beginning. It's been quite the wild ride."

Proceeds from the fundraiser March 2 will go into unrestricted funds that will help to pay the mortgage. It will also create youth programming, including free screenings for local students, symposiums and educational events.



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PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

COMPASS

ART: JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Who brings the art to Millbrook?

Known to many as horse country, the Village of Millbrook is also home to dairy and other farms, beagles and fox hunting, bucolic scenery and vineyards, as well as a sense of community and a love of arts both audio and visual, the latter two of which the Millbrook Arts Group (MAG) can proudly take a well-deserved bow on.

Ann Gifford, MAG's president, spoke recently about the nonprofit group in which she has long been involved. In fact, Gifford was the attorney that Robert Krall and Stan Morse went to when the idea of needing a group that would seek out entertainment first came up as a result of the Millbrook Band Shell having been built.

Krall was a member of the Lion's Club, and having traveled extensively to other communities, he noted that many had band shells and provided entertainment to the community. With the help of the local Lion's Club, the band shell got built, and the need to fill it with music meant that groups had to be found and contracted. Thus, in 1988, MAG was founded and incorporated as a nonprofit.

Over the years since its inception, MAG has brought music to Millbrook's many venues, including children's programs, poetry workshops

and exhibitions, and has been involved in many art exhibits throughout the years.

One thing Gifford is especially proud of is that MAG collaborates with many other groups, including the Millbrook Library, the Millbrook Central School District, the Millbrook Farmers and Makers Market, and the Millbrook Rotary Club, among others. In 2023 alone, MAG helped with the UpState Art Open Studio Art Festival, the Hudson Valley Flamenco Festival and New Years Eve Millbrook, hiring and paying for the two music groups that entertained; and at least two children's programs at the Millbrook Library. It sponsored the summer concerts at the band shell, the winter concerts at the library, several groups that performed at the Millbrook Farmers and Makers Market, and Music in the Streets.

All of this costs a lot of money. Gifford said MAG is doing well and is grateful for donations from the Tribute Garden, which has always given generously; a grant from the H.W. Wilson Foundation, most of which supports the library venues and the children's events; and the estate of Nancy F. Perkins made a noteworthy donation. All other funding comes from local sources. Each May, a letter goes out to residents asking for



PHOTOS BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Janice Pendarvis and group performed last summer at the Millbrook Library.

support. Other means of fundraising include selling 50/50 raffle tickets at the concerts, along with hats and T-shirts.

"My thanks to the community who respond to our [annual fundraising] letter, we have been given so much support with gifts both big and small," said Gifford. "You know that others appreciate your work, so they want to help. We believe every donation shows an interest in what we do."

All of the work is done by the 16 members of the MAG board of directors via committees, and they meet in person about eight times per year. The

board is composed of people from all walks of life, including businesspeople, educators and artists, although Gifford said that there is currently a large portion of artist volunteers, testimony to the fact that many artists are discovering the Millbrook community and its reverence toward the arts in all forms.

The next offering from MAG will be on Saturday, Feb 24, with the Taghanik String Quartet performing at the Millbrook Library. A reception will take place at 4:30 p.m., with the performance begins at 5 p.m.



From the 2023 Hudson Valley Flamenco Festival, August, at Millbrook Band Shell.

When it's too early to plant, you can still ungarden

These recent cool, sunny days are such a gift.

I have been outside with loppers and a Buckthorn Blaster (from NAISMA.org) tackling bittersweet and barberry. The woods in the winter can seem foreboding, but a sunny, windless day is perfect for a walk and there is a lot you can do while enjoying the company of trees. Be sure to look up to avoid dangling branches. You will likely find that a few trees have fallen, as have some branches. When a small tree or branch falls on a young tree, I pry or cut it out from under, taking care that none of its small branches will whip me in the face on the way to being righted. I then prune any torn branches from the rescued tree. Usually the tree will recover, but sometimes will retain a newly acquired bent shape.

As we lose entire tree species and watch others struggle against disease and pests (sassafras, hemlock, beech, sugar maple and oak are victims), it is up to us to step up our work to re-



PHOTO BY DEE SALOMON

Vine-bound trees and invasive shrubs destroy trees and the native habitat.

The Ungardener
Dee Salomon

store areas of our beautiful countryside. And what if we don't? Already you can see examples in the Northwest Corner where lack of action has resulted in monocultures of invasive plants such as phragmites, barberry and garlic mustard. Native trees and plants simply cannot grow in soil altered by these invasives. Also easily spotted

in winter is bittersweet vine and, as seen on Route 112 in Lime Rock, hardy kiwi vine, draping over the dead or compromised tree branches it covers. When these trees fall, and they will, the vine, still alive, moves to take hold of the next row of trees that are newly exposed to the sunlight.

This light also encourages growth of other invasives, which, in turn, inhibits native tree growth. It is a vicious cycle that requires human intervention to stop. If

you have property that has been impacted by dead and dying trees, now is still a good time to remove invasives. The plants are easy to see in the winter, and easy to cut and poison while the plant is still dormant. As I put the finishing touches on this article,

I must now note that some plants may already be out of dormancy; you can tell if cutting a branch or stem produces liquid oozing out of the cut. If this is the case, hold off for the time being.

I use Pathfinder II in the Buckthorn Blaster

as recommended on the UConn Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group website, which offers comprehensive and authoritative advice on identifying and eradicating invasive plants.

Continued on next page



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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

FEBRUARY 15

The North East Historical Society Dine Out for History

Millerton, N.Y.

The North East Historical Society's popular Dine Out for History series returns this month. This year two more dining establishments will participate, bringing the total to five.

On select dates through March 11, participating Millerton restaurants will host their own Dine Out for History nights, where 10% of the proceeds from all patrons that night will be donated to the historical society.

Thursday, Feb. 15, Willa, 52 Main St., 5-9 p.m., 518-789-0252. Reservations requested.

Monday, Feb. 26, Round III, 5523 NY-22, 5-9 p.m., 518-592-1240

Monday, March 11, Golden Wok, Railroad Plaza, 2 Main St., 5-10 p.m., 518-789-9236. Takeout only.

FEBRUARY 17

Author Talk: "Leaving" by Roxana Robinson, in conversation with Gillian Blake

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org

On Saturday, Feb. 17, at 4 p.m. at the Cornwall Library, Roxana Robinson and Gillian Blake will discuss Robinson's new novel, "Leaving." Robinson is an award-winning novelist and biographer. Blake is editor in chief at Crown Publishing and a trustee of the Cornwall Library.

Danny Sings About Everything!

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

Join us in the Kent Memorial Library's Junior Room for this special performance by Danny Tieger at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17. Since 2012, Danny has been performing in preschools across the country. His 35-minute music show is half improvised, half dance-along-songs, and one hundred percent silliness. Danny is an author, songwriter, teacher, and dad, though rarely in that order. Children of all ages are welcome to participate. Registration is appreciated. Please call or email kmljuniorroom@biblio.org to register, or register online.

Village Voices Celebration

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

At 11 a.m., the David M. Hunt Library, the CT State Library, and Libraries Without Borders US invite the public to celebrate the opening of Village Voices: A Community Storytelling Pathway. Located on the library lawn, Village Voices includes stories, poems and artwork from various community organizations including the Falls Village Daycare, the Lee H. Kellogg School, and the Falls Village Equity Project.

Explore the outdoor and digital content and enjoy snacks and a hot chocolate bar.

The Hotchkiss Philharmonic Performs A Special Program

Katherine M. Elfers Hall, The Esther Eastman Music Center, The Hotchkiss School, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn.

The Hotchkiss Philharmonic Orchestra with Brandon Patrick George, flute, and Lawrence Golan, conductor, and the Hotchkiss Philharmonic Chorus will perform a special program celebrating American musica and musicians at 7:30 p.m. Free admission.

Contact: Kelly Lorraine klorraine@hotchkiss.org

FEBRUARY 18

Ivalas Quartet

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

The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, in collaboration with Music Mountain, continues its free Sunday classical music concert series at 4 p.m. The Ivalas Quartet has been changing the face of classical music since its inception at the University of Michigan in 2017. Dedicated to the celebration of BIPOC voices, Ivalas seeks to enhance the classical music world by consistently spotlighting past and present BIPOC composers. Concert seating is very limited, and registration is required: hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com/event/11961178

FEBRUARY 22

Black History in Connecticut

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

At 1 p.m., the David M. Hunt Library will host the program "Black History in Connecticut" with the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History. Educators from the museum will take participants on a tour of items from their collection representing a spectrum of the Black experience in CT, from artifacts chronicling the black community of Saybrook, which were preserved by writer Ann Perty, to the photo album of a Hollywood actress who became a champion of labor rights for Black entertainers to artifacts documenting the Civil Rights movement in the state. This event is free and open to the public.

FEBRUARY 24

Art Show Reception

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org

The Cornwall Library is excited to present artist Bela Selendy's latest images, "Complexity and Emergence," a photographic rumination on what he calls the "momentary and highly improbable confluence of events that is the reason we are all here at this indefinable moment." Using a photographic technique called light painting, Selendy initiates dozens of long-exposure photographs of sculptures from a fixed

camera, while all the time dancing around the sculpture with a modified flashlight, creating a different lighting effect for each exposure. Registration requested for artist's reception at: cornwalllibrary.org/events/

FEBRUARY 25

Live Reading

The Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. norfolklibrary.org

A reading of "Alabama Story" by Kenneth Jones, inspired by true events in 1959 Montgomery, Alabama, will be performed at Norfolk Library at 3 p.m. Feb. 25. Cast members include Deron Bayer, Darcy Boynton, Troy Hanshe, Marinell Madden-Crippen, James Mead, Gloria Miller, and Ronnie Reid. After the reading there will be a discussion. Admission is free, but a donation is requested. To reserve seats, use the following link: norfolklibrary.org/events/a-reading-of-alabama-story/

FEBRUARY 28

Workshop: Dough Talk with Richard Bourdon and Sarah Reynolds North

Online. secure.givelively.org/event/dewey-memorial-hall-inc/dough-talk-with-richard-bourdon-and-sarah-reynolds-north

On Wednesday, Feb. 28, there will be a virtual sourdough bread workshop with live Q&A from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Join us for a virtual demonstration of sourdough bread making with Richard Bourdon, founder/owner of the renowned Berkshire Mountain Bakery. Richard will be joined by Sarah Reynolds North of Found Bread in her kitchen in New Marlborough.

In this pre-filmed 60-minute workshop, Richard and Sarah will show how to mix the dough by hand.

Attendance is free with donation requested.

Registration Link: secure.givelively.org/event/dewey-memorial-hall-inc/dough-talk-with-richard-bourdon-and-sarah-reynolds-north

MARCH 2

Old Time Community Dance

Cornwall Town Hall, 24 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn.

Squares, Circles, and Contrasts taught and called by Bob Livingston to the lively music of Relatively Sound Band on Saturday, March 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Cornwall Town Hall. Beginners welcome. No partners necessary. Suggested donations to pay the caller and tip the band: \$15/adult, \$5/child, or \$25/family. For more information, contact Debra@Motherhouse.us or 860-671-7945.

ONGOING

Art Exhibition

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village

will host WINTER WONDERLAND, an exhibition of painted winter scenes by art students at Lee H. Kellogg School. The exhibition will remain on display during operating hours through Friday, Feb. 23.

"The Art of the Stitch and Needle": A Group Show of Fiber Arts

Cornwall UCC Parish House,

8 Bolton Hill Road, Cornwall Village, Conn.

"The Art of the Stitch and Needle," a group show of fiber arts, is on view at the UCC Parish House in Cornwall Village. The show will continue until Thursday, Feb. 29. Artisans exhibiting their work will be Beth Dinneen, Eileen Gargan, Susan Hellmann, Jen Markow, Dana Saccardi and Susan Saccardi. The

show may be viewed Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon, Sundays 10 a.m. to noon, and by appointment. The Parish House is located directly behind the United Church of Christ at 8 Bolton Hill Road in Cornwall Village. For more information, call the church office at 860-672-6840.

...ungardener Continued from previous page

Remember gloves, protective eyewear and loppers.

February used to be deep winter but that seems to have changed, as our region's USDA zone has moved up a notch from 5b to 6a. It is hard not to allow one's mind to wander into spring — an optimistic place to be. The temptation to preorder of plants is strong; may I suggest instead that you consider a class or a lecture to bring you up to speed on the evolving realities and trends in gardening? Hearing from others, experts and practitioners alike, invigorates creativity and can enhance both your garden aes-

thetics and its well-being for creatures great and small. It may even allow you to rethink the kind of plants and planting arrangements you want this spring. Here are a few upcoming learning opportunities:

— "Misunderstood Native Plants," hosted by Mt. Cuba Center. This is an online class that takes place Wednesday, Feb. 21, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and costs \$19 to participate.

— "In the Weeds: A Discussion of the Role of the Human Hand in Natural Landscapes" with Leslie Needham, Dee Salomon and Matt Sheehan, hosted by Silver et Pratium. This is an

in-person event, at the White Hart Inn in Salisbury, Connecticut, on Thursday, Feb. 29, at 5:30 p.m. It costs \$25, which goes to fund the pollinator pathway project at the Hunt Library.

— "How the Pros Select Plants," hosted by the Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College. This is an in-person event in Valhalla, New York, that features Edwina von Gal and other experts Monday, March 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and costs \$85 for members and \$125 for nonmembers.

Dee Salomon un-gardens in Litchfield County.

Correction

In a story on page B3 of the Feb. 1 issue about a book talk on Millbrook's Timothy Leary era, the title of Tonia Shoumatoff's book was incorrect. The correct title is "Historic Tales of the Harlem Valley."

The Lakeville Journal

The MILLERTON NEWS

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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Thank you for your continued support!

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Real Estate

REAL ESTATE

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