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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024 \$3.00

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

Housatonic FFA testifies at state budget hearing

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE — With the introduction of House Bill 05048 funding for agriscience programs is once more on the chopping block in Connecticut.

FFA operates in Connecticut on a per-pupil grant basis, meaning participating schools receive funding based on the number of students in the program. Grant programs of this nature are repeatedly put at risk, as is this case now with a proposed adjustment to the two-year budget through HB05048.

"We kind of have to do this every year," said David Moran, chair of the agricultural science and technology department at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

On Thursday, Feb. 15, three members of Housatonic Valley FFA traveled to Hartford to advocate for their education and defend the benefits of ag-ed programs.

Hannah Johnson, Tyler Anderson and Chris Crane each presented passionate and personal testimony to the appropriations

Johnson spoke on the difficulty of living with chronic illness. When her condition worsened, FFA provided an outlet to enjoy her youth.

Coexisting with coyotes

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Wildlife expert Ginny Apple brought an audience at the David M. Hunt Library up to date on the eastern coyote at an in-person talk Saturday, Feb. 24.

Apple, who is a master wildlife conservationist with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), began by expressing relief that the presentation was live instead of online, and thanked not just the Hunt but all libraries for their efforts to keep people connected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

She described the eastern coyote as an "ecological generalist and ultimate survivor."

Coyotes evolved as a distinct species about 1 million years ago in North America, and until relatively recently were found only west of the Mississippi River.

Native Americans regarded the

See COYOTES, Page A8





CT-N CONNECTICUT NETWORK

Tyler Anderson addressed the state appropriations committee to testify against budget cuts to the FFA program.

"This program gave me a purpose in a time when I had none left. It has bonded me with my closest friends, helped me develop fundamental leadership skills, given me some of my best memories, and the ability to proudly represent myself, my school and my state in national competitions," Johnson said.

Anderson addressed the need for teaching agriscience to the next generation.

"Agriculture is extremely important because it allows students to gain knowledge and skills necessary for any workplace," Anderson said. "Without the grants that we currently receive from the state and local governments, our program would not have the equipment and resources needed to teach young and hardworking individuals like myself to stay in our communities."

Crane looked to the future and stressed the need to keep FFA programs alive as times change.

See FFA, Page A8

Museum artifacts tell of Connecticut's rich **Black history**

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Natalie Belanger, adult programs manager at the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History in Hartford, spoke at the David M. Hunt Library Thursday, Feb. 22, about Black history in Connecticut to an audience consisting of Lee H. Kellogg middle school students and a dozen or so adults.

Belanger had a slide show that focused on artifacts from the museum's collection, starting with a receipt for a slave dated 1772.

"We've got a lot of these," she

A document from 1782 dealt with an indentured servant, who would be freed after completing 20 years' service.

This reflected the gradual approach Connecticut took toward eliminating slavery, as opposed to Massachusetts, which simply outlawed the practice.

A powder horn, used to keep gunpowder dry, was made by John Bush, a free Black artisan, in 1756. Belanger said the intricately carved and crafted horn is just one of many examples of Bush's work in museums and collections.

She touched on James Mars, whose 1868 autobiography "A Life



Natalie Belanger

of James Mars, a Slave Born and Sold in Connecticut, Written by Himself" addressed a problem Mars identified — that younger people in 1868 had little or no knowledge that slavery did occur in Connecticut.

Belanger said it was important to Mars that the historical record

Belanger talked about other notable Black people in Connecticut, including:

- James Pennington (1807-1870), the first Black student at

See HISTORY, Page A10



Amanda Freund oversees the CowPots manufacturing operation at her family's farm in East Canaan. Stacked behind her is a pallet of the company's newest product: seed starter trays.

Innovation drives manufacturers' success on a local, global scale

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — By producing 2 billion disposable plastic syringes a year, BD's (Becton Dickinson and Company) North Canaan plant has the potential to touch a quarter of the world's population.

"And that's just out of this one factory alone," said Dustin Andersen, plant director of the 400,000-squarefoot manufacturing plant on Grace Way off rural Route 63.

"I tell all the new hires when they come in, we make 6 million syringes a day, which means every person in the state of Connecticut could come into this factory, we could give them a syringe every day, and still have millions left over to distribute," noted Andersen, who oversees operations at the 60-year-old facility, which spans 10 acres under one

"When you're working for a company that has that kind of impact, it really stands for something."

BD is one of a handful of manufacturers in the state's bucolic Northwest Corner making a significant impact locally and globally by stimulating the economy, providing jobs for the community, launching innovative technology and embracing renewable resources.

In addition to BD, a handful of other major manufacturers in the Northwest Corner with a global scope include:

 The Lakeville-based ITW (Illinois Tool Works) Seats & Mo-

"Rural manufacturers are a critical piece of Connecticut's overall economy and their products impact lives around the world."

— Chris DiPentima, president and CEO, Connecticut

tion Division within the ITW Automotive Segment, which molds and assembles 45 million headrest guides per year for Ford and Toyota vehicles throughout North America and Venezuela.

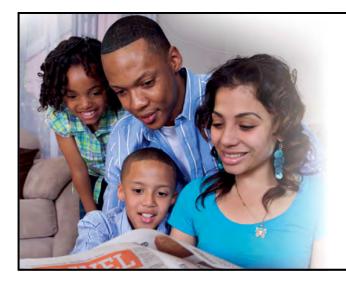
— CowPots, one of three businesses owned and operated by the multigenerational Freund family farm in East Canaan, where tens of millions of eco-friendly flowerpots made from composted manure have been manufactured over the past 27 years using the longest continuously operating methane digester in the

 Hutzler Manufacturing, a four-generation family-owned and -operated business in North Canaan that has been designing and producing housewares since 1938, including innovative utensils for several popular fast-food giants.

"Rural manufacturers are a critical piece of Connecticut's overall economy and their products impact

See INNOVATION, Page A10

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Regional

In The Journal this week

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Online This Week

Composting permit delays continue

Cornwall is still working toward a composting permit. 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.

Covered bridge accident

On Monday, Feb. 19, at approximately 2:45 p.m., Robert Rende, 39, of Woodbury, was eastbound on Route 128, east of Route 7 at the covered bridge intersection in Sharon in a Hino truck. Kim Fitch, 67, of Gaylordsville, was traveling behind the truck in a 2017 Volkswagen Jetta. Rende entered the intersection with the covered bridge, observed an oncoming vehicle and attempted to back out, striking the Volkwagen. Rende was issued a written warning for unsafe backing.

Falls asleep, hits pole

On Monday, Feb. 19, at approximately 4 p.m., James Picton, 71, of Salisbury, was traveling north on Route 7 in Cornwall in a 2019 Toyota Highlander when he fell asleep. The Toyota left the road and struck a utility pole, and was later towed from the scene. Picton was issued a written warning for failure to maintain lane.

Stolen vehicle arrest

On Thursday, Feb. 22, at approximately 7:50 p.m., Troop B responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in North Canaan. Following an investigation, Edward Humes, 45, of Waterbury, was taken into custody for larceny of a motor vehicle.

Dog struck by car

On Thursday, Feb. 22, at approximately 4 p.m., Paxton Pedersen, 30, of Millerton, was traveling west on Sharon Station Road in a 2022 Nissan Frontier when a dog ran into the road and was struck and killed by the vehicle. No enforcement action was taken.

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.

Shining sun for 39th annual Polar Bear Run

By Lans Christensen

Connecticut's oldest winter race, the Polar Bear Run, was held for the 39th time Sunday, Feb. 24.

As always, the race course circled Lake Waramaug and passed through Kent, Warren and Washington townships. The only course change happened in 2023 when the start/finish was moved to the Hopkins Inn and Vineyard, adding two-tenths of a mile for a total of 7.8 miles in the

The change eased the parking situation for participants and spectators but created a challenge for the runners: That extra two-tenths of a mile to the finish is a tough uphill climb.

Beautiful sunshine and "bearable" 30-degree temperatures brought out a huge field of runners. In total, 606 finished the race — close to a record number.

Since 2018, the run has been staged and promoted by Stephanie and Ed Raftery of TrailHeads, a running accessories company. The benefactor of the race is Guiding Eyes for the Blind, a group that trains dogs to assist visually impaired individuals.

The race started promptly at 11 a.m. and last year's winner, William Sanders, led from the start, winning again in a new record time of 40:49.



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Happy runners set out from the starting line.



Tired runners completed the 7.8-mile course around Lake Waramaug on Sunday, Feb. 24.

Women's race winner Katie Overstrum of Wallingford finished in 50:10.

Complete results can be found online at www. fasttracktiming.com

Sharon holds kindergarten registration

SHARON — Children born in 2019 between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31 are eligible to enroll in early kindergarten.

Sharon Center School will hold Kindergarten registration April 25 and 26. Contact Kim Robinson at 860-364-5153 or krobinson@ sharoncenterschool.org

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

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following actions were taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on February 13, 2024:

Approved - Application 2024-IW-002 by owner Peggy Rice Trustee for the demolition of a house in the upland review area. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 49 as lot 109 and is known as 24 Farnum Road, Lakeville.

As of Right - Request for jurisdictional ruling 2024-IW-001DbyownerLee Potter for the construction of a bridge for a tractor crossing at the neck of a pond. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 19 as lot 3 and is known as 269 Undermountain Road, Salisbury.

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

02-29-24

NOTICE TO **CREDITORS ESTATE OF BRENT PRINDLE** Late of Sharon **AKA Brent N. Prindle AKA Brent Noble Prindle** (23-00226)

The Hon.Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated February 8, 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:

Barbara Prindle 468 Cornwall Bridge Road

> Sharon, CT 06069 Megan M. Foley

Clerk 02-22-24 02-29-24

NOTICE TO **CREDITORS ESTATE OF EDITH W. BLODGETT** Late of Salisbury (23-00429)

The Hon.Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated February 15, 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: Shirley Cannon c/o Louise F Brown Ackerly Brown, LLP 5 Academy Street P.O. Box 568 Salisbury, CT 06068 Beth L. McGuire

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF MARY L. POTTS Late of Canaan **AKA Mary Lou Potts** (24-00065)

Chief Clerk

02-29-24

The Hon.Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated February 15, 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: Patricia E. Kelity c/o Linda M Patz Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP 7 Church Street, P.O. Box 101

Canaan, CT 06018 Beth L. McGuire Chief Clerk 02-29-24

NOTICE TO **CREDITORS ESTATE OF DOROTHY MARGARET** CASS

Late of Cornwall

(24-00035)

The Hon.Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated February 20, 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

The fiduciary is: Jane Jackson 36 Furnace Brook Road Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754

claim.

Megan M. Foley Clerk 02-29-24

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF JOAN WILLIAMS FARR Late of New York (23-00092)

The Hon.Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated February 20, 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.

> Lucy W. Farr c/o Anne E Crane McLaughlin & Stern, LLP 55 Greens Farms Rd Second Floor Westport, CT 06880

The fiduciary is:

Megan M. Foley Clerk 02-29-24







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Our Towns

Dresser Woods plan proposes 20 affordable units

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) opened a public hearing on the Dresser Woods affordable housing complex application Tuesday, Feb. 20 (online).

PZC Chair Michael Klemens said at the outset that the hearing will be continued at the commission's Monday, March 18, meeting.

Jocelyn Ayer spoke for the applicant, the Salisbury Housing Committee (SHC), which is a private nonprofit organization that owns and operates affordable housing properties in Salisbury, including Sarum Village. Ayer is vice president of the SHC.

The plan for Dresser Woods — named for Jim Dresser, who donated the land to the SHC — will have 20 rental units in nine buildings at the site at 37 Railroad St. in Salisbury village.

The plans showed six one-bedroom units, 10 two-bedroom units, and four three-bedroom units. Three are compliant with the



SALISBURY HOUSING COMMITTED

A slideshow at the Feb. 20 public hearing showed design concepts for the multi-family homes at the proposed Dresser Woods affordable housing complex in Salisbury.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Plans call for 31 parking spaces (10 in an overflow area). The application notes this is an average of 1.5 parking spaces per unit,

more than required by zoning regulations and similar to other affordable housing complexes in nearby towns.

Traffic engineer Scott Keskith explained the methodology of the traffic study used to project the effect of additional traffic on Railroad, Academy and Library streets and on Main Street (Route 44). He concluded that there would be "virtually no impact to the existing roadway network" if Dresser Woods opened for residents in 2025.

Architect Erin Benken said the design is a "pocket neighborhood" that is walkable and has outdoor spaces for children to play and residents to relax, plus larger spaces for the entire neighborhood to use.

The plan does not call for development of the entire 5.3-acre site. Half of the site will remain undeveloped. These areas include wetlands

and vernal pools.

Klemens reiterated that the hearing would continue March 18, and with the clock ticking, suggested the commissioners should ask questions to be answered in the future.

He started off by asking for details about the wildlife fencing mentioned in the plan, and asked that it be extended to protect another vernal pool. He also asked about putting the undeveloped portion of the site into permanent conservation, and asked about plans for lawns and for water service.

Other members asked about possibly reconfiguring the roadways for deliveries and about the cost of adding full basements for storage and utility hookups.

During public comment, Robin Roraback, who is also a contributing writer to The Millerton News, asked about a traffic study that includes all potential affordable housing development in Salisbury, including the Sarum Village expansion, the Pope property, and Grove Street.

Keith Stein wondered if modular construction was feasible for the development.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Charlotte "Charlie" Garippo won the golden ticket at Scoville Memorial Library's Oompa Loompa makeover party.

Liking the look of it

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Excited children waited for makeup artist Tyler Green and the Scoville Memorial Library's Kendra Percy to pull the winning name Saturday morning, Feb. 24.

The prize was a professional makeover, from small child to Oompa Loompa.

The Feb. 24 event was the culmination of a "Willy Wonka" contest, with Charlotte "Charlie" Garippo, 4, of North Canaan as the big winner.

All the children received an Oompa Loompa makeup kit to take home, so if you spot an unusually orange child in the next week or so, now you know why.

Young Charlie was very focused and disciplined in Green's makeup chair.

Apart from a tickling sensation caused by the air brush causing a momentary scrinching up of the face, she sat stock still as Green worked his magic.

After about 15 minutes, and the deployment of a wig of a particularly virulent shade of green, the transformation was complete.

Green, who lives in Litch-field, runs the Tyler Green FX studio and school in Winsted. Devotees of the SyFy channel will remember him from the network's "Face Off" program.

He kept up a steady stream of light banter and jokes to keep Charlie at ease.

"This is 'Oompa Loompa Orange," he announced grandly as he started.

"Actually, there's no such thing. I made it up. Mixed it this morning."



Tyler Green (left) air brushed the lucky winner with "Oompa Loompa Orange" on Feb. 24

All aboard for Blind Trout series at Union Station's Art Bar & Gallery

By Natalia Zukerman

NORTH CANAAN — The upstairs office space of the Great Falls Brewing Company, tucked away in the historic refurbished Canaan Union Station Railroad Depot, has been transformed into a speakeasy on Friday nights. The Art Bar & Gallery is now presenting the Blind Trout series and will host open mics, storytelling, music and poetry.

On Friday, Feb. 16, the first open mic began with a poetry reading from the managing member of Great Falls Brewing, Chris Tripler. "We're hoping it becomes a regular thing," said Tripler, "A place for folks to come and hang out." The brewery opened its doors in 2018 with its light and airy taproom downstairs.

The new upstairs space opened in November 2023. A call went out to local artists, and "we couldn't believe the response," said Tripler of the overflow of submissions. The walls are now lined with these submissions: paintings, pastels and drawings of landscapes and sunsets, and there is a section downstairs dedicated to transportation-themed art, paying homage to the



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMA

Performers stepped into the limelight at North Canaan's Art Bar & Gallery for open mic storytelling, music and poetry at the Blind Trout series Feb. 16.

Railroad Museum that is open on Saturdays.

But the Art Bar & Gallery isn't just a feast for the eyes — it's an invitation to engage in art firsthand. There are long tables with colored pencils, pens and sketchbooks, in-

viting folks to try their own hand at creative expression while enjoying a cocktail, mocktail or beer.

Next Friday, Feb. 23, the speakeasy will host fingerstyle guitarist Stephen Bennett from 8 to 10 p.m. "He's amazing," said Tripler, "and we're so lucky to have him." The room was abuzz with excitement as The Art Bar stands poised to become a real gathering place for the community, a place to convene and create.

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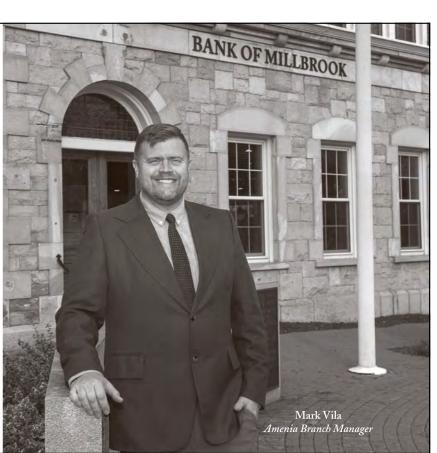
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Our Towns

PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

work is painstaking, expensive, and slow. And he's

"This is for people who

"There's no judgment on

Shining bright lights on a

Thomen's wife, Sarah,

don't think of their car as an

appliance," he said with con-

a car. It depends on what the

Porsche he was working on,

he used words like "smooth,"

works as a nurse at the Uni-

versity of Connecticut and at

Sharon Hospital. They have

two sons, Ian and Gabriel, at

Lamborghini, which seemed

to glow even without extra

his son working on a car and

ple in my life to be support-

showed it to the reporter.

Thomen looked at the

He also found a photo of

"I am blessed to have peo-

Lee H. Kellogg School.

lighting.

ive," he said.

client wants."

"rich" and "glossy."

siderable understatement.

booked up for a while.

Corey Thomen owns and operates Mountain Detail in Falls Village.

Detective turned detailer makes sports cars shine

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Up in the hills of Falls Village, in what looks like the ordinary garage of an ordinary home, Corey Thomen might be working on a \$3 million car.

On receiving this information, a visiting reporter took a few steps back, lest he ding the car, which is a 1967 Lamborghini Miura.

Thomen, a retired New Milford police detective, runs Mountain Detail. He specializes in what he calls advanced paint correction, ceramic coatings and other things that do not occur to the average Subaru owner.

Thomen said he got his start as a teenager working in a detail shop in Torrington.

He also served for 20 years in the New Milford police department, rising to detective and putting in three years as school resource officer.

While with the NMPD, Thomen earned a degree that allowed him to start work as a counselor at Mountainside Treatment Center in North Canaan after he retired from the police.

Not that he retired per se. Thomen said he works 60-80 hours per week. After leaving the police, he built the home and work space in Falls Village, went to work at Mountainside, and started Mountain Detail.

The detailing business is by appointment only. The

Hospice training in March

WINSTED — Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County announced that it will offer a hospice volunteer training course beginning in March.

The course runs for sixweeks starting Friday, March 8, for people interested in becoming volunteers for the agency's Medicare-certified hospice program. Volunteers provide companionship to patients with visits that include holding hands, reading to them or even taking them outside. The main goal is to be a source of comfort for the patients.

The hospice staff trains prospective volunteers to help and support terminally ill patients and their families. Hospice care is based primarily in the home, focuses on the needs of the entire family and emphasizes the quality of life.

The course runs through Friday, April 19, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County, Winsted Branch, 32 Union Street. For more information or to register, get in touch with Martha Babbitt at 860-397-9417 or www.vnhlc.org

'Babar' beguiles young audience

By Kathryn Boughton Kent Good Times Dispatch

KENT — St. Andrew's Church was filled Sunday, Feb. 11, with children and their families eager for the first children's concert offered by the Music in the Nave series.

The program featured a reading by Emmy Award-winning actress Margot Martindale of "The Story of Babar, the Little Elephant."

"Babar" was the third act

"Ferdinand" was followed by a lilting rendition by Nuller and Bailen of Saint-Saens' "The Swan" from

It was not long into the



Pianist Margarita Nuller accompanied the reading on the Steinway grand piano the church was able to purchase in 2011. The piece was composed in 1940 by French composer Francis Jean Poulenc (1899-1963) for the amusement of his young nieces and nephews.

in the program, which began with a performance of "Ferdinand the Bull," composed and played by cellist Eliot Bailen, founder of the Sherman Chamber Ensemble. Bailen was introduced whimsically as "the only composer on today's program who is not French and not dead." His daughter, Julia Bailen, was narrator.

"Carnival of the Animals."

program before the children's natural curiosity broke through parental restraints. A few of the youngest attendees migrated up the aisle at the side of the church, peeking with interest around the front pews to watch Bailen at his craft. Two-year-old Cary Pratt advanced toward the cellist,

January 2024 Salisbury real estate sales

began strongly with six re- Weiss Revocable Trust dated corded sales in January as 5/23/2022 provided by the town clerk on February 5. These recorded sales lag actual closing dates by a number of days.

01/04/2024

282 Taconic Road, a home built in 1850 according to town records on .58 acres sold by James Seitz to Jillian Michelle Cleary and Jeffrey Holt for \$395,000.

01/12/2024

110 Taconic Road, 8 acres of land with barn sold by Jon C and Savannah L. Stevenson to Robert V. Fish Revocable Trust dated July 13, 2022 for\$444,000.

01/23/2024

8 Red Mountain Road, a vacant building lof 5.4 acres told by Red Mountain Properties LLC, to Rachel and Christian Calemmo for \$295,000

01/29/2024

Lions Head Condominiums, 87 Canaan Road, Unit #6C sold by Lucie and Rich-

SALISBURY — The year ard H. Collinws to Harriet I

01/30/2024

Elman Drive M/L 25/10 and 25/11 (Listed on CT MLS as 00 Weatoque Road) 220 acres of land sold by Robert L. Boyett Jr. Trust of 1991 and 1986 sold to Miles Mountain LLC for \$1,450,000.

01/30/2024

33 & 35 East Main Street, a 1,258 square foot house on .48 acres sold by William T. Castonguay to Christiana Gurney and Roger C. Raw-

* Town of Salisbury real estate sales recorded as sold between January 1, 2024, and January 31, 2024 sourced from monthly Assessor Report issued by the Town Clerk supplemented by information from Town tax records and multiple listings sales. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.







the Nave at St. Andrew's Church in Kent.

eagerly pointing him out to his mother.

In the aisle, a young girl dipped and twirled to the melody of "The Swan" while Jessica Oncel, sitting on the floor, shared a contemplative moment with her young son, Leonardo, who was on her lap.

According to Matthew Harris, head of the Music Commission for the church, the Music in the Nave series is being expanded to include different genres of music, ranging from the annual Christmas "Messiah" Sing-in to chamber music, "old, classic rockers" and folk music.

This last genre will be the focus of the next performance Saturday, April 6, when Kent's own, George Potts, who has made music throughout Northwestern Connecticut for many years, will be the guest artist. In 2022, Potts released his first solo CD, "Ends and Odds," which got as high as No. 17 on the FAI Folk Music charts. His instrumentals have twice won the Best Instrumental Award at the New England Songwriting Competition.

The final concert of the series will revisit the concept of "Mozart in May" and will feature the Manhattan String Quartet.

Brain Teasers CLUES ACROSS

1. Become less intense

6. Variety of pear 10. Religion native to China

14. Type of tooth 15. Fitted out

17. Make every effort

19. Autonomic nervous

system 20. Complete

21. Alternate name

22. River in France and Belgium

23. Miami's mascot is one

24. Turfs 26. Most cognizant of

reality 29. Broad volcanic crater

31. Canadian surname 32. Satisfaction

34. Traitorous Greek

mythological prince

35. Collide

37. Immune response 38. Feline

39. High opinion of one's

own appearance 40. Thin strip to align parts

41. Containers

43. Convicted American

45. Breathe noisily

46. Taxi 47. Pancakes made from

buckwheat flour 49. Swiss river

50. I.M.__, architect

53. Have surgery

57. Formal withdrawal 58. Dutch and German surname

59. Square measures 60. 2,000 lbs. 61. Degrade someone

CLUES DOWN

1. Siberian river

2. Blessing 3. Substitutes (abbr.)

4. Principle underlying the universe 5. Work unit

6. Yellow edible fruits

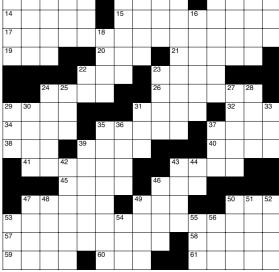
7. Gemstone

8. A place ships dock (abbr.)

9. Evergreen tropical tree 10. Reality TV star

Richards 11. Nonflowering aquatic plant 12. Stakes

HORIZONS



13. Antidiuretic hormone 16. Make warm again

18. Light beams

22. Lethal dose

23. Terrorist group 24. Kids love him

25. Naturally occurring solid

27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony'

28. Popular cuisine 29. Partner to cheese

30. Type of horse 31. __ Diego

33. Defensive nuclear

weapon 35. Most shrewd

36. It may be for shopping 37. Midway between south and southeast

39. A stock of foods 42. The bindings of books

43. Swiss river 44. Megabyte

Sudoku

9

8

2

46. Sammy ___, songwriter

47. Dutch colonist

5

8

2 8 5

5



48. Clare Booth

(abbr.)

52. Association

of engineering

professionals

53. Young women's

association

languages

Feb. 22 Solution

54. City

American writer

50. Popular type of bread

55. Niger-Congo branch of

56. Pointed end of a pen

51. Transfers of money

49. Sun or solar disk

Feb. 22 Solution

Senior Living • Rehabilitation • Skilled Nursing A nonprofit organization 17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, CT 06068 (860) 435-9851 • www.noblehorizons.org

2 8



OBITUARIES

Barbara Dean Gridley

NORFOLK — Barbara before broadening her scope Dean Gueinzius Gridley

died peacefully on Feb. 14, 2024, nine days shy of her 94th birthday, in her beloved Norfolk home under the loving care of her two children, extended family members, her beloved knitting

group, friends of all ages, caregivers and hospice nurses of the Foothills Visiting Nurses Association.

Barbara was born Feb. 23, 1930, in Green Bay, Wisconsin, the daughter of Phyllis Reeke Gueinzius and John Bernard Gueinzius. She was called Barbara Dean. Her sibling, John Bernard Gueinzius, Jr., and her husband of 60 years, William G. Gridley, Jr., predeceased her. Her two children, Katharine Mead Gridley (John Barstow); and William Winslow Gridley (Mary Heller Gridley); four grandchildren, Rebecca, Charles, Angus and Nell; two great grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews and cousins survive her.

Barbara attended public schools in Green Bay, and then went to Connecticut College, where she earned her B.A. in Anthropology. She later earned a M.A. in Education from Bank Street College. Upon graduating college, Barbara moved to New York City, where she worked as a copywriter at the advertising firm Ogilvy & Mather, where her main account was the hip and modern Helena Rubenstein.

A proud Wisconsinite and avid Green Bay Packers fan, she nonetheless never returned to live in the Upper Midwest. In 1950 she went on a blind date with a boy from Yale, Bill Gridley, they fell madly in love and were married on Sept. 4, 1954, in Green Bay. Barbara and Bill lived in New York City in the same Upper East Side neighborhood where Bill grew up. They soon had children, Kate in 1956, and Billy in 1958.

Barbara's first love was Bill, and her family, on whom she regularly bragged. Then, close behind came learning and teaching. Starting in 1968, she made a 38-year career at the St. Bernard's School, where she founded the audio-visual program to become a beloved special

subjects and reading teacher. Generations of boys from St. B's all remember their first research paper on their favorite animal. She was a veritable pioneer and role model for women who

sought strong careers and healthy families.

Family and friends described Barbara as "the first to volunteer," "vividly alive," a "spark plug," a fast driver, a life-long learner, an avid reader, and a warm welcoming presence. Throughout Barbara's long and lively life, a fierce curiosity inspired her to adventure and action, inspiring her to travel the world, and manifesting in her teaching style, where she unconsciously modeled her passion for learning and difference by opening new worlds to her students between the four walls of the classroom. To say that generally she held strong and progressive views was true.

Her volunteer activities included: The Yorkville Youth Council, The Gateway School, and Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City; The Norfolk Historical Society, The Foundation for Norfolk Living, and The Battell Arts Foundation in Norfolk. She was a member of the Cosmopolitan Club in New York, and The Norfolk Country Club, The Doolittle Club in Norfolk. Barbara and Bill were ardent supporters of the Ellen Battell Stoeckel Estate, the Yale Summer School of Music and Art and the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival.

A memorial service will be held June 22, 11 a.m. at The Church of Christ Congregational, Norfolk, CT.

Memorial donations in Barbara's name may be made to: Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., Attn: Online Services, P.O. Box 97166, Washington, DC 20090-7166 or make your memorial gift online at Memorial Donations: www. weareplannedparenthood.

The Foundation for Norfolk Living, P.O. Box 2, Norfolk, CT 06058.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Send obituaries to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

Tax preparation help available for senior citizens in Salisbury

Salisbury Senior Services will be offering the AARP Tax Aide program at the Salisbury Senior Center at the Town Grove, 42 Ethan Allen St., Lakeville.

Volunteers trained by AARP and certified by the IRS will be available to assist those 60 and older as well as those who are low-income residents with the preparation and filing of all tax forms free of charge.

All tax returns will be e-filed, which can reduce the wait time for refunds. This

Correcting Errors

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

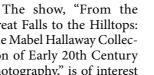
be operating with a drop-offand-pick-up model.

able on Wednesdays, Feb. 14, through April 10, by appointment only.

Contact Lisa McAuliffe, director of senior services, at 860-435-5186 to schedule an appointment.

year, the service will again

This service will be avail-



Great Falls to the Hilltops: The Mabel Hallaway Collection of Early 20th Century Photography," is of interest to historians and to those interested in the history of photography.

By Patrick L. Sullivan

unique exhibition of photo-

graphs opens at the David

M. Hunt Library Saturday,

March 16.

FALLS VILLAGE — A

The images are from a photo album and a box of glass slide and film negatives from the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society.

Garth Kobal, who wrote the introduction to the exhibition catalog, explains

"Looking through the photo album [in 2015], my eyes caught several photographs of women with bellows cameras and tripods, wearing black dresses in the full sun. All the photographs were taken outdoors — some in a clearing and others, most impressively, at the Great Falls."

Three years later, Kobal was shown digital scans of images from glass slides, from roughly the same early 20th century period.

"There were photographs of a farm, two men on a porch with fiddle and banjo, a teacher and her students in front of Beebe Hill Schoolhouse, and a mesmerizing image of a man wearing a bowler hat, standing on a rock centered in front of the expanse of the Great Falls."

Now the images from the two sources have been combined to create this unique



Early 20th century photography exhibit

coming to David M. Hunt Library

PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

On Feb. 23, a reporter visited Rika Laser's Falls Village studio where the exhibition team — Kobal, Rika Laser, Sara Laser, and Sergei and Zoe Fedorjaczenko — was putting the final touches on the framed prints.

Most of the images are particularly sharp and clear, and reveal a great deal about life in Falls Village and the immediate area circa 1920.

One photo is of Catherine Woodin of Amesville, standing in front of a neatly stacked pile of wood in a sort of cape over skirt arrangement that looks very bulky by modern standards.

The catalog notes that "A February 1965 Lakeville Journal profile of her said, 'It is no idle boast when Mrs. Woodin says that she is an expert wood chopper."

On Saturday, March 16, the official exhibition opening and reception at 4 p.m. will be preceded by a 3 p.m. presentation on glass slide photography with Daniel Karp of Bard College at Simon's Rock.

And on Saturday, March 23, at 5:30 p.m., there will be a presentation on early 20th century fashion with Michele Majer of Cora Ginsburg LLC.

Medicare information sessions to be held in North Canaan

NORTH CANAAN — Douglas Library will present a series on Medicare information in March:

— Wednesday, March 6, 3 p.m.: Stop the Medicare Calls: How to reclaim your phone and stop the relentless calls.

- Monday, March 11, 3 p.m.. Strategies for Prescription Savings.

— Wednesday, March 20,

6 p.m.: Medicare 101: Learn how to navigate Medicare from part A to part D and how to demystify the jargon.

The sessions are presented by Kerri Ouellette and Oak Insurance Solutions.

RSVP at 860-824-7863 indicating which session you wish to attend.

These events are free of

Steve Blass little league 2024 registration open to March 10

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. bluesombrero.com/nwctsbll

The season will start in mid-to-late April.

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



RYAN FUNERAL HOME

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860-435-2700



CREMATIONS • FUNERALS • BURIALS • CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE

CHRISTOPHER E. RYAN, SR

RYANFHCT.COM

JONATHAN J. RYAN



Left, the restoration

crew worked meticu-

lously to digitize and

print the selection of

early photographs de-

picting life in Falls Vil-

lage and Canaan more

than 100 years ago.

Below, a sample image

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Worship Services Week of March 3, 2023

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

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

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

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

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 **Congregation Beth David** A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM

alendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Ion Haddon info@congbethdavid.org

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

The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Steet, 112 Upper

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

Falls Village Congregational Church 6 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Villag 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194

The Smithfield **Presbyterian Church** Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org

21st Century Theology in an Historic Building

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!

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!

Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546

www.promisedlandbaptist.org

Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-3138

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 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442

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

Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT

Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, March 10 at 10:30 a.m. The Life of a Hindu For information, contact Jo Loi at jokiauloi@gmail.com All are Welcome

Chabad of Northwest CT On the Green

chabadNW.org 860.567.3377 | office@chabadNW.org Rabbi Joseph & Mina Eisenbach A home away from home, a gathering place where unity is paramount.

We are here for you, welcome to the family! WINTER SCHEDULE Sunday 10:30 AM - Hebrew School Wednesday 8:00 PM - Parsha In My Life How The Weekly Portion Relates to ME! Thursday 11:30 AM - Women's Tea & Torah

Saturday 9:30 AM - Shabbat Services Followed by a Congregational Kiddush Children's Camp | Jewish Newspaper Smiles on Seniors | Cteen | YJP

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH

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

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

The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall

Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall **Sharon Congregational**

25 Main Street, Sharon, C' Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or

info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

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

The Lakeville Lournal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

EDITORIAL

Spring is nigh

The crunch of snow and ice underfoot soon will transform into the squish of mud season. The melt will soon arrive as late winter turns into early spring. The astronomical seasons — spring, summer, fall and winter — are based on the Earth's position with regard to the Sun, complete with solstices and equinoxes. In fact, we have leap years — like this year, giving us a 29th day in February — to keep months aligned with those solstices and equinoxes. But the meteorological seasons are linked to temperature, which, in the Northern Hemisphere, means that March, April and May can be called springtime.

And we are here. With the advent of Daylight Saving Time on March 10, followed by St. Patrick's Day on the 17th and even Easter this month this year (March 31), it's a time of hope and new beginnings, holidays and observances. March is Women's History Month, beginning March 1.

The Super Bowl is behind us, and now it's time for Major League Baseball Spring Training, which started last week. Across our region, Little League Baseball sign-ups are wrapping up.

Some have written that there are five seasons in New England. There are the four we all know: Could we add a Mud Season in there?

March weather is changeable, to be sure, and it doesn't always follow the overused "in like a lion, out like a lamb." Promising days in the 50s — even a few in a row — can bring out the crocuses only to be shocked by a late-season snowstorm with winds and temperatures in the teens overnight. All good makings for more mud.

Our farmers know mud the best. Their paddocks and barnyard environs are caked in mud this time of year. Forget about driving up a dirt lane.

The Old Farmer's Almanac noted that it would be on the wintry cold side through mid-February. On Feb. 2, Punxsutawney Phil, the groundhog authority, predicted an early spring.

By mid-month, our American black bears should start emerging from their dens — at least those that hibernated at all in rock dens, tree cavities or even snuggled up under a mountain laurel — with this year's crop of cubs. Foxes and coyotes follow in the spring with their kits and pups. As if on schedule with this meteorological shift, the first lambs are born.

The brownish cast on our open fields begins to reflect a hint of green to come. The hillsides' changeover from a darker brown is on a later schedule, after all the cold is behind us. Keep an eye out for robins. The state bird is a sure sign of spring.

Turn the Lights Back On

By Kathy-Herald Marlowe

As we're layin' in the darkness Did I wait too long To turn the lights back on?

—Billy Joel (2024)

We're dealing with darkness, in dark hours Asking "Is this law-ignoring nation ours"? Send forth a posse, round up the out of laws: Governors, legislators, persons once held in awe

A gang of governors numbering ten Say SCOTUS findings apply not to them They get to muster their armed guard force Against federal law - they're exempt of course

They wield their authority proclaiming pro-life While sacrificing pregnant women, someone's mother, wife They scurry to truncate their constituents' might As they block amendments their voters deem right

Two large state governors deceive, for fun Resourceless refugees with no place to run They trick, capture, then openly gloat Their mastery of the defenseless, minus even a coat

In DC, Cotton wears McCarthy's mug "Are you a communist?" or a Chinese thug? So he grills a Singaporean with relentless glee, A Senator displaying his Harvard Global Ignorance degree

A fleet of fake electors submit fraudulent forms Treating corruption as an election norm They intended to steal votes of those they serve With criminal audacity, brazen nerve

These crooks follow the voice of dark times "Whatever I want ought surely be mine" In our democracy their hands on power levers Must be forever and ever severed.

Have we waited too long To turn the lights back on To flood our lives with justice's light Undaunted law, order, decency, what's right

Have we waited too long

To turn the lights back on

Kathy Herald-Marlowe lives in Sharon.

Opinion



LETTERS

Praise for new column on retirement

I recently read a column in the Lakeville Journal titled "Facing Challenges After Life of Working" and I have to say that the writer really hit a chord with me. You see, I am retiring after 50+ years of working this coming April and a lot of what I read resonated with me. I'm really looking forward to reading more from this woman and her experiences as I can relate. Thank you.

Jim Bednarek Farmington

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Solar power for the future

To produce enough electricity using solar panels, we need to cover farmland equal in size of the state of Maryland and Delaware with solar farms built on agricultural land. So agrivoltaics, the placing of solar panels above crops and pasture, is vital. A study in Minnesota, as reported in Environmental Research, seeded sixty-six different native wildflowers under the solar panels and within three years the number of pollinators, bees and butterflies, had tripled and in five years there were twenty times more pollinators, and that boosted farm production in the neighboring

On 1% of farmland, solar panels could provide 20% of US electricity. The boost of numbers of insect pollinators is very important for we have lost so many of these insects which are important for producing fruits and vegetables. In Connecticut many of us are working with the Pollinator Pathway, promoted in Sharon by the late Jan Dudek, by pledging not to use insecticides and fungicides to save the pol-

The shade the panels reduce the need of water for grazing livestock. This becomes a second stream of income for farmers.

As only 20% of solar pan-

els are made in America, the support Jahana Hayes has given with her support for the Inflation Reduction Act will create more solar panels made here in the USA. This is an important part of the battle to reduce the effects of climate change. We need Jahana Hayes to continue in Congress to fight to solve these problems to solve climate change.

Liz Piel

Functioning without a schedule

olly Parton sang about "9 to 5" and I lived it; I find the sudden absence of a schedule a huge challenge.

I spent my entire work life on a Monday-through-Friday timetable — the alarm at 5:30 a.m., the bus at 6:30, the gym by 7, the office by 8:30, the market opening at 9:30. If any part of that routine failed — I forgot the alarm or the bus was late — it threw me; I was a stockbroker, laser-focused until the Market closed at 4:30 p.m.. I ate lunch at my desk — chicken salad on rye and a Diet Coke every day — and was always on the phone. I'd leave by 5 p.m., meet my husband who also worked on Wall Street — for an early dinner, occasionally we'd order in, Chinese food or pizza, and then collapse in front of the TV, repeating the routine the next day. I had earlier careers, from TV news producer with a 4 a.m. wake-up to director of tourism for New York City under Mayor John Lindsay and working evenings. But I always had a schedule, so life felt under control.

My challenge now is how to structure my day. I wake up at 5 a.m. — a function of a restless puppy — and often stay in bed reading my phone in the same order every day: the weather, bank and brokerage accounts, social media — Instagram and Facebook, VERY recent for me and newspapers: always the New York Post, which I remember fondly carrying a nickel in my pocket to buy; The New York Times, which I first learned to read, folded vertically, riding the subway; the Washington Post which initially came free with Prime; and the Wall Street Journal, which I subscribe to for the weekend edition.

RETIREMENT: WHAT NOW?

Gwen Greene

By then it's often 10 a.m. and I am racked with guilt that I have not really gotten out of bed, let alone done anything productive though I'm never sure if that means saving the world or simply putting away the prior night's dishes — and feeling badly that I have trained my dog to forgo breakfast until I get really hungry. I have learned to turn breakfast into an "activity," making a fruit smoothie or a bowl of cold cereal with lots of diced fruit, mostly because I'm in no hurry.

My challenge now is how to structure my day.

The next several hours are tricky: I've replaced my morning gym visits with pilates two days a week and a trainer two others, and with driving, I fill several hours, including grocery shopping and UPS to return everything I order from Amazon that I have no intention of keeping — a subject for a later column, along with the aforementioned change in diet, and sleep habits, and exercise routine, and shopping habits. I make myself a late lunch never having learned to cook, I fill my refrigerator with premade salads — and sit down to a proper meal, trying hard to just contemplate rather than constantly read.

Then I have more down time, guilt-ridden because there's laundry plus closets to organize.

Instead I hang out with my puppy and read a crime novel until my partner arrives home . He has a schedule — he's a jewelry designer and spends his days in the studio — and once he's home, MY day finally has structure: we catch up and plan dinner — he cooks — while we watch TV. He'll fall asleep first — he's had a productive day, after all — and I'll read until well past midnight, or work on my column.

I try to embrace this lack of structure — it's what retirement should be and I've "earned" it after working since I was a teenager — but it feels wrong. There are Zoom meetings, or mentoring calls with young folks, visits with

friends and family, and doctor appointments and emails, but it's never enough, and as I become less able to do the work around the house, I feel even more like a slug.

Sharon

I must learn to embrace this, cherish the opportunity to create my own schedule enjoy reading an entire book in one sitting, eat when I am hungry and play with my puppy, but it's really difficult for me, as I imagine it is for many of you.

Please reach out to me with your thoughts or questions at GwenG@millertonnews.com

Gwen lives in Pine Plains with her partner, Dennis, her puppy, Charlie, and two Angus cows, who are also retired.

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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Viewpoint

Politics versus policy, planning, and procedure

ver the last months there has been a marked increase in public interest and concern surrounding various conceptual municipal and quasi-municipal development projects within Salisbury. The Land Use Office and Planning and Zoning Commission view this interest as an opportunity to promote a better understanding of how Salisbury's land use system works, and to dispel some of the misinformation that is circulating within town.

The two primary regulatory land use commissions are the elected Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC), and the appointed Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (IWWC). The authority of these commissions is derived from state and local statute. These land use commissions are obligated to follow the law, not politics or popular opinion, and operate under a strict set of guidelines. The only regulatory body whose decisions may be influenced by politics is the Board of Selectmen (BOS), though ultimately its decisions are guided by members' perception of the best interests of the community at large. Public perspective is a welcome and necessary component of a transparent government. However, attempts to influence the decisions of land use commissions outside of legally noticed meetings are a form of politics termed lobbying. If lobbying affects the outcome of a land use decision, the town is potentially placed in legal jeopardy.

In addition to being bound by statute and regulations, land use commissions must ensure fair and equitable consideration of projects accomplished through a structured procedure that may, as appropriate, include public hearings. In the past, the PZC has also held work-

GUEST COLUMN By Michael W. Klemens

shops to gather information from the public on contentious issues. Through a combination of regulation and procedure, the goal of the land use process is to provide a level playing field for all interests and points of view. Therefore, attempts to lobby, prematurely "kill," or otherwise alter the outcome of a project, disenfranchises the community at large, while infringing upon the rights of property owners to develop land within the limits of the regulations.

Through a combination of regulation and procedure, the goal of the land use process is to provide a level playing field for all interests and points of view.

The PZC acts in two stat-

utory capacities. As the Zoning Commission, it reviews site plans and special permits enforcing and enacting the zoning regulations. In addition to this, the PZC has a planning role. In the commission's role as planners, it is statutorily mandated to adopt a plan of conservation and development (POCD). The POCD is a guidance document which catalogs the town's land-use and governance priorities for the next decade. The PZC is currently drafting the 2024 POCD. To determine the priorities for the next 10 years, the PZC conducted a community survey in 2022. The goal

was to obtain a better under-

considers to be issues facing the community. To provide unbiased perspectives on issues that were identified by this survey, the PZC retained Colliers Engineering. Colliers conducted/is conducting focused studies on opportunities in the villages of Salisbury and Lakeville, and to explore recreational needs and demands for the future. Presently, the PZC is evaluating the recommendations from the Colliers reports for possible inclusion in the POCD.

One topic recently drawing public interest is the Lakeville Village Planning Study completed on behalf of the PZC by Collier's Engineering in 2023. The study contains concepts and recommendations. However, at this time, there are no applications to implement any of the Lakeville Village Planning Study's recommendations. The recommendations made by the PZC in the POCD are preceded by words such as consider, explore, or evaluate. This underscores that the POCD is a framework to guide future discussions concerning conservation and development. Prior to adoption, the Planning and Zoning Commission will convene a public hearing to seek input on the draft POCD. Comments considered by the PZC to merit further discussion and consideration will be incor-

porated into the POCD.

Once a POCD is adopted, the PZC evaluates municipal improvement projects through a so-called 8-24 consistency review, which determines whether a project is consistent with the POCD. This requirement of the Connecticut General Statutes compels municipal investments to be made responsibly; based on a long-term vision, not in response to short-term political pres-

standing of what the public sure or funding opportuni-

Subsequently, individual recommendations of the POCD may be pursued.

Generally, development projects undertaken by the town will include public hearings before one or more of the town's regulatory land use commissions and the public will be provided ample opportunity to voice their concerns and/or support of the specific development proposal.

Potential development of town-owned land on Grove Street for affordable housing has been of recent public interest. The Land Use Office and PZC have received numerous items of correspondence attempting to influence Commission decisions. In this case, the PZC acting in its planning capacity was asked to conduct an 8-24 consistency review. This was an appropriate request to establish first and foremost whether use of this municipal property for affordable housing was consistent with the POCD. The Planning and Zoning Commission found that placing two affordable houses on this site and maintaining the mini-park open space at the rear of the property was consistent with the POCD.

The next step toward developing the land for affordable housing will require a zoning review in the form of a special permit and zoning permits. At this stage, conceptual development will be further refined. The PZC will have to determine if the proposed development complies with its regulations, including if structures will be sited so they complement the neighborhood's development pattern.

By statute, an application for a special permit requires a public hearing. During the public hearing, the PZC will evaluate the proposal based on its regulations, not on how many letters of support or objection are received... the decision is governed by law. Letters to the PZC sent during a public hearing should provide concrete facts or suggestions for modifications based on criteria within the regulations.

Like Grove Street, development of the Pope property is subject to 8-24 consistency review by the PZC where proposed use will be evaluated against the POCD.

However, most letters received are often simple statements of support or objection.

Future development of the municipally owned Pope Property has also been of heightened public interest. The Pope Property is illustrative of how politics has the potential to overshadow a rational land-use decision making process. The BOS appointed the Pope Land Design Committee to create concepts for the design of housing and recreation on this parcel. This underscores yet another problem, the creation of committees which take on planning functions, absent substantive involvement of the town's land-use agencies and staff. Planning by committee is always fraught, and nowhere is there a better example than the public consternation and confusion resulting from the committee's four concept plans developed for the Pope property.

There are no formal plans or projects at this moment on the Pope property. There are no applications for any projects. The community should expect the land use review process to considerably change those concepts presented by the design committee. Like Grove Street, development of the Pope property is subject to 8-24 consistency review by the PZC where proposed use will be evaluated against the POCD. The POCD will be/ is informed by the Colliers Recreation and Open Space Study and the Salisbury Village Planning Study. Keep in mind, not all the recommendations or ideas from these studies will be included in the POCD. From there, the IWWC, PZC, and as applicable Historic District Commission, will evaluate formal applications against current regulations. The next steps for any development of the Pope property will be to obtain a POCD consistency determination from the PZC through the 8-24 review process, and then develop formal plans for components of the work, all of which will be reviewed by the entire community through the public hearing process.

What if a municipal project is not consistent with the POCD? Regardless of the funding source, if a municipal project does not receive a favorable 8-24 consistency review from the PZC, it must be referred to a town vote. Because a funding opportunity presents itself, it does not mean that a project will receive a favorable review. Availability of grants is not solely a justification for expansion of municipal infrastructure. The 8-24 consistency review evaluates whether it is in the town's long-term interest to invest in infrastructure. The review considers whether provisions for maintenance and potential replacement of new infrastructure have been factored in.

Because a funding opportunity presents itself, it does not mean that a project will receive a favorable review.

In conclusion, I have attempted to explain how the municipal land-use process works. There are series of logical, legally proscribed steps, checks and balances to ensure that public input is received and that municipal assets are used wisely. To reiterate, to date there have been no applications for any development of the Grove Street or Pope parcels. Similarly, there are no projects or applications to implement any part of the Lakeville Village Planning Study.

I am grateful for the opportunity afforded by The Lakeville Journal to address these concerns. While the PZC authorized me to write an opinion piece, the views expressed are mine, and may not be fully representative of the entire commission.

Michael W. Klemens is chair of the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission and is a land-use consultant to municipalities across Connecticut.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

Norma Bosworth

100 years ago — February 1924

No end of speculation and alarm has been caused by the disappearance of Lawrence Travis who has been employed at Martin's Garage. He seemingly has dropped completely out of sight and no trace of his whereabouts has been learned. On Feb. 16 he left Martin's Garage in a Star car with a couple of friends, and a short time later returned to Lakeville parting with his companions. He again started out in the car stating he was going to the barber shop. From that time on nothing whatever has been seen of him. Mr. Martin has employed the young man for the past four years and speaks very highly of him, stating that he is more worried about the boy than the missing car. The disappearance of the lad is very strange in many ways, chiefly in the fact that absolutely no trace of the boy or the car has been found. State Police have taken up the case.

Mr. Walter Boardman with a party of friends from Canaan spent Friday in Hartford at the auto show.

TACONIC – Carol Gardner has been out of school for two weeks with a grippe cold. Harold Jones is also out of school and taking fresh air cure for overtaxed nerves.

Miss Fay Jones while coasting down Church

Hill last Saturday evening collided with a tree, being thrown from her sled with great violence and rendered unconscious for a while but received no serious injury. Several other minor coasting accidents were reported during the past week.

50 years ago – February 1974

Superior Court Judge John A. Speziale Tuesday ordered tighter controls on the news media because of the "tremendous amount of publicity in the last few days" on the Peter Reilly murder trial in Litchfield.

If all goes according to the developers' schedule, Salisbury's first condominium units will be open for inspection by prospective buyers in time for next fall's foliage season. However, the proposed Salisbury Glen seemed to arouse a general negative reaction in residents who attended an open hearing on the final plans last Monday night. The 52-unit development has been proposed for a 24acre tract on Route 44 just east of Salisbury village, next to what was once the House of Herbs. The Planning and Zoning Commission now has 65 days in which to accept or reject the plans.

Employees of M.F. Mulville Construction Co. from Norfolk were hard at work last week doing site work

and pouring footings at Becton-Dickinson's Grace Way plant. B-D this week announced an addition to the plant which will encompass 40,000 square feet.

Canaan gas dealers reported an easier month during February. Most of the dealers contacted said that they had not actually been out of gas for any extended period of time, and most expect to get through to the end of the month on their allocations.

The North Canaan Housing Authority last week became the official owner of the 11-acre tract of land off Quinn Street that has been designated as the site for the town's first housing for the elderly project. Canaan selectmen signed a warranty deed last Friday transferring the land to the authority. Earlier this month the town purchased the land from Penn Central Transportation Company for \$16,500.

The Bargain Box, the thrift shop that has already produced more than \$158,000 for the Sharon Hospital Auxiliary, will move March 4 into larger quarters in the Sharon Shopping Center.

Creation of a major new recreation and conservation area was revealed in Kent this week. Dr. Bethia Currie of Cornwall has announced that a tract of approximately 100 acres adjacent to the Macedonia Brook State Park is to be dedicated as a living memorial to her late husband, Dr. John B. Currie.

25 years ago — February 1999

FALLS VILLAGE - Making an assumption from the book's title, "Investigation Homicide," readers might expect a somber, perhaps depressing account by a New York City police reporter. But Jeanne Toomey managed to approach a serious subject with humor, bringing those who follow her story into the world of investigative journalism beginning in the 1940s. Ms. Toomey, who is now chief of operations at The Last Post, a "cat hotel" on Belden Street, tells her story with candor, unafraid to disclose her failures as well as her successes, both on the job and in life.

FALLS VILLAGE – March 2 is Dr. Seuss's birthday. Schools and libraries are celebrating by proclaiming it "Read Across America Day." Children throughout the region will be able to call the Lee H. Kellogg School from 6 to 8 p.m. and hear a story read to them. It is called dial-a-story.

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

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warm weather, the vernal pools will become open sooner than usual. These are small pools filled with rainwater and snowmelt that are critical for amphibians to reproduce in. First in will be the wood frogs and the Jefferson salamanders, which is a special concern species here is CT because much of its habitat is threatened by over development. The Jefferson salamander requires large areas of undisturbed forest around the vernal pools, so buffer zones are needed to protect them. For more information on Jeffersons and all the other salamanders that are native to CT, please see: portal.ct.gov/DEEP/ Wildlife/Learn-About-Wildlife/ Salamanders-of-Connecticut



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: @johnharneyir

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Our Towns

Board of Finance hears report on Sharon Playhouse programs

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — An effort to understand more about organizations included in the town's annual expense budget led the Sharon Board of Finance to invite representatives of the Sharon Playhouse to attend its regular meeting Tuesday, Feb. 20.

Representing the playhouse at the meeting were Rod Christensen, managing director, and Michael Baldwin, associate artistic director and director of education, who reviewed the ongoing programs that positively impact the community, introduced the 2024 season, and spoke of capital projects being planned.

"We want the Sharon Playhouse to be a place of community," said Baldwin, adding, "The buzz is strong; our programming is strong." He emphasized the robust program that involves youth of all ages who participate in the educational wing.

Reviewing the YouthStage program, Baldwin reported growth to six productions, with eight weeks of programming to reach over 150 young people.

"Our demand is high," Baldwin said, noting that the playhouse has hired over 220 theater professionals and entertained over 16,000 patrons. More than 1,000 students were served



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

The Sharon Board of Finance engaged with representatives of the Sharon Playhouse at its regular meeting Tuesday, Feb. 20. Speaking with the board were, at left, Rod Christensen, managing director, and Michael Baldwin, associate artistic director and director of education.

by playhouse programs in the past year, Baldwin said, describing outreach programs to area schools.

"The Sharon Playhouse stands at the intersection of arts and community," Baldwin said, adding that the support of the town is appreciated.

Outlining capital expense projects to be accomplished in the coming years, Christensen described planning to

expand and pave the parking lot to accommodate growing audiences, estimated to cost

Another essential project will replace the septic arrangement, estimated at \$60,000-\$75,000. And a third would reimagine and reconfigure the lobby area to include an accessible patron restroom, at a projected cost of \$150,000.

Finance board member Jessica Fowler asked about the playhouse's donor base. Christensen replied that half of income is from donations and the other half comes from generated revenue.

The Town of Sharon has allocated \$5,000 annually to the Playhouse for some years.

Tom Bartram, Finance Board chairman, noted the value of the educational program to the children enrolled in Sharon Day Care.

Representing the Sharon Environment and Energy Commission, member Doug Rick provided a report on estimated energy cost savings of \$1.3 million to be realized by the solar array project at Sharon Center School.

Continuing consideration of the removal of capital expenditures from the Board of Education (BOE) budget to include those expenses within the selectmen's budget, Bartram reported that Doug Cahill, BOE chairman, had indicated that capital expense costs will not be a significant entry in the proposed budget for the coming year.

Removal of the capital expense line is an effort on the part of the town to reduce the state's mandated minimum budget requirement that annually impacts the town's education budget.

COYOTES

Continued from Page A1

coyote as a "trickster, demigod, prophet and teacher."

She included a quote from an Apache medicine man: "The coyote was just like a real person in the old times. He was two-faced; he was evil, but he was also good. The people often use him in the evil way; and in the good way too, they use him for he has the power to help as well as to harm."

The coyote has been called many things, many unprintable in a family newspaper. The members of the Lewis and Clark expedition had never seen a coyote when they encountered them in 1804, Apple said. The explorers called them "prairie wolves."

Mark Twain didn't think much of the coyote, Apple continued. In "Roughing It," Twain said of the covote, "The meanest creatures despise him, and even the fleas would dessert [sic] him for a velocipede [early bicycle]."

In the 1920s, Scientific American magazine described the covote as "the original Bolshevik," which was pretty strong stuff at the time.

The Warner Brothers cartoon character Wile E. Coyote improved the animal's image somewhat, as did subsequent Disney films, even if the filmmakers sacrificed accuracy for cuteness on the screen.

But the coyote continues to be regarded with suspicion and fear, Apple said.

Coyotes are having their pups right about now. Apple said that in the next few weeks, the pups will become visible to humans. Not coincidentally, this period has the most coyote sightings.

Apple had a pie chart that broke down sightings by category for a recent year (but did not specify which year):

Sightings: 141 (72%).Dog attacks: 17 (9%).

— Approaching people: 13 (7%).

- Poultry/livestock at-

tacks: 12 (6%).

— Diseased: 7 (4%). — Cat attacks: 6 (3%).

Canis latrans vans is typically 48-60 inches long, weighs between 30 and 50 pounds, and lives five to seven years, although coyotes living

At a glance they might look like a German shepherd.

10 years and up are not un-

Apple said they are intelligent and extremely adaptable, capable of surviving and thriving in suburban and urban environments as well as

A big part of the coyote's ability to adapt is its diet, which consists of "anything it can chew."

So deer, mice, rabbits and other woodland creatures are on the menu.

Coyotes also eat berries, nuts and bugs; garbage, pets and small livestock.

Because the coyote is so adaptable, the best way for people to guard against unwanted contact is to keep their garbage secured and their pets under supervision,

Apple said. That means dogs on a leash and cats indoors, especially at night.

Homeowners should close off crawl spaces beneath decks and buildings to prevent coyotes from setting up shop.

Coyotes can be scared away by "hazing," Apple said. Methods include yelling, using an airhorn or Apple's favorite, a coffee can filled with coins, which she said makes a noise so unlike anything found in nature that it scares the coyotes thoroughly.

Apple said Connecticut, which registered its first official coyote kill in 1963 in Kensington, has between 3,000 and 5,000 coyotes. Some 200-400 are legally hunted or trapped every year.

Copake resident kicks off 2024 campaign for U.S. president

By Leila Hawken

EGREMONT, Mass. – Resolved to offer his alternative candidacy for the office of U.S. president in 2024, Copake, New York, resident Mark Warren Moody began his unorthodox campaign in earnest with an announcement Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Egremont Barn.

During a pause in a soldout Wanda Houston concert with her back-up band, the Rejuvenators, Moody took the stage to make his planned announcement, beginning with a brief vocal rendition of "Amazing Grace." The idea of a song and the choice, he noted, borrowed from the playbook of former U.S. President Barack Obama.

"I want this job; that's why I should have it; we need something new," Moody said, explaining the first of three reasons for running, noting that the name of the evening's band was appropriate. Moody wanted to "rejuvenate" the country. He added that he fully meets the eligibility requirements for the presidency. He was born in New York City in 1970. During his school years, he was living in England, but nevertheless does meet eligibility.

Moody's professional life is that of a practicing attorney whose office is in Manhattan, although he now makes his home in Copake in a residence that had been purchased by his parents.

"I'm willing to die for my country," Moody said, describing the depth of his fervor, given as the second reason for running.

"I believe in the promise of America," he gave as the third reason compelling him



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Announcing his bid to run for U.S. president, Mark Warren Moody of Copake spoke to concertgoers at the Egremont Barn Saturday, Feb. 17.

to be a candidate, recalling the words of the Declaration of Independence as appropriate to the present day, pointing also to the writings of Thomas Paine in his "Common Sense" pamphleteering of the 18th century.

"I am incorruptible," he concluded, adding that he has "nothing more than a bunch of ideas."

His ideas are presented in an essay on his website. Moody indicated that he has no organization or campaign committee structure.

In explaining the "betabilitarian" origins and applications on his website, Moody writes that secrets of the universe are unknowable. Avid information-gathering is all that's possible in a search for

It is not important what a person thinks, only that the person does think for himself or herself, Moody argues.

More information about Moody's political philosophy is available on the website that also describes his new political party: www.betabilitarian.com



Supporting ag-ed

In honor of National FFA Week, a communal breakfast was held Thursday, Feb. 22, at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Superintendent Lisa Carter, second from right, and state Rep. Maria Horn (D-64), right, spoke on the benefits of agriculture education and importance of the FFA program. From Saturday, Feb. 17, to Saturday, Feb. 24, FFA chapters around the country celebrated National FFA Week: a time to share what FFA is and the impact it has on members every day. Search "FFA" on www.lakevillejournal.com for more info.



www.coveredbridgeebike.com

FFA

Continued from Page A1

He said to cancel ag-ed programs would "create a gap between skilled laborers in the workforce needed ahead to stimulate a strong Connecticut economy." He continued: "In an ever-changing world, we must commit to agriscience and trade careers for our state. Housatonic Valley and ag-ed programs across the state produce well educated, hardworking, responsible individuals that care about the environment and the future of agriculture."

"I urge you to reconsider the proposed budget cuts to agriscience programs and to prioritize the needs of our local communities," said Crane in closing.

Public hearings on HB05048 continued through Monday, Feb. 26. If the bill passes, the modified budget will go into effect July 1, 2025. Concerned residents can file additional testimony online at p2a.co/X2WLdpa



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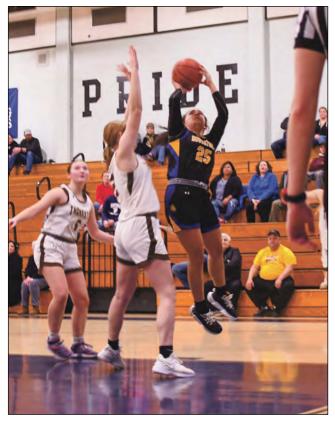
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Sports





Daniela Brennan scored inside the paint for HVRHS. Mia Dodge looked to create offensive opportunities against defending-champion Thomaston Feb. 20.

Top seed Thomaston ends HVRHS tourney run

By Riley Klein

WASHINGTON — The Thomaston High School girls basketball team defeated Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) 53-25 in the Berkshire League tournament semifinals Tuesday, Feb. 20.

The defending champion Golden Bears advanced to the championship for a rematch of last year's title game against Northwestern, which defeated Gilbert 61-44 in the semifinal match prior to the HVRHS/Thomaston game.

The Mountaineers en-

tered the second round of the tournament coming off an electric win in the quarterfinals against Nonnewaug. The momentum did not carry over, however, and HVRHS wrapped up conference play on a tough loss to a strong team.

Round two of the Berk-

shire League playoff was played on neutral ground at Shepaug Valley High School in Washington. Supporters from both sides made the trip to cheer on their teams.

Thomaston set the tone of the game early. Unshakeable defense from the Golden Bears forced repeated turnovers and fueled a dominant performance in the first

Trouble for HVRHS persisted into the second quarter. Thomaston's possession control and ability to find open shots enabled the Golden Bears to take a 31-point lead by halftime.

HVRHS coach Jake Plitt adjusted to a zone defense in the second half, which proved effective against Thomaston. Defensive stops led to successful fast breaks and HVRHS outscored Thomaston 10-4 in the third quarter.

HVRHS battled to the final buzzer, but the game was out of reach. Thomaston remained undefeated in the Berkshire League this season with a 53-25 win in the semifinals.

Nicole Dekker led the Golden Bears in scoring with 17 points. Ava Harkness scored 11 points and Lily VanOrmer finished with 10 points.

HVRHS' top scorer was captain Anne Moran with 7 points. Kylie Leonard and Olivia Brooks each scored 5 points for the Mountaineers.

HVRHS qualified for the Connecticut Interscholastic

Athletic Conference Class S tournament as the 17th seed. The Mountaineers will head to Durham for round one Monday, Feb. 26.

Thomaston went on to play Northwestern in a championship rematch Feb. 23. Thomaston entered the final game with a chance at winning its seventh Berkshire League title since 2014.

Northwestern shocked the reigning champs with an upset victory to claim the Berkshire League title for 2023-24. Northwestern secured revenge with a final score of 41-36 over Thom-

Junior star Maddie Topa led the Highlanders to the win by scoring a team-high 11 points.

Kent School alums retake the rink

By Lans Christensen

KENT — On Saturday, Feb. 24, Kent School alumni hockey players reunited for a game on their old home rink.

More than 50 alumni came to the event, with 37 of them registered to play hockey alongside the current varsity seniors. The players were randomly assorted and chosen to play on either the blue team or the white team.

The graduation class years ranged from the outgoing class of 2024 to the oldest, John Drinker, class of 1969.

Teams were welcomed by Dale Reinhardt, boys varsity hockey coach, and took to the ice to start the first of two 35-minute halves. All the players showed great skills on the ice regardless of age, skating and handling the puck as adeptly as ever.

Thankfully, crushing, aggressive body checks were kept off the program.

Scoring was not the most important part of the day, though the blue team managed a 9-4 victory. This was a day for reuniting with teammates, classmates and friends.

The good cheer and happiness on every participant's face was a testament that the day was a much loved success.

Later that day, Kent's varsity boys hockey team went on to win its final regular season match 11-2 against Choate Rosemary Hall.



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN Kent alumni dusted off the skates Saturday, Feb. 24.



Participating players were all smiles on the ice.



Friends, teammates, fathers and sons all took part.





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Innovation

Continued from Page A1

lives around the world," said Chris DiPentima, resident and CEO of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA).

They are also "critical to local economic development, supporting and revitalizing local communities not only through the hundreds of millions in state and local taxes that they pay, but also because they create five additional jobs in other parts of the state's economy for every one manufacturing job, and generate \$2.60 in additional economic activity for every \$1 spent in manufacturing."

Those are huge multipliers, said DiPentima, "equivalent to what Silicon Valley experienced with the tech-sector boom — and high wage careers with the average Connecticut manufacturing salary at \$92,633, 36% higher than the national average and 14% more than the state's average salary."

Innovation transformed BD

The first wave of disposable plastic syringes were manufactured out of BD's North Canaan facility in 1961 in its original 25,000-squarefoot-building, manned by eight associates. The innovation soon transformed BD by replacing traditional glass syringes to ensure more sterile conditions.

'The syringe plastipac was really what put us on the map," said Andersen.

One year later, BD purchased a 77-acre tract of land and broke ground for the construction of a 55,000-squarefoot state-of-the-art plant, and since then, has expanded the North Canaan facility eight times, for a total of 360,000 square feet.

Until you've toured the plant, it's difficult to comprehend the scale of the opera-

The operation is a vital facility for the BD Medical -Medical Surgical Systems unit of its parent, Becton Dickinson and Company, which was founded in 1897



Dustin Andersen is the plant director at BD Canaan, which is the largest employer in the Northwest Corner, with more than 400 employees.

and is headquartered in Finger Lakes, New Jersey.

About 400 employees work at the North Canaan facility, making it the largest employer and taxpayer in the Northwest Corner.

"Everybody around here knows somebody who is working at BD," Andersen explained.

Jeanine Hodgekiss, BD's customer complaint and validation quality manager and a second-generation associate, noted that the "quality" within the facility extends far beyond the products produced.

"I've been at BD for 34 years, and my dad worked there over 30 years," said Hodgekiss "When people think of quality, they think of the product. But BD also provides the quality of life."

Building a 'model factory' in Lakeville

The odds are that anyone who owns a Toyota Tacoma pickup truck is driving around with a plastic component tucked into the vehicle's headrest that was molded by ITW's Seats & Motion Division in Lakeville. Ditto for Ford vehicles on the road today.

The global operation takes place in a commercial building adjacent to the Lakeville Hose Company, where plastic headrest guides, a key safety component in automobiles, are produced by 38 molding and 15 assembly machines in

the 20,000-square-foot plant. "We make them for 98%

of the Fords that are built in North America," said Steve Furth, the operation's plant manager, during a recent tour of the totally automated

"Toyota is getting close to Ford" in terms of production, said Furth as he pointed out the five molding machines and three assembly machines pumping out and assembling headrest guides for Tacoma vehicles. "We ship 100,000 parts a week."

As he spoke, the machines whirred as they completed various steps of the process, work that up until about three years ago, was done primarily through manual labor.

To keep up with the volume, for several years, ITW rented warehouse space in Millerton, New York, for storage, packing and shipping. Now, the entire process takes place in Lakeville.

"Three years ago, the company decided it was time to do what we call 'model factory," said Furth, which improved efficiency through automation but resulted in the closing of the Millerton site and downsizing the workforce from 50 to about 35.

"It did take some jobs away, but it improved our efficiency tenfold. We now produce about 45 million parts per year."

Furth, who has been employed by ITW for 15 years, marveled that even though ITW global has 35 locations worldwide with an estimated 28,000 employees, that a modest plant in rural Lakeville is part of that world-wide success.

"How this little factory got started in this area up here, nobody knows, but here we

'Dirty Jobs,' the pandemic, fueled CowPots

Tucked away on a winding dirt road behind the Freund family farm's dairy operation and farm market and bakery, is a manufacturing plant that molds eco-friendly flowerpots made from composted



Steve Furth is the plant manager at ITW Seats & Motion Division in Lakeville, which manufactures automobile headrest guides for Ford and Toyota.

On a recent visit to the operation, Amanda Freund, third generation of the family farm, manages the CowPots operation with her father, Matt Freund. The second-generation Freund, with help from a friend with an engineering background, designed the technology used to mold dried manure into flower pots as an alternative to peat pots, which take longer to biodegrade.

Diversification, said Amanda Freund, was a saving grace when the pandemic hit in 2020. The family's 300cow dairy operation was in "crisis mode," she recalled, as demand for milk dried up when schools, restaurants and other customers closed shop.

But at the same time, "everyone was home, and gardening blew up," and demand for CowPots skyrocketed.

In 2007, CowPots gained "incredible national exposure" when it was featured not only on "Larry King Live," but also in a segment of "Dirty Jobs" with Mike Rowe.

"It was incredible national exposure, with reruns in 125 countries to this day, which I can always track by the spike in visits to my website," Freund noted.

The CowPots operation maintains a health permit with the USDA to be able to export product to the European Union, and Freund said she is two to three years into a discussion with a company in Australia "that has begun the process of licensing our technology and some form of royalties."

"With 500 million tons of plastic per year produced from the horticultural industry," she said, "we're pushing to be part of the solution."

An engineering breakthrough Also on Grace Way in



Six million plastic syringes are produced daily at the BD North Canaan manufacturing facility.

North Canaan, across from BD, is the Hutzler Manufacturing Company Inc., a four-generation, family-owned and -operated manufacturer and worldwide distributor of high-quality housewares since 1938.

According to the company's website, in the 1970s, Hutzler made the engineering breakthrough that fiberglass can give additional strength that was lacking from traditional nylon. They used this knowledge to produce fiberglas-reinforced nylon utensils, "which are still used today by McDonalds, Burger King and Pizza Hut.

Company officials did not respond to requests for comment.

Transportation challenges and solutions

While the sight and sounds of big rigs rumbling around the Northwest Corner may annoy some, transportation costs can be expensive and compounded in rural areas where trucks need to make special trips, said Cow-Pots' Freund.

'There is great value to us, being a small manufacturer in the community, and having the larger companies like BD make a lot of shipping trips, with the trucks coming and going," she explained. As transportation frequency increases in the area, said Freund, it helps to lower her transportation costs.

CBIA's DiPentima noted that rural manufacturers struggle with employees' transportation needs.

"One thing we have heard from the rural manufacturers is that there is not much of it for their employees, especially for what is referred to as the 'last mile,' meaning employees can get to a train or bus hub but have challenges getting to their workplace from there."

Transportation along with housing, child care and cost of health insurance are top issues that CBIA hears from businesses and are at the center of its 2024 legislative policy solutions, said DiPentima.

HISTORY

Continued from Page A1

Douglass.

Charles Ethan Porter (1847-1923), regarded as one of the finest American still life painters — Mark Twain bought several of his paintings.

A photo of Hartford's Shiloh Baptist Church from the 1920s is instructive. Belanger said as American Blacks moved from the Reconstruction and Jim Crow South to northern cities in search of work, they brought a very different kind of Christianity with them, which sometimes clashed with the customs of the Black people already there.

Belanger mentioned Ann Petry (1908-1997) of Old Saybrook, whose 1946 novel "The Street" sold a million copies

Yale and a friend of Frederick and brought unwanted fame to the author.

And there is a direct link to Black history in the form of the minor league baseball team the Hartford Yard Goats, who, once a year, don replica Negro League uniforms to honor Johnny "Schoolboy" Taylor (1916-1987), a tremendously talented ballplayer who was coveted by major league teams well before Jackie Robinson became the first Black major leaguer in 1947.

Belanger said a scout suggested Taylor change his name to something Spanish and pretend to be a Cuban as a way around the color barrier, but Taylor refused.

Belanger urged the audience to come visit the museum. "I drove it today," she exclaimed. "It's not that far."







Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

FILM: JENNIFER ALMQUIST

The Creators

An interview with filmmaker **Keith Boynton**

eith Boynton is a filmmaker who grew up in Salisbury, Connecticut.

He attended Salisbury Central School, Town Hill School, and The Hotchkiss S chool. He has made numerous feature films including "Seven Lovers," "The Scottish Play" and "The Winter House," and is just wrapping up a new film, "The Haunted Forest," which is a horror/ slasher movie. Boynton has made numerous music videos for the band Darlingside, and for Alison Krauss. He is a poet, a playwright and comic book art collector.

Jennifer Almquist: This series of stories, "The Creators," focuses on artists, their inspiration, and their creative process. Keith, what was the seed that got you started?

Keith Boynton: I think the earliest stage of everything is just daydreaming. I've been a daydreamer my whole life, probably most kids are. Those daydreams are just daydreams — they don't come to anything — but occasionally something happens in your imagination that you can't let go of. Something you want to make real, whether that's a goal in your life, or a project that you want to pursue or something you want to create, it just sticks in your mind, and can change your whole

JA: Was there a favorite book that you loved growing up?

KB: My favorite book in childhood was "The Wreck of the Zephyr" by Chris van Allsburg. Some books just fired me up, like "Maniac Magee" by Jerry Spinelli, an amazing book that was probably the most exciting thing I'd ever read up to that point. I remember finishing it and just sprinting up and down the driveway. I loved all the William Steig books, especially "Dominic." Some art forms lend themselves to the imagination. One of the things I love about cartooning — I'm a huge comic book fan, and I collect comic book artwork — I love the way it can be anything. It is the unfettered exercise of the imagination, whereas making a live-action film is a very fettered exercise of the



Keith Boynton, left, with Aitor Mendilibar, right, the cinematographer who shot "The Haunted Forest" as well as "The Scottish Play" and "The Winter House." In the background of is Vinny Castellini, first assistant director.

imagination. You are bound by the technology and the reality of what you're shooting, and the limitations of what you have available, so it's still a creative act, but it's not the kind of thing you can just daydream on the paper. You must contend with a lot of reality on the way to making that dream something real.

JA: Why do you love language?

KB: I mean, words are magic. They can create whole worlds. I've always been fascinated by them. There's nothing more human than the urge to communicate, but words do more than communicate; they conjure. It's a hell of a thing.

JA: You cannot escape the business side of filmmaking. How do you handle all that financing, promotion, deal making, streaming, film festivals?

KB: It is a job in itself. The mindset of promoting a film is the opposite of making one. It's rare to find one person who's good at both. I want the film to be successful, yet don't see myself as a marketer. When I am forced into that role, it's an awkward fit.

I love the response of an audience. I love watching a movie with an audience, or even better, being in front of an audience, that immediate kind of connection. The relationship that you have with anyone in the business of curation of a film festival, or a studio executive, lacks immediacy. Yet you must not become an artist who thinks they're entitled to an audience, or entitled to a platform, or entitled



The Winter House will be screened at the Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y., Saturday, April 6.

to be regarded as special. Audience members who grant you their time are giving you a gift, which is often unearned.

JA: Tell us about "The Haunted Forest."

KB: Cousins on my dad's side, the Markoffs, live in Montgomery

County, Maryland. They've been operating this haunted forest for about 30 years on their property, creating scary tours in October where you walk through, and people jump out and

Continued on next page



COURTESY OF STORY SYNDICATE

Arlo Washington in a film still from the Oscarnominated short "The Barber of Little Rock."

FILM: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Millerton director is an Oscar nominee

ohn Hoffman, a Millerton resident, has been nominated for his film "The Barber of Little Rock," which he co-directed with Christine Turner, in the Best **Documentary Short** Film category at the upcoming 96th Academy Awards.

Distributed by The New Yorker and produced by Story Syndicate Production in association with 59th & Prairie, Better World Projects, and Peralta Pictures, "The Barber of Little Rock" explores the efforts of Arkansas local hero Arlo Washington, who opened a barbershop at 19 years old and, with a mission to close the racial inequality gap in his community, went on to found the Washington Barber College as well as People Trust Community Federal Credit Union. Washington's goal is aiding his primarily Black neighborhood, which has historically been underserved by more prominent banking institutions.

Hoffman appeared at The Moviehouse in Millerton for a special screening of the short film Friday, Feb. 23, which played along with the four competing nominees: "Nai Nai & Wài Pó"

(Grandma & Grandma), a humorous portrait by Sean Wang of his maternal and paternal Taiwanese grandmothers who share one home in Los Angeles, California; "The ABCs of Book Banning," which features interviews with Florida school children discussing the books that have been removed from their libraries; "The Island Inbetween" which documents life on Kinman, an island governed by Taiwan and located across a bay from Mainland China; and "The Last Repair Shop," about the lives of four dedicated craftspeople who repair the musical instruments for public school children in Los Angeles.

"The Barber of Little Rock" received the Jenni Berebitsky Legacy Award at the 2023 Indy Shorts International Film Festival and was nominated at the eighth annual Critics **Choice Documentary** Awards.

At the talk, Hoffman explained that one of the most potent experiences in filming the documentary was seeing firsthand the financial and racial divide in Little Rock, illustrated by Interstate 630, which acts as a bar-

Continued on next page



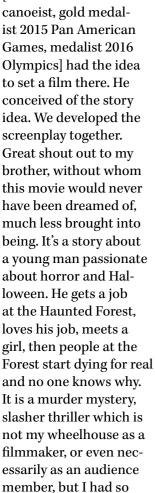
BOOKS: ALEXANDER WILBURN

...Boynton Continued from previous page

frighten you. It is like a homemade, horror film Disneyland. I was blown

away by the scope of it, the scale of it, plus the attention to detail and just the passion that they put into this place.

My brother Devin McEwan [slalom



The film still has a certain romanticism, maybe more than previous films. The genre is larger than life. There's darkness and terror, but also the opportunity for heroism and overcoming. I think some of the most cinematic stuff that I've ever captured is in this movie. We are close to locking the picture edit, and then after that, we sign color, music, visual effects, and it'll be ready to premiere at the actual Haunted Forest this fall. Anyone in the D.C. area, come watch this movie on-site and get scared out of your minds.

much fun making this.

JA: Your film "The Scottish Play" was just shown on Channel 13 as the Valentine's Day romantic offering. How did you write so many lines of iambic pentameter?

KB: I have always been interested in Shakespeare's time. I did some Shakespearean acting as a child. The language is extraordinary — alien yet familiar. It does create a different world, a heightened world, a romantic world, something you can indulge in, escape into, so for a long time, I wanted to find some way to play in that sandbox of Shakespearean language.

I conceived of the idea of having Shakespeare appear as a ghost because then it can be a contemporary story and Shakespeare can be anything that I imagine. He doesn't have to be tied to



size the

real and the fantastical. JA: What's next?

Keith Boynton

KB: I'm gearing up to another movie in September and that'll be shot here in Salisbury, maybe at Mt. Riga. It between shooting one The film is broadly in

will be about 10 months feature film and another. the category of horror or psychological thriller. More about mood and character and fabulous actors. I'm going to reuse some of my favorites from people who maybe had a smaller part in my other films.

JA: You describe your work on your website: "It's humor and a touch of optimism. Also, we like coffee."

KB: I think coffee is one of the core principles of life. It's certainly a major theme in my work. I think every play or movie contains at least one reference to coffee and usually a very loving reference. It's a touchstone, but also maybe it represents warmth and comfort.

JA: What do you love about filmmaking?

KB: The camaraderie, the moments of magic, the sense of capturing something special and unrepeatable, the sublime irrelevance and absurdity of the whole endeavor, the excuse to drink endless cups of coffee, those occasional moments when you whisper to yourself, or to someone else, "We're making a movie." And you are.

Read the full interview on www.lakevillejournal.

At The Movies



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Gone With The Winsted: The Civil War in The Litchfield Hills

n 1861, following the election of Abraham Lincoln to the United States presidency on a platform to prohibit the legal slavery of African Americans, seven southern states seceded from the country, and the American Civil War began.

While no battles were fought on the soil of Connecticut, Peter C. Vermilyea has gone to lengths to detail the political climate of Northern communities and military recruitment efforts in the early years of the conflict in a new book from The History Press, "Litchfield County and The Civil War." Vermilyea, a history teacher at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and the author of "Wicked Litchfield County" and "Hidden History of Litchfield County," will appear at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village for a discussion Saturday,

March 2, at 2 p.m.

At the time of Lincoln's election, three local weekly newspapers served Litchfield County — The Litchfield Enquirer, The Winsted Herald, and The Housatonic Republican - and the area had entered a period of economic stagnation after the uptick in enterprise when the Salisbury Furnace produced the majority of cannons used in the American Revolutionary War. The region's swampy meadows and rocky soil, Vermilyea points out, did not attract any swell in the population size following America's independence, especially after the county's iron mines and furnaces were acquired by the Barnum and Richardson Compa-

Still, these underpopulated Northwest Connecticut towns wanted to be represented in the war and were resolute to have area men in prominent

COURTESY OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

President Lincoln by William Marsh, 1860.

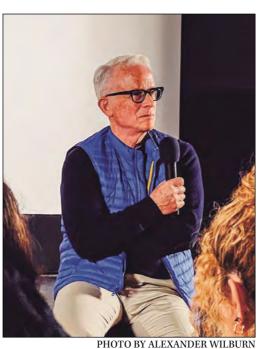
positions in the state's regiment. Vermilyea writes that the average Litchfield County recruit for the 19th Connecticut Infantry Regiment, which served in the Union Army, was 27 years old, equally likely to be married or unmarried, and thanks to "the county's long-standing support of public education... 95 percent of its men who

marched off to war in the summer of 1862 were literate." From a photo of the infantry preserved by the Litchfield Historical Society, we also know the majority were in possession of hefty, dark mustaches on their upper lips. Nearly half were farmers, and many were Irish, thanks to the

Continued on next page

...Oscars

Continued from previous page



Iohn Hoffman

rier between white affluence and Black poverty in the city. The interstate resulted from the signing of the Federal Highway Act by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, then the most extensive public works program in America. In the documentary, Scott Green calls the fallout from the I-630

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"not a wealth gap, but a wealth chasm." Green is the nephew of Ernest Green, one of the Little Rock Nine, the first African American students permitted to enroll at Little Rock Central High School.

People Trust, the only Black-owned Community Development Financial Institution in Arkansas, is attempting to bridge that chasm by supporting the emergence of minority-owned businesses in the community, including helping graduates of Washington's barber college forge a path toward establishing their own shops and salons and being free." providing emergency grants for Little Rock residents experiencing the

individuals. As Washington says

businesses and \$1,000 for

strains of houselessness

start following incarcera-

tion. The average People

Trust loan is \$5,000 for

or searching for a new

in the documentary short, "Once [Little Rock residents] can put funds here, and deposits, then we're not going to put money outside of this community, we're going to put money back into the community."

"Once this catches on, it becomes a threat," Green replies. "Because it can inspire others to think that they can become free. This is about

The 96th Oscars will be held Sunday, March 10, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles and will be televised live on ABC.

"The Barber of Little Rock" is available to watch on www.newyorker. com and The New Yorker's YouTube channel.

ADVERTISE IN COMPASS

To advertise your event under the Arts & Entertainment banner, call 860-435-9873 or email advertising@lakevillejournal.com



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FOOD: ANNA MARTUCCI

Inside Troutbeck's kitchen

bout growing up in Carmel, New York, Troutbeck's executive chef Vincent Gilberti said he was fortunate to have a lot of family close by, and time together was always centered around food.

His grandparents in White Plains always made sure to have a supply of cured meats, olives, cheeses and crusty bread during their weekend visits. But it wasn't until his family moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, when he was 16 that his passion for food really began. It was there that he joined the German Club, whose partnership with Johnson & Wales University first introduced him to cooking.

During high school, Gilberti also worked at a Greek restaurant as a host, dishwasher and line cook. The appeal, he said, was the sense of camaraderie with the fellow line cooks and the friends he made that he couldn't have met in high school. He valued what it took for all these people to come together to create a meal.

"As a kid, you don't think about all the moving parts," Gilberti said. "As I got older and worked in the restaurant, I had a better understanding of the total experience the restaurant provides — it's not just the food, it's not just the atmosphere, it's everything coming together to create a complete experience."

After high school, Gilberti attended the French Culinary Institution in Manhattan. He chose the accelerated program because although he got a lot out of school, he knew the real learning took place on the job. After graduating, he worked at Keith McNally's Pulino's for three years until

leaving to be a part of the opening team at Dover in Brooklyn, where he worked his way up from line cook to sous chef.

From there, Gilberti ioined his mentor. Walker Stern, at the restaurant Battersby, for what Gilberti described as the highlight of his career so far: "It was a very special moment for me to work hand in hand with Walker. In most restaurants, you don't have that direct relationship with the chef. It greatly expanded my horizons and really helped me push the limits with my skills."

Next was Michelin-starred Clinton Hill restaurant The Finch, where Gilberti joined chef Gabe McMackin. McMackin was also establishing himself at Troutbeck and eventually invited Gilberti to make the join him there as the chef de cuisine.

"I respected and admired Gabe and his philosophy, so I obliged and came to Troutbeck," said Gilberti. After a brief sojourn at contemporary Italian restaurant SPQR in San Francisco, Gilberti was invited back to Troutbeck to be its executive chef.

Anna Martucci: What, besides your working relationship with chef McMackin, attracted you to Troutbeck?

Vincent Gilberti: The property is extremely special and has a deep-rooted history, and I saw the opportunity that it held. I really admired and respected the owners and their mission and goals and what they wanted to accomplish. They are very much a part of and active in the community here. Not everyone chooses to run their business trying to support the businesses

around them, but that is very important to Troutbeck. I also knew it was a great opportunity to learn I had never been a chef for a hotel before and had to quickly learn the ways of navigating weddings and banquets.

AM: In what ways do you use your role as chef to connect to the Hudson Valley community?

VG: In every possible way I can, I try to work with as many local farmers, purveyors and producers as possible. I can't say that I'm sourcing everything from the Hudson Valley, because I do have to rely on outside sources, but as much as possible, that is the goal. The other goal, which is in the Troutbeck mission statement, is zero waste. I try to use every little thing that I can out of everything we acquire.

AM: Why is connecting to the community important to you?

VG: I'm always thinking about how I can meet other individuals, like-minded or not, in this community and how I can support them in ways that are beneficial for everyone. I want to see every business in this community succeed. We can all work together to make the Hudson Valley what it is. Together we can attract people to this area to experience what we have to offer. I want to help make people realize how special this community is and reflect on the people that are here and make them feel special.

AM: What would you say your specialty is?

VG: People always ask me that, but it's not about one specific thing for me — I have a lot to bring to the table. I will say, however, that one thing that I'm very passionate about is pasta. It was a passion created at Pulino's and finessed at Battersby with Walker Stern — he is a savant.

Here at Troutbeck, we will sometimes have three to four different pasta dishes on the menu depending what is happening that week. We are thinking about doing a community-night dinner of pasta dishes, in a way trying to create my Sundays at grandma's with a beautiful salad, antipasto, housemade bread, and a few pasta options. We have the reputation of being expensive, and there is a cost associated with trying to use local businesses, but I also want to be accessible to people who don't necessarily want to spend \$50 on an entree. We want it to be high quality but still affordable, because the mission of Troutbeck is to be inclusive of the community.

AM: How has the Hudson Valley farm-totable food scene grown and changed during your lifetime?

VG: Growing up, the farm-to-table establishment wasn't a thing. In the '90s, people were more concerned with quantity over quality. I've seen a significant shift of people being more cognizant of what they are eating. They want to know where the steelhead trout is from — is it farmed or is it wildcaught? I see that as the biggest shift, but there is a high cost in that. I see



PHOTO COURTESY OF TROUTBEC

Chef Vincent Gilberti

my job as making farmto-table food be inclusive because I want people in the community to feel comfortable coming here and enjoying what we have to offer.

AM: What would you like to see more of in the agricultural community in this area?

VG: We already have an establishment of great local farms — I'd love to see more of them so we can continue to support the community. I have this opportunity to work with all these people who are just as excited about food as I am. Continuing to build relationships with local farms and the community and sharing it with the guests that come through the door — that is what I am most excited about.

AM: What do you love most about this area?

VG: I really like being away from the hustle and bustle of the city. It's nice to be surrounded by nature, it's nice to be able to go out on hikes. In my personal time, I love to forage and try to make something out of things I

find that people wouldn't normally eat. Come May, you will find morels and ramps all over the Troutbeck property. And I like to cook for my friends.

AM: What do you most appreciate about working at Troutbeck?

VG: The people. It takes an army to do what we are doing here. And I think, across the board in every department we have, everyone has a mutual respect for one another. At any given moment I can call on someone and they will be there for me. It has become a second family for me. I feel special to work with a group of individuals who support one another and have each other's backs. This article is about Troutbeck and Vinny, but it is so much more than that. I couldn't do this without the people in the kitchen who support me. There are so many people that it takes to make this happen for everyone and I really just admire them all and I can't thank them enough. I'm grateful to have every single person on this property.

...Civil War Continued from previous page

efforts of Irish-born Michael Kelly, who worked to enlist the considerable immigrant population of

the town of Sharon. Litchfield's Camp Dutton training ground, which has been the site of contemporary Civil War reenactments, was a place of maturation for the twentysomething-aged soldiers in more than one way swaths of young women were regular visitors, the sight of fitted bodices and floor-skimming skirts as visible as any Prussian blue military coat. The era's more cordial aspects of courtship had been evidently thrown out the window in wartime, leading to more lax views on a flirtatious brush of one's lips on a soldier. Affection from these young women was perhaps seen as more permissible, considering the likelihood that

these men would never return home. The Enquirer lamented that "the very flower and cream of our county — the best and dearest to many of us... we shall never see anymore."

In one letter home, a soldier at Camp Dutton wrote that a certain Lieutenant Frederick Barry "spent this p.m. and evening with Miss Alice Marsh, the most beautiful lady that has visited our camp... I was quite fascinated by Miss Alice the very first time I saw her... and as I think Lieut Berry the finest looking man in our regiment, it is not strange to think that I should wish there might be a Mrs. Lieut B from New Milford before we go."

In 1864, after the men of Camp Dutton had been stationed guarding the Washington capi-

tol from Virginia for 20 long months, battling the threat of disease rather than the threat of Confederate violence, they joined The Battle of Cold Harbor near Mechanicsville. It was an unmatched battle for the Union soldiers, resulting in an unnecessary litter of corpses and the Union "suffering more than three hundred casualties in about an hour of fighting."

"Litchfield had approximately 3,200 residents when the war began and sent 299 men off to war," Vermilyea records. "27 were killed or mortally wounded, another 27 died of disease and five died in prisoner of war camps." In many ways, Camp Dutton and the promise of valor had been the highest point of Litchfield County's Civil War effort.



An Essential Resource

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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

MARCH 1

Open Mic Night

Copake Grange, 628 Empire Road, Copake, N.Y

All are welcome to perform in person from 7 to 9 p.m. Music, stories, skits, readings, poetry, dance, songs, etc. Or you can just relax and be entertained. Beginning and veteran performers are welcome. This event is free.

Mid-day Music and Meditation

Congregational Church of Salisbury, 30 Main St., Salisbury, Conn.

The Congregational Church of Salisbury will present its monthly Mid-day Music and Meditation at noon at 30 Main St., Salisbury. The Meeting House will open at 11:30 a.m., and masks are optional.

This Meditation will feature Beethoven's Piano Sonata Opus 31, no. 3, "the Hunt," performed by music director David

Baranowski. Free to the public, Baranowski's musical gift provides a time of reflection surrounded by inspiring, soul-nourishing classical repertory.

MARCH 2

An Introduction to **Invasive Species: Identification and** Management

Copake Grange, 628 Empire Road, Copake, N.Y.

From 3:30 to 5 p.m., learn about the emerald ash borer, the hemlock wooly adelgid, Japanese barberry, bittersweet and many other invasive species and what to do about them. Presented by Colleen Lutz, assistant biologist with NY Natural Heritage Program, and Samantha Schultz, terrestrial invasive species coordinator with the DEC's Partnership for **Regional Invasive Species** Management.

The talk is free and all are welcome. A Q&A and refreshments will follow the talk.

Litchfield County and the

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

Local author and Housatonic Valley Regional High School history teacher Peter Vermilyea will discuss his new book "Litchfield County and the Civil War" at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village at 2 p.m. Told with firsthand accounts, the book relates the impact of President Abraham Lincoln's request for 600,000 troops in the summer of 1862 and shows how the process of preparing for war created a lasting bond between the community and its soldiers. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Old Time Community

Cornwall Town Hall, 24 Pine

St., Cornwall, Conn.

Squares, circles and contras taught and called by Bob Livingston to the lively music of Relatively Sound Band from 7 to 9 p.m. 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.

MARCH 3

String Quartet

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

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon and The Guild, in partnership with Music Mountain will host the conclusion of the "Classical Music Concert Series" at the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon at 4 p.m. The third concert will be with the Cassatt String Quartet, hailed by The Strad for its "mighty rapport and relentless commitment." The Quartet's prolific discography includes over forty recordings, for the Koch, Naxos, New World, Point, CRI, Tzadik,

and Albany labels. The Guild, the library's volunteer organization, extends a warm invitation to all lovers of music, books, and culture. Concert seating is very limited and registration is required: hotchkisslibrary.libcal. com/event/12038494.

MARCH 7

Ukraine Two Years Later

The Hotchkiss School, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn. hotchkiss.org

On March 7 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Hotchkiss School's main building, juniors Ira Buch '25 and Oleh Shtunder '25 of Ukraine will mark the second anniversary of Russia's invasion at a reception featuring an exhibit of recent photos from Ukraine. The students will offer remarks at 5:30 p.m.

Oleh and Ira's images, taken by friends and family at home in Ukraine, illustrate the war's impact on Ukrainian children and specifically the devastation to their schools. Guests will have an opportunity to learn more about restoring

access to education in Ukrainian communities through savED, an international nonprofit supporting local educational initiatives.

Refreshments will be served at the reception for which RSVPs are requested at bit.ly/ 48wHNR0 or by emailing clburchf@hotchkiss.org. The Hotchkiss School is located at 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville.

Free Screening of "The Goonies"

Stissing Center for Arts and Culture, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.

A free screening of "The Goonies" will take place at 7 p.m. on March 7. With brothers Mikey (Sean Astin) and Brand's (Josh Brolin) house slated for demolition by greedy land developers, the boys decide their only hope lies in finding a long-lost treasure. They uncover a treasure map and with their friends descend to a subterranean sea and an abandoned galleon in this fun-filled, fast-paced adventure.

FOOD: PAMELA OSBORNE

Some say the world will end in fire. Ice is also possible.

oday it feels like all life won't end tomorrow, but a week or so ago not so much. Man oh man it was cold. It. Was. Cold. Could see your breath freezing in the air when you tried to talk. Seemed like no one would hear what you said until the vapor cloud thawed out sometime next spring. Didn't want to go out. Didn't want to get up. Didn't want to do much of anything but sit around with my blankie. Probably freeze to death just walking from the house to the car.

Which, inevitably, led to thoughts about mortality. I know plenty of people who think you might as well go ahead and eat as much bacon as you want before you go, at least you'll die happy. If you're one of them, this might help you check that one off your bucket list.

Linguine with Bacon, Mushrooms and **Something Green**

1 pound of linguine. I like linguine, use what you like. Buy Italian bronze die-cut pasta,

available at every store I go to. So much better.

5 or 6 big Portobello mushroom caps, cleaned. These are easier to clean than small mushrooms, but you can use those instead. The gills on these big caps aren't good to eat; scrape them out with a small spoon. Chop into generous chunks.

Half of a big red or yellow onion, chopped. You can also use green

1 or 2 cloves of garlic, mashed Butter and neutral

olive oil. I use Berio. Bacon, anywhere from 1/2 a pound up to a pound, up to you. Cut across the slices into pieces about 3/4-inch or so wide. Thick-cut or reg-

ular bacon, either is fine. Parmesan cheese

Salt — I use Maldon sea salt flakes, easily found. You'll never go

Freshly ground black pepper and red pepper flakes

Baby arugula, which I had in the refrigerator. You could also use baby spinach leaves, endive cut crosswise, parsley, chives, etc. Anyway, something green, so

when St. Peter says So, it was bacon that got you? you can point virtuously to the green stuff you threw in. I should warn you it's possible he may have heard that one before.

One great thing about this is that you can have the work almost totally done way ahead of time. Serves six.

1. Put some butter and oil, a couple of tablespoons of each, into a skillet over low heat. Cook the onions until they are softened and fairly translucent. Tilt the pan, put in a bit more oil, add the garlic. Let the garlic bubble in the oil for a minute or so. Do not brown the garlic. Stir it into the onions. Remove this mix and its oil to a bowl.

2. Heat your pan so it's medium hot, then add the same amount of butter and oil. Add the mushrooms and quickly stir to coat them. Put a lid on, and after a few minutes, take it off. The mushrooms will have exuded water. Turn the heat up to high to evaporate it, then continue cooking at a slightly lower temperature. Stand there and keep an eye out while you stir: They should brown nicely. Remove them to a bowl. Both of these steps can be done a day or two ahead. Keep the bowls, covered, in the refriger-

3. The morning of the day you're having the pasta, cook the bacon. To keep bacon from shrinking, always start with cold bacon in a cold pan. This can be cooked at a low heat. Stir and separate the pieces; cook until nicely crisped. Don't burn. Put the pieces on a plate on paper towels to drain, and keep on the counter until later. Wipe the bacon grease out of the pan and leave the covered pan on the stove. You can leave a small amount of grease in the



PHOTO BY ELIZA OSBORNE

pan; you needn't wash it.

4. At suppertime, put the mushrooms and onions in the pan and heat

5. Boil the pasta.

6. Quickly drain the pasta and mix it with the mushroom mix.

7. Mix in the bacon.

8. Mix in a few big spoonfuls of parmesan.

9. Mix in your fresh greens, as much or as

little as you'd like, and toss. I put in a couple of good-sized handfuls.

Serve this in heated bowls or plates with additional cheese, salt and the two peppers on the table. Bread on the side. Heaven. Well, close enough.

Pamela Osborne lives in Salisbury.



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