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For the love The The Lakeville Tournal

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

## **Nuvance Health** to become part of **Northwell Health**

By Maud Doyle

NEW HYDE PARK, N.Y. — Nuvance Health will combine with Northwell Health, the largest health provider in New York state, to form a 28-hospital system that spans the New York-Connecticut border, the two organizations announced Wednesday, Feb. 28.

Before the agreement is finalized it must be approved by New York, Connecticut and the Federal Trade Commission.

Nuvance Health, based in Danbury, operates seven hospitals in western Connecticut and Dutchess County, New York, including Sharon Hospital and Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, while Northwell, based in New Hyde Park, operates 21 hospitals and nearly 900 outpatient facilities; according to Northwell, its 85,000 employees also make the system the largest private employer in New York state.

"This partnership opens a new and exciting chapter for Northwell and Nuvance and provides an incredible opportunity to enhance both health systems and take patient care and services to an even higher level," said Michael Dowling, president and CEO of Northwell Health, in a statement.

Nuvance Health has been struggling financially. At Sharon Hospital, which loses some \$20 million annually, Nuvance hoped to cut losses by closing the labor and delivery unit, which it said loses \$3 million a year. Its application to close the unit was denied by Connecticut in February.

Last summer, its outstanding debt was downgraded again by S&P and by Moody's. Moody's noted that Nuvance's "next several quarters" would be "pivotal." For its fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2023, Nuvance posted a net loss of \$121.5 million.

See NUVANCE, Page A10

## Funding partners propel North Canaan health center toward launch

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — With the snip of a ribbon by dignitaries Friday, May 10, followed by an open house Saturday, May 11, a new federally qualified health center (FQHC) serving the Northwest Corner will open for business after two decades of planning fueled by a major infusion of financial support from strategic regional health care

Joanne Borduas, CEO of Community Health & Wellness Center (CHWC), which is building the regional facility, described vital support from the Sharon-based Foundation for Community Health (FCH), Sharon Hospital/Nuvance Health, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (BTCF) and its Fund for the Northwest Corner as "a testament to our shared commitment to community health."

The state-of-the-art health care center's mission is to offer integrated medical and behavioral health services aimed at addressing the region's dearth of health care providers, limited access to care and transportation challenges impacting both financially stable families

Dan Lancaster,

Comcast's con-

struction head

for the Sharon

project, at left,

confers with Rich

Phipps, owner of

R&R Broadband,

contractor for the

work, on Thurs-

day, Feb. 22.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Construction of the new health center is nearing completion.

and those less fortunate.

"This partnership will only make us stronger in meeting the health care needs of the community," said Christina McCulloch, president of Sharon Hospital.

Nuvance Health/Sharon Hospital is among partners who have joined with FCH in contributing to the regional initiative. Nuvance has pledged a multiyear, \$650,000 total gift to include \$300,000 in funding and an additional \$350,000 of inkind services.

Examples of in-kind services, said McCulloch, include anything from donations of medical equipment commonly found in a health care setting to services like lab work, such as blood tests, imaging and screenings.

"I think what we are seeing in rural settings such as the Northwest

Corner are challenges with health care access locally," said McCulloch. "That could be related to the lack of providers and the lack of public transportation. A lot of the social determinants of health come into play when you talk about access to health care."

Along with Sharon Hospital, the new North Canaan health center, she said, will make access to services stronger and more easily accessible to residents in the rural Northwest Corner, "and we would hope to see that preventative care is easier to attain."

McCulloch credited the alliance of strategic partners with aiming to "enhance value, availability and appropriateness of care for the entire community, especially those

See HEALTH CENTER, Page A10

## Broadband expansion project is nearly completed and winning rave reviews

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — After years of community-wide surveys, expert planning, public meetings, and coordination of multitiered elements legal and logistical, the work of the SharonConnect Task Force, town officials and Comcast and construction crews is nearly completed.

The last big construction job needed for the project, now judged to be 80-90% completed, was happening on schedule when Dan Lancaster, Comcast's construction head for the Sharon project, paused for an interview Thursday, Feb. 22. That was the day contractor crews were stringing cable line from West Cornwall Road through the forest to two homes along Route 7.

Rich Phipps, owner of R&R Broadband LLC, was on the job with his crew doing the contracted installation work, involving pulling the cable line through pole to pole down the steep forested incline from West Cornwall Road.

"We're getting close; we're almost there," Lancaster said, noting that 27-30 miles of cable had





been strung throughout the town on utility poles, with an additional 7-8 miles of underground buried cable. For Thursday's job on Route 7, 2,400 feet of cable, just about an entire reel, was needed to cover the distance.

While the project's initial approval came in February 2023, with the contract with Comcast signed March 2, Lancaster said that it was July before pole permissions were in place, so the underground installation began first.

Jointly providing additional in-

formation about the project's history, SharonConnect Task Force co-chairs Jill Drew and Meghan Flanagan along with the town's project coordinator, Nikki Blass, indicated that work began March 9 with the stringing of Caroline Drive that took three days to complete. In that one instance, pole permissions were already in place.

While a specific date for completion has not yet been determined, Drew said that the construction

See BROADBAND, Page A10

## Advanced polling in place for 2024 elections

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Early voting is now a reality in Connecticut.

A ballot question in the 2022 general election supported amending the state constitution to authorize the Connecticut General Assembly to provide by law for in-person early voting before an election. The measure passed handily.

The legislature passed an early voting bill in May 2023, and Gov. Ned Lamont signed it in June 2023.

Voter registrars from Salisbury and Cornwall met at Salisbury Town Hall Wednesday, Feb. 28, to go over

procedures and to get the word out. Maureen Dell and Jenny Law, Salisbury's Republican and Democratic registrars, both emphasized that the new early voting rules require some effort and planning.

There are four days of early voting before the Tuesday, April 2, presidential primary. They are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 26; Wednesday, March 27; Thursday, March 28; and Saturday, March 30.

Dell reminded voters that Connecticut has a closed primary system. Voters must be registered as Republicans or Democrats to vote in their party's primary.

The deadline for changing party affiliation was Jan. 2.

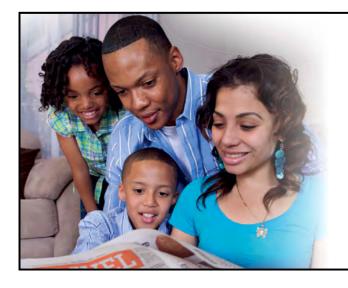
Unaffiliated voters who wish to vote in the early voting period for the primary must enroll in a party by noon Monday, March 25.

Residents who are not registered to vote but wish to vote in the early voting period before the primary must do so with the registrars in their town by noon on the business day before the day they wish to vote.

Monday, April 1, at noon is the deadline for registering in person

See POLLING, Page A10

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### In The Journal this week

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#### **Online This Week**

#### Yearly town report released

Salisbury reviewed its annual report at a town meeting. More on www.lakevillejournal.com

#### POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

North Canaan drug arrest

Mohammad Rahman, 45,

of Litchfield, was taken into

custody on an outstanding

arrest warrant following

an investigation involving

Smoker's Choice, 11 East

Main, North Canaan. Rah-

man was charged with pos-

session with intent to sell

narcotics. He was released

on a \$10,000 cash/surety

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

**Public hearing** 

on cannabis

regs March 11

NORTH CANAAN -

Planning and Zoning Com-

mission will hold a public

hearing to receive input on

regulations for recreational

cannabis in Town Hall Mon-

be viewed online at tinyurl.

\$6.8 Billion

as of 12.31.23

Assets Under Management

The draft regulations can

day, March 11 at 7 p.m.

johnc@lakevillejournal.

bond.

On Thursday, Feb. 29,

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.

#### IMS teacher arrest

On Sunday, March 3, at approximately 1 p.m., Michael Wilson, 40, of Lakeville, turned himself in at Troop B on an active arrest warrant based on investigation of an incident at Indian Mountain School in Salisbury on Nov. 8, 2023, involving Wilson and a 7th grade student. Wilson, an English teacher and mountain bike coach who lives on campus, was accused of inappropriate physical interaction with the student and was relieved of duties and is currently staying in Delaware. He is charged with breach of peace, 2nd degree; assault, 3rd degree; reckless endangerment, 2nd degree; strangulation/suffocation, 3rd degree; and unlawful restraint, 2nd degree. Wilson posted a \$10,000 cash-surety

#### **Interlaken Inn trespass**

On Sunday, Feb. 25, at approximately 10:30 a.m. Troop B received a call from the Interlaken Inn in Salisbury about a man causing a disturbance and who wouldn't leave the property. Segundo Lalvay, 50, of Millerton, was served an infraction for simple trespass and told not to return to the Inn. Lalvay soon returned anyway and was charged with criminal tresspass, 2nd degree.

#### Disorderly conduct charge

On Sunday, Feb. 25, at approximately 7 p.m., Troopers were dispatched to a residence on Aetna Lane in Norfolk on the report of a disturbance. Eugene Harding, 50, reportedly had threatened a victim and pushed him. Harding was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.

#### **HVRHS** knife arrest

On Wednesday, Feb. 28, at approximately 12:30 p.m. Troop B was notified by Region One school that a large knife was found in a student's possession at the high school. Christos Curry, 18, of Kent, was placed under arrest for possession of a weapon on school grounds, a Class D felony.

#### **CONTACT US**

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## Sharon Hospital petitions state to reconsider L&D closure ruling

By John Coston

SHARON — Sharon Hospital has petitioned the state Office of Health Strategy (OHS) to reconsider its Final Decision denying the hospital's request to terminate labor and delivery service.

OHS issued its decision Feb. 5, determining that the application for a Certificate of Need (CON) failed to meet the statutory requirements intended to protect the "quality, accessibility, and cost-effectiveness of care" in the region served.

In its petition filed Feb. 20, the hospital cited new evidence regarding the current state of operations at the labor and delivery operation, as well as evidence relating to the financial health of Sharon Hospital and Nuvance Health, its parent.

The hospital also states that the Final Decision contains factual and legal errors that must be corrected, and that there is good cause to

PHOTO BY BRIDGET STARR TAYLOR

Sharon Hospital cited new financial evidence in asking the state Office of Health Strategy to reconsider denying the request to close labor and delivery services.

grant the petition "in order for OHS to work with Sharon Hospital to address significant new challenges to the sustainability of the L&D services in the same manner as OHS has to similarly situated providers."

The petition, filed eight days before Northwell Health announced it planned to combine with Nuvance Health, cites updated evidence that shows the hospital is "on the precipice of having to temporarily suspend the service because it has lost essential physician coverage in recent months.

"The conditions at the Hospital related to the L&D service have meaningfully deteriorated from an already challenged state and further threaten the sustainability of the L&D service and the [hospital's] ability to operate the L&D unit safely and

The petition also argues that the decision relies heavily on data about Nuvance Health's finances in 2022, yet doesn't account for 2023 and 2024 budgeted losses.

Sharon Hospital's petition also states that OHS committed legal errors in applying certain statutory criteria. It also argues that OHS should reconsider its denial and negotiate conditions "for the closure of the L&D unit," alluding to the recent agreement OHS entered with Windham Hospital in Willimantic that received approval to close its L&D unit "subject to certain conditions."

Christina McCulloch, president of Sharon Hospital, confirmed that the announcement of Nuvance's agreement with Northwell Health will not alter Sharon Hospital's pursuit of permission to terminate its labor and delivery services.

"Nothing has been approved with Northwell Health," said McCulloch. "It has to go through the regulatory process, which we think could take a year or more."

She said that with regards to the petition for reconsideration, "nothing will change." The petition for reconsideration, she said, is "just another step in the regulatory process with the Office of Health Strategy. And we await their response to that."

#### NWCT Chamber to host new membership party

TORRINGTON — The Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce will host a "Catch the Leprechaun New Membership Party" Wednesday, March 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Chamber office at 59 Field St., Suite 120.

NOW

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to the public. Current Chamber members may invite potential members to attend. St. Patrick's Day-themed refreshments will be provided by Jimmy's Store, and a "catch the leprechaun" scavenger hunt will take place

The event is free and open throughout the evening with

gift certificates for the first three winners in the amounts of \$100, \$75 and \$50. Attendees are asked to

RSVP to the Chamber by Monday, March 18, by calling 860-482-6586 or emailing Karen Kuhl at karen@nwctchamberofcommerce.org

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## **LEGAL NOTICES Legal Notice**

Notice is hereby given that a Presidential Preference Primary of the Republican and Democratic Parties will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024, and March 30, 2024, with the primary being held on April 2, 2024, in each town.

Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the candidates (including the category "Uncommitted") which are to appear on the ballot at said primary in the manner and in the order in which such names and category are herein listed, under the office designation "Nomination for President of the United States", together with the addresses of such candidates:

> Democrats Name and Address: Marianne Williamson Washington D.C. Dean Phillips Excelsior, MN CenkUygur Los Angels, CA Joe Biden Philadelphia, PA Uncommitted Republicans Name and Address Ron DeSantis Tallahassee, FL Nikki Haley Daniel Island, SC Donald J. Trump Arlington, VA Ryan Binkley McKinney, TX Uncommitted

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 1st Day of March, 2024. Stephanie Thomas, Secretary of the State.

The foregoing is a copy of the notice that I have received from the Office of the Secretary of the State in accordance with Secs. 9-433 and 9-471 of the General Statutes. As provided, such primary will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024,

and March 30, 2024, and the primary will be held on April 2, 2024. The hours of voting during early voting and at said primary and the location of the polls will be as follows:

**Hours of Voting:** March 26, 2024-10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.

March27,2024-10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.

March 28, 2024-10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. March 30, 2024-

10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. Primary Day- 6:00 a.m.

to 8:00 p.m. **Voting District-1** 

<u>Location of Polling Place</u> Sharon Town Hall, 63 Main Street. Dated at Sharon, Connecticut, this 1st day of March, 2024.

Town Clerk Linda R. Amerighi Town of Sharon 03-07-24

#### **Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands** & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on February 26, 2024:

Approved - Application 2024-IW-003 by owner Michael W Klemens for the construction of a stream crossing to access an approved building lot. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 03 as lot 05-5 and is known as 14 Red Mountain Road, Lakeville.

Any aggrieved person may appeal this decision to the Connecticut Superior Courtinaccordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §22a-43(a) & §8-8.

03-07-24



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## Our Towns

PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Debbie Labbe and Ru stopped by Scoville Library Saturday, March 2 for a llama lesson.

## Ru the llama visits Scoville Library

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — In what was a godsend for parents of small children facing a cold, rainy Saturday morning, Debbie Labbe brought Ru the llama to the Scoville Memorial Library for a visit Saturday, March 2.

Ru, age 4, allowed himself to be led into the children's area of the library. He made no fuss at all. In fact, he seemed more interested in looking out the window.

Labbe, who runs Country Quilt Llama Farm in Corn-

FALLS VILLAGE

ditorium.

prize money.

wall, explained that llamas typically pay attention to whatever is moving around them. The 15 or 20 children were all quite still.

Labbe imparted basic llama facts: coloration, relative hairiness, and longevity — 18 to 20 years.

She had a sample of yarn made from llama hair, which the children examined.

Labbe read the book "Is your Mama a Llama" by Deborah Guarino and illustrated by Steven Kellogg. All the children got a chance to

**Battle of the Bands returns to HVRHS** 

## From renovation to innovation: Hotchkiss Library's expanded offerings

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Since its beginnings in 1893, Sharon's Hotchkiss Library has been a landmark on the town green, imposing in its architecture and welcoming in its nature.

The same is true today. Following a local capital campaign that raised \$3.7 million in support of renovation and expansion, the town celebrated the library's reopening in August 2023.

While construction was ongoing, library services were offered at a temporary location at Legion Hall. The library did not miss a beat in continuing essential service to its community.

The months that have passed since the reopening have seen growth in programs and library resources. The community has continued to find that the library is central to Sharon life, only more so now that there is more space and flexibility.

"We have held 80 adult programs with over 900 participants," said Gretchen Hachmeister, executive director of the library, on Thursday, Feb. 22, reflecting in the growth in numbers of programs and numbers of patrons.

"There is so much going on, and the numbers and variety far exceed our prepanvolume," Hachmeister added, citing as examples library book clubs, yoga classes, Qi-



Little ones of varying ages take advantage of the Monday morning story hour led by Renee DeSimone.

gong workshops, art courses, afternoon movies, and knitting groups, as well as evening and weekend programs.

Thanks to the energetically imaginative volunteer Guild members, Hachmeister noted the assortment of new Guild-sponsored offerings, including chamber music concerts, film screenings, artist and author talks, community coffees and group discussions on meeting food security needs in the area.

The "Little Women" Community Read Aloud was a particular favorite among local readers, Hachmeister

Younger readers and children are not overlooked

in the renovated library. Hachmeister noted that Renee DeSimone, head of children's programming, has offered 72 children's programs that have included visits to Sharon Day Care and the classrooms at Sharon Center School.

Looking ahead, Hachmeister said that the library hopes to offer more programming for the town's older adult population, including exploring how to combat isolation and lone-

"We are always looking for diverse ways to engage the community," Hachmeis-

Town committees have

found the new Hayes Family Community Room to be a convenient and comfortable location for meetings. So far, a total of 17 such meetings have been held by six different town committees.

More people have been taking out library cards since the renovation, Hachmeister said, estimating an average issue of 18 new cards each month. Nationally, those statistics are falling, she noted. She said that more than 1,000 patrons visit the library each month.

With the renovation came new technology, Hachmeister said, praising the staff for embracing the new way of doing things and learning new procedures and systems.

While the old Victorian building stands as the visually striking architectural gem that it is, thanks to the generosity of donors to the capital campaign, the interior is serving the needs of 21st-century Sharon in the most productive and exciting

"The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon has become THE community center of Sharon," Hachmeister said.

For more info, go to www. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org

#### demic and prerestoration By Leila Hawken has been posted on the town Residents also asked

KENT — Administration of the town's cemeteries has shifted from the Kent Cemetery Association to the town following a unanimous vote at a special town meeting Tuesday, Feb. 27.

Fourteen residents came to the Town Hall to consider enactment of the new ordinance that will shift care of six town-owned cemeteries to a new five-member volunteer committee. Those cemeteries are Bulls Bridge, Congregational, Flanders, Good Hill, Skiff Mountain and St. Andrew's.

Resident Chris Garrity was elected to serve as moderator for the half-hour meeting.

The Cemetery Committee will function under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, which will appoint its members. Any resident interested in serving on the committee should contact the town. Initially the terms will be of varying lengths in order to establish staggered term endings.

The ordinance also provides for the hiring of a sexton to oversee the dayto-day operation of the cemeteries, supervised by the new committee. A job description for the sexton

website for interested can-

**Kent establishes Cemetery Committee** 

Discussion included residents' concerns about how the financial assets will be transferred from the Cemetery Association to the town and how they will be handled.

First Selectman Marty Lindenmayer responded that the cemetery funds will be included in the town budget under its own heading.

about long-range planning to expand the cemeteries should additional space be needed. Sextons aging out of their positions was also noted as a problem being faced by area towns.

The town meeting closed with selectmen and residents expressing appreciation to the Cemetery Association for its members' years of commitment and service to the town.





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MUSHROOMS

CAPERS IN SEA SALT

TARALLI'S ITALIAN PARMIGIANO REGGIANO CROSTINIS MINI TOASTS CROCCANTINI CRACKERS FIG AND OLIVE CRACKERS ANCHOVY PASTE TUNA IN OLIVE OIL TOMATO PASTE DRIED FIGS MARCONA ALMONDS DRIED CHERRIES RASPBERRIES IN ARMAGNAC FRENCH CAKES MINT TRUFFLES NOUGAT DURANTE'S HOMEMADE PASTA



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Last year's Battle of the Bands at HVRHS was won by "These Boots Are Meant For Rockin."

by the Music Lab in Canaan. Student musicians can enter to compete by signing fee for participating bands is Dvc1r8

up before the deadline of \$10 and the link to register Friday, March 15. The entry is: forms.gle/tsL1RPQqYpX-

#### FVVFD to host fire and arson training session

FALLS VILLAGE — The Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department will host a nationally recognized speaker Saturday, April 20, at 10 a.m. at the Emergency Services Center.

to join the audience. Tickets

will be sold at the door for

\$10. This event is sponsored

Laura Billon is an expert on fire and arson investigation and will speak to first re-

sponders and citizens about youth-set fires and forensic science, citing several case studies and examples. Billon is a certified fire investigator in the state of California with over 25 years in the fire ser-

The two-hour presentation will be followed by an informal question-and-answer period and refreshments. This event is part of the 100th anniversary of the Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department.

Tickets are \$40 and are on sale through fvvfd.org/ april20. Seating is limited. The **Emergency Services Center is** located at 188 Route 7 South.

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## Our Towns

PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN Lee Sohl introduced Freddy to guests at Kent Library.

## 'Puppy Storytime' comes

to Kent Memorial Library

By Lans Christensen

KENT — Lee Sohl, animal control officer for Kent, Sharon, Cornwall and Salisbury, brought a puppy and stories to the Kent Memorial Library Saturday, March 2.

It was the third time she had created this happy get-together with children and their companions.

The book she brought to read was, not coincidentally, Dr. Seuss' "What Pet Should I Get." It was also Dr Seuss'

Before reading, she told the children that "a pet store is not the place to get your pet," and that the publishers had included a note in the book saying the same.

Sohl brought one of her 14 dogs, Freddy, a Yorkie mix who loved receiving the attention of the children.

Freddy is a rescue therapy dog, and gets around beautifully on two legs and two

After the books, Sohl invited the kids to meet and greet Freddy.

She said, "It's best, when you meet a new pet, let them sniff you first."

After lots of sniffing ,there was lots of petting and smiling, happy faces on all.

## Espionage, double identity and drama in Haverstick book talk

By Leila Hawken

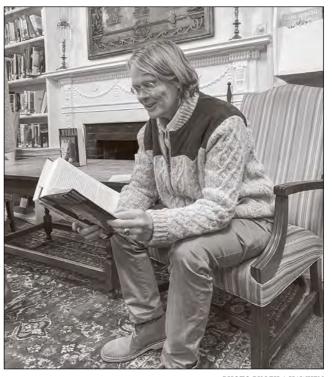
KENT — Filmmaker, determined researcher and storyteller are a few terms to identify the talent of author Mary Haverstick.

Her latest book, "A Woman I Know," was selected for the ongoing book talk series sponsored by Kent's House of Books, held at the Kent Memorial Library Thursday,

A widely recognized documentary filmmaker now living in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Haverstick's original intent was to create a film based on the life of aviation pioneer Jerrie Cobb, one of a select few female astronauts trained at NASA, although never afforded the chance to fly into space.

Multiple interviews created a deepening rapport and relationship of trust with Jerrie Cobb, but always Haverstick applied innate instincts, the faithful heart and inquisitive mind of a documentarian engaged in research to frame her story.

During what turned out to be 12 years of research, that story mushroomed into one of espionage and CIA involvement as Haverstick discovered a strangely parallel life in the person of June Cobb, who had a career as an



Engaging her audience while reading an excerpt from her latest book, "A Woman I Know," was author Mary Haverstick, who spoke to a packed audience.

aviator and spy operating in South America and Castro's Cuba, where she worked as an interpreter within Castro's Community regime. On Nov. 22, 1963, June Cobb had flown a charter flight to Dallas, Texas. The question was "Who was Jerrie; who was June?"

"I was the furthest person to engage in conspiracy theories about the assassination of John F. Kennedy," Haver-

The likely double identity

lived by Jerrie Cobb and June Cobb, uncovered by Haverstick's meticulous research, yielding 100 pages or so of footnotes, led to an intensely confrontational interview between Haverstick and her subject Jerrie Cobb. The excerpt that describes that interview was selected for reading aloud during the book talk, capturing the audience with dramatic intensity.

'This conversation was the most momentous conversation of my entire life," Haverstick said with certainty of the climactic conversation with Jerrie Cobb.

"It's a tough conversation with anyone who has a double identity," Haverstick said of the tension. She described it as an emotional conversation that exhibited the behavioral signs of someone being deceptive.

"I established the double identify through clear evidence," Haverstick said.

'That conversation was seminal," Haverstick added, then the task became to bring the difficult, convoluted, murky information to the

The recounting of the conversation that Haverstick termed "a fateful interview" occurs among the early chapters in the book, with documented proof filling the rest of the chapters, preparing the reader for the examination of the 1963 presidential assassination, dissecting film footage using modern technology.

"I'm not sure where to go from here," Haverstick said, noting that she still awaits receipt of documents from a long-standing Freedom of Information Act request for still-sealed assassination

"I had a responsibility to carry this forward," Haverstick told the audience.

"A Woman I Know" does

## Food insecurity being tackled by Community Advocates

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Building upon the February community conversation on food insecurity held at the Hotchkiss Library, a citizens' group has been formed to continue momentum, working toward ensuring food security and food access in area towns.

The new group is named Community Advocates for demonstrate sustainable be held Sunday, April 21, www.tricornerfeed.org

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — If

The Twelve Moons Coffee

it's the first Saturday of the

month, then it's music night

House offers live music and

poetry. Doors open at 6 p.m.,

and participants sign up for

the open mic segment, which

get about 10 minutes each

Open mic musicians

enough time for two or

A featured performer

On Saturday, March 2,

Twelve Moons is run by

John and Nancy Nowak of

Amenia, who took over from

that was Peter Calo, accom-

panying himself on acoustic

at the Center on Main.

starts at 6:30 p.m.

maybe three songs.

starts at 8 p.m.

guitar.

approaches to social, economic and environmental practices.

Three topic-specific working advocacy subgroups have been created to further those goals.

Advocates for Farmers will be facilitated by Linda Quella who is planning an initial in-person meeting at The Hotchkiss Library Sunday, April 7, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Advocates for Consumers Food Security, seeking to will be facilitated by Charlie and upcoming meetings of create a robust and equitable Noyes, who is planning for the Community Advocates local food system that will an initial Zoom meeting to for Food Security, go to

Jammin' at Twelve Moons Coffee House

from 1 to 3 p.m.

A teen advocacy group is also being formed, but no facilitator has yet been named.

All three working groups will come up with plans by learning about local food security issues, identifying how the community can help with those issues, and developing projects or programs to lead to solutions.

For more information about the ongoing dialogue

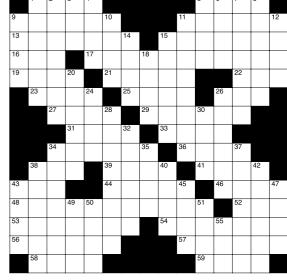
## **Brain Teasers**

#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Chaps
- 5. Currently fashionable
- 9. Collision
- 11. More slim 13. European city
- 15. Implicitly
- 16. The side of
- something that is sheltered from the wind
- 17. The Mount **Rushmore State** 19. Gold or silver wire
- 21. Muscles along insects' diaphragm
- 22. Trent Reznor's band
- 23. Sweet juicy grittytextured fruit
- 25. Broken branch
- 26. Indicates ten
- 27. Expression of
- annoyance
- 29. Brings together
- 31. Ancient city in
- Thrace
- 33. Sailors' spirit
- 34. Looked into
- 36. Muckraking woman journalist Rheta
- 38. A type of cast
- 39. One's responsibility
- 41. Where golfers begin
- 43. Make a mistake
- 44. Semitic Sun god 46. Ancient Italian-
- **Greek colony** 48. Beheaded
- 52. A place to stay
- 53. Unwise 54. Most supernatural
- 56. "Dennis" is a
- famous one 57. Ointments
- **58. Exam**
- 59. Leaked blood

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Baseball managers assemble it
- 2. Revised
- 3. Mountain is a popular kind
- 4. Takes to civil court



- 5. Pouches
- 6. A type of veil
- 7. Chants 8. Boston hoopster
- 9. Elongated appendage
- 10. Sailboat 11. 2017 Oscar-winning
- film
- 12. Actor Gosling 14. Monetary units
- 15. Assembly
- 18. Russian pop duo
- 20. Embellished with expressions
- 24. Infrequent 26. Temperature unit
- 28. Hydrophilic amino acid
- 30. Honk 32. Legislative body
- 34. Swinish 35. Russian assembly
- 37. Take over for

6

Feb. 29 Solution

38. Put in advance

43. Dutch cheese

47. Strong insects

49. Gasteyer and de

Armas are two

50. Ancient people of

45. Witnesses

**Scotland** 

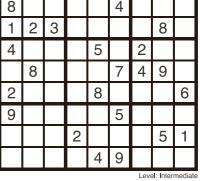
51. Cheerless

55. Sick

40. Satisfy

42. Felt

## Sudoku 4



Feb. 29 Solution

Senior Living • Rehabilitation • Skilled Nursing

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

#### the founders, Ed Thorney phasis is on acoustic music, and Jill Gibbons of Salisbury, although that can change for performers such as Wanda Houston and her band. This coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, and Salisbury voter registration day

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Registrars of Voters will hold a voter enrollment session at Salisbury Town Hall Friday, March 15, 1 to 3 p.m. The purpose of the session

will be registration and/or

enrollment of electors enti-

tled to vote in the upcoming

presidential preference primaries being held throughout the state Tuesday, April 2.

things came to a halt in

March 2020. Twelve Moons

John Nowak said the em-

On Saturday, there were

returned in April 2022.

Call the Salisbury Registrar of Voters office for more information on this and any other election-related or voter registration questions at 860-435-5175.

about 30 people on hand when a reporter arrived at 7:30 p.m., in time to catch a couple of the open mic musicians.

Peter Calo performed at Twelve Moons March 2.

PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Twelve Moons offers coffee, tea and baked goods for sale, and patrons are welcome to bring their own comestibles. There is no charge; the en-

donations. To that end, there was a large jar at the entry, with an encouraging amount of cash within. The atmosphere was congenial, and the open mic

musicians received hearty

applause and the occasional

terprise is funded entirely by

Nob **HORIZONS** 

## **OBITUARIES**

#### Diana Campbell Moore

NBERRI

Pine Plains, passed peacefully on Feb. 22, 2024. Diana was born May 4, 1938, in the Bronx, New York, to Margaret G. (Eickelberg) and Dunlap B. Campbell.

After graduating from Hastings High School in

Hastings, New York, Diana began her career as a professional figure skating instructor, which she continued into her 70's. She married C. Donald Moore on Dec. 18, 1965, and raised two children, Jeffrey and Susan. Starting out in Tarrytown, she lived across Westchester and briefly in Buffalo, New York and Oberlin, Ohio. She later lived in New Fairfield, Connecticut, until she settled in Pine Plains, where she enjoyed over twenty years of bucolic, small-town life.

Diana is survived by her loving family; son, Jeffrey D. Moore and daughter-inlaw Diane, daughter Susan L. Nicolari and son-in-law Timothy; grandchildren Thomas D. Moore and wife Sherlyn Abdullah, Daphne L. Roberts, Evan M. Roberts and his partner Andie, Samuel A. Moore, William A. Moore, Griffin R. Roberts, and Serena E. McKeever; great-granddaughter Maya S. Roberts-King; niece Megan E. Genthner and her husband Michael; grandnephew Maxfield Genthner; and her extended family and many dear friends across New York and Connecticut. Diana was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Mona Campbell Thomas, and her son-inlaw, Jeffrey R. Roberts.

Diana was absolutely adored by her grandchildren and her great-granddaughter. They had special nicknames for her: she was known as "Franny" to her Copake family, and "Tammy" to her Connecticut family. She carried pictures of them in her purse and would pull them Collaborative Cats – A cat

PINE PLAINS — Diana and recall special memories Campbell Moore, 85, of from their childhood with

> perfect clarity. Diana also loved her calico cat, Penny, who now lives with family and is receiving extra snuggles.

Diana was a United States Figure Skating Silver Medalist. She was a skating instructor

at the Riverdale Ice Rink, Rye Figure Skating Club, Hommocks Ice Rink in Larchmont, Harvey School Rink in Katonah, and several others. She trained many beginner and competitive skaters. Diana will be remembered for her love of classical and jazz music and stories about her brushes with fame. As a younger woman, she frequented jazz clubs and concerts where she saw jazz legends such as Dave Brubeck and Ahmad Jamal, and more recently, met one of her favorites, John Pizzarelli, after a performance. Diana was proud of her ability to "stretch a dollar" and her various gigs led her to babysit and paint houses for celebrities and other notables.

She also loved tag sales, thrifting, and collecting, which inspired her to join the board at Willow Roots, a nonprofit organization serving Pine Plains. There, she managed the clothing exchange, and took great care to wash, iron, and mend clothing for donation. She had a special fondness for children's clothing, toys, and books and helped many young families with gifts and clothing for their children.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, March 30, 2024, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Pine Plains Community Center above the library. The family invites Diana's family and friends to come together to share memories and celebrate a well-lived life. A luncheon will be served. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Willow Roots and In 1972, he graduated from also survived by his mother out at a moment's notice rescue in Diana's memory.

#### Paul Allen Clark

SHARON — Paul Allen during his lifetime, Bismark, Clark died peacefully on Feb. Fritz & Hans.

29, 2024, at Sharon Hospital with his devoted and loving wife, Betsy (Stanton) Clark, by his side.

Paul was born in Trenton, New Jersey, and then graduated from Western New England College in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Upon graduation he worked for United Screw & Bolt in Westfield, New Jersey, as a sales representative, covering the New England region. During this time he resided in Meriden, Connecticut, where he met Betsy. After their marriage, in Oct. 1986, they moved to Sayreville, New Jersey, where they lived for 26 years. In 1991 Paul started his own business, Precision Parts, Inc., which was a Fastener Distribution Company. After

to Sharon. In his youth, Paul sang and travelled to Europe with the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Choir of Westfield, New Jersey. Besides music, his other interests included travelling with family and friends all throughout Europe, reading, playing cards, being the expert "chef" for holiday meals and best buddy to the three doxies he had

retiring in 2012, they moved

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his two sisters, Nancy Aurand of Marietta, Georgia and Amy Demos and her husband Darryl of Duxbury, Massachusetts, as well as his nieces and nephews who he

loved very much.

A memorial service will be held at the Kenny Funeral Home Tuesday, March 5, from 11 a.m. to noon followed by a celebration of life. Private interment services will be held in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Sharon Volunteer Ambulance, P.O. Box 357, Sharon, CT. 06069.

Navigating FOIA compliance locally By Riley Klein

CORNWALL - In a Thursday, Feb. 29, training session at The Cornwall Library, Russell Blair, director of education and communication at the state Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC), delved into the intricacies of transparency and accountability in govern-

The Freedom of Information Act, inspired by the Watergate scandal of the 1970s, aimed to empower citizens by allowing them to witness decision-making processes.

Blair emphasized the importance of adhering to specific standards during town meetings and properly handling public records. With 600-700 complaints received annually, officials must navigate these guidelines to prevent violations.

From posting meeting agendas to timely filing minutes, small towns like Cornwall can face challenges in maintaining transparency and avoiding pitfalls.

Blair explained there are specific standards that must be met for town meetings and public record-keeping. If the standards are not met, FOIC can nullify the votes taken at any improper meet-

Agendas for regular and special meetings must be posted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. No

Eugene "Gene" C. Blood-

good Sr., 70, of Pine Plains

Village,

passed away in

Connecticut on

March 4, 2024,

surrounded by his

loving family. He

was born in Valley

Stream, New York,

the son of Clarence

and Frieda (Rau)

Bloodgood. At the

age of 13, his fam-

Stissing Mountain High

School. At 16, he began his

career as a butcher at Meill-

er's Slaughter House in Pine

Plains until his retirement in

2019. He married his wife

Lara "Kim" (Hoyt) Blood-

good in 1976 and together

they moved to Pine Plains.

Gene was a hard working

man, who had a multitude of

talents. He could build any-

thing and was always will-

ing to lend a helping hand

to anyone in need. Gene's

family was always his first

joyed hunting, fishing, boat-

ing and camping, especially

camping with his family in

the Adirondacks. Saranac

Lake, Lake George, and Ti-

conderoga were some of his

favorite towns to visit with

his family. He also enjoyed

watching baseball and foot-

ball and was an avid Mets

In his free time, Gene en-

priority.

Falls

Eugene 'Gene' C. Bloodgood Sr.

ily moved to Stanfordville. Lara and Kimberly. Gene is

and Jets fan.

prior notice of an emergency meeting is required.

Online-only or hybrid meetings require the connection link and instructions to be posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Minutes for regular and special meetings must be filed with the town clerk within seven days of the meeting. Emergency meeting minutes must be filed within 72 hours.

"Don't wait on filing your minutes until the board approves them because if the board is not going to approve them for a month and you don't file them for that month, then that would be a violation," said Blair.

In small towns with small boards, Blair advised officials take care to avoid discussion of agenda items outside official meetings.

Blair said if "a quorum of the board is together in-person or electronically and they're talking about things that are before the board, that's what makes it a meeting under FOI" and the discussion would be subject to the same notice standards as any other town meeting.

Recordings are required for online-only meetings, but not required for in-person or hybrid meetings. Audience members can be removed from online lobbies for being disorderly, which became common practice during the pandemic due to "Zoom

Gene is survived by his

four children:

Heidi Bathrick

(Kenny), Christi-

na Swartz (Fred),

Eugene Bloodgood

Jr. (Cady), and Mi-

chelle Campbell

(Jason). Gene is

also survived by

his six grandchil-

dren: Alvssa, Liam,

Emma, Wyatt,

Frieda Bloodgood, in ad-

dition to his brother, John

his wife Lara in 2019, in

addition to his father and

brother Charles Bloodgood

ories and offering condo-

lences will be held on Friday

March 8, 2024, from 10 a.m.

to 12 p.m. at Peck & Peck

Funeral Homes, 7749 South

Main St. Pine Plains, NY. At

12:30pm, a graveside service

will be conducted in Stan-

ford Cemetery, Stanfordville,

with Rev. Andrew Smith of-

In lieu of flowers memo-

For directions or to leave

rial donations may be made

to the American Lung As-

a message of condolence for

the family please visit www.

ficiating.

sociation.

Send obituaries

to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

peckandpeck.net

A time for sharing mem-

and sister-in-law Connie.

He was predeceased by

Bloodgood (Ellen).

bombers" - unknown users who disrupt public Zoom meetings.

Public comment is not mandatory at meetings of town boards in Connecticut.

Blair said boards and commissions "can do whatever you wish with public comment." That may include restricting topics that can be discussed, setting maximum speaking times or removing public comment from meetings entirely.

Blair explained that any recorded data or information related to the conduct of the public's business is part of the public record and must be available if requested. This could include minutes, vote results, other filings, and even emails or text messages from personal accounts if the content of the message deals with public business or record-keeping.

"Any request for public records in Connecticut is considered to be an FOI request," he said.

Requests must be made in writing, for a specific record and delivered to the relevant

department. "It's not an opportunity to ask a million questions,"

Blair added. Certain records are exempt and may be withheld, including personnel files, draft documents, notes, and documents protected by attorney-client privilege.

Towns are not obligated to fulfill the request immediately but must show that efforts have been made to deliver the record in a "reasonable" timeframe.

Blair noted that delayed requests are the most common point of complaint to

To make a Freedom of Information complaint, users can submit online at portal. ct.gov/FOI or write a letter to the department at 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106. Complaints must be filed within 30 days of the reported violation.

## Worship Services Week of March 10, 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 ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon

#### 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org The Lakeville United **Methodist Church**

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, 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 Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship

Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194

#### The Smithfield **Presbyterian Church**

656 Smithfield Valley Rd. 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 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 Welco 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! w.promisedlandbaptist.org

#### **Millerton United Methodist Church**

6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday

#### 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 St. Litchfield, CT 06759 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 & Toral Saturday 9:30 AM - Shabbat Services Followed by a Congregational Kiddush

Children's Camp | Jewish Newspaper Smiles on Seniors | Cteen | YIP

#### ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception,

4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm. St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm

St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am
Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078

**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, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website

sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

#### All Saints of America **Orthodox Christian Church** 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

518-789-3138

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THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

### **EDITORIAL**

## A Hospital's History

"hen Sharon Hospital was founded in 1909, it was an eight-bed, two-nurse hospital in a rented house on Caulkinstown Road. In its first year, it served 88 patients. By the spring of 1916, thanks to the public-spirited generosity of the community that raised the funds for a building, a 16-bed hospital was officially opened.

The following day Dr. Jerome S. Chaffee, a surgical veteran of the Spanish-American War who was the moving force behind the founding of the hospital, performed an appendectomy in its new emergency room.

Over the years, the hospital underwent more expansion. In a 1969 Lakeville Journal article commemorating Sharon Hospital's 60th anniversary, its history was described as "written by thousands of dedicated people who founded it, planned its development, staffed its facilities, financed expansion programs and, in many cases, became thankful patients. The article further noted: "A special feeling permeates the whole institution. Letters from appreciative patients and relatives emphasize the fine quality of patient care and the friendly, helpful spirit of everyone involved."

While Dr. Chaffee is credited with starting Sharon Hospital, the success of the hospital as a cherished community institution that has provided acclaimed care for patients for all these decades is also due to the support from the people in our community. From the beginning, two years after the first patient was treated, a woman's auxiliary was started, with 40 charter members who made bed linens, provided free meals for special occasions and pinch hit for staff when there was a shortage. The dream of Dr. Chaffee was realized in his lifetime. He died in 1947, and the hospital has grown and been supported decade after decade by an appreciative community. However, in the last two decades, it has changed hands more than once. In 2002 it became the first for-profit hospital in the state. In a 2016 takeover, it again became a nonprofit. Then in 2019, a merger folded seven hospitals, including Sharon Hospital, into Nuvance Health.

Last week, Northwell Health, the largest nonsectarian, nonprofit health care operation in the United States and the largest health care provider in New York state, announced that Nuvance and Northwell would combine. (See story, Page A1). Pending state and federal approval, Sharon Hospital will join with Northwell, marking yet another significant milestone in the history of our rural hospital.

We can only hope that the leadership at the top of Northwell will preserve what the people of our community have built and supported and fought for over the past century, including the recent citizen campaign to retain labor and delivery services. In that engagement, the people of the state of Connecticut, represented by the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) and its Executive Director Deirdre Gifford, decided the outcome of a hospital request to terminate those services. The decision was not made by a large health care corporation.

In making the announcement last week, Northwell vowed to make significant investments in Nuvance. It would seem the timing is right. On Feb. 20, a little over a week before Northwell's announcement and citing three principal factors, Nuvance appealed to OHS to reconsider its Final Decision to deny its request to close labor and delivery. "Good cause exists for addressing the degrading conditions for operation of the L&D service in an orderly fashion...before the Hospital experiences unavoidable service suspensions or safety issues," Nuvance wrote.

Studies by the American Hospital Association point to hospital acquisitions as a way for hospitals to succeed in reducing costs and improving quality of care. Certainly the trend to hospital mergers is evident, affording scale and more standardization of care. Last year, Sharon Hospital was awarded its fourth consecutive 5-Star rating by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, based on patient experience and timely and effective care, among others. We imagine that Dr. Chaffee would be proud.



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

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

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Democrats are existential threat to women's sports

Democrats shout a lot about "existential threats." They claim that Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans are existential threats to democracy, that whites are an existential threat to minorities, that climate change is an existential threat to humanity and even to the planet.

But a real existential threat is what Democrats are doing to female sports. Their insistence that transgender athletes with male bodies

must be allowed to compete with biological females in the name of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) is causing growing numbers of females to lose athletic contests and positions they should win, and increasingly causing them to be injured in the process.

Most Democrats vote in lockstep for trans sports inclusion, while most Republicans oppose it. A majority of the public opposes it too

#### What does the Rule of Law mean in Connecticut these days?

The Office of Health Strategy denied the closure of labor and delivery at Sharon Hospital and just like Hartford Health Care did at Windham Hospital, Nuvance is ignoring that ruling.

How is that lawful?

Do Senator Harding and Representative Horn, a lawyer, not support their constituent's lawful access to safe birthing at Sharon Hospital?

Does Attorney General Tong not stand for compliance to the rules established under his jurisdiction?

The Dept. of Public Health cannot require Nuvance adhere to the ruling granting access to complete reproductive healthcare at Sharon Hospital?

Where is Governor Lamont who told me that the Office of Health Strategy has the final say, and he trusts their decisions?

Why would a new hospital system entering Connecticut respect the Office of Health Strategy's ability to establish rightful access to healthcare if the state leadership does not enforce the rulings?

**Deborah Ritter Moore** 

reported by NBC.

The majority believes. correctly, that biological males who declare themselves female cannot be allowed to participate in female sports that rely on strength, speed, endurance, height, weight, reach, lung capacity, etc. Trans athletes with fully intact male bodies simply cannot be allowed to overpower biological females on the playing field and then shower with them afterwards.

No self-respecting athlete should even want to compete under such circumstances. College pitchers who strike out Little Leaguers are not heroes, they're frauds. The fact that trans athletes who were also-rans as males are taking trophies from female Olympians is a travesty, but this is the Democrats' new DEI reality.

Since testosterone treatments do not adequately reduce the advantages of trans athletes, those athletes should compete in trans categories or with males, or not at all. If that's not inclusive enough, they should hang

Yet the science of biological reality is not evident to Democrats who cannot even define "woman" anymore and who simply ignore the fact that biological sex has a far greater influence on ath-

- nearly 70% in a Gallup poll letic ability than "declared" gender identities.

> After adamantly supporting Title IX for 50 years, Democrats should be adamantly opposed to trans athletes throwing biological females around like rag dolls, causing injuries and invading their privacy.

But most Democrats simply genuflect at the altar of DEI with platitudes about "diversity" and "inclusion." Either they really believe this, or they just hope the issue will go away. But it won't go away without leadership.

Women like Riley Gaines and Martina Navratilova are providing real leadership, but where are Democrats like Jahana Hayes and Maria Horn? Evidently party loyalty trumps justice, fairness, privacy and even safety.

You can declare yourself whatever gender you want, but biological sex is a fact. (Your sex, by the way, was accurately "recorded" at birth - it was not arbitrarily "assigned" as left-wing activists and journalists want you to believe.)

The Democrats' entire DEI edifice is full of false strictures and ultimatums on everything from sports to race to education. If you disagree with them, they threaten your existence. Vote them out.

Mark Godburn

#### FFA article rekindles memories

Your front page headline, "Housatonic FFA testifies at state budget hearing" caught my eye and pulled me into the story. Nowhere in it, however, could I find a line telling readers what the initials FFA stand for. Sprinkled in the piece were hints: "agricultural science" and "ag-ed" and "agriscience" and "future of agriculture."

Having grown up on a farm in rural Michigan, I

remember a teacher, Dale Wightman, who taught classes in a room at our high school with a large banner that read "Future Farmers of America." I wonder how many Housatonic Valley Regional High School students are FFA members and how many actually aspire to be farmers.

I never joined the FFA myself. Our 60-acre farm had poor sandy soil. We raised pigs and dairy cows. My mom and I had to handmilk 3 to 5 cows twice a day while dad kept his factory job. That experience fuelled my interest in higher education. I went to Michigan State University just down the road that used to be Michigan Agricultural College, that some called "Moo U." Its president at the time was John A, Hannah, a former poultry science major. I ended up as a journalist.

Jim Sterba

Editor's Note: The name of the organization was updated in 1988 to National FFA Organization to represent the broad range of agricultural careers fostered by the FFA.

Sharon

#### THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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## Viewpoint

#### TURNING BACK THE PAGES

Norma Bosworth

#### 100 years ago — March 1924

No word or trace has yet been heard or found of Lawrence Travis, who disappeared Feb. 16th, driving away in a Star Sedan belonging to A.S. Martin. Word was received last week of the arrest of a man giving the name of Travis at Peekskill, but upon investigation it was found to be another party whose real name was Travers. Mr. Greenville Hunter of Schenectady who is now connected with the General Electric Co. at Schenectady has been much interested in the case, being a former Salisbury lad and well acquainted with the Travis family. On Tuesday and Wednesday nights he arranged to have broadcasted from WGY, the Schenectady station, the facts of the disappearance of Travis with as complete a description of both lad and car as was possible to obtain.

SALISBURY — Mrs. Edward Williams is suffering from neuritis in one arm. Mr. Williams has also been on the sick list with tonsilitis.

LIME ROCK — Grandma Lorch is slowly improving at the Sharon Hospital.

Walter Cluff was the lucky recipient of the Ford Coupe given away at the Firemen's fair and bazaar on Friday evening.

State Policeman Theodore Woodin is in the Hartford Hospital suffering with a severe attack of tonsilitis.

Wanted — A man for general work, one who understands the care of a cow. Apply to F.E. Coffing, Salisbury, Conn.

Miss Cora Egan has the radio set, which she received at the Firemen's fair, now installed and the family is now listening in every evening.

#### 50 years ago — March 1974

A second group of investors advised by rail expert Richard A. Snyder of Lakeville is now vying for a state charter to provide freight service from the Danbury area north to Canaan on the moribund Penn Central Berkshire Line. The first group, headed by Bruce Kaiser of Waterbury, is due for a hearing Thursday afternoon before the General Assembly's Transportation Committee in Hartford. It announced its plan in New Milford three weeks ago for a freight and eventual passenger operation that would be called the Berkshire Railroad. The second group is composed of men now operating small rail lines in upper New York State. In addition to the counsel of Mr. Snyder, a former Amtrak executive who has restored the Canaan Union Station, it has the backing of Kent First Selectman Eugene O'Meara and State Rep. Gordon Vaill of Goshen.

Canaan sanitarian Chuck Wohlfert has completed tests on a series of wells on the Old Turnpike Estates in East Canaan that may possibly be contaminated, and is now awaiting results of the testing. Mr. Wohlfert said the tests were undertaken after nitrates were discovered in one of the wells. He said it is not possible at this time to pinpoint the source of contamination. He said nitrates are the result of sewage or could come from fertilizer used by farmers. It appears "unlikely" that septic systems are causing the East Canaan problem because "to the best of my knowledge, the systems meet the code requirements," he said, adding that testing the wells around the contaminated well is strictly "routine."

Seventeen-year-old Joanne Erickson of Salisbury has been named to the 1974

Eastern Junior National Cross Country Ski Team. Joanne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Erickson, was selected on the basis of her fine season record, and her performance at the Junior Eastern Championships held last Sunday at Holderness, N.H.

#### 25 years ago — March 1999

The dreaded word is again spreading around Sharon Hospital – layoffs. Ken Roberts, director of community relations, said an announcement will be made Friday as to the details of the impending action. He said he was unable to discuss any other aspects of the layoffs or financial picture of the institution, nor could he release the positions involved until those affected are notified.

Marshall Miles, who was well known as the morning voice and station manager at WQQQ-FM (103.3) is now working at Metro News Network in Hartford. He is currently producing, writing and anchoring news at the organization, which is similar to Associated Press. The broadcasts go all around the state and into Massachusetts, he said. He also continues to work on the news desk at radio station WDRC in Hartford on Saturdays.

A Canaan family has been chosen out of a pool of 13 to live in the Habitat for Humanity Northwest Connecticut Affiliate's house that will be constructed on Sand Road. Karen and Paul Bartomioli and their six children were the choice of the group's family selection committee. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bartomioli have resided and been employed in the Canaan-Lakeville area for the past seven years

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

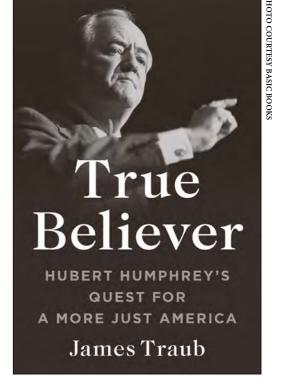
## 'Greatest president we never had'

ow do you 'do justice?' How do you balance idealism with pragmatism?" asked James Traub, elucidating a key theme of his latest book, "True Believer: Hubert Humphrey's Quest for a More Just America."

Traub, a journalist, professor at NYU Abu Dhabi and Sharon resident, will be speaking about the book at the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon on Sunday, March 10 at 4 p.m.

"True Believer" follows Humphrey, a pharmacist's son with more hours in the day than Beyoncé, from his idyllic childhood in Doland, South Dakota, through his remarkable political career as chairman of the liberal, anti-communist Americans for Democratic Action (expunger of the Communist elements in Minnesota's Democratic and labor machines), Mayor of Minneapolis (destroyer of organized crime and obstructer of government corruption), Senator for Minnesota (champion of labor and liberalism, anti-communism, Soviet containment, foreign aid, nuclear nonproliferation and civil rights), Vice President to Lyndon Johnson (enforcer of the Civil Rights Act and, distressingly, a mouthpiece for Johnson's position in Vietnam), presidential candidate for the United States. In his last decade Humphrey served as a Democratic "elder statesman" — a powerful advocate for disarmament, foreign aid, civil rights, employment opportunity, housing opportunity, "law and order and justice," people with disabilities, the aging, for labor, and pretty much everyone else).

"The question I always begin with is, why should anybody who didn't live through that moment read this book?" said Traub, a journalist who has written eight books, on affairs foreign and domestic, as well as writing for The New Yorker, The New York Times, Foreign Affairs and others, and authors his own ominously-titled Substack, "A Democracy, If You Can Keep It"



## WHAT WE'RE READING MAUD DOYLE

"[Humphrey's] brand of pragmatic, incremental, melioristic idealism is really important," said Traub. "Biden, too, is a meliorist who is blamed for timidity on the left—he too suffers from the sense among so many progressives that he's failed their high hopes," as Humphrey did. "So those lessons, to me, are both perennial and particularly relevant to our moment."

Humphrey was an idealist, but he was also a legislator, a statesman in a sense that seems almost archaic today. In the name of progress, he encouraged his colleagues not just to accept "half a loaf," but, at times, to content themselves with crumbs. He believed that incremental change could lead to real change, and during his lifetime, that was true.

Reading True Believer as a millennial, I was also fascinated by another central theme of Humphrey's story: the role that race has played in the undoing of the American liberal consensus, which governed the country's politics from FDR's election in 1932, through Dwight Eisenhower's Republican administration, until the "law and order" election of Richard Nixon in 1968.

According to Traub, it was Humphrey who succeeded in making Civil Rights a central tenet of the Democratic Party in 1948, and who, after a solid two decades of arm-twisting, politicking, speechifying and, above all, talking — more or less nonstop — finally succeeded in passing the Civil Rights Act in 1964. This month marks the sixtieth anniversary of the introduction of the watershed legislation.

The Civil Rights Act, "perhaps the most important piece of legislation" to come out of the 20th century, said Traub, "was both the apogee" of the nation's liberal ideal and, in a sense, its undoing: Once Black Americans had been legally elevated to equal footing with their white compatriots, white labor began to vote conservative for the first time in the country's history.

"Anybody who writes about history sees profound patterns in human life and in human society, which are constantly recurring," said Traub. "If you're thinking about the nature of power, and how certain people wind up in power, that's a perennial question."

## An unwarranted attack on academia

Por the first time in its 157-year history, the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the US House of Representatives has issued a subpoena to an educational institution, Harvard University, to appear before them and to provide them with a voluminous assortment of documents and internal communications. Harvard officials issued a statement calling the subpoena "unwarranted."

The Education Committee has given Harvard a new deadline of March 5 to submit additional material regarding any and all antisemitic activity at the University since 2020. In a statement, Committee Chairwoman Virginia Foxx said, "I will not tolerate delay and defiance of our investigation while Harvard's Jewish students continue to endure the firestorm of antisemitism that has engulfed its campus."

In the first phase of the investigation starting last December, the Education Committee invited the presidents of Harvard, The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Pennsylvania to be interviewed about events on their campuses since the Oct. 7 attack on Israel by Hamas.

The widely televised interviews of presidents Magill (Penn), Gay (Harvard), and Kornbluth (MIT) seemed

#### OCCASIONAL OBSERVER Mac Gordon

inquisitorial, especially under the questioning of Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) who demanded ves or no answers to several of her questions rather than letting the presidents each answer in their own way (a technique reminiscent of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy). During their conversation, Stefanik told Gay that he should resign for "harboring and fostering" antisemites at Harvard. At the end of her interrogation, Stefanik, with a smile, said to Foxx, "one down, two to go." Within a few days, two of the three presidents, Magill and Gay, had resigned their positions; Kornbluth survived the attacks from the Committee and others. Critics from all sides complained that Gay and Magill had not given good account of themselves and their universities' positions, perhaps because they had not adequately prepared for such tough, hostile questioning.

Billionaire alumni from Penn and Harvard began campaigns to fire the presidents and other officials and to cut gifts from all sources to their respective universities. At Penn, board member and

major donor Marc Rowan also called for the dismissal of President Magill and other university officials, as well as any students involved in antisemitic activities. At both universities, groups of major donors have been formed to threaten withholding of funds unless major actions to quell antisemitism were instituted. Similar efforts are now underway at several other campuses including Stanford, Wellesley, Cornell and Columbia.

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2020.

Not long after the ruthless Oct. 7 Hamas attack, a demonstration against the subsequent Israeli counterattack was held in front of Harvard's Hillel House. A letter signed by members of more than 30 groups condemned Israel and stated that the Hamas sneak attack was actually caused by Israel. This letter was widely distributed, angering many pro-Israel individuals and groups. Within a few days, a large truck with illuminated signs and giant photos and personal information about the letter-writing leaders parked around Harvard Square and elsewhere. Additionally, efforts were made to "doxx" the signers of the letter.

A group of students chanting the word "Intifada" is hardly adequate cause for a congressional investigation. Considering the severity of the Israeli counterattack, still continuing after more than four months, largely on the residents of Gaza where more than 30,000 civilians have already been killed by the Israeli military, it is surprising that the campuses have remained as quiet as they have, a tribute perhaps to Harvard and Penn's attempts to calm the situation. However, the recent resignation of professor Raffaella Sadun, chairwoman of Harvard's Task Force on Antisemitism, indicates that campus unrest is still simmering.

The Education Committee's stated purpose of investigating antisemitism and Islamophobia on college and university campuses is not the only matter on their mind (Islamophobia has yet to be discussed). Chairwoman Foxx was quick to acknowledge that concerns about DEI, "woke" influence

throughout higher education and other educational concerns would be looked at by her committee.

It is hard not to see the Education Committee's investigation as mostly a Republican campaign effort to find something with which to attack Democrats. Rep. Stefanik, characterized Gay's resignation as "only the beginning of the reckoning that's coming for the 'woke' left-wing college administrators" whose "institutions are rotten to the core!" Chairwoman Foxx has long criticized the American educational system. In a recent interview she spoke of "a hostile takeover of higher education by partisan administrators and political activists." But in framing the investigation on antisemitism on campus and the supposedly "inadequate response to it by university administrators," many see this as a right wing "fishing expedition" designed to attack academic freedom using antisemitism as an excuse.

Antisemitism seems but a pretext here for a partisan political attack on higher education and its elite institutions, an election year ploy.

Architect and landscape designer Mac Gordon lives in Lakeville and graduated from Harvard (B.A.) and Penn (M. Arch).

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bringing a few wood frogs across the road to avoid the traffic up on Taconic Rd. They are the first to make the run to the vernal pools for their mating season and unfortunately there is a high percentage of road kill, so it would be good to be aware of that as we drive on a rainy spring night. Vernal pools exist only for a few months and then usually dry up in the summer. They are essential for amphibians to breed and are protected watercourses in Connecticut. For more information please visit: portal.ct.gov/DEEP/ Water/Wetlands/Vernal-Pools for more information. I also found this website from the University of Maine to be very helpful in understanding the importance of vernal pools and why it is so important to protect them from over development: www. vernalpools.me

Spent last Saturday night in the rain



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## **Sports**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BBIG LIVE NETWORK

Kent's captains posed with the NEPSAC trophy.

## **Kent wins NEPSAC** hockey tournament

By Riley Klein

CAMBRIDGE, MASS. Kent School boys hockey reached glory Sunday, March

Seeded fifth in the New England Prep School Athletic Conference (NEPSAC) Martin/Earl Large Tournament, Kent overcame the odds and took home the trophy.

The championship game against Dexter Southfield School was played at Harvard's Bright Landry Hockey Center March 3. In a game that was tied nearly the entire match, Kent scored the winning goal with just 47 seconds remaining to claim a 3-2 victory.

Kent's star senior Gio Di-Giulian scored twice, including the game-winner. Owen Mahar scored as well for the Lions.

Goalie Aiden Hopewell was a brick wall in the net and kept Kent in the game despite a relentless barrage of shots-on-goal for Dexter.

Kent's tournament run began with a 5-1 win over Deerfield Academy on the road. The Lions then had homecourt advantage in the second round against Berkshire School. Kent defeated Berkshire 5-4.

Kent hockey last won the NEPSAC title in 2019. Girls basketball

Kent School girls basketball made it to the Class A championships March 3. A commanding tournament run for the Lions concluded in a 47-39 loss to Founder's League rivals Loomis Chaf-

Loomis led from start to finish on the way to their third consecutive NEPSAC trophy. In the previous round, the Pelicans defeated The Hotchkiss School 75-51.

Leading up to the championship, Kent defeated Buckingham Browne & Nichols School 63-52 in the first round and beat Sacred Heart Greenwich 55-41 in the semifinals.



The Lions gathered at center ice for a trophy photo.

## Basking in the angler's apricity

This time of year the angler has to be alert. Because America needs more lerts. Hahaha.

The preceding joke is courtesy of James Fenimore Cooper Middle School, Mc-Lean, Virginia, ca. 1975.

Between Thursday, Feb. 15, and Saturday, Feb. 17, the weather warmed up considerably. This coincided with a lack of rainfall.

So I shifted the schedule around to allow for a couple hours' worth of fishing on those days.

Thursday at the Blackberry was a bust. It was a bust mostly because I forgot things and had to trudge back to the car. Twice. Also the fish didn't get the memo.

Friday I trundled down to Macedonia State Park in Kent. This stream gets stocked pretty heavily by the state in the spring, meaning April or May. Maybe March if conditions allow.

There are two distinct sections of interest and accessibility. The first is below a series of boulders and rock shelf that's not quite a waterfall but is definitely more than a bunch of big rocks. There is a big inviting pool that is just a short scramble from the small parking area right by the sign announcing you are in the park.

As far as I can tell, you can fish downstream of here for maybe 200 yards before posting appears. The stream just above this formation is posted for a little bit.

This too was a bust, although I gave it a good going over.

Undeterred, I proceeded upstream into the area that is unambiguously open for fishing. It was also open for hiking and for day-tripping.

So I had company as I prowled the dirt road that runs right by the stream.

I used a Tenkara rod, the Dragontail Mizuchi if you care. A dry-dropper technique proved effective, in this case a Chubby Chernobyl up top and a series of weighted nymphs below.

I lost the Chubby to a tree branch that snuck up on me. Cunning creatures, those bare tree branches.



On the first pass, my shadow fell on the water just below this bridge, and dark shapes darted for cover. On the way back, I low-crawled up to it and horsed up a brown trout.



TANGLED LINES Patrick

So I deployed a Parachute Adams, which generated a couple of strikes and one hook-up.

All told, in two hours, four extremely skinny brown trout in the 10-12 inch range came to the net, except I forgot the net.

I went back Saturday and used an old bamboo fly rod instead, a 7-foot five weight Phillipson I've had for 40

Same thing, pretty much, except I had more company.

The strategy is to look for soft water, as opposed to roiled up, foamy white water. This means covering a lot of ground fast, and not pausing to beat a particular run or lie to death.

An old adage: If they haven't taken your fly after three tries, you're just boring them.

The tricky part at Macedonia, especially on Friday, was that at between noon and 2 p.m. standard time, the sun was right behind me as I worked up the stream from the roadside. Two or three times, my shadow sent fish scurrying for cover.

Keeping a low profile was critical.

This means kneeling, of-

ten on rocks.

This never used to bother me, but I am old and creaky



To counter boring photos of fish in nets, I offer this exciting photo of a fish waiting for me to get my act together and release it.

I went to Herrington's the recently and described what I was looking for — a lightweight, non-bulky set of knee pads with Velcro fasteners for choice that would fit over waders.

The young man who helped listened intelligently and supplied the desired item.

They are sturdy, easy to put on and take off, and cost \$30 and change.

The only catch is that it looks goofy, somewhere between Mad Max and Yogi

"Game-changer" is an overused term, but it applies

As I type this, the temperature outside has plummeted and there is snow in the forecast.

So the lesson is to be ready to take advantage of these opportunities.

A brief aside: I was asked recently, and not for the first time, about how I decide whether or not to name a stream.

It's worth repeating, so here goes.

If a stream is listed in the state Angler's Guide, I will name it. It is public information, easily found, and I am not giving away any secrets.

If a stream is not listed, I do not name it. The curious will have to find it the way I did — by word of mouth, by looking at maps and by getting out there and trudging around.

## Housy seeks Hall of Fame nominations

FALLS VILLAGE - The Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) Athletic Department and the Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is now accepting nominations for the next class of inductees.

The Athletic Hall of Fame (HOF), which was created in 1996, recognizes former athletes, coaches and community members who have made outstanding personal and athletic contributions to HVRHS.

The HOF class of 2024 will be announced in June. The induction into the HOF will culminate with an awards ceremony and luncheon in October, where the nominees will be recognized.

All nominations will be due by Wednesday, May 1. Nomination forms will be available online at HVRHS. org under the Athletics tab. Forms may be submitted via email at amacneil@hvrhs.org or regular mail. Send regular mail forms to:

Housatonic Valley Regional High School c/o Athletic Department

Attn: Athletic Hall of Fame

246 Warren Turnpike Falls Village, CT 06031



Edward Tyburski Jr. was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame with the class of 2022.





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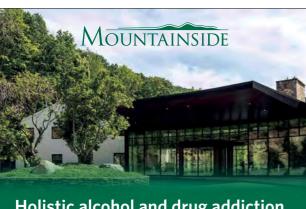
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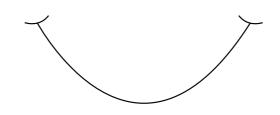
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#### NUVANCE

#### Continued from Page A1

In a statement, Dr. John M. Murphy, president and CEO of Nuvance Health, said that "By joining forces with Northwell Health, we are taking a giant leap forward in our shared mission to enhance the quality, accessibility and equity of the health care we provide to our communities."

In their joint announcement, the two companies stated that "Northwell will make significant investments in Nuvance Health," and that the "integration" would create more, and better, health care jobs.

Asked what this means in Sharon, Sharon Hospital President Christina McCulloch noted that "the details of what will happen, if all gets approved" and the Nuvance system becomes part of Northwell Health, "are yet to be determined." But, she said, "Northwell has agreed to invest in all of the [Nuvance] hospitals if this does come to be" and if the deal gets approved, the agreement will strengthen SH's ability to provide care."

"The news of Nuvance's merger into Northwell Health comes at a time of general consolidation of healthcare systems across our state," observed State Rep. Maria Horn

"I understand the financial challenges Nuvance has been facing," said Senate Republican Leader Stephen Harding, whose district includes New Milford and Sharon. He continued: "I am encouraged to hear that 'patient-facing' jobs are not in jeopardy. I am also encouraged to hear that key investments will be made and that health care access will be increase."

Harding added: "however, like many, I have significant concerns for myself and my fellow neighbors in the 30th Senate District. Ensuring that

#### Sharon Hospital Timeline

1909 — Sharon Hospital is founded in a rented house by Dr. Jerome Chaf-

**1916** — A new building opens with 16 beds and three nurses.

**1947** — Chaffee dies. **2002** — The nonprofit hospital is purchased by Essent Healthcare of Tennessee, becoming a the first for-profit hospital in the state. A group called Save the Hospital was formed to protest the sale.

**2011** — Essent Healthcare merges with RegionalCare Hospital Partners, also based in Tennessee.

**2016** — Health Quest

existing medical services in our local hospitals remain fully open and operational, particularly Sharon Hospital's Labor and Delivery Unit, is of the utmost importance to me, and I hope it remains of utmost importance to Connecticut's Office of Health Strategy as they review this merger."

McCulloch noted that the arrangement between Nuvance and Northwell is not legally considered a merger or an acquisition but an "agree-

Also noting Nuvance's financial difficulties, District 19 **Dutchess County Legislator** Chris Drago said he hoped that this deal would end Nuvance's attempts to cut services at Sharon Hospital. He also said that he hopes that it will improve the hospital's ability to attract and retain staff and medical talent to better serve the community.

"I do worry that typically consolidation drives cost up and quality down," he said. "I'm cautiously optimistic."

Horn shared: "In my conversations with Sharon Hospital leadership, it has been takes over Sharon Hospital from Essent and it becomes a nonprofit again. Health Quest was formed from the merger of three hospitals: Vassar Brothers in Poughkeepsie; Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck; and Putnam Hospital Center in Car-

2019 — Health Quest merges with Western CT Health Network with hospitals in Danbury, Norwalk and New Milford, to

become Nuvance Health. 2024 — Northwell Health announces plan to combine with Nuvance

suggested that the significant resources of the new system will lead to increased support for Sharon Hospital and the community it serves. I look forward to learning about the system's strategic commitment to Sharon Hospital specifically, and look forward to a public process at which these questions can be addressed."

Nuvance and Northwell describe an "integrated healthcare system." The organizations say that the deal will grant "local communities" access to "coordinated care across western Connecticut, the Hudson Valley, New York City and Long Island." They also promise that both Northwell and Nuvance will "continue to provide care to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay."

The terms of the deal, which is still subject to state and federal approval, are not clear for Sharon Hospital, said McCulloch.

Amy Forni, a spokeperson for Nuvance Health, says that Nuvance expects to be filing for approval for the agreement in the coming months.

#### HEALTH CENTER

Continued from Page A1

at higher risk for avoidable care."

#### Personalized attention regardless of status

Accessibility to all is a common refrain among alliance members.

"Our patient-centered care model will ensure that each individual receives personalized attention, regardless of their financial circumstances or insurance status," said Borduas. "The focus on individualized care is integral to our mission of promoting health equity."

The North Canaan facility, she explained, will offer integrated medical and behavioral health services, providing a one-stop destination for comprehensive

"This approach ensures that patients can access a range of services conveniently, addressing both physical and mental health needs," Borduas explained.

The expansion of services is also projected to have a positive economic impact on the community, noted Borduas.

"This includes the creation of new jobs, both directly within our organization and indirectly through support services. By contributing to the local economy, we aim to strengthen the overall well-being of our community."

CHWC participates with most state and commercial insurance plans, utilizing a sliding fee scale to ensure accessibility for individuals of all financial backgrounds. Serving more than 6,000 patients, the not-for-profit organization, and the sole federally qualified health center in the rural Northwest Corner, operates health centers in Torrington and Winsted in addition to the North Canaan facility.

The organization offers physical and mental health services through schoolbased health centers in all Torrington schools with plans to expand to three schools in the Region One

#### A 20-year vision fulfilled

Nancy Heaton, president and CEO of FCH, expressed excitement that after two decades of planning, the new health center has become a reality:

"As we mark FCH's 20th anniversary, there is no better way to celebrate than by fulfilling our vision of supporting CHWC's new regional health care center to address our rural health care crisis. Heaton's foundation,

which serves a rural 17town region where Northwest Connecticut and the Greater Harlem Valley meet, has contributed \$1.3 million for the purchase of the North Canaan property and project needs, plus an additional \$650,000 toward startup costs, adding to a \$3 million bond secured with the help of state Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) from the state toward construction.

"CHWC's impact aligns seamlessly with FCH's mission to improve health, well-being and equity in our communities," said Heaton. "Our longstanding partnership with CHWC reflects our dedication to supporting vital initiatives that address the root causes of health dispar-

As an example, she noted that "there is only one other primary care provider just for North Canaan. We need to have 20 just to meet the needs?

#### Fund for the **Northwest Corner**

A funding boost also came from BTCF, which oversees its Fund for the Northwest Corner, an endowed area fund which the foundation has built over the years to be a permanent resource for the communities in the Northwest Corner.

That organization, headed by its president, Peter Taylor, has contributed \$155,000, including \$40,000 from the Fund, to bolster the initiative by providing monetary support for physician recruitment and strategic planning to launch a development program which will be critical to expanding and sustaining the North Canaan

Since 1987, BTCF has strengthened communities through philanthropy and leadership in northwest Litchfield County, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, and Columbia County and northeast Dutchess County in New York.

"While the first part of our name is 'Berkshire,' we were actually established in the Northwest Corner by local residents in Salisbury and Lakeville," Taylor explained. "Our roots are strongest in the Northwest Corner."

Taylor noted that over the years, the need for primary care "has just been growing."

He said employers benefit when employees have easy access to their medical providers and other health care services, reducing the need for time off.

"It benefits not only their workforce, but the employee's quality of life." The same goes for seniors who live in rural areas, noted Taylor.

Taylor credited FCH's Heaton and CHWC's Borduas with "patience and persistence" in bringing the long-planned project to fru-

"These two are really, together, just a dynamic partnership in terms of working with all the colleagues that are immediately surrounding them. It's really an example of visionary leadership."

#### BROADBAND

Continued from Page A1

noted that at least one home Task Force members and the additional cost to the town. Super Bowl Sunday.

Looking ahead, Drew said that Comcast is planning to hold at least one community meeting, perhaps in April, at which company representatives will answer any questions, offer technical advice and show residents how to use the Comcast website.

In the spring, the task force is planning a celebration at the Town Beach on Mudge Pond to mark completion of the project, giving a special cheer because Comcast has agreed to install service at the site to enable Wi-Fi calling for the first time. Drew said that cell service at the beach has always been all but impossible, so the service will enhance safety and convenience.

Veterans' Field has also been wired for internet and Wi-Fi as a part of the project, Drew noted.

There have been challenges to the project along the way, although Drew said that they were not unexpected.

"We do now better understand why universal access [making high-speed internet available to every single address in town] is so hard to achieve. The application process for licensing more than 700 individual utility poles took months," she said, noting, however, that the issue was expected.

"The Comcast project managers have been great to work with and the people working in Sharon are terrific," Drew said. Lancaster had returned the compliment, praising the diligent needs of the project. Lancaster brings a history of 37 years of experience with Comcast.

Problems have arisen. however, when residents have contacted the corporate offices, particularly when trying to subscribe for Xfinity mobile phone service in connection with their service packages. Drew cited complaints about interfacing with robots online and by phone bringing frustration to the new customers, who are also suffering delays and confusion when they are ready to sign up for service packages.

Drew suggested that residents needing help with service packages might call 800-934-6489 or go online to: www.xfinity.com/learn/ deals/internet

Praising Lancaster as a "can-do" person, Drew went on to applaud the Comcast project team serving the Sharon project, specifically Matt Skane and Elizabeth Calabrese, for being "accessible and responsive."

As the project winds down, the task force members continue videoconferencing with the Comcast project team every two weeks, identifying specific addresses where issues exist and seeing that those issues are resolved, keeping the homeowner informed along the way.

Reflecting the good relationship built between Comcast and the town, Drew said that Skane and Calabrese were successful in convincing Comcast to add

do the in-home installations, Dan Dodge and Steve Wabrek, have also earned praise from residents for their patience and clear explanation of the service.

#### 'Night and day'

Asked for comments about their satisfaction with the new high-speed internet, two residents termed it "night and day."

Ellsworth resident Larry Rand wrote that several weeks ago, Comcast had installed a new modem in Rand's home, replacing a wireless system.

"We immediately went from download speeds of 1-70mbps (upload 10mbps) with daily rebooting to a dependable download speed of 250-350mbps (upload 50-80mbps). It has been like going from night to day."

"We are thankful Sharon decided to extend Comcast coverage to areas like ours," Rand said.

"I felt like I took off a blindfold that I had not realized I was wearing in the first place" said John Brett of Drum Road. He said

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MARCH MADNESS SHOE

It's a SLAM-DUNK!

phase is winding down. She work of the SharonConnect addresses to the project at no that his connectivity went from 2.03mbps for a downreceived its installation on town as being crucial to the Comcast technicians who load (upload .035mbps) to

356mbps (upload 11.6mbps). "You get the idea, basically night and day," Brett said.

Kate Stiassni, a Boland Road resident with a long driveway, is no less pleased. "I think this SharonConnect is a great story," she said, crediting a group of "smart, dedicated Sharon residents" for their years of effort to solve the problem of poor internet service.

Stiassni's service was connected during the summer. A builder by profession, she indicated that she can now send and receive heavy architectural files. As a textile artist, she can send high-resolution images of her works without cringing when she hits the "send" button. Her musician son said that he is no longer stressed by her internet service when he visits. She herself can now download a book in under five minutes rather than the previous rate of five hours.

"I am a pretty normal person with pretty normal everyday needs who can now live convincingly in the 21st century," Stiassni said.

#### **POLLING**

Continued from Page A1

with the registrar or town clerk to vote in-person April 2 the primary election day. This is also the deadline for unaffiliated voters to enroll in a party to vote in-person April 2.

Dell, Law, and Jane Ridgway (Democratic registrar in Cornwall) all expressed some variation of "When in doubt, call or email your registrars, and please don't wait until the last minute."

The primary ballots include the following choices: Democratic Party: Joe

Biden, Dean Philips, Cenk Uygur, Marianne Williamson.

Republican Party: Ryan Binkley, Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, Donald Trump.

The completed early voting ballots are put in sealed envelopes and stored in a secure area of the familiar ballot-reading machines. Nobody touches them until after the polls close on Election Day. There is no early counting of early votes.

On the early voting days, the town halls will have the usual 75-foot restriction on politicking.

The general election Tuesday, Nov. 5, will have 14 days of early voting.



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Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

**FILM: ALEXANDER WILBURN** 

## Finding 'The Right Stuff' for a documentary

f you've ever wondered how retrospective documentaries are made, with their dazzling compilation of still images and rare footage spliced between contemporary interviews, The Moviehouse in Millerton, New York, offered a behind-the-scenes peek into how "the sausage is made" with a screening of director Richard Dewey's biographical film "Radical Wolfe" on Saturday, March 2.

Coinciding with the late Tom Wolfe's birthday, "Radical Wolfe," now available to view on Netflix, is the first feature-length documentary to explore the life and career of the enigmatic Southern satirist, city-dwelling sartorial icon and pioneer of New Journalism — a subjective, lyrical style of long-form nonfiction that made Wolfe a celebrity in the pages of Esquire and vaulted him to the top of the best-seller lists with his drug-culture chronicle "The Electric Kool-Aid

Acid Test" and his first novel, "The Bonfire of The Vanities."

The film is rife with local connections, featuring talking-head anecdotes by Wolfe's former agent and Sharon resident Lynn Nesbit as well as Wolfe contemporary Gay Talese of Roxbury and Christopher Buckley, the son of the late Sharon resident William F. Buckley Jr., who interviewed Wolfe on PBS' "Firing Line" in 1970.

Present at The Moviehouse was the film editor for "Radical Wolfe," Brian Gersten, a Millerton resident who recently worked on "Enter The Slipstream," documenting an American cycling team through the 2020 season of the Tour de France, and the film's archival producer, Rich Remsberg of North Adams, Massachusetts, a two-time Emmy winner who recently produced "Street Gang: How We Got to Sesame Street" for

Remsberg admit-

ted that in his archival search, there is a competitive sense of "trophy hunting" — the quest for a previously unseen piece of footage that will add an exclusive peek into the past of a film's subject. "The trophy-hunting aspect of [archival producing] is the rarity of a clip," he said at The Moviehouse. "I did a piece about George Lucas recently and found an interview with his high school art teacher. It was just mind-blowing. I found four interviews with Lucas before he became famous. But the director only used two minutes. And you can't get hung up on, 'But it's rare!' You have to consider how useful it is."

Remsberg added: "One of my favorite gentlemen... Tom Wolfe, Tom Wolfe, Tom Wolfe, Tom Wolfe...' And you



FILM STILL FROM "RADICAL WOLFE" COURTESY OF KINO LORBER

#### Tom Wolfe

Tom Wolfe's personal life was private. There wasn't much there, to be perfectly honest. So the substance was all in the writing," said Gersten on the documentary editing process. "If you open a book of his, it has so much style, so much is going on, and we did our best to replicate that in

the editing style of the film. I think the quick cuts are effective at certain points. At other points, you want to let the story tell itself. When Tom Wolfe describes his interaction with [then-U.S. Sen. John F.] Kennedy, there's no reason to stylize that. You want to hear Wolfe's words."

'hair thing' three or four sequences in this film times, then crossing his legs three or four times. is when Wolfe is being introduced onto all Beautiful rhythm to it, right? It's really the musithese talk shows, and we spliced 'Ladies and cality of filmmaking."

"I think, as you could tell from how we structured the film,

pastel, sand and colored

pencil to create topo-

graphical-like changes

in texture. Silhouettes of

leaves float across seismic vibration lines in the

sand while a craterous

moon emerges on the

planet seen through a

glitching kaleidoscope.

Hutnick, a resident of

Sharon and director of

artistic programming

at The Wassaic Project

will discuss his work at

in Amenia, New York,

Geary with New York

Times art writer Laura

van Straaten Saturday, March 9, at 5 p.m.

In Falls Village, the

Saturday, March 9

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horizon, all like a desert

see the rapid succession

of him entering, shak-

ing hands, doing his

**ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN** 

## Art on view this March

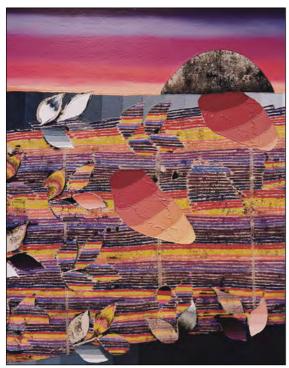


PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

"Spooky Action #2" by Will Hutnick



hile there are area galleries that have closed for the season, waiting to emerge with programming when the spring truly springs up, there are still plenty of art exhibitions worth seeking out this March.

At Geary Contemporary in Millerton, founded by Jack Geary and Dolly Bross Geary, Will Hutnick's "Satellite" is a collection of mediumand large-scale acrylic on canvas abstracts that introduce mixtures of wax

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COURTESY OF NEW RISEN

#### "Untitled" by Maureen Dougherty

white masonry exterior and revolving glass door, has recently been adopted by David Noonan and digital abstract artist Millree Hughes for the duo's self-described "roving gallery" New Risen. The second show curated by Noonan and Hughes, "Faraway, So Close" is on display through Saturday, March 23. In addition to one of Hughes' own electrically lit disco "Matrix" landscapes, the group show features a

pair of bedroom-eyed oil portraits by Maureen Dougherty, who recently exhibited at Cheim & Read before the 26-yearold New York City gallery closed its doors in December 2023, as well as an enigmatic and sensuously pouty graphite drawing of an astronaut by Judith Eisler, who lives in Warren and has exhibited work at Casey Kaplan in New York, with praise from The New Yorker's Hilton Als.



## Caught on Camera: Our wildlife neighbors

ou don't need to go to Africa or Yellowstone to see the real-life world of nature. There are life and death struggles in your wood lot and backyard," said Michael Fargione, wildlife biologist at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, New York, during his lecture "Caught on Camera: Our Wildlife Neighbors."

He showed a video of two bucks recorded them displaying their antlers, then challenging each other with a clash of antlers, which ended with one buck running off. The victor stood and pawed the ground in victory.

In another video, a bear stood on its hind legs eating hickory nuts from a tree. "Bears are omnivores and will eat just about anything that becomes available," said Fargione.

Bears first showed up on the property in 2004.

Fargione said, "Black bears have relatively poor eyesight but an excellent sense of smell." In another video, a bear ran away from the camera after catching of whiff of human scent that had been left days before by researchers were setting up cameras.

"They are typically shy and retreat when they encounter humans. Despite their large size, they move across the landscape very quietly."

Fargione added that black bears are very curious and have chewed the cameras, changed the viewing angles, and even broken a few.

#### NATURE'S NOTEBOOK ROBIN RORABACK

The trail cameras are self-contained and waterproof; they run on batteries or are solar-powered.

Cary Institute first began to use camera traps or trail cameras 10 years ago to study animals, particularly deer, on Cary's 2,000-acre property. Its researchers hoped to learn about the growth and declines of the deer population, but they got much more than they bargained for.

Fargione said that the videos captured allow researchers to study animal behaviors they are rarely privileged to see.

"Camera placement is crucial," stressed Fargione. To get different animals recorded, the biologists at Cary had to "think outside the box," which resulted in placing cameras near an old logging road by a stone wall and then by two log jams on Wappingers Creek, which runs through the Cary Institute property.

At the stone wall, they set up two cameras on either side of the old logging road. They found that "prey species use the wall to move silently through the forest without attracting predators," while "predators use the wall to move silently along and sneak up on their prey."

Wildlife using the top of the wall as a walkway and the logging road were deer, bobcats, cottontails, coyotes, turkeys, raccoons, bears and squirrels.

At the log jams on Wappingers Creek, the logs made convenient bridges for wildlife to cross the water. The logs were again used to tread quietly and quickly and evade predators or catch prey.

Those animals using the log jams were deer, bears, bobcats — notably a mother with three of her young — coyotes, turkeys and raccoons along with mallards, mergansers, a great blue heron, a mink, a fisher, a pair of wood ducks, a blue jay, a white-footed mouse and a grackle.

Rarer sightings of animals on the cameras are moose, river otters, barred owls and heron. A bull moose crossed through Cary land for a few days and a moose cow stayed for a few months. Some animals, such as the river otters and owls, aren't seen because a camera may not be in the correct location to catch their images, which is why Fargione began to "think outside the box" for camera placements.

While they don't often catch beavers on the cameras at Cary Institute, an opportunity arose when a beaver dam was causing flooding on a public road. The institute asked permission to dismantle the dam and set up cameras to record the rebuilding.

The video that was recorded showed at least two beavers carefully



COURTESY OF CARY INSTITUTE OF ECOSYSTEM STUDIES

Clockwise from upper left: Wildlife more rarely caught by trail cameras at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies: great blue heron, river otters, a bull moose, presenter and wildlife biologist Michael Fargione, a moose cow, and a barred owl.

placing branches, jamming them in the bank for stability and "placing leaves collected from the bank and carried to the site along the edge of the dam," said Fargione.

When leaving the building site, the beavers use their hind and front legs to kick up mud and pebbles from the creek bed into the dam.

Fargione noted that the "sound of running water attracts the beaver as it works back and forth along the edge of the dam." In this way they add materials to plug places where water is getting through and make the dam more secure. The beavers began building around midnight and finished a little after 3 a.m.

Another rare opportunity came when a mother fox took up residence under one of the Cary outbuildings, which was also occupied by a groundhog. Fargione commented that the groundhog "had to be very fast." While the cubs were too small to hunt it, the mother was a danger.

The cameras captured the mother fox returning from hunts with food for the cubs. One cub would grab all the food and "would not share." It also recorded the cubs play fighting and hunting and napping in the sun.

Fargione concluded with cautions on setting up cameras and citizen science opportunities; he noted that no camera should be pointed at a neighbor's property, to respect privacy, and not to trespass.

He said it is best not to give an exact address of animals' locations to keep them safe and to "respect wildlife; don't interfere with what they are trying to do: make a living."

He mentioned that those who used trail cameras could be Citizen Helpers and contribute their photos to some projects such as iSeeMammals (iseemammals.org), which collects data on black bears in New York state, and Snap Shot (app. wildlifeinsights.org/initiatives/2000156/Snapshot-USA), which tracks animal populations and distribution.

On eMammal (emammal.si.edu/participate), citizen helpers can identify and upload and archive photos for the Smithsonian. Zooniverse (www.zooniverse.org) does not require submitting photos. Helpers would identify wildlife from photos provided by Zooniverse. Both of these platforms allow regular people to contribute to real research.

Fargione commented, "Every time I check a camera, it's like going downstairs on Christmas morning and opening a present, because you never know exactly what's going to be under the tree."

## The garden is dead, long live the garden

t is indisputable that we are moving toward a new garden aesthetic. I would even go one step further to propose that gardening's "man over nature" ethos - which has a classic exemplar in the formal gardens of Versailles — is now over. Nature reminds us, with greater frequency and intensity, that she is in control, and we are beginning to come to terms with the reality that it is a fool's game to try to tame her.

As you think about your spring planting plans, slide into a new mindset. Let's call it "human abetting nature." This mindset finds beauty less in rigorous planting schemes and more in the creation of habitats. The aesthetic associated with this new mindset is, thankfully, more forgiving — not so much the baggy dress to the tailored suit, but a looser beauty that can still be shaped or contained in ways we find pleasing.

As with many of our



choices these days, mindfulness is the first step. Where are you planting?

And what are you planting there? When planting at the edge of the woods and in her fields, writer and garden designer Page Dickey will only plant natives.

EARLY 20TH CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHY

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SAT MARCH 16 3PM TALK ON GLASS SLIDE PHOTOGRAPHY

SAT MARCH 23 3:30PM TALK ON EARLY 20TH C. FASHION

SAT MARCH 16 4-6PM EXHIBITION RECEPTION

Here she has incorporated American hornbeam. Carpinus caroliniana, redbud, Cercis canadensis and gray dogwood, Cornus racemosa. In her book "Uprooted," Dickey writes about her experience moving from a home where she crafted and tended an intricate garden to her current home in Falls Village with acres of woodland, fields and fen. Instead of working to transform the land into something else, she now listens to

THROUGH MAY 3 2024

the land and responds to nurture it.

This new mindset does not mean that aesthetics are less important than before; rather, the aesthetic has shifted. In Dickey's garden beds that surround her house, she mixes non-natives with native perennials, such as her favorite

Bowman's Root, Gillenia trifoliata (The Cornwall Garden Club native plant sale will offer Bowman's Root plants among other native perennials Saturday, May 25, in West Cornwall. cornwallgardenclub.org)

Among Dickey's favorite native shrubs are Fothergilla, Clethra alnifolia, gray dogwood, Cornus racemosa, and the American cranberrybush viburnum, Viburnum trilobum. She also used Viburnum lentago, called nannyberry, in place of adding more lilac, that had originally tempted her, for a hedgerow along

Continued on next page



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#### **WBSL FM 91.7**

Serving North Canaan, CT, Sheffield and South County, MA

**MUSIC: MATTHEW KRETA** 

## Classical quartet plays Hotchkiss Library

n Sunday, March 3, The Guild at The Hotchkiss Library hosted the final concert of a series in collaboration with Music Mountain featuring the Cassatt String Quartet.

Comprised of Muneko Otani and Jennifer Lechnower on violin, Gwen Krosnick on cello and Emily Bradengurg on viola, the New York Citybased quartet has performed at venues across the globe and featured for multiple recording labels. The program contained three pieces and lasted for approximately an hour.

The afternoon of music began with String Quartet No. 1 in G Major, composed by Florence Price in 1929. This work consisted of two movements, the first of which was light and beautiful and the second of which leaned into more ominous and uncertain tones. In the first move-

ment, long, drawn-out harmonies would be interspersed with quick and upbeat portions. These changes in tempo, though surprising to the ear when they occurred, had a continual and consistent flow to them that made this beginning of the program memorable.

The quartet literally leaned quite heavily into this piece, swaying in time with the music as it explored its rich harmony. The second movement switched to a minor tonality, evoking a sound not unlike mystery film scores. It captured an almost eerie air before resolving beautifully into the familiar ground from the first movement, ending the piece on a hopeful note.

The second piece of the program was both vastly intriguing as well as the night's greatest showcase of the quartet's incredible talent. This work, "Song of the Ch'in," written by Chinese American composer Zhou Long in 1982, was made to imitate that of the zither. This complex piece was constantly changing tempo, meter and volume while employing a vast array of stringed instrumental techniques.

Heavy and slow sliding notes, pizzicato and plucking, even striking the wood of the instruments as a sort of percussion was utilized to bring this work together. The majority of the composition had at least three players plucking their strings, while the fourth either also plucked along or played a more melodic line.

The final piece was Beethoven's famous String Quartet in F Major, Opus 18 No. 1. This popular string quartet is one that many would recognize from the first few notes alone. When performing pieces such



PHOTO BY MATTHEW KRETA

#### The Cassatt String Quartet

as this, which the audience is typically more than familiar with, what the ensemble brings forward on its own merit beyond the brilliance of the composition itself.

Cassatt not only played the familiar notes beautifully, but clearly

enjoyed and connected with the music on a level beyond making sure everything was in place. This clear enthusiasm and joy of performing helped make this particular performance shine.

While this was the final concert of The

Hotchkiss Library's mini concert series, more concerts like it are in the works for the future. If you would like to assist in underwriting next year's concerts, contact Gretchen Hachmeister at ghachmeister@hotchkisslibrary.org.

## ...ungardener

Continued from previous page

a rough track on her property. From "Uprooted": "Surely I could plant something with more to offer, a plant that would enrich our wild habitat." I can attest to the beauty of this native tree which grows at the edges of our marsh. It can get as tall as 15 feet and has a wide spread if given the space and light. Flowers in spring, nutritious berries for birds in fall.

Deborah Munson is one of our area's top horticulturalists and landscape designers, who happily admits that her approach to garden design changed over the past decade: "In an ecologically driven garden/ landscape I love a wilder and much freer style where there is little to no delineation between the wild and cultivated landscape and incorporating natives as often as possible; a landscape that over time can find its own way, being nudged occasionally by the human hand, often planted to allow the plants to drive the design, allowing self-sowing and

covering ground." One of her favorite native plant combinations is "shadblow, Amelanchier arborea underplanted with our native foam flower, Tiarella cordifolia and miterwort, Michella diphylla is a favorite

combo. Add some snowdrops and white daffodils if you're not a 'native only' purist."

Out with precision edging. Out with yards of trucked-in mulch covered beds: "We can often create our own



PHOTO BY DEE SALOMON

Bowman's Root in Page Dickey's garden.

mulch on site by composting leaves and other garden debris as well as using plants as a living mulch. One should be aware that trucking in products can often bring new diseases and pests."

Key to our new mindset, Munson reminds us, is "learning about a plant's behavior... i.e. invasives (don't plant) or colonizers (be careful what you ask for.) Is it a generalist, a plant that will grow almost any condition or specialist; for example, a plant that will only grow in wetlands or only in well drained acidic conditions?"

Many of Dickey's and Munson's favorite native plants — from Redbud to Shadblow to Clethra, Sweet Fern, Viburnum Lentago and Anenome Canadensis — will be available from the Northwest Conservation District annual plant sale. You can preorder at nwcd.org and attend April 19-21 at Goshen fairground.

More on spring plant selection in next month's column. If you have any questions regarding spring planting, please send them to dee@ theungardener.com

Dee Salomon "ungardens" in Litchfield County.



#### **An Essential Resource**

2024 marks the 127th anniversary of The Lakeville Journal.
The first issue was August 14, 1897; William McKinley was President.
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### TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

#### MARCH 7

#### **Red Cross Blood Drive**

UCC Parish House, 8 Bolton Hill Road, Cornwall, Conn

A Red Cross blood drive will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RedCross or visit redcrossblood.org

#### **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.

#### MARCH 8

#### **Dance Workshops &** Performance

Battell Chapel, 12 Village Green, Norfolk, Conn.

Garet&Co dance company will host two dance workshops on March 8. The first, "What Is Contemporary Dance?", will take place from 4 to 5 p.m. and is an absolute beginner class. Join Garet to learn the basics of contemporary dance, a discussion of what dance can be, and movement material that will feel goo for everybody.

From 5 to 6 p.m., a "Contemporary Storytelling" class is for dancers of many ages and levels and will include an improvisational warmup.

Garet&Co will be performing "Interior" Saturday, March 9, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

There is a \$15 suggested donation for classes, and tickets for the performance are \$20. For more information, class registration and tickets, go to garetwierdsma.com

#### Name the Millerton 150th **Celebration!**

Millerton, N.Y.

The Village of Millerton is going to be celebrating 150 years in 2025. It is looking for help in naming the weeklong celebration. If you have a suggestion, visit docs. google.com/forms/d/e/ 1FAIpQLSd4rpOeLe\_4 Pz8A1959aSgrvy3YAa SlAQYfqQJaHojPKjHT \_g/viewform to let them know. Submissions must be entered by 5 p.m. on March 8 to be considered.

#### Salisbury Forum

Housatonic Valley Regional High School, 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village,

On March 8 at 7 p.m. at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Salisbury Forum presents "Age of Danger: Keeping America Safe in an Era of New Superpowers, New Weapons, and New Threats" with authors Thom Shanker and Andrew Hoehn interviewed by Alex Ward, former editorial director at NYTimes Books.

#### "Oppenheimer" **Screening and Talk**

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

On Friday, March 8, the Kent Memorial Library will screen "Oppenheimer" at 6 p.m. Then, on Sunday, March 9, at 2 p.m., the Library will host "The Oppenheimer Legacy: Nuclear Threats, Deterrence, and Arms Control in Today's World."

On the eve of the Oscars' consideration of the movie, the Kent Memorial Library, in association with the James A. Garfield Center for Public Leadership at Hiram College, will host an event to discuss current nuclear challenges. The guest of honor for the discussion is John A. Lauder, one of the founders of the Garfield Center.

Both events are free but require registration at kentmemoriallibrary.org/ programs-for-adults/ events-calendar

#### **Millbrook Fire Department**

**Bingo Night** Millbrook Fire Department, 20

Doors open at 5 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. Food and drinks can be purchased. No outside food or drinks allowed. \$5 admission, 50/50 raffle at 6:45 p.m. Eighteen years of age or older to enter or play.

#### MARCH 9

#### Movie & Soup: "The Quiet Man"

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

From 3:30 to 7 p.m., in celebration of St. Patrick's Day, the Grange Classic Film Series will present "The Quiet Man," a 1952 romantic comedydrama directed and produced by John Ford and starring John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara and Barry Fitzgerald. Stay after the movie for soup, salad, bread and dessert. Vegetarian options will be available. Movie admission is by donation. Dinner is \$10.

#### MARCH 10

#### **Academy Awards Viewing Party**

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

The Triplex Cinema will host a viewing party to watch the 96th Academy Awards on the big screen. The party begins on March 10 at 6 p.m. with red carpet coverage followed by the telecast at 7 p.m.

The party will feature a number of special events including a prize for best costume, based on a character from one of the nominated films; wood-oven pizza from Sheffield-based Roberto's Pizza; pre-show trivia contest with prizes; and an Oscar ballot competition with prizes. The event is free with a suggested donation of \$10. Reservations are recommended and can be made at www. thetriplex.org

#### **MARCH 15**

#### **Sourdough Bread Contest** Dewey Memorial Hall, 91 Main

St., Sheffield, Mass.

Dewey Hall will hold a sourdough bread-baking competition from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on March 15. Bakers will enter two full-size loaves of bread, one for tasting/ judging and one to be raffled off. Attendees will be invited to sample the loaves along with complementary cheese boards from Rubiner's Cheesemongers and beverages provided by DARE Bottleshop. Attendees will also have the opportunity to win loaves and other prizes via a raffle. The cost is \$15 for bakers, who must register by Monday, March 11, at forms.gle/ iPtR47RiMbUmpSeN8. Spectators may purchase tickets for \$30 each at secure.givelively.org/ event/dewey-memorialhall-inc/sourdoughbread-contest-2024

#### **MUSIC: MIKE COBB**

## Shemekia Copeland brings the blues to Norfolk March 14

uring the darkest days of the pandemic, Shemekia Copeland's anthem "Ain't Got Time For Hate" was a balm to the chaos.

The song, a rallying cry for equality, justice and peace, got frequent airplay on 98.1 KZE, an independent radio station whose motto is "Celebrating musical diversity in the Litchfield Hills, the Berkshires, and the mid-Hudson Valley."

As the daughter of legendary Texas Blues guitarist and singer Johnny Copeland, she comes from blues royalty and has spent a lifetime honing her craft. Copeland grew up around music and first stepped onstage with her father at the age of 8 in her native Harlem. By the age of 18, she'd recorded her first album with the seminal blues label Alligator Records.

Since then, she's recorded 10 albums, worked with producers Steve Cropper and Dr. John, earned eight **Blues Music Awards** and received multiple Grammy nominations. She's sung with Bonnie Raitt, Keith Richards, Carlos Santana, Dr. John and James Cotton, and shared a bill with The Rolling Stones. She's also performed with B.B. King, Mick Jagger, Buddy Guy, Trombone Shorty, Gary Clark Jr. and others at the White House for the Obamas. She earned the respect of soul legend Mavis Staples and was given Koko Taylor's crown as the New Queen of the Blues by Taylor's daughter, Cookie.

Her most recent Alligator Records release is "Done Come Too Far," whose title suggests forging ahead rather than turning back. In

her music, Copeland continues to explore her vision of America as a Black woman, a mother and an observant artist. She doesn't shy away from difficult issues that plague America such as racism, hatred and gun violence, but she appeals to unity rather than being divisive.

"The country seems incredibly polarized when I watch TV. But when people come to my shows, we try to forget all that. I'd like people to just come together and share in the one we all have in common, our love of music and a good time. Forget the news, let's party," she said.

Copeland recorded "Done Come Too Far" in Nashville with musician-songwriter Will Kimbrough, who produced her two previous albums. The album features stellar slide work by guitarist Sonny Landreth as well as a country-blues duet with Cedric Burnside, grandson of legendary Mississippi blues musician R.L. Burnside. The album also features Hammond organ by Charles Hodges, whose tones adorn records by Al Green.

About her current record, she said: "Done Come Too Far' is the last album in a trilogy that looks at America today and tries to figure out where we are and where we're going. It's direct, honest, and doesn't pull any punches but essentially optimistic. And it rocks like hell."

Whether collaborating with renowned blues musicians or appealing to her audiences, Copeland knows that music has the power to unify.

"I really believe music can be an antidote to

"She's recorded 10 albums. worked with producers Steve Cropper and Dr. John, earned eight Blues Music Awards and received multiple **Grammy** nominations."

all the hate that's going around," she said. "It's hard to hate when you're busy singing and dancing. There's no better vehicle to convey love than a song."

Inevitably, Copeland performs for people of different political persuasions as she tours the country that is increasingly divided. So how does she bring people together through music?

'There's a very fine line between encouraging people to remain positive and lecturing," she said. "Nobody likes a lecture. And I'm an entertainer, so my first job is to give people a good time. I think I'm fortunate in that the writers I work with really understand that."

Now coming out of a long hibernation, Infinity Hall Norfolk is lucky to have Copeland grace its stage Thursday, March 14. She said: "I'll be singing songs from throughout my career. You'll get to meet me, know my family dance, laugh, cry, laugh and dance again. And think about us. You and me. The way we really are, not the characters you see on TV."

Tickets can be purchased at Infinity Hall's website: www.infinityhall.



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