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



Holiday cheer at Parade of Lights



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

The annual Parade of Lights cheerfully rolled through North Canaan Sunday, Dec. 1. Brightly decorated vehicles of all sorts proceeded from the intersection of Routes 44 and 7 down Main Street and up Railroad Street to North Canaan Elementary School. The floats, adorned with holiday lights and accessories, included a variety of vehicles: fire trucks from area fire departments, pick-up trucks, semi trucks, heavy equipment, tractors, trailers, cars, all terrain vehicles, motorcycles, a cement mixer and a boat. Float riders tossed candy to spectators lining the streets. At the end of the route, those on "the nice list" got to meet Santas at NICES and submit gift requests.

Investigation underway on 'forever chemicals' found in CT water

By Alec Linden

Experts have concluded that potentially harmful chemicals called PFAS — otherwise known as forever chemicals — have contaminated some of Connecticut's water supply, though the list of possible sources for the pollution remains a topic of debate.

At the Oct. 22 meeting of the Connecticut Bond Commission, a sum of \$3 million was allocated to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for PFAS testing, research, and mitigation efforts. During the proceedings, runoff from damaged solar panels was mentioned as a potential source of PFAS entering the water.

State Sen. Holly Cheeseman (R-37) questioned how the funds would be distributed across the state, emphasizing her desire that solar panels be investigated as a source of PFAS contamination.

"We as a state have encouraged people and farmers to install solar panels," she said at the meeting. "I think it behooves us to help them mitigate any contamination."

Graham Stevens, chief of DEEP's Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, fielded Cheeseman's comments on behalf of the organi-

zation, replying that more research is needed to determine many PFAS contamination sources.

"Because they're emerging, I think the science is still working to catch up on how any PFAS that might be present in solar panels might pose a continued risk to people's drinking water," Stevens said. "This is really important in Connecticut because 23% of Connecticut uses wells for drinking," he added.

PFAS are a group of extremely resilient chemicals known as per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances that have been widely used in industrial manufacturing and consumer products since the 1940s. Their heat-, water- and oil-resistant properties which make them so useful in products such as non-stick pans, stain-proof fabric and electrical equipment also mean that they are "extremely resistant to breaking down in the environment," according to DEEP's website.

Knowledge of the chemicals' toxic and pollutive potential was not publicly widespread until the 1990s and 2000s, when research and lawsuits against companies like DuPont (whose workers fell ill after

See PFAS, Page A8

HVA bids adieu to Werner at 'Auction for the Environment'

By Debra A. Aleksinas

MORRIS — The West Cornwall-based Housatonic Valley Association's 33rd annual Auction for the Environment, held Saturday, Nov. 23, at South Farms, drew a full house as it reached its fundraising goal and provided attendees with a few unexpected surprises.

In a bittersweet moment, HVA President Tony Zunino announced that the association's long-time Executive Director, Lynn Werner, will be stepping down from the position she has held since 1995.

"We are saying goodbye to Lynn Werner. Her leadership and vision has made an indelible mark on the Housatonic Valley Association," Zunino said, eliciting thunderous applause and a standing ovation from the crowd of about 100 supporters, environmentalists and staff.

Another twist to tradition came when auction chair Christine Ba-



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Lily Cowles, co-chair of HVA's 33rd Auction for the Environment and daughter of auction chair Christine Baranski, welcomed guests to the Nov. 23 event at South Farms in Morris.

ranski, who has traditionally greeted the crowd with her trademark humor, was called up to Newport for the filming of the movie "The Gilded Age," and her daughter, Lily Cowles, stepped in to deliver the keynote address as auction co-chair.

The activist, writer and movie producer did her mother proud during her first HVA auction as she

spoke of "this sweet valley" where she grew up as a child and returned to as an adult.

"Our Housatonic Valley is sacred ground, and we gather today to honor that," Cowles said. "I was born and raised here, and recently swam upstream to return to the

See HVA, Page A8

Inland Wetlands Commission signs off on Wake Robin expansion

By Alec Linden

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission voted to approve, with conditions, ARADEV LLC's application to expand the Wake Robin Inn at the Nov. 26 special meeting.

The decision comes after two consecutive nights of back and forth between the IWWC and the applicant, with Landscape Architect Mark Arigoni of SLR Consulting fielding the majority of the Commission's questions.

At the Nov. 25 IWWC regular meeting, Arigoni stated that he did not have a new presentation for the Commission, but rather reviewed updated plans that included adap-

tations responding to the project third party engineer Tom Grimaldi's review and previous comments from the IWWC.

The conversation resumed the next night, with attorney Josh Mackey, who represented the applicant, appealing to the "spirit of the holidays." "We hope to get your vote tonight," he said.

The final comments from the IWWC centered mostly around invasive species management, as the group requested that an Invasive Species Management Plan be a condition to their approval of the application. IWWC Secretary Sally Spillane cautioned the applicant to

See WAKE ROBIN, Page A8

See related story on Page A3.



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Online This Week

Santa comes to Cornwall

Cornwall Town Hall got a visit from Santa and the Grinch Saturday, Nov. 30. Watch the video on Instagram @lakevillejournal

POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

The following information was provided by the Connecticut State Police at Troop B. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Arrest on Main Street

On the evening of Nov. 24, troopers were dispatched from Troop B to a disturbance at 85 Main St. in North Canaan. After an investigation, troopers arrested Patrick Piljar, 30, of Canaan for criminal mischief in the third degree and breach of peace in the second degree. Piljar was released on a \$1,000 non-surety bond, and was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on Nov. 25 at 10 a.m.

Man turns himself in on multiple warrants

On Nov. 27, Wesley Rivera, 37, of the Bronx, New York, turned himself in at Troop B on multiple warrants for his arrest. He was taken into custody and processed at Troop B for failure to appear in the second degree. He was unable to post a \$10,000 cash or surety bond, and was transported to the Department of Corrections in New Haven. He was scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on Nov. 29 at 10 a.m.

Rear end on Under Mountain Road

Daniel Truman, 31, of New York, New York, was traveling south on Under Mountain Road at the in-

tersection of Main Street in Salisbury when a vehicle collided with the rear of his 2022 Infiniti Q50. The other vehicle, a 2017 Ford F-150 operated by Brant Michael Hadzima, 54, of Lakeville, had failed to see him slowing for the upcoming Stop sign. There were no injuries reported, and no tow trucks were needed on the scene. Hadzima was issued a written warning for following too closely resulting in an accident.

Bald tires cause spinout

Rolando Davila, 65, of New Milford was driving a 2002 Nissan Frontier XE northbound on Route 7 near the intersection with Route 4 when he spun out on the icy roadway. The vehicle came to rest on the dirt embankment without major damage, and Davila was able to drive it from the scene. Davila was issued a written warning for failure to maintain lane and unsafe tires.

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 john@lakevillejournal.com

North Canaan real estate sales remain slow in autumn 2024

By Christine Bates

NORTH CANAAN — Real estate activity in North Canaan continued to be slow in September and October with five sales by the end of October, three of which have not yet been received or recorded by the Town Clerk. All five single family residences sold were in the affordable range of \$150,000 to \$269,500. North Canaan's current median price is \$255,900, well below the \$395,000 median of Litchfield County in October.

As of Nov. 20 there were 12 homes listed for sale with

the lowest price of \$299,500 and the highest of \$499,000.

Transactions

59 Bragg St. — 2 bedroom/1 bath home of 1,250 square feet on a .43 acres lot sold by Brandon James Monnier and Ryan Shaun Monnier to Kaitlin H. Ohlinger for \$266,000.

29 Foot Ave. — 3 bedroom/2 bath home sold by Melody Dean Executor for the Estate of Betty B. Bernoi for \$150,000.

47 East Main St. — 3 bedroom/1 bath home. Sale closed at \$235,000 on Aug. 2 but had not been recorded as of Nov. 20.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

This cottage at 145 Lower Road which overlooks the Blackberry River was sold for \$269,500 on Oct. 22 — the highest price among the homes in North Canaan sold in October and September.

145 Lower Road — 3 bedroom/1 bath in East Canaan. Sale closed at \$269,500 on Oct. 22 but had not been recorded as of Nov. 20.

130 Church St. — 3 bedroom/1.5 bath home in East Canaan closed at \$210,000 on Oct. 28 but had not been recorded as of Nov. 20.

* Recorded transfers in the Town of North Canaan between Sept. 1 and Oct. 31,

2024 provided by Town of North Canaan, Town Clerk. Sales closed but not yet recorded are from Smart MLS which does not include the names of the buyer or seller. Current market activity sourced from Smart Matrix MLS and InfoSparks. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.

Dr. Jonathan Joseph awarded endowed chair position at Sharon Hospital

SHARON — A \$1.1 million gift will establish Dr. Jonathan Joseph as the inaugural endowed chair of primary care at Sharon Hospital.

An endowed chair position is a prestigious award for medical doctors. Joseph's appointment recognizes his "unwavering commitment to caring for the Sharon Hospital community and expanding primary care access in the region to better serve patients," according to a release from Nuvance Health.

Stephen and Diana Goldberg donated the money that made the endowment possible. The Goldbergs have a history of promoting health for vulnerable communities, Joseph said. "I think

we should all be inspired by this generous use of their resources to improve services for our community.

"I am honored to be the Diana and Stephen Goldberg Endowed Chair and hope to make a positive difference in our primary care system," Joseph said. "This endowment presents a fortunate opportunity to address prevalent issues in primary care. We require more care and services as we age, and I'm hopeful this endowment will aid in a more effective, more user-friendly system for our older demographic and those who have difficulty accessing it."



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Our Towns

Public hearing for Wake Robin expansion plan continues

By Riley Klein

SALISBURY — On Dec. 2, the Planning and Zoning Commission held the fifth installment of the public hearing for an application for expansion of the Wake Robin Inn on Sharon Road.

The previous four hearings on the application from ARADEV LLC were met with resistance from neighbors of Wake Robin Inn. Opponents state that increased noise and traffic in a residential community will adversely affect the value, enjoyment and usefulness of their properties.

If the application is approved, the Inn would expand from 26 rooms to 65 rooms. Old buildings would be renovated and numerous new buildings would be added including cottages and an event barn.

Before beginning the Dec. 2 hearing, P&Z Chair Michael Klemens said the sixth and final public hearing on this application will be held Tuesday, Dec. 10.

“We have run out of extensions. Once the [Dec. 10]

hearing is closed, the Planning and Zoning Commission has 65 days to render its decision,” said Klemens.

Klemens warned audience members, before and during the hearing, to refrain from abusing the chat function on Zoom. He said P&Z members had been improperly contacted by community members in recent weeks.

William Cruger, owner of an abutting property to Wake Robin Inn, was granted intervenor status for the Dec. 2 hearing and presented a team of experts to testify in opposition of the project.

A real estate consultant, a city planner, an attorney, an environmental scientist and two engineers provided nearly three hours of testimony. They stated the proposed changes are improper for a residential zone due to increased noise and traffic. They said the changes are not environmentally friendly and would reduce property values for neighbors.

The city planner, Brian Miller, stated that certain components of the proposed hotel such as the bar, restau-

rant and spa are not suitable for residential zones.

Bennett Brooks, one of the engineers, provided information on the audible decibels created by various activities, such as starting a car, and said a full noise study should be required before P&Z votes on the application.

Cruger cited Salisbury zoning regulation 803.3: “Special permit regulations are very clear,” he said. “Proposed usage shall not unreasonably adversely affect enjoyment, usefulness or value of properties in the general vicinity.”

After the intervenors’ testimony, the applicants were given the opportunity to cross examine the experts.

Josh Mackey, attorney representing ARADEV, asked pointed questions which determined that the environmental scientist had never visited the property, the city planner was unfamiliar with the existing use of the Inn and the real estate consultant did not calculate a diminished value for nearby properties.

Vince McDermott, a city

planner speaking on behalf of ARADEV, noted that hotels are permitted in residential zones in Salisbury.

“All of the new buildings and additions to the main building fall within the requirements set forth in the regulations for the RR1 zone,” said McDermott.

P&Z members asked questions of both the intervenors and the applicants in the final 40 minutes of the four and a half hour hearing.

Vice Chair Cathy Shyner asked engineer Bennett Brooks if the hotel’s proximity to the lake could amplify the distribution of noise.

“It travels right across the lake,” said Brooks. “It’s as if it was a big patch of concrete.”

Klemens asked Brooks if the proposed event barn appears to be the major acoustic concern. Brooks said “people” are the main noise concern, but the event barn contributes.

Klemens asked the applicants if the project could move forward without the event barn. Attorney Mackey said the applicants would provide an answer before the Dec. 10 hearing.

Commission member Danella Schiffer asked what kind of events would be hosted in the barn.

Jonathan Marrale of ARADEV said, “The primary intention for events would be celebratory events,” such as weddings, graduations and birthdays.

ARADEV will present its own experts and an acoustic report at the Dec. 10 continuation of the hearing at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Former Kent School employee to face hearing for alleged sexual misconduct

By Alec Linden

KENT — A former information technology employee at the Kent School will face arraignment at Waterbury Superior Court on Dec. 11 for felony charges relating to accessing photographs of underage students, among others, during his employment at the institution.

The suspect is Daniel Clery, 47, who was employed by the Kent School for more than 20 years before his termination last year.

A Nov. 2 report by Clara Molot in the digital newsletter Air Mail detailed the history of the case, which goes back to February 2023 when an employee of the school allegedly spotted a photo of her on the accused’s phone.

Air Mail reported nine current students, 59 recent graduates, seven employees and four former employees (all mostly female) are alleged to be victims of Clery’s, who is said to have abused the school’s software management system to upload photos from their computers. Clery is also

alleged to have accessed students’ private accounts in order to obtain personal files from emails. The article in Air Mail drew these findings from a report by a private consulting firm called Vancord that was hired by Kent School to investigate the case.

The article also claimed that Clery had found a job within Yale University’s IT department shortly after leaving the Kent School.

Attempts to reach both Kent School and Yale have yet to yield a response.

Clery appeared at Waterbury Superior Court on the morning of Nov. 22, where he was represented by attorney Mark Ouellette of Middlebury. His time at the stand was brief; the case was promptly transferred to Part A court, where the most serious (greater than Class D felony) cases are handled, according to a lawyer at Field Law Office in Enfield, Connecticut. A tentative time of 10 a.m. was scheduled for the court appearance on Dec. 11.

Ouellette declined to comment on the case before the trial date.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Housy scholars take first place in CT

The Housatonic Valley Regional High School academic bowl team finished first in Connecticut and ninth in the country in the recent Knowledge Masters Open. The Knowledge Masters Open consists of 100 questions from all academic subjects. Students had ninety minutes to complete the competition. The Housatonic team correctly answered 71 questions. The team was led by seniors Daniela Brennan, Sara Huber, Tess Marks, and Lola Moerschell. Left to right: Daniela Brennan, Harper Howe, Jassim Moyhdin, Tess Marks, Sara Huber, Ellie Wolgemuth.

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Our Towns

Scout builds field house at Eddy Field

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — As part of his Eagle Scout project, Wes Allyn built a new equipment shed at North Canaan Elementary School's Sam Eddy Field.

Allyn is currently a junior at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. He said he recognized the need for a new field house while playing baseball at Eddy Field.

Allyn completed the project over the summer and fall of 2024 with the help of his father Brian Allyn and carpenter Alex Duncan. The new shed replaces an old container that had suffered weather damage.

Allyn handed over the keys on Nov. 30 to Park and Recreation as the beneficiary. Park and Rec Chair Lindsey Crane and Treasurer Marilisa Camardi were in attendance along with First Selectman Brian Ohler.

"Looks like it's gonna be big enough to store whatever we need," said Camardi. "It's



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

From left, Brian Allyn Sr. (Wes's father), Scout Master Ray Hinman, carpenter Alex Duncan, scout Wes Allyn, Park and Rec Chair Lindsey Crane, Park and Rec Treasurer Marilisa Camardi and North Canaan First Selectman Brian Ohler.

so nice to see the scouts still going strong."

"We're very proud and very thankful for the project that you did," said Ohler.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Kent lights the tree

Santa made a cameo at Kent's tree lighting ceremony Saturday, Nov. 30. Wanda Houston and band performed for seasonal numbers for the crowd on Kent Green Boulevard.

Salisbury Forum examines money, power

By Alec Linden

FALLS VILLAGE — Northwest Corner residents packed the Housatonic Valley Regional High School's newly-renovated auditorium on the evening of Nov. 22 for the Salisbury Forum's final event of the year, entitled "Following the Money: What Will Become of America."

The night's speakers Kurt Andersen and William D. Cohan never quite answered the prompt, but their jocular, casual spotlight banter throughout their hour of stage time seemed to indicate that they felt it would be nothing good, and that they better crack jokes while they still can.

Andersen, whose long list of accolades and accomplishments includes co-founding Spy Magazine and penning

the New York Times best-sellers "Fantasyland" and "Evil Geniuses," played the part of interviewer for the hour-long conversation. He began by announcing that he was hesitant to embrace the role, as the two were old friends, and that he would prefer their chat progress naturally.

It largely did, with Andersen appealing to Cohan's knowledge of America's ultra-wealthy to illuminate the country's uncertain future as the new administration positions itself to take power. The duo seldom offered predictions or concrete advice — "Your 401k will probably drop a bit," Cohan offered as a response to a concerned small business owner's question about how tariffs will impact her — but rather ruminated on the marriage of

right-wing politics and billionaires in the recent election cycle.

Cohan, a former investment banker turned decorated author and journalist, offered several anecdotes from his time writing about the mega-rich, including detailing several experiences with hedge fund tycoon Bill Ackman, whose longtime loyalty to the Democratic Party ended with his support of President Elect Trump in the 2024 election. "I don't understand what happened to this guy," Cohan said, speculating that Hamas' attack on Israel last year "radicalized" him.

Cohan and Andersen specifically decried the Washington Post's neutrality in the November election, blaming the newspaper's owner, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, for refusing to allow the paper

to take a stand.

"Once upon a time when we were growing up, publishers prided themselves on taking sides," Cohan said.

There was no shortage of jobs at the incoming administration throughout their discourse, repeatedly referring to Trump's growing cabinet as "the Star Wars bar clientele" or "the clown car." The clown car is usually a metaphor, Andersen explained — "we're literally almost there this time."

Elsewhere, their conversation ranged from bitcoin — "You can't do anything with bitcoin," Cohan said — to Elon Musk's sudden entrenchment within Trump's political sphere.

"Elon Musk has a lot of power right now ... in the classic, robber baron corruption style," Andersen said.

At one point, Cohan riffed on Trump coming after journalists he doesn't like when he assumes power. "You can't joke about that, Bill!" Andersen exclaimed.

Kent selectmen re-form sustainability team

By Alec Linden

KENT — The Board of Selectmen voted to "re-energize" the Kent Sustainability Team at the Nov. 19 regular meeting, formally appointing three members to its board with the possibility to grow.

First Selectman Marty Lindenmayer motioned to "reassemble" the Kent Sustainability Team as a subcommittee of the BOS with three members: Selectman Lynn Worthington, Kent Land Trust Executive Director Connie Manes, who was present at the meeting, and Joanne Wasti, who is

technically a sitting member of the Team and was enthusiastic about revitalizing its activities, Manes told the selectmen. The subcommittee will be operational with the three-member lineup, but may seek to appoint new members as it picks up momentum.

The group was initially formed via a resolution approved by the BOS in 2021 to enable the town to participate in the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program. The program awards towns with bronze, silver, or gold status based on actions that align with Sustainable

CT's mission, which is "to foster inclusive, resilient, and vibrant Connecticut municipalities that provide opportunities for all to thrive by ... all while respecting the finite capacity of the natural environment."

Worthington maintained that the Kent Sustainability Team began organizing efforts towards Sustainable CT accreditation, but lost momentum. Worthington declared that the reformed and revitalized Team will "implement a series of tasks and actions" that will bring the town to a minimum bronze certification.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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 November 26, 2024: Approved by resolution application 2024-IW-028 by ARADEV LLC for redevelopment and expansion of the Wake Robin Inn property including regulated activities in wetland and upland review areas subject to conditions. The subject property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 47 as lots 02 and 02-1 and is known as 104 & 106 Sharon Road and 53 Wells Hill Road, Lakeville. Conditions include provisions for management of invasives plants, native non-cultivar plantings, erosion and sedimentation control bonding, pre-construction meeting, escrow for inspections by the Town, third-party erosion control monitoring, and an as-built site improvement and grading plan.

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

12-05-24

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF BARBARA L. GARSIDE Late of Norfolk (24-00344)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 14, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
Elizabeth R. Garside
c/o Mary M. Ackerly

Murtha Cullina, LLP
782 Bantam Road
P.O. Box 815
Bantam, CT 06750

Beth L. McGuire
Chief Clerk
12-05-24

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF ROGER SAUCY Late of Sharon (24-00455)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 19, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
Jeanclaude Chacon-Saucy
c/o Andrea Doyle Asman
Litwin Asman, PC
1047 Bantam Rd.
P.O. Box 698
Bantam, CT 06750
Beth L. McGuire
Chief Clerk
12-05-24

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF KAREN BLAKEY FISHER Late of Cornwall AKA Karen B Borgreve (24-00427)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated October 29, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
Melissa Root
c/o Charles R Ebersol
Ebersol, McCormick & Reis, LLC, 9 Mason Street,
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Torrington, CT 06790
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OBITUARIES

Elizabeth Kotsrean Richards

SOUTH KENT — Elizabeth Kotsrean Richards, known affectionately as “Liz,” passed away peacefully on Nov. 11, 2024, at Noble Horizons Retirement Community in Salisbury, at the age of 93. She was surrounded by her three sons and close family members in her final moments.



tions that continue to this day. Every 4th of July, she organized a spirited softball game attended by several families, a tradition that became a cherished event for all. The Sunday beach picnics she helped start were also a highlight, where she would welcome friends and family with her trademark big smile and open arms. These gatherings became an enduring tradition, with families returning year after year to share in the joy and camaraderie that Liz so lovingly fostered.

Liz loved sharing simple pleasures with her grandchildren. Early mornings in Truro often found her curled up on the living room couch with a grandchild, surrounded by stacks of books and wrapped in her collection of knit blankets, reading story after story together. Her passion for baking was another way she connected with them — her homemade orange bread and chocolate chip cookies, made from the classic Nestlé recipe, were family favorites. She enjoyed designing Easter basket scavenger hunts for her grandchildren, and she never missed a Grandparents Day at school, where she would always treat them and all their friends to ice cream.

Upon retiring from South Kent, Liz and Noble divided their time between their home in Truro and a condominium in Kent. In the early years of retirement, Liz transitioned into a life filled with biking, walking, swimming, reading, playing tennis and bridge. In addition to her volunteer tutoring, she volunteered at the Kent Town Library, where she remained an active and beloved presence.

Liz’s life was defined by quiet grace, boundless curiosity, and an extraordinary capacity for love that touched her family, friends, and students alike. She will be remembered for her kindness, her generous spirit and the gentle way she nurtured both minds and hearts, leaving an indelible mark on all who knew her.

She is survived by her three sons, Timothy, James, and Andrew; three daughters-in-law, Margaret Clarke, Yvonne Richards, and Kristin Richards; six grandchildren, Sarah, Charlotte, Rachel, Christopher, Hannah, and Audrey Richards; and a great-granddaughter, Lillian Crownover. She will be missed by all who knew her, but her legacy will live on in the many lives she touched.

A memorial service for Elizabeth will be held in the spring at South Kent School. Details will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in Liz’s memory can be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, Noble Horizons, or South Kent School.

Nancy Colean Howard

SALISBURY — Beloved mother and grandmother, Nancy Colean Howard of Dobbs Ferry, New York and Salisbury, passed away peacefully on Nov. 9, 2024, at Harbor Point, Centerville, Massachusetts, where she received wonderful care for the last several years.



Born on Nov. 25, 1939, in Huntington, New York, she was the daughter of Edna Mosher Colean and James Russell Colean. In 1975, she married the love of her life, George Marshall Howard, M.D., in Salisbury.

Mrs. Howard graduated from Dobbs Ferry High School, class of 1957 and Randolph Macon Women’s College in Lynchburg, Virginia, class of 1961. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority, serving as President of the Beta Chapter in her senior year. In 1962 she received a Master of Science in Education Degree from Gallaudet College (now Gallaudet University) in Washington, D.C. In September of that year, she began teaching in the Middle School at the New York School for the Deaf in White Plains, New York. In 1978 she was appointed Supervising Teacher of the Middle School, having earned a Professional Diploma in Educational Administration from Fordham University. In 1981 she became Assistant Principal of the Lower and Middle Schools and the Deaf Infant Program. In 1995 she became Principal of the Elementary Department, where she served until 1997.

Mrs. Howard was a member of the Church Club of New York, Episcopal Church of St. Joseph of Arimathea in Elmsford, New York, and attended St. John’s Episcopal Church in Salisbury, where she was a Lay Reader, Chalice Bearer, and a former vestry member. She was a Dame of the American Society of the Royal Order of Saint John, an Episcopal organization that supports the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem. She and her husband were also members of the Ardsley Country Club.

Nancy is survived by her daughter, Camille Alberico of Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts, her son-in-law Bruce Alberico, her two granddaughters, Victoria and Elizabeth Alberico and her four cousins, The Rev. Alvin Mosher of Masonville, New York, Charles Morgan of Wappingers Falls, New York, Donald Mosher of Florida and Richard Morgan of New York.

A memorial service and burial in Vermont will be held at a later date.

Kenneth P. Towle

NORFOLK — Kenneth P. Towle, 79, of Norfolk, passed on Nov. 27, 2024, at the Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington. He was the husband of the late Martha (Van Duesen) Towle. Ken and Martha were married for 57 years.



Ken was born June 17, 1945, in North Conway, New Hampshire. He was the son of the late Glenn P. and Barbara (Bates) Towle.

Ken worked as a moulding technician for the Becton Dickinson company in Canaan. He worked for BD for more than 25 years. Ken was a member of both the Canaan United Methodist Church and the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Company. He was an active member for 33 years. His greatest joy came from spending time with his wife, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great granddogs. He also enjoyed traveling, and he and his wife liked taking road trips to Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.

Ken is survived by his two sons; Richard and his wife DeAnne of Winsted and Jeffrey and his wife Bobbie of East Canaan, and his sister Beverly Blazarin of Winsted. Ken is also survived by his grandchildren; Rachel Bourbeau and her husband Timothy of West Springfield, Jannel Towle of Winsted, and Samantha Towle of East Canaan. Ken is also survived by his great-grandson Damon Bourbeau of West Springfield along with several nieces, nephews, grand nieces, and grand nephews. Ken was predeceased by his brother Glenn Towle, and his great-granddaughter Alana Rae Bourbeau.

Calling hours for Ken will be held on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024, in the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St., North Canaan, CT 06018 from 1 to 3 p.m. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Memorial donations may be sent to the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department 20 Shepard Road, Norfolk, CT 06058.

Stephen Brindisi Darnell

AMENIA — Stephen Brindisi Darnell, 73, a lifelong area resident died peacefully at his home in Amenia, on Monday, Nov. 25, 2024.



Steve was a self-employed painter in the area for over fifty years. He was also a sub-contractor for the United States Postal Service for the past thirteen years carrying bulk mail deliveries between local post offices several times each day.

Born Oct. 16, 1951, in Jamaica, Queens, New York, he was the son of the late John M. and Yvonne (Brindisi) Darnell.

Steve was a graduate of Webutuck High School in Amenia. He was a devoted uncle to his many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews throughout the years. He was an avid car and motorcycle enthusiast and had an unbelievable network of lifelong friends and acquaintances. He will be deeply missed by his loving family and many dear friends.

A Celebration of Steve’s Life will be announced in the near future for family and friends. Burial at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia will take place privately. Rev. Robert K. Wilson will officiate. Memorial contributions may be made to Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Road, Amenia, NY 12501. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Mil-lerton, NY 12546.

To send an online condolence to the family or to plant a tree in Steve’s memory please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

Worship Services

Week of December 8, 2024

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

<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>	<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God’s shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p>St. John’s Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God’s people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7252</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, December 8 at 10:30 a.m. THE CULTURE OF CHRISTMAS For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>Chabad of Northwest CT On the Green 69 West St. Litchfield, CT 06759 chabadNW.org 860.567.3377 office@chabadNW.org Rabbi Joseph & Mina Eisenbach A home away from home, a gathering place where unity is paramount. We are here for you, welcome to the family! WINTER SCHEDULE Sunday 10:30 AM - Hebrew School Wednesday 8:00 PM - Parsha In My Life How The Weekly Portion Relates to ME! Thursday 11:30 AM - Women’s Tea & Torah Saturday 9:30 AM - Shabbat Services Followed by a Congregational Kiddush Children’s Camp Jewish Newspaper Smiles on Seniors Cteen YJP</p>
<p>Congregation Beth David A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School “Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors” The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates!</p>
<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>
<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service “Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors” Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>	<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>

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Send obituaries to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

COP29: A cop-out?

The United Nations has just wrapped up its annual environmental conference, COP 29, in Baku, Azerbaijan. A two-week event, just concluded, this year's COP (Conference of Parties) drew well over 50,000 people to this tiny oil-rich country that sits between Russia and Iran. Each year the U.N. chooses a new location in a different region and this year it was Azerbaijan. Last year it was Dubai, UAE, another oil-rich autocracy, the year before, Egypt.

Last year COP28 was largely a giant trade fair and a place for fossil fuel interests to make deals. But "the Parties" did accomplish one notable environmental goal: representatives of all of the 197 COP countries signed a formal agreement pledging their commitment to a transition to clean energy as rapidly as feasible. They also pledged to treble their own individual production of clean, renewable power by 2030.

During the past year emissions of global warming gases have markedly increased and provision of renewable power is nowhere near on track.

During the past year emissions of global warming gases have, instead, markedly increased and provision of renewable power is nowhere near on track.

Many at the conference had noted that Saudi Arabia had gone out of its way to sabotage the main accomplishment of the conference last year, the pledge to rapidly "transition" away from fossil fuels. At several other events and here at Baku, Saudi officials have tried to omit the term "transition" from any discussion. As the head of the Saudi state oil company said, "We should abandon the fantasy of phasing out oil and gas."

Symbolically the conference got off to a depressing start. Ilham Aliyev, the President of Azerbaijan gave an opening speech espousing the virtues of fossil fuels, calling oil and gas "the gift of the gods". It was not lost on listeners that the Azerbaijan economy was almost entirely based on fossil fuels. This fact was underscored by the observations of many conference participants that the whole conference site continuously smelled of oil. Another ominous sign, the US pavilion was housed within a converted arena that had been covered over and was totally devoid of natural light. And as the conference was just beginning, the BBC reported that the chief executive of Azerbaijan's COP29 team, Elnur Soltanov, was seen discussing investment opportunities with a possible investor in the Azerbaijan

OCCASIONAL OBSERVER MAC GORDON

oil and gas company.

This year the principle theme of the conference was the provision of climate finance to poorer countries. Developed nations, which are most responsible for climate change, were expected to provide funding to developing nations for climate adaptation and green energy projects. Amnesty International estimated that trillions of dollars will be needed to get developing countries up to speed.

But the major cloud hanging over both this year's and future COPs was the re-election of Donald J. Trump, whose denial of climate change is perhaps his biggest falsehood. Under his direction, the U.S. was the only country to leave the Paris Agreement, the 2015 formal pledge by nearly 200 world leaders to try to prevent global temperature from rising more than 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels. Although President Biden had the U.S. reinstated in the Paris agreement, Trump says he will remove the U.S. from it once again. Perhaps another country, maybe China, may try to pick up the slack but who knows? Even if the US government should decide to become environmentally more responsible after a change of administration, the rest of the world may be wary of American leadership.

Although President Biden had the U.S. reinstated in the Paris agreement, Trump says he will remove the U.S. from it once again.

Efforts to limit emissions of planet warming gases were up in the air, as the meeting went past the official closing time on Friday, Nov. 22, with no indication of when or if ever agreement might be reached.

In protracted and sometimes angry negotiations, representatives of the richer countries pledged \$300 billion a year — triple their previous pledge — while one of the poorer countries' delegates said that the 300 billion was "outrageously inadequate" like "bringing a garden hose to a wildfire" and demanded much more. Of course, whatever amounts are agreed to are goals not binding legal agreements. Negotiators will probably continue to argue over the financials for a long time.

Next year's COP30 is scheduled to be in Belém, Brazil, a city deep in the heart of the Amazon.

Architect and landscape designer Mac Gordon lives in Lakeville.

More letters appear on page A7.

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



The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. each Monday. You may email letters to publisher@lakevillejournal.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A case that haunted: Crime pays

In the mid-1970's when I attended Harvard Business School, there were no books for the entire two-year MBA program. Instead, students read three cases a day about real-life business situations typically gone wrong and needing solutions that we as students had to come up with. I never forgot one case when, at the end of class, it was clear that the CEO got away with doing some highly unethical and unlawful things. The professor stared the students in the face, and his parting words just before the bell rang were "crime pays." I was very rattled since I wasn't brought up to think this. I and my colleagues took it for granted that we should behave ethically and lawfully.

The case haunted me throughout my business career whenever I observed corporate crime, and the perpetrators often getting away with it or receiving only a slap on the wrist. Some folks did not even get charged due to their clever maneuvering or somebody further down the organization taking the fall.

I am now retired, but during my entire corporate

life, most of which was as CEO of a company I founded, I played by the rules. I had believed that a basic tenet of the United States was the rule of law. I always admired the U.S. for being a lawful society, and even bragging about it to my foreign friends.

Twelve years ago, I met my future wife while on a visit to Lebanon. She had never been to the U.S. I impressed upon her that unlike Lebanon, which I observed to be corrupt at almost every level, the U.S. was a superior place to be partially thanks to the rule of law. She has been asking me lately how I can still support this contention when we have a president-elect who is not only a criminal, but for whom numerous charges against him for serious alleged crimes have been dropped because of his high position and power. And how is it right that the current president has pardoned his son for gun law violations and tax evasion, crimes that most anyone else would be punished for? And what about the fact that nobody at the banks were punished during the 2007-2008 financial crisis? I am embarrassed

and ashamed when trying to respond to her.

I am afraid that if the same case I had almost 50 years ago at Harvard Business School were taught today, some students would consider the prospect of not following the rules since it has become more and more obvious that white collar crime clearly pays given the low risk of getting in trouble and the high potential rewards. Thankfully, I don't need to explain this lesson to my kids, as they are already grown up and have

conducted their lives honestly and ethically as far as I can tell.

The unethical behaviors of Trump, Biden and others are out there for all of the impressionable young generation to observe, and I fear that they are learning that it is worth it to be crooked. Let us hope that this does not portend greater corruption in our society. What are we gonna do about it?

Lloyd Baroody Lakeville

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Barbara Maltby Lakeville

Viewpoint

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago —
December 1924

Mrs. George Dunning of East Canaan is assisting at the Salisbury post office.

The White Hart Inn has been closed for the winter.

Earl J. Vosburgh's White Wyandottes gathered in a nice string of ribbons at the Sharon Poultry Show last week. Mr. Vosburgh took the Silver Cup for sweepstake champion male. This is the second year he has won this cup.

WANTED — A housekeeper or a wife as I am alone and lonesome. I have a fine home, every thing to do with, well furnished. Write to Chas. H. Pitcher for full particulars, Sharon Valley, Conn. R.F.D.

Alfred J. Smith was in Sharon hospital last week to have troublesome tonsils removed.

Daniel Lorigan and his force of road men have done a good piece of work this week in spreading a light coat of sand on the state road hills, which owing to their icy condition were more or less dangerous to travelers. The sand provides good traction for wheels and is appreciated by drivers of cars and also drivers of horses.

The first snow storm of any consequence thus far this season arrived last Saturday, between three and four inches of snow covered the ground. Being of a damp nature it clung to every twig and branch, creating a fairy like effect.

Dufour Brothers are remodeling the small building in the rear of their garage to make it suitable for storing cars during the winter months.

Hugo Pavoola and young son made it a twosome at Sharon Hospital last Sunday, when both underwent operations for the removal of troublesome tonsils.

Philo Lyon of Lime Rock is putting an addition on his store for rooms to live in.

Seventeen relatives and friends ate Thanksgiving dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gordon of Lime Rock.

Charles Paddock Jr. of New York has been suffering from a severe attack of sciatic rheumatism, and also water on the knee, caused it is thought from a cut received by falling upon a piece of glass. He is at present reported as somewhat improved.

50 years ago —
December 1974

Salisbury selectmen voted formally Tuesday night to invite the Town of Sharon to participate in the new solid waste recycling and transfer station which Salisbury expects to have in operation by the spring of 1976. First Selectman Charlotte Reid was instructed to write a letter which the Sharon selectmen are to take up at their meeting Friday night. She reported that Sharon is interested because of the possibility that the Amenia town dump, which Sharon now uses, may be closed soon.

Andrea and Laura Gandolfo, seven- and six-year-old daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Gandolfo of East Canaan, played up a storm in New York City last Saturday

and walked away with honors in the Eastern State Cup Accordion Championship, sponsored by the American Accordionists' Association. Andrea, seven, and the more experienced of the two, took first place in all of New England in the Seven Year Old Virtuoso class. Laura, who has been studying only since last spring, scored a 98 out of a possible 100 to win a trophy and a National Certificate of Merit. Both girls are students of Gary Ross of the Lakeville School of Music. A third of Mr. Ross's students, John Cattelán, also of Canaan, placed third in the Seven Year Old Standard Class.

Falls Village firemen voted last Wednesday to buy a "nearly new" ambulance van to replace the town's 1957 ambulance. The new Dodge van is two years old, fully equipped and will cost the firemen about \$8000.

25 years ago —
December 1999

CORNWALL BRIDGE — The Sunday New York Times will be especially heavy this coming Sunday, Dec. 5. The magazine section alone, the final of six special millennium supplements, weighs one pound, 11 ounces, according to the scales at LaBonne's Market in Salisbury. This issue of the usual Sunday magazine is called "The Times Capsule." In the year 3000 it should give people a feeling

of what life was like in 2000. Author Michael Pollan, a resident of Cornwall Bridge, was one of the issue's two editors. He loved the quirky problems involved in creating the capsule and the contacts with the hundreds of people he has dealt with over the past two years — scientists, architects, authors, to name only a few categories.

Selectmen in Kent and Sharon have been asked to consider joining a coalition to work toward limiting Indian tribal expansion and recognition. Kent First Selectman Dolores "Lorry" Schiesel and Sharon's Robert Moeller said Wednesday they each received thick packets of documents from officials of the towns of Ledyard, Preston and North Stonington, communities that border the Mashantucket Pequot's reservations in the southeast section of the state. Ms. Schiesel, whose town is home to the Schaghticoke Indian reservation of which its members are seeking federal recognition, said she understands the mission of the coalition would be two-fold, to seek to limit tribal/trust land acquisitions and to keep a diligent eye on Congress' actions regarding federal tribal recognition.

Canaan Auto Supply is now settled in at its new quarters on Route 7, the site of the former Johnny's Restaurant.

Status Report

Cornwall's village centers have once more become illuminated by holiday lights on buildings. The annual tradition is made possible by the Cornwall Association with support from the Economic Development Commission and

the Cornwall Foundation.

In a seasonal vote to select the winter cover image for a community Facebook group, a photo of a golden retriever named Sadie playing in the snow received the most likes.

McMahon's 'thin' qualifications for U.S. Education Secretary

By conventional standards wrestling entrepreneur Linda McMahon's qualifications to become the next U.S. education secretary are a bit thin.

She has had two years on Connecticut's feckless State Board of Education, many years on the Board of Trustees of Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, and two years as chief of the U.S. Small Business Administration, and has run two spectacularly expensive but also spectacularly unsuccessful campaigns for U.S. senator during which she proved embarrassingly ignorant of government. She won't be mistaken for a great educator.

Her real qualification has been the great wealth she amassed from adding grotesque crudity to the old fakery of professional wrestling. That wealth brought her close to once and future president Donald Trump.

But then almost anyone might elevate the U.S. Education Department more than has been done by its current secretary, Miguel Cardona, who was briefly Connecticut's education commissioner before President Biden made him a national figure. Whereupon Cardona antagonized Congress with a disastrous and belated reformatting of the federal government's application form for student financial aid, presided merrily over the Biden administration's illegal forgiveness of college student loans, and pandered constantly to the teacher unions.

McMahon will have to work hard to be more of an embarrassment than Cardona, whose main qualification for the president's cabinet was just as political as McMahon's wealth is: his Puerto Rican ancestry in an administration obsessed with identity politics.

But McMahon does have

THE CHRIS POWELL COLUMN

one genuine qualification for education secretary: the shrieking of the teacher unions against her.

The president-elect would like to eliminate the Education Department, since it mainly constitutes patronage for the unions and the Democratic Party, whose army the unions provide. Since Congress is unlikely to permit eliminating the department, Trump and McMahon at least will get the department to reverse its "woke" initiatives and mandates on states and to promote school choice. That is, the new administration may break the monopoly of public education, which these days, especially in Connecticut, is hardly public at all. In Connecticut teachers are the only government employees whose job evaluations are exempt from disclosure under freedom-of-information law.

Since the Education Department is an annex of the Democratic Party, Republicans aim to find more ways of subsidizing private, church, or "charter" schools, schools beyond union control. The unions and the Democrats charge that this will divert money from public schools, but the charge is misleading, since greater government financial support for non-public schools will divert *students* as well, reducing public school expense.

In any case Connecticut's "minimum budget requirement" law for public schools already makes it almost impossible for school systems to reduce spending even amid declining student enrollment, another law enacted

to serve teachers and their unions, not students.

The trend away from public schools is not entirely to be celebrated. For many years the public schools were the great democratizers, institutions through which most children passed and met people different from them. But as the expanded welfare system of the "Great Society" began destroying the families of the poor, causing child neglect and demoralization and dragging down city schools, middle- and upper-class families realized that decent education required getting away from the underclass kids, and so the democratizing influence of the public schools diminished sharply.

More government support for nonpublic schools will weaken low-performing public schools by drawing away their better students. Connecticut's regional "magnet" schools have already done this to Hartford's schools while failing to integrate them racially. But at least nonpublic schools may improve education for the students who use them to escape hopeless public schools, and this may be better than nothing.

Student performance in the United States long has been declining despite the U.S. Department of Education, even before the recent virus epidemic, on which educators seem likely to blame educational failure for the next century or two. While the teacher unions love the department for its patronage, the country easily could do without it, and who better than Linda McMahon to make it even more ridiculous than Cardona did and then body-slam it into oblivion?

Chris Powell has written about Connecticut government and politics for many years.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Skeptical about Trump's policy choices

As a Democrat, I am skeptical about President-elect Trump's policy choices. I don't think they're good for the country or will achieve the results he promises. But that's ok. I'm used to being on the outs when a Republican takes the White House. Wait till next year.

On the other hand, I take strong exception to Trump's methods, especially those he is using or has indicated he will use in running his second administration: appointing inexperienced loyalists to key government positions, using the mili-

tary to deport immigrants, directing the judiciary to harass his political opponents and by-passing the constitutionally mandated review of his cabinet picks by the Senate. He has even started lobbying Congress to find a workaround for the 22nd Amendment limiting U.S. Presidents to two terms in office. While the jury may be out on whether Trump's policy choices are good or bad, these strongman tactics do unequivocal damage to American democracy.

It was Trump who introduced intimidation into na-

tional politics. A Republican lawmaker who chooses his conscience over loyalty to Donald Trump can expect a stream of denigration and name calling from Mar a Lago, doxing and threats from Trump's online supporters, and a well-funded primary challenger at the next election. There's an impressive political machine at work, but it's unlikely to lead to good decisions.

And it was Trump again who introduced lying on an unprecedented scale into the public sphere. Describing Germany in the

1930s, Hannah Arendt uses the term "organized lying," Trump's practice of uttering lies, repeating them long after they've been shown to be false, getting others, whether in the media, in cyberspace, or on Capitol Hill to repeat them, and retaliating when he can against those who call out his lies for what they are. This is also unlikely to lead America to a new golden age.

What disheartens Democrats most is not that their Republican counterparts support policies on the economy, immigration, foreign policy, and the environment that they dislike but that so many Republicans either participate in or

go along with Trump's ugly and un-American methods.

Yet Republicans have almost as much cause to object to Trump's strongman tactics as Democrats. If Trump proves not quite as good at fixing things as his campaign promised, if the prices at the supermarket and the fuel pump rise after a few years of his tenure, Republicans as well as Democrats will want to hand the reins of government to a different candidate. And that will be hard to do if the mechanism of American democracy has been irretrievably trashed.

Willard Wood

Norfolk

Tribute to Salisbury's Rod Lankler

It is rare for someone to arrive here loving everything about the town and its people, and then begin a years-long volunteer effort that touches so many people and organizations — that was Rod Lankler. With his brain power, curiosity, life experience, and a happy disposition, he helped many of our vital nonprofits: Salisbury Volunteer Nurses, Conservation Commission, Affordable Housing, Rotary, and so many more. He gave his great legal intellect to complex management issues, but equally enjoyed serving ice cream on Memorial Day. Whatever tasks he did were done with winks and his infectious smile. His

most recent accomplishment was skillfully navigating the issues of our solid waste and guiding our effort to locate and build the new Transfer Station.

Rod was strong and a person whose word was most important and you always knew where you stood with him. He pushed back on those who he thought were trying to put one over on anyone, and his best lesson was that you can go farther anywhere with humility, humor and a good sense of irony.

Besides all of this, he loved his family and friends and

he was playful. He always wore his GRUMPY hat but once he left it at a meeting and his colleagues made him pay at an auction to get it back. We remember him driving his red truck with a load of grandchildren in the back, heading off for a new adventure on his beloved Twin Lakes, a smile on his face. Thank you, Barbara, and the rest of your family, for lending us Rod and everything you all have done for us.

Curtis Rand

Salisbury
First Selectman

More letters appear on Page A6.

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Through its Center for Land Use Education and Research (UConn CLEAR), UConn offers classes to keep local Commissions and the public up to date with the best practices for decision making for both Planning and Zoning plus Inland Wetlands. To start to explore this opportunity, please visit clear.uconn.edu/ua/basic/. For example, every month there is an open online class covering a land use subject. This month on the 19th will be a lecture on understanding the Fundamentals of Site Planning. For more information and to register please go to: clear.uconn.edu/ua/basic/. With all the increased pressures on towns to develop more land, this is a wonderful way to become educated to help understand the issues affecting future land use.



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PFAS

Continued from Page A1

PFAS exposure) gained media traction, encouraging corporations and government organizations to regulate PFAS usage. Due to their durability, however, they are still found extensively throughout the environment, and even in our bodies – a 2015 study by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention found PFAS in the blood of 97% of Americans in its sample pool.

When asked whether DEEP has investigated the potential of solar panels leaching PFAS into groundwater, Stevens replied, "At this time, the potential pollution risks posed by other concentrated sources of PFAS is of primary concern to DEEP." He affirmed that the funds will be mobilized towards projects "that are determined by DEEP to be of the greatest importance to protecting human health and the environment," and noted that "this may change as our knowledge of risks in Connecticut change."

Publicly, the jury is still out as to whether solar panels pose a significant risk as a source of PFAS contamination. Cheeseman noted that older solar panels, built before the past five years, pose the greatest threat as many new models are manufactured without PFAS. A 2018 article from The Carolina Journal reported that the Environmental Protection Agency confirmed that PFAS compounds were used in manufacturing solar panel compo-

nents, though little research on the topic has been made available since.

Michael Trahan, executive director of the Connecticut Storage and Solar Association, said he is "not aware of any documented incidents directly linking PFAS to groundwater contamination where solar panels are sited." He added that he suspects any contamination from solar panels would be due to disposal of parts, not where the panels were installed, and state legislature is currently drafting disposal regulations for the equipment.

Other groups have expressed that the lack of solid information is concerning. Saving Green, a Coxsackie, NY based advocacy group, called for more definitive research on PFAS in Solar Panels. "While studies may not be conclusive, the lack of definitive conclusions and transparency raises concerns," the group stated in public letter addressing a proposed solar development nearby.

Cheeseman voiced her concerns that future funding for PFAS contamination and mitigation efforts address the whole state, not just specific sites. "We have many rural communities who may not be defined as environmental justice communities who are reliant on wells and I want to make sure we are taking them into account as we track this possibly very hazardous chemical," she said.

WAKE ROBIN

Continued from Page A1

be aware of soil moving into and out of the project site on the wheels of trucks and equipment during construction, as invasive plants spread quickly that way, especially on disturbed terrain. "We'll monitor it," replied Arigoni.

IWWC member Maria Grace drew attention to a condition already in place that prohibits cultivar species from being included in the planting plan, noting that several cultivar species were still present in the list. Arigoni replied that the applicant's team had tried to remove them, but had possibly missed a few and will ensure the final plan is cultivar free.

With these issues settled, the IWWC voted unanimously to approve the application with the conditions accumulated from previous meetings.

While ARADEV LLC's project now possesses the approval of the IWWC, whose purview is restricted to direct impacts on wetlands, watercourses, and their immediately surrounding upland review areas, the application is still embroiled in a long and tenuous public hearing with the Planning and Zoning Commission. The first four P&Z hearings were met with strong public resistance to the Inn's expansion, citing outsized impacts to the village's traffic patterns, noise levels and general character, with many residents decrying the development as inappropriate for Lakeville.

The P&Z public hearing resumed on Dec. 2. (Full coverage of the fifth public hearing is on Page A3.)

The Wake Robin public hearing was continued to Dec. 10 for the sixth and final installment.

Between the Lakes Road public hearing continued

The Nov. 25 meetings saw an addition to Salisbury's already busy schedule of public hearings this season, opening discussion on the relocation of a section of Between the Lakes Road.

The applicant plans to shift the road slightly inland at 280

Between the Lakes Road to account for erosion issues experienced at the site in the past.

The project includes bending the road away from the lake for a stretch of approximately 50 feet and digging a basin on either side of the roadway to collect storm water before discharging it into the lake.

After discussion between the IWWC and representatives of the applicant, and a lengthy public comment session, the hearing was continued to Jan. 13 at 7 p.m.

HVA

Continued from Page A1

home of my ancestors. There is no place sweeter than this valley, and there is so much to learn from this land."

As if on cue, a phone rang nearby.

"It's Mother Earth calling," remarked Cowles. "Are you going to take the call?" she asked, without missing a beat, as the crowd erupted in laughter.

Growing up, Cowles said, HVA was a household name.

"It was like Christmas morning the day after the auction, and mom would get all excited wondering how much was raised," she recalled.

During his speech, Zunino implored the crowd to "think about why we are here today. I hope it's because you have a place in your heart for the Housatonic River Valley. It has brought a lot of us up here."

The HVA president noted that his organization has protected 30,000 acres of important conservation land and has protected and restored 220 miles of the Housatonic River, a 41-mile stretch of which has been deemed "Wild and Scenic" by the federal government.

"It has taught school children and families how to keep the water clean and the turtles safe," said Zunino.

During the silent auction portion of the event, staunch environmentalists and long-time supporters of HVA mingled with folks new to the area, and the organization, to peruse silent auction items as they sipped wine and nibbled hors d'oeuvres.

Peter Montgomery of Warren perused the items. The orchardist drove to the event in a classic red pickup truck with a decorated Christmas tree in its bed, which he parked just outside the entry to the auction.

"I was trying to recreate a Hallmark moment," Montgomery said with a chuckle, noting that he has contributed trees, fruit from his orchard and tutorials on orchards and apples as auction items in the past.

Nearby, Margery Feldberg, board president of the Kent-based Northwest Con-

Right, from left, Andrew Stathopoulos and Philippa Durrant of Cornwall Bridge, HVA auction co-chair Elyse Harney Morris and Tony Zunino, president of HVA. Below, Orchardist Peter Montgomery of Montgomery Gardens in Warren has been a frequent contributor of auction items over the years.



Below, Margery Feldberg, far right, board president of the Kent-based Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy, was among bidders for the silent auction items.



PHOTOS BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

necticut Land Conservancy, had her eye on a Foodie Escape to Mystic, while Cindy Donaldson of Goshen remained in a "competitive hover" over the Exclusive Broadway Experience auction item offering two tickets to the Tony Award-winning Best Musical, "The Book of Mormon."

Former State Rep. Jim Mahoney and State Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-5), also showed their support for HVA. "They worked very hard on the Housatonic River Wild & Scenic designation," noted Hayes, who had sponsored the legislation. "I am so deeply committed to the work that they do."

As of Thursday, Nov. 28, an exact tally of the funds raised from the auction, which drew a near sold-out crowd, was unavailable due

to processing difficulties, according to HVA spokeswoman Lara Beckius. However, she noted, "We are thrilled to have hit our goal and for the fantastic attendance," she said.

HVA officials had expected to match or surpass last year's auction proceeds, which netted a record \$205,000

The next day, Werner reflected on this year's Auction for the Environment, which was her last auction as executive director of the organization, as "such a heartwarming tribute, and a fantastic day."

She said she felt the tim-

ing was right to step down from her long-held role.

"I let the board know in 2023 that I was considering it. It's a good time, because we completed our Strategic Plan 2029 in the fall of 2023, and we have a strong set of strategies reaching into every part of the 2,000 square mile tri-state watershed toward achieving a climate ready Housatonic Valley by 2040."

Werner praised HVA's "amazing team of environmental scientists and community advocates on staff and a huge network of partners collaborating with us on land and water protection."

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MEGAN MUSGROVE

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

Getting the upper hand on mighty phragmites

Finally rain. For weeks, the only place there had been moisture was in the marsh and even there, areas that usually catch my boots in the mud were dry. I could not see the footprints of the bear (or is it deer?) that have been digging up and eating the underground skunk cabbage flowers. Not that I could do anything to stop it. A layer of snow that actually sticks around for a while seems like wishful thinking these days.

Masses of skunk cabbage, *Symplocarpus foetidus*, appeared one spring, like magic, after we hired a team to remove the barberry from about an acre of the marsh adjacent to the driveway. Of course, it had been there all along, waiting patiently underground or hiding in the barberry's thorny shrub-cages, but we had not seen it. That was about eight years ago; after the barberry's removal there have been successive infestations of invasives but also, as with the skunk cabbage, some welcome new sightings of native plants.

I wrote in this column last year about Japanese stiltgrass, *Microstegium vimineum*, and the success in using the weed torch on a large patch of it in the marsh. It remained largely free of this annual invasive grass this year but we switched to hand weeding the area as, given the dry weather, we could not use the torch even in the marsh. Over the course of three weeks, we pulled out what amounted to 6 trash bins stuffed solid with the hairlike strands. As many of them have seedheads we will burn



Phragmites australis australis in North Canaan.

PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON



them once the ban is lifted. I should have paid attention to the stiltgrass infestation earlier in the season but walking near Route 7 is not the most peaceful thing to do so I tend to avoid it.

Twice a year I make my way into the marsh as far as I can go until halted by barberry and multiflora rose to hold at bay another grass, this one a giant compared to stiltgrass. Phragmites australis is a tall reed with a pouf of a seed head that is abundant in moist and wet areas everywhere in the US. It is so aggressive in wetlands that it quickly becomes a monoculture- a sea of swaying beige. It not only crowds out other plants but changes the pH of the surrounding soil and water so nothing native can grow in it. It is a real habitat killer. Drive on route 41 toward Sharon from Hotchkiss school and you will see a large field of phragmites on the left-hand side of the road. Once identified you cannot unsee how it has hijacked our landscape.

Thanks to my gardener's help cutting down barberry, multiflora rose and honeysuckle in the marsh last winter, this year my access was greatly improved to a stand of phragmites-about a third of an acre of it. With each visit I cut down as much of it as I could to eliminate the possibility for it to grow a seed head. Though loathe to use an herbicide, last year I experimented on a small area, dabbing the cut ends with a wetlands 'safe' herbicide. (No herbicide is really safe for the environment but often the chemicals that are added to the herbicide to help it penetrate

the leaves are especially damaging.) That application seemed to work so I may repeat it next year on another area.

With all invasives, getting rid of them when you see a first few pop up will pay off. That is what is happening on Cream Hill Road in Cornwall where a small stand of phragmites was recently cut under the water line, a natural technique that attempts to 'drown' the plant. The next step will be to cover with a black tarp any remaining phragmites that come back from this first effort. According to Heidi Cunnick, who chairs the Cornwall Conservation Commission, their new policy prioritizes the invasive plants for removal so that small infestations can be eliminated early. Cunnick reminds me that there is a biological control for phragmites that remains under review by a US government

Continued on next page



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Roxana Robinson reads Cornwall, Nov. 30.

BOOKS: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

'Cornwall reads Cornwall' returns

Bob Meyers, President and Publisher of the Cornwall Chronicle, kicked off the 5th annual Cornwall Reads Cornwall event at the UCC in Cornwall on Nov. 30 with a warm welcome and a gentle reminder to silence cell phones. Over the next hour, the audience was transported back in time as local writers, editors, luminaries, and students brought the Chronicle's archives to life.

"This reading has become an annual event," said Meyers, "as well as a welcome distraction from Thanksgiving leftovers." He then noted that the event "was the original brainchild of Roxana Robinson." Meyers added, "She also arranged to have this take place on the day of her birth," at which point the audience wished the celebrated local author a happy birthday.

Before inviting Robinson to be the first reader, Meyers spoke a bit about the Chronicle's history. The Cornwall Chronicle is a monthly, nonpartisan, nonprofit newspaper run by volunteers and funded entirely

by reader donations. Founded in 1991 by Tom and Margaret Bevans, it was born out of Tom's frustration with Cornwall's lack of local press coverage. A graphic artist and former design head at Simon & Schuster, Tom shaped the paper's timeless format and mission: fostering community understanding and civic engagement.

Over the years, leadership transitioned to Spencer and Bobby Klaw, retired editors from major publications, and later to an editorial board supported by a network of volunteer writers and artists. For 22 years, the Chronicle has been published without missing an issue, drawing contributions from both seasoned journalists and local voices like farmers and social workers. Delivered free to Cornwall residents and out-of-town subscribers, the ad-free paper relies solely on donations.

Robinson read the first piece, an article about snow plowing

Continued on next page

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LIFESTYLE: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

One Cream Studio: A skincare destination in Millerton

Located in the warm and welcoming multi-use building at 1 John Street in Millerton, One Cream Studio offers a personalized approach to skincare and self-care, led by Virag Mate-Kovacs, a highly skilled aesthetician with years of international experience.

Mate-Kovacs began her career in Budapest after graduating from a prestigious beauty academy in 2006. After years of honing her craft, she moved to Manhattan in 2010 to expand her skills and experiences.

"It was always my dream to come here (to the States), to make my life more interesting," Mate-Kovacs recalled. Her time in New York City was busy and fulfilling, working in upscale spas with a variety of clients, including notable celebrities.

In 2021, Mate-Kovacs and her family relocated to Lakeville, seeking a quieter lifestyle. This change gave her the opportunity to open One Cream Studio in 2023, combining her expertise and passion into a

business that reflects her vision for customized, thoughtful skincare treatments.

One Cream Studio offers a range of skincare services, from rejuvenating facials to advanced treatments using state-of-the-art machines. Mate-Kovacs takes pride in tailoring her services to individual needs. Her early work in Hungary focused on men's skincare, which gave her a deep understanding of diverse skin concerns. "European men really take care of their hair, facials, nails—it's a priority for their lifestyle," she explained.

Over time, she has expanded her expertise to focus on women's skincare as well, blending her knowledge with a unique perspective on holistic care. "People aren't coming just for skin problems—they're coming for their mental health as well. It's a time for rest and personal conversations," she shared.

Her approach has resonated with clients, from mothers in need of self-care to teenagers

exploring skincare for the first time. Mate-Kovacs also understands the challenges of adapting treatments to local conditions. "People's skin here is a lot drier. People spend a lot more time outside here so there's more eczema and rosacea because of the temperature differences," she said, recommending heavier creams for hydration during the winter months.

Opening her business in Millerton has brought new opportunities and strong connections. "1 John Street is such a great spot," said Mate-Kovacs, praising the Millerton Business Association and a local women's business network started by Abigail Horace of Casa Marcelo in Salisbury for their support. "We're helping each other, sharing information, and building each other up."

Mate-Kovacs is no stranger to personal challenges. Born with hearing loss, she communicates mostly through lip-reading and text. Her speaking voice is clear, however, and she



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Virag Mate-Kovacs at One Cream Studio in Millerton.

takes time care to make sure she is communicating accurately. Her space is incredibly calming and welcoming; one wants to curl up and take a long, herbal-scented nap. "My favorite thing is when clients fall asleep during a treatment. It makes me happy because they're finally relaxed," she shared.

One of Mate-Kovacs's biggest goals is to encourage clients to make time for themselves in their busy lives. "You are being touched, which is really so important,"

she said. Her focus is on creating an environment where clients feel cared and with services designed for both regulars and weekend visitors, One Cream Studio con-

tinues to grow as a go-to destination for expert skincare.

Bookings can be made on Instagram (@onecreamstudio) or www.onecreamstudio.com

...Ungardener

department but the future possibility of such an eradication method is not stopping activities to reduce populations- now - in Cornwall.

Another example of successful eradication comes from the Twin Lakes area; a couple who moved to a property that came with a quarter-acre of phragmites colonizing in and around their pond. They valiantly did the work themselves as they could not find anyone who would do it for them. A cut and tarp method was used here for the on-land plants; the ones underwater were cut a foot below the water surface over several years. While most is gone, the battle continues with stragglers; these are tackled with aquatic use herbicide using a dabber on the cut end of a stem or sprayed on a glove that is rubbed over

the green stem. It is hard to stay positive; the work can be hard and tiresome. And it is always a gamble that the area you are working on will grow in with native plants rather than with more invasives. Sometimes you clear a patch of barberry and it gets filled with stiltgrass; you try again. Sometimes you get a patch of goldenrod- nice to have but you don't want it crowding out the other native plants. And sometimes you get a big reward- the discovery of natives so new to you that you can't identify them without an app on your phone. In the marsh, where I worked as the weather turned cooler, I noticed quite a few new grasses popping out of the damp soil, especially where the weed torch had been used the prior year. So far, I have identified:

Carex albursina, White bear sedge; Carex pedunculata, Longstalk sedge; Carex obnupta, Slough sedge; Carex pennsylvanica, Pennsylvania sedge; Carex frankii, Frank's sedge; Carex blanda, Eastern woodland sedge; Carex eburnean, Bristleleaf sedge; Danthonia spicata, Poverty oatgrass;

Continued from previous page

Deschampsia cespitosa, Tufted hairgrass; Glyceria striata, Fowl manna-grass and Leersia virginica, Whitegrass. The deer have already helped themselves to a few of these but I am hopeful to see most of them again.

Dee Salomon 'ungardens' in Litchfield County.

...Cornwall reads

Continued from previous page

from December 1994. She was followed by Emmy Award-winning journalist and Cornwall resident Richard Schlesinger, who read a piece about grandmothers from a June 1992 edition. Robinson held the mic for local activist Nita Colgate as she read from a July 1998 issue of the Chronicle. Other readers included Gillian Blake, senior vice president, publisher, and editor-in-chief at Crown, a division of Penguin Random House.

Local students Willow Berry and Willa Lesch took turns reading a piece together, and recent Vassar graduate Gloria Trevor read

a piece about snakes. Martin Chalk, board member of the Cornwall Conservation Trust and long-time Cornwall resident, read from a June 2017 edition of the Chronicle. Author Leigh Newman read a recent piece from August 2024, and CEO and founder of Five Acre Farms, Daniel Horan, read a piece from April 2024.

With each reading, the room was filled with the spirit of shared history, as tales of local lore, humor, and heartache unfolded. The event was a reminder of a simpler time and a celebration of Cornwall's enduring love for its stories and the people who tell them.

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FILM: MIKE COBB

Norfolk Library screens Bette Davis film

Robert Dance, the author of "Fabulous Faces of Classic Hollywood" (2024), introduced the classic Bette Davis film "Now, Voyager" (1942) at the Norfolk Library on Friday, November 22.

Now Voyager plays the dowdy youngest daughter of a wealthy Boston family meant to stay behind the walls of her family's Boston mansion caring for an elderly mother.

During her nearly six-decade career, Davis was nominated for eleven Oscars and won two (each of the films shown in Norfolk were Oscar nominated). Wildly popular, especially during the 1930s and 40s, Davis continues to be highly respected.

"She wasn't a herald of fashion like her great rival Joan Crawford, but she represented the archetypal upper middle class American woman as presented by Hollywood (in her case by Warner Brothers). Davis defied glamor and beauty with her extraordinary screen talent, although in the end she could portray a sort of crisp glamor perhaps more in keeping with the pages of Vogue than Hollywood fan magazines," Dance said.

Davis's films are continually shown on TCM.

She was even the subject of a song, "Bette Davis Eyes," that was number one on the billboard chart for several weeks in the 1980s:

"Her hair is Harlow gold

Her lips a sweet surprise

Her hands are never cold

She's got Bette Davis eyes

She'll turn her music on you

You won't have to think twice

She's pure as New York snow

She got Bette Davis eyes"

"The 'Harlow' is Jean Harlow, the movie's original blond sex goddess back in the 1930s. She died at age 26 in 1937 but was one of the greatest stars of Hollywood's golden age. Who remembers her now? Maybe we need a Jean Harlow series in Norfolk," Dance said.

As a young student living in Manhattan, Dance went to see movies frequently, absorbing silents, musicals, classic German films. These outings solidified his love of movies and the celluloid heroes of yesteryear.

"Something like half of all Americans went to the movies every week from the 1920s to the

50s (when television changed entertainment). Cinema is one of the last century's great technological and entertainment inventions, so it seemed necessary to become fluent in this culture. What is exciting today is that I am continually discovering something new made a century ago. Kino and the Criterion collection are among the invaluable services that discover little known works and return them to the public," Dance explained.

Today, Davis seems to have slipped away in popular culture, while Joan Crawford remains popular with websites devoted to her, and Instagram has more than a hundred dedicated Crawford sites. But Davis continues to be revered by older generations.

"Davis survives because of an astonishing body of screen work. 'Now Voyager' is one of her best, although for some it might seem old-fashioned. Still, it has it all: perfect performances from the entire

Robert Dance, right, and his old friend Parker Stevenson, actor from "Hardy Boys" and "Baywatch."

cast, a compelling story, superb direction. The American Film Institute's rank of actresses lists her number two overall. 'Now Voyager' ranks high among dramas," Dance says.

"Maybe Norma Desmond (Gloria Swanson in Sunset Blvd - see it if you haven't) was right: "I am big. It's the pictures that got small."



PHOTO PROVIDED

Cheer in Cornwall

Cornwall Library's Gingerbread House Competition, Tree Lighting and Carol Sing will take place on Sunday, Dec. 8. Gingerbread houses will be on display starting at 4 p.m., followed by the tree lighting at 5 p.m., and a festive carol sing on the library front steps. There will be Adult and Child (18 and under) categories for judging.

The overall winner for each category will receive a \$50 gift certificate to 45 On Main candy shop in Kent and each house submission will receive a unique award. Complimentary refreshments will be available and a craft table will be set up for kids.

Registration required only for Gingerbread House Competition, not for general attendance. Cornwalllibrary.org

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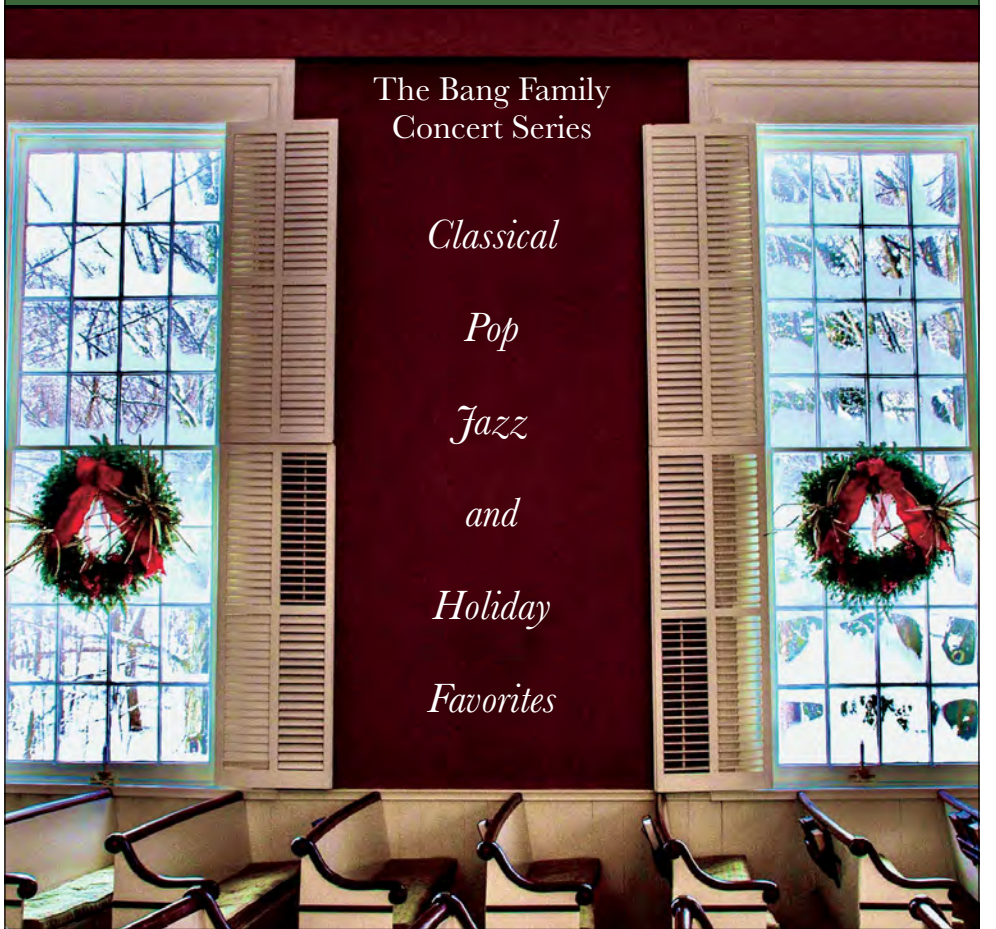
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Sports

GNH wins Turkey Bowl 44-8

By Riley Klein

WINSTED — Gilbert/Northwestern/Housatonic co-op football ended the season with a 44-8 win against St. Paul Catholic High School Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 28.

Cold, rainy conditions made for a ground and pound game with GNH scoring five rushing touchdowns. QB Owen Stimpson completed three passes, two of which were caught for long-distance touchdowns.

St. Paul's lone score came in the fourth quarter on an 80-yard scramble by RB Jack Dennehy.

The Turkey Bowl marked the end of the season for both teams. St. Paul finished with a record of 2-8 and GNH ended at 3-7.

GNH Coach Scott Salius earned his 101st win with the team and wrapped up his 17th season.

Housatonic Valley Regional High School Athletic Director Anne MacNeil was wielding an umbrella on the sideline. She said she was hosting Thanksgiving dinner later that day and put a turkey in the oven before heading to Van Why Field.

It was about 39 degrees during the game with unremitting precipitation.

Both teams struggled to hold on to the slick ball, resulting in a combined five lost fumbles and two interceptions. About a dozen more botched snaps and hand offs were recovered by



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

GNH's Owen Riemer ran away from the St. Paul defense on a cold, rainy Thanksgiving morning Nov. 28.



Above, fumbles were common Nov. 28. Below, Wes Allyn, no. 6, is among the 22 juniors expected to return for GNH next season.



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Community Hockey Day at South Kent

By Lans Christensen

KENT — On Friday, Nov. 22, South Kent School presented a day of hockey games with Seacoast Performance Academy from New Hampshire.

Exciting hockey for sure, but the underlying theme of "community" became the real highlight. Seacoast, better known as "SPA," is described on its website as, "The most comprehensive and intensive hockey specific program in the United States."

SPA brought teams in three different age categories and played the equally matched South Kent Cardinals.

The promise of this community event brought together a great group of family and friends from both teams. Not the usual stiff, divisive bleacher seating with visitor and home team fans at opposite ends.

The hockey community gathered happily in the Stockdale Arena warming room for socializing and game watching. Hot choco-



late, cookies and kids' games kept everyone warm and comfortable — and happily meeting new friends.

Stephanie Thompson, from Columbus, Ohio, was there to cheer her son Sawyer, a Seacoast team member. She was "so happy to have had the time to see the beautiful campus, and the surrounding area." She added it was "actually my first time in Connecticut."

The hockey community certainly grew both larger and closer with this successful event.

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