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The Lakeville Journal will not publish Dec. 26, and will publish again Jan. 2, 2025.

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Small Business Spotlight, Page A10

lakevillejournal.com

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



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Ty Ford puts the finishing touches on a handmade wreath at Housatonic FFA's Holiday Market production night Dec. 12.

FFA Holiday Market shoppers undeterred by snow

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Alumni and friends of the Housatonic FFA chapter came to Housatonic Valley Regional High School Thursday night, Dec. 12, to make holiday wreaths for sale in the FFA Holiday Store.

This traditional event is always a highlight of the December calendar in Region One.

The first "production night" on Dec. 4 was canceled due to an ominous weather forecast.

Asked if the cancellation set things back, Agriculture Education department chair Dave Moran was non-committal.

He did observe that the recent rain depressed sales temporarily.

"Snow doesn't stop anybody," he mused. "But rain?"

Moran steered a reporter to a wreath-making station featuring veteran wreathmaker Ty Ford.

Ford's hands were a blur as he

See FFA, Page A12

Judge hears argument for 'motion to dismiss' Paley Farm case

By Taylor Plett

SHARON — Attorneys representing the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and the current owners of Paley Farm argued that an ongoing injunction case should be dismissed at a preliminary hearing on Monday, Dec. 9. Judge Walter Menjivar has yet to rule.

The case surrounds DOAG's decision to approve the landowners' application to construct a residence on the protected farmland.

Sharon Land Trust and Carol Flaton brought the case to Torrington Superior Court in July when they filed an injunction request to block

the construction, arguing that DOAG misapplied the language of the original easement in its approval decision.

The property at the center of the suit, a 187 acre parcel located at 135 Millerton Road, was put under a farmland protection easement in 1984 when retired farmer Morris Paley sold his development rights to the state through DOAG's Farmland Preservation Program.

The easement bars the development of the land for purposes other than agriculture, but it allows for the construction of residences for "persons directly incidental to farm operation."

In 2022, current owners David and Liza Bainbridge of Rye, New York, purchased the property and

See PALEY FARM, Page A12

No relief in sight as energy costs rise, temperatures dip

By Debra A. Aleksinas

Residential customers of Yankee Gas could see a nearly 30% increase in heating bills if a \$209 million rate hike, requested last month, is approved by the state's Public Utilities Regulatory Authority.

The request by Yankee Gas, which is owned by Eversource, follows on the heels of skyrocketing costs to consumers' monthly electric bills this summer caused by a hike in the "public benefits" portion by Eversource and several heat waves.

State lawmakers from both sides of the aisle have expressed dissatisfaction with the rising electric rates, but despite calls since summer for a special legislative session by Republican lawmakers to address the increases, majority Democrats have

"Read the room, Eversource. Connecticut families are fed up with sky-high energy costs."

— Connecticut Attorney General William Tong

taken no action.

"Connecticut Republicans continue offering common sense solution for rate relief, including to remove "public benefits" charges from our residents' electric bills," Senate Minority Leader Stephen Harding said in a statement.

"For months, we have called for a special legislative session to act," a petition for which was signed by more than 58,000 state residents, he explained.

State Rep. Maria Horn (D-5th) said she has yet to hear a proposal that "would actually help ratepayers in a meaningful way in a special

session, and I have found the calls for that to be a performance, rather than a substantive discussion about how to make real change. Now that the election is behind us," she said, "perhaps that will change, but it's my belief that the only way to continue to combat these complicated issues is through regular session."

Gov. Ned Lamont has said that if specific proposals were to be presented by lawmakers, he would consider calling a special session.

According to Democratic Attorney General William Tong, Yankee

See ENERGY COSTS, Page A12

P&Z to decide on Wake Robin

By Alec Linden

SALISBURY — The Planning and Zoning Commission is expected to vote on a resolution for the Wake Robin Inn expansion project on Wednesday, Dec. 18, after a long, contentious application process.

After six hearings of outcry from Lakeville residents, the public hearing was finally closed at the conclusion of a nearly five-hour meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 10. P&Z picked up the conversation again on Thursday evening, Dec. 12, to initiate its inter-commission deliberation process.

Near the meeting's end, P&Z Chairman Michael Klemens asked the commissioners to indicate if they

felt they would deny or approve the application as it stood so that a resolution could be developed to formally vote on. Four of the five commissioners present voted they would likely deny the application, however this is not P&Z's final decision — the official vote is Wednesday evening, Dec. 18.

"Despite the fact that the applicant put so much effort into it, I think there are serious deficiencies," Klemens said. The major issues he cited revolved around the incongruity of the development with its surrounding residential neighborhood, as well as the "unresolved issues of noise and sewer."

The other commissioners largely agreed with Klemens' appraisal, with

several members citing the lack of specificity on the part of the applicant's design plans as a major flaw in the proposal.

"I feel this application is incomplete in that there's no baseline for the noise level," said commissioner Allen Cockerline. He noted that he felt the applicant had erred severely by not including more data on how the new development's construction — specifically the proposed event barn — would dampen noise pollution into the surrounding neighborhood.

The commission's primary qualms with the project mirror many of the complaints levied by

See WAKE ROBIN, Page A12

North Canaan's Great Falls Brewery announces closure at end of year

By Alec Linden

NORTH CANAAN — Great Falls Brewing Company will close its doors at the year's end after prolonged financial troubles in the wake of the pandemic.

"It's constantly chasing the dollar in this business," said Chris Tripler, founder and managing owner of the brewery. At a certain point, "you just have to say no more."

The closure comes in the wake of several other brewery closures this year in Connecticut, including Avon's popular Hopmeadow Brewing Company which will also shut

See BREWERY, Page A12



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

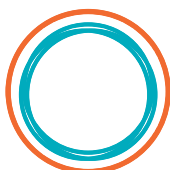
Great Falls Brewing Co., located in North Canaan's Union Station Railroad Depot, is closing down after several slow years beginning with the pandemic in 2020.



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Economics, Policy, and Investment for Humans with Adam Lang

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Roots and Words: Exploring our Place in Nature with Dathalinn O'Dea

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Regional

In The Journal this week

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Online This Week

Sports coverage

Read about HVRHS basketball's season opening scrimmage, Salisbury hockey and CIAC football state championship weekend at lakevillejournal.com.

POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

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

Home improvement work, refund charges

On Thursday, Dec. 12, at approximately 1 p.m., Grant Lang, 28, of Brookfield, turned himself in at Troop B on an active arrest warrant alleging making or offering to make home improvements on a Falls Village residence without a current certificate of registration and failing to refund payment for a home improvement within 10 days. Lang was released on a \$2,000 nonsurety bond and was scheduled to appear in Superior Court.

Disorderly conduct

On Wednesday, Dec. 11, at approximately 2:30 p.m. Troopers responded to a Sharon Valley Road residence in Sharon on a report of an active disturbance. An

investigation led to the arrest of Chad Peterson, 37, of Sharon, on a charge of disorderly conduct. Peterson was released on a \$2,500 nonsurety bond and was scheduled to appear in court.

Disorderly conduct, assault, 3rd degree charges

On Friday, Dec. 13, at approximately 12:45 a.m., troopers were dispatched to a Main Street address in North Canaan for a disturbance. An investigation led to the arrest of Randall Tilley, 36, of North Canaan, on charges of disorderly conduct and assault, third degree. Tilley was released on a \$5,000 bond and scheduled to appear in court.

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

Arrest in last year's fatal Christmas crash

By John Coston

NORTH CANAAN — A nearly year-long investigation into a fatal 2023 Christmas Day crash last year has resulted in the arrest of a North Canaan man on manslaughter charges.

Samuel Simmons, 21, of Ashley Falls Road, was arrested on Thursday, Dec. 12, at his home by Troopers from Troop B, charged with three felonies and held on a \$250,000 cash surety bond.

The investigation concluded that Simmons, the driver of a 1995 Volvo 850T5R, "was

operating while impaired by the effects of marijuana," according to the police report.

A passenger in the Volvo, Avery Nelson, 24, of Norfolk, was pronounced dead on the scene as a result of injuries sustained when the Volvo struck a four-foot, two-inch tree, a fence and a railing in front of a residence on Twin Lakes Road just west of the intersection of Canaan Road (Route 44) in the Town of Salisbury on Christmas Day afternoon.

Simmons was transported to Sharon Hospital for injuries.

According to a statement provided by one witness, the Volvo was traveling eastbound on Route 44 at a high rate of speed behind her car when it passed her despite a double-yellow line.

The witness said the Volvo then entered the oncoming lane for about 30 seconds then swerved off the roadway.

A second witness, who was visiting a gravesite at Route 44 and Twin Lakes Road, heard a noise and observed the Volvo hit the tree at a high rate of speed.

A third witness, who was westbound near the accident

scene observed the Volvo to be out of control.

Investigators obtained a search warrant for Simmons' medical records at Sharon Hospital. The records listed the presence of the principal psychoactive ingredient of marijuana.

A report from the medical examiner listed Nelson's cause of death as injuries sustained in the crash. The manner of death was listed as "accident."

A collision report issued by the Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Squad concluded that Simmons, while traveling at a speed between 74 and 79 mph, attempted a left-steering maneuver that exceeded "the handling ability of the Volvo."

Simmons is scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on Jan. 21 on charges of manslaughter, 2nd degree; manslaughter with a motor vehicle, 2nd degree; illegal possession of a weapon in a motor vehicle; reckless driving and failure to drive upon the right.

Briggs joins Millerton News as managing editor

MILLERTON — Krista A. Briggs has joined The Millerton News as Managing Editor.

Briggs, who lives in Cold Spring, New York, is a journalist with a broad background that ranges from news and feature writing to managing transcription and translation projects for legal and municipal clients.

Briggs graduated from Long Island University-Post with a Bachelor of Science in Journalism, and holds a Master of Science in Special Education from Dowling College.

The News is pleased to welcome Briggs to the paper, which has been focused on building newsroom strength since Covid days.

"I'm very pleased to have joined the creative and dedicated staff at The Millerton News. I'm really looking forward to partnering with the Millerton community and its surrounding areas to produce a newspaper we can all be proud to call our own."

James H. Clark, chief executive officer and publisher of LJMN Media, the nonprofit that publishes The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, said, "Krista is a welcome addition to our growing newsroom, particularly at this point where we seek to broaden and deepen coverage of our communities."

The Millerton News is available online at www.millertonnews.com.

Send news tips to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

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

Check them out inside.

- Ocean State Job Lot
- LJMN Media
- 21st Century Fund



Happy Holidays!

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Christmas Services

Falls Village Congregational Church



Come Join Us!!!
Christmas Eve at
Falls Village Congregational Church
16 Beebe Hill Road
December 24, 7:30 PM

Join us for Christmas
LAKEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
319 Main Street, Lakeville | Rev. Dr. Anna Camphouse



CHRISTMAS EVE
5:30 p.m.
Service of Lessons, Carols
and Candle Lighting
"A perfect time for families"
All are welcome!
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"

St. John's Episcopal Church

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE • 5:00 P.M.
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CHAPEL OF ALL SAINTS

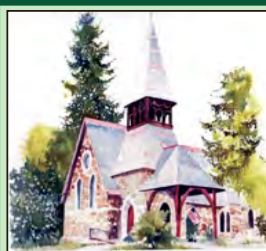
Christmas Eve Service

with Father Mark Bozutti-Jones & Rev. Mary Gates officiating

5:00 pm

Trinity Retreat Center
Lower River Road, West Cornwall, CT

www.allsaintscornwall.org



Trinity Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24

4:30 PM Choral Prelude with festive Baroque music, and traditional Carols
Trinity Choir with guests from Crescendo
Brian Kanner, Trumpet, Tricia van Oers, recorders, directed by Christine Gevert, organ

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Eucharist with familiar Carols & festive descants

Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25

10:00 AM Contemplative Christmas Morning Eucharist with Carols
Donna Castaner, soprano and harp and Christine Gevert, organ

Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 29

10:30 AM Carols and Traditional texts
Juan Mesa (Boston,) organ

The Rev. Heidi Truax, Rector
Christine Gevert, Music Director

484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville, CT
Trinitylimerock.org 860-435-2627

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CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24th

5:30pm:

Hand Bell Prelude

6:00pm:

Service of
Lessons & Carols

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you are on life's journey, you
are welcome here!



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Looking for a spiritual home this Christmas?

Come join us at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Amenia Union, a community of Radical Hospitality!



Blue Christmas
December 15 • 5:00 pm

Lessons & Carols
December 18 • 10:30 am

Candlelight
Christmas Eve Service
December 24 • 5:00 pm

Christmas Morning Service
December 25 • 10:30 am

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
40 Leedsville Road, Amenia Union

Home of the Food of Life/Comida de Vida Food Pantry
845-373-9161 • stthomasamenia.com

OBITUARIES

Betty Marie Belliveau

AMENIA — Betty Marie (McGhee) Belliveau, 89, passed away Monday, Dec. 9. She was a resident of Noble Horizons Nursing Facility in Salisbury, in the care of the Wagner unit staff. She formerly lived in Stanfordville and Amenia. Born March 9, 1935, to Mildred (Wirehouse) and Collins S. McGhee Sr. in Bethel (Pine Plains, New York). She attended Pine Plains High School. On Nov. 14, 1953, she married the love of her life, Richard A. Belliveau. They lived in Litchfield, briefly, then moved to Wethersfield Estate in Amenia where they settled for 47 years and raised their family.



Austria, Germany, Nova Scotia, Mexico and frequently to Toronto, Canada. Until the last 5 years, she was an active member of the Forever Young Club in Stanfordville. Betty is survived by her 5 children; Theresa (Robert) Brewer of Millerton, Jeffrey (Priscilla) of Yanceyville, North Carolina, Andrea (David) Lyle of Millerton, Joel (Mary) of Millerton and Jill (Stephen) Carroll of Amenia. She was proud of her 12 grandchildren; Nicholas Brewer, Emily Egan, Erin (Brandon) Burke, Rachael Belliveau, Aimee (Christopher) Ziegler, Trevor (Courtney) Lyle, Levi Belliveau, Aera Belliveau, Erika Belliveau, Stephen Carroll, Gavin (Alyssa) Carroll and Logan Carroll. She was the great-grandmother to 11 children. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Betty was predeceased by her husband Richard (2014), her parents, her great granddaughter, Averi Burke, her brother, Collins McGhee Jr. and her sister Janet Hall.

Per her request there will be no services. The family will gather for a burial and memorial gathering in the late spring. In lieu of flowers, donations to the employee Christmas Fund, in Betty's memory would be greatly appreciated, Noble Horizons, 17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, CT 06068. To leave a message of condolence for the family or to share a memory, please visit peckandpeck.net

Betty was the main housekeeper for the Wethersfield Estate for many years. She was also a licensed hairdresser and was employed for 10 years at Maplebrook School, Amenia, as a dorm parent.

Betty was a wonderful mother, grandmother and loyal friend to many. She loved to cook and garden. There wasn't a recipe she couldn't master or a seed she couldn't nurture.

In her younger years she was an avid bowler. She and her husband were wonderful dancers. She belonged to the Pawling Dutchess Quakers square dance group and they participated in many round and ballroom dance expositions. She also traveled abroad to many countries including China, England, Ireland, Wales, Switzerland,

Polly Allen Mellen

LAKEVILLE — Polly Allen Mellen, of Lakeville, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on Dec. 11, 2024, at the age of 100, with family by her side.

Polly was born June 18, 1924, in West Hartford, daughter of the late Walter and Leslie Allen. Her childhood was a treasure to her, marked by loving parents, close-knit siblings, and an active social life. The family frequented Fishers Island, New York, and the Mill Reef Club in Antigua, where her parents had homes. She attended Miss Porter's School in New England and then moved to New York City.

Following a brief tenure as a salesgirl and display designer at Lord & Taylor, she progressed into editorial. Polly began her illustrious career as a protégée of one of the most famous matriarchs of American fashion, Diana Vreeland. Under Vreeland's tutelage, she evolved into an editor at Harper's Bazaar, and later, a leader at American Vogue. She was famous for her avant-garde, out-of-the-box approach, and her animated facial expressions and gregarious manner. In particular, she was known for her clapping, which became a sought-after benchmark of success for designers during her time at Vogue. Polly is known to have cried at fashion shows when moved. She was larger than life and immersed in her experiences completely.

For more than 40 years, Polly was a beacon in the design world, and, from 1991 to 1999, served as creative director of Allure. She was a force of nature—articulate, vibrant, exuberant, and highly regarded as an iconic American stylist and fashion editor. Polly's joie de vivre, passion for details, and nuanced aesthetic infused her career.

Polly's cutting-edge style and formidable presence profoundly influenced the careers of many designers, editors, and photographers

in the creative fashion world, which eventually elevated her to legendary status. She worked intimately with photographers, including her dear, lifelong friend, Richard Avedon, with whom she styled many timeless images, including photographs of Sophia Loren, Rudolf Nureyev, and an iconic shot of Nastassja Kinski, naked, famously swathed in nothing but a boa constrictor. Polly worked with many other reputed photographers, including Arthur Elgort, Steven Meisel, Helmut Newton, Irving Penn, and Bruce Weber. She worked closely with all the great designers and fashion models of her time. When she retired in 1994, Polly received a lifetime achievement award from the Council of Fashion Designers of America and remained a consultant on various projects.

When not working, Polly was an avid reader and gardener and enjoyed being outdoors, particularly by the sea. She cherished her friendships and family and was an adept athlete, skiing downhill and playing golf well into her 90's.

Polly was the loving wife of the late Henry Wigglesworth Mellen, and savored her family, including her dear grandchildren. She is survived by her daughter, Leslie Bell, her son Louis Baker Bell, Jr.; stepson Henry Mellen, stepdaughter Lucinda Mellen; and grandchildren, Hope Bell, Molly Bell, Palmer Johnson, Dylan Chase, and Clark Mellen, along with many adoring nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother Walter Allen Jr., and sisters Nancy Belknap, Patty Wall, and Leslie Tapscott.

A memorial for immediate family will be held in 2025, with announcements to follow.

In lieu of flowers, please feel free to offer donations to the Little Guild of St. Francis, Cornwall, CT.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Walter Ray Killmer

MILLERTON — On Nov. 25, Walter Killmer died at his home with loved ones nearby.

Walter was born Jan. 2, 1951, to the late Raymond and Charlotte (Brendline) Killmer at Sharon Hospital.

Walter served his country by enlisting in the U.S.

Army in 1968. That same year, he married Gail Harpp who predeceased him in 2011. Walter was also predeceased by his beloved daughter, Brenda Hotaling, as well as sister, Judy McGee, and brothers Bryant and Milton (Jody) Killmer.

Surviving at home are his beloved son, Steven Killmer, and Steven's partner Christina Stickle (Chrissy Burns), grandsons Shane and Cole

Hotaling, who were adored by their Poppy.

Surviving siblings, Jackie Spaulding, April Riley, Scott Killmer and Joanne Killmer are all from Millerton.

Walt had a special bond with his niece and nephew, Charlotte Humbert and Raymond Killmer.

Also surviving are several nieces and nephews as well as cousins.

The family would like to thank Chrissy who took such loving care of Walter.

The family will have a celebration of life in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, donations could be made to the community hospice: The Community Hospice, 47 Liberty Street, Catskill, NY 12414.



Send obituaries to johnc@lakevillejournal.com



Worship Services

Week of December 22 & 29, 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 You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org 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 860-824-7232</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, January 12 at 10:30 a.m. 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!</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>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>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>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 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 sharonumc634@att.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>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>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>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>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>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>
<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>	

OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Puppeteer Michelle Smith-Carrigan in costume as the Ghost of Christmas Past.

Puppet people bring Charles Dickens classic to Salisbury

By Patrick L. Sullivan

for instance.

SALISBURY — The Puppet People of Schenectady, New York, put on an intense and dramatic puppet version of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" at the Salisbury Congregational Church Saturday afternoon, Dec. 14.

The Puppet People are Mark Carrigan and Michelle Smith-Carrigan, who have been putting on puppet shows for over two decades.

The setup was impressive, with a big puppet stage dominating the stage end of the parish hall.

Backstage were marionettes ready for deployment, plus rod puppets, shadow puppets, and masks and costumes for the two human performers, who occasionally ventured out in front as The Ghost of Christmas Past,

This was no Punch and Judy show. The sets were elaborate, the puppets vivid, and the pace of the show deliberate.

The show was sponsored by the Salisbury Association and the Scoville Memorial Library.

HVA awards honor Louis, Elaine Hecht

WINSTED — At the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA)'s Annual Meeting and Holiday Party on Dec. 13, the non-profit organization unveiled the inaugural Louis and Elaine Hecht Follow the Forest Award, presenting it to Lou and Elaine Hecht, as well as to Brian Hagenbuch of the Steep Rock Association and Jen Perga of the Winchester Land Trust, in front of a full crowd at the American Mural Project in Winsted.

"The award celebrates the legacy of two longtime conservation leaders, HVA Board member Lou Hecht and his wife Elaine," noted HVA's Executive Director Lynn Werner in a press release.

The Hechts were instrumental in the creation and promotion of the Follow the Forest initiative.

A collaborative of over 50 organizations, Follow the Forest works to protect a connected woodland corridor across the Housatonic Valley, through eastern New York and up through Vermont to Canada.

HVA plans to honor environmental heroes with this award annually.

Jennifer V. Perga, president of the Winchester Land Trust, and Brian Hagenbuch, Executive Director of the Steep Rock Association, was also awarded the 2024 Louis and Elaine Hecht Follow the Forest Award.

To learn more about HVA's Follow the Forest and Clean Cold and Connected initiatives, visit hvatoday.org, and followtheforest.org.

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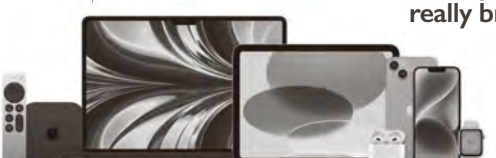
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To our readers

This year, I had the honor of stepping in as CEO/Publisher of two of the oldest surviving community weekly newspapers. After more than 20 years with The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, I've witnessed the highs and lows – including the pivotal conversion to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2021. I am glad to report that because of your support, this has been a strong year for our local community publications.

News

Our mission is to deliver trusted local news to our communities. On that front, we have expanded the newsrooms of both The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News which has added breadth and depth to our coverage and set us on a path to a more sustainable news operation.

This year's reporting highlights include the invasive hydrilla threat to our waterways; the EMS cost crisis in Millerton and beyond; policy changes in our schools and challenges around a proposed merger at Sharon Hospital. We continue to cover key projects like the proposed redevelopment of the Wake Robin Inn and efforts to rebuild the pool at Eddie Collins Park.

We welcomed several new members to our newsroom, including Colleen Flynn, a Marist College journalism graduate and former intern, as a reporter for The Millerton News; Alec Linden, a recent Dartmouth College graduate, to The Lakeville Journal; and Nathan Miller, a University of Missouri journalism graduate, as Editorial & Digital Content Coordinator. Krista Briggs, with a background in journalism and education, joined us this fall as Managing Editor of The Millerton News (see story, Page A2).

In the Spring, Natalia Zukerman was promoted to Engagement Editor and worked to launch a new email newsletter titled "What To Do", with great success. I'm excited to share that she will be expanding her editorial role to a new position of Arts, Lifestyle & Engagement Editor and will be responsible for guiding and further developing all of our arts and lifestyle coverage.

Sustainability

The sustainability of local news has been in the headlines recently and we are working very hard to ensure we continue serving our communities for the long term.

To that end, we're building our business staff both through internal promotions, including Caitlin Hanlon's new role as head of our Production department, and through new staff including Sally Andre as our Development Associate, and Tom Carley, a former New York Times executive, as Chief Operating Officer.

And, we have identified additional Board members rooted in our communities. This year, we were fortunate to add Henry Blodget of West Cornwall, Rob Fish of Salisbury, Meg Downey of Millerton, Scott Siegler of Sharon, and Dick Hermans of Pine Plains.

Generous grants are helping to stabilize our infrastructure, including multi-year support from the Foundation for Community Health, along with contributions from the Cowles Charitable Trust, and The Miami Foundation. The Google News Initiative is supporting website improvements, and LION Publishers is funding upgrades to our financial systems.

Community Engagement

This summer, we met with community members in Norfolk and Millerton to hear directly about what you would like to see in your local news source. And, we again convened a festive gathering of local nonprofits at the Street Fair in Salisbury.

And, in October, we presented the inaugural Estabrook Community Leadership award to the Harney family at a Jubilee Country Luncheon. In addition to honoring the Harneys for their community leadership and spirit, we welcomed a broad swath of community members.

The Next Generation of Journalists

We continue to nurture the next generation of journalists thanks to the generous support of The William and Mary Greve Foundation, the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, the 21st Century Fund — along with individual donors. This year, we hosted nine interns from across the region and beyond. We are encouraged by the strong interest in our program and each "intern season" is an opportunity not just to share what we know, but to learn from these talented people.

As always, our top priority remains delivering the news and information essential to life in our communities.

Thank you to our readers, subscribers, advertisers, and donors. Your trust, partnership, and support enable us to look ahead to a strong 2025. With gratitude.

James H. Clark
CEO/Publisher

Reach out to us

Please don't hesitate to contact me directly with questions, comments, concerns at 860-435-9873 x401 or jamesc@lakevillejournal.com.

News: reach Editor-in-Chief John Coston at johnc@lakevillejournal.com, Lakeville Journal Managing Editor Riley Klein at rileyk@lakevillejournal.com and Millerton News Managing Editor Krista Briggs at kristab@millertonnews.com.

Letters to the Editor may be emailed to publisher@lakevillejournal.com or submitted via our websites.

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The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. each Monday. You may email letters to publisher@lakevillejournal.com. Please limit letters to 500 words.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wake Robin: 'The facts as I know them'

To Planning and Zoning Commission:

These are the facts as I know them, having reviewed all the 2024 Commission meetings:

1. Aradev, the company seeking a special permit for the WR expansion, apparently had multiple private discussions with Ms. Conroy and/or the P&Z chairman Dr. Klemens starting in late '23 or early '24. No one in the town knew anything about these discussions. To my knowledge Aradev is not the owner of the real property in question. Do you know who has a contract to purchase the property? Aradev? Another party?

2. The P&Z website indicates that Aradev provided a draft to Ms. Conroy of Amendments to the WR RR-1 zoning that would allow the WR property, then a non-conforming use, to apply for a special permit to expand its footprint exponentially. The operative provisions of the RR-1 zoning had prohibited the expansion of a non-conforming use of Wake Robin.

3. Dr. Klemens and Ms. Conroy advised the Aradev principals (and/or other interested parties) that they themselves would draft Amendments to the Salisbury zoning laws that would allow expansion by special permit only (see 3-18-24 P&Z minutes). It appears that neither of them ever explained the reasons for their draft Amendments to the Commission.

4. Ms. Conroy's memo and draft letter prior to the March meeting was sent to the Northwest Hills Council of Government ("NHCOC") instead of the Town Clerk for further dissemination to the residents of Salisbury or for publication in the local paper.

5. That at the 5-6-24 P&Z meeting Ms. Conroy presented the letter and memo with draft language that she had sent to NHCOC, an entity that neither I nor, I am sure, any other Salisbury taxpayer has ever even heard of. And what did that body do with Conroy's letter? Send a copy to all Salisbury residents? Publish this referral letter in the local paper? No.

6. Why did Ms. Conroy and the chairman choose this method of notification? I and many other interested Salisbury residents believe that their intent was to keep

this entire subject matter "under wraps" until the permit process had proceeded to the point where Aradev had provided significant site/building plans to the Planning Office, and public hearings had commenced. By that time, of course, the P&Z could say that Aradev's plans were in compliance with the amended RR-1 zoning ordinance. And that now the only thing left were public hearings and the vote of the Commission: "Yes or No".

7. It was not until October that the Salisbury residents became aware of this WR permitting process and the May, 2024, Amendments. At that May meeting the record shows that only one Salisbury resident, Mrs. Eliot, asked a question. The other P&Z members' questions were, at best, perfunctory.

8. Long before the last Commission meeting on 12-2-24 the Commission was aware of the legal and practical reasons that the Aradev permit should be denied even with the incorporation of Ms. Conroy's and Dr. Klemens' zoning changes. From our attendance at the December Zoom Commission meeting it appears that the chairman and some members of the Commission have supported the Aradev position all along and paid scant attention to the overwhelming opposition by the Salisbury residents to this preposterous plan of exponential expansion: enlarging a commercial enterprise by 600%.

9. One opponent, Wells Hill residents, Mr. and Mrs. Cruger, have gone so far as to hire counsel who sent a letter in November to the Commission that, to my knowledge, has never been answered. Attorney Grime's questions and observations are chilling and damning. He detailed the procedural and substantive deficiencies in the preparation of and vote on the Amendments.

10. I would have thought that one of the mandates of this Commission is to allow the residents of the town to be heard. And, yet, during the last two meetings not one resident was given this opportunity. Why?

11. This Commission understands that the Amendments to the Zoning Code, Sections 205.1; 205.2; 213.5 and 703.11, created a monster in the sense that, if approved, Aradev will build a

large commercial enterprise in the middle of a rural, residential community that dwarfs the present WR footprint.

12. The Commission has received expert testimony from the Crugers' that this Aradev project is not only inimical to the neighbors, but, also, to the very nature, of our community.

13. Salisbury itself is to blame for this debacle, since its laws provide for an elected Commission that unilaterally decides and has sole power to amend our zoning laws to benefit a private enterprise. We all are asking, "Why?" Who benefits from these Amendments that have allowed Aradev to apply for a special permit? Not the WR neighbors. Not the town. Only Aradev or the ultimate owner of the "new and improved" WR.

14. CT Gen Statutes, Section 8.2(b)(1) states, in pertinent part, "Zoning Regulations shall . . . be designed to: (A) lessen congestion in the streets (the Amendments increased the potential for congestion as Aradev permit demonstrates); (B) secure safety from fire, panic, flood, and other dangers (the Amendments increase the probability of accidents); (C) promote health and the gen-

eral welfare (the WR neighbors and the town itself do not in any way benefit from the permit); (D) promote adequate light and air (this clause means natural light; "air" is the absence of buildings); (E) protect the state's environmental resources (the permit would diminish environmental resources); (F) facilitate the adequate provision for . . . sewage . . ." (this Aradev plan adds unnecessary pressure to the town's sewer system).

This sad saga should end with a rejection of this permit application. And the persons who drafted the Amendments and the Commission members should amend the Zoning Amendments passed in May to permanently prevent the expansion of non-conforming uses in RR-1 zoning.

This sad saga should end with a rejection of this permit application. And the persons who drafted the Amendments and the Commission members should amend the Zoning Amendments passed in May to permanently prevent the expansion of non-conforming uses in RR-1 zoning. Sincerely,

Thomas N. Murphy, Jr.
Salisbury

More letters appear on Page A8.

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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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Viewpoint

Billionaires in a B-casting spectacle

Oddly enough, The Apprentice reality TV series, commencing 2004, was premised on Trump, as host, seeking a leader for one of his Trump companies. The series was billed as the “ultimate job interview” in the “ultimate jungle” conducted by a successful businessman living in splendor. When Trump was offered the series by Mark Burnett, the show’s producer, Trump was demeaning of reality TV: “for the ‘bottom-feeders of society.’” Trump, of course, did accept and The Apprentice along with its second, The Celebrity Apprentice, ran for more than a decade. The show was highly viewed particularly in its early seasons (20 million viewers in 2004 down to 7 million 2014). The Apprentice did indeed establish Trump, his brusqueness, and his famed “you’re fired” and “Trumponomics.” It is not clear how the series experience may have impacted Trump’s strategies and processes for executive recruiting, for selecting his immense Presidential administrative staff

Donald J. Trump came to the nation’s stage in a reality TV show where he was hiring an organizational head—establishing his company’s leadership by “interviewing” would-be/wanta-be’s, engaging them in skill testing tasks from which they survived or “you’re fired.” Today, Trump, newly elected by a plurality, is once again galvanizing the nation’s attention as he selects his leadership cast for the second Trump Presidency.

Any rigorous interview process for candidates for the nation’s 2025 top leaders – the cabinet and other senior officials- is less evidenced than on Trump’s reality TV show. How have the supreme core of his administration been chosen, assessed, scrutinized for fit to key positions, not in a Trump tightly controlled real estate organization, but for the real-time world leader nation – the United States? How are his appointees scrutinized for their potential impact on national security, financial prosperity, public health and good will with other nations? How is Trump’s process successfully selecting officials whose knowledge, skills, experience, and character will be in service to the nation, will protect and better the well-being of the nation and its people? Trump’s loyalty test— that he won the 2020 election- attractive TV presence or family connection are clear selection criteria: what more is assessed and how?

Trump initially refused to have his selections undergo the long-standing FBI vetting of presidential appointees but then his Attorney General candidate, Matt Gaetz, was ousted. A thick file of illegal acts had been investigated by a House Committee set to air their finding. Gaetz bowed out. Matt Gaetz, a radical Representative from Florida, had served three terms in Congress with his sole legislative distinction being the termination of the GOP Speaker of the House, Kevin McCarthy. Representative Gaetz was not a Department of Justice stellar pick rather a B- or lower talent/character. No legal experience, questionable character.

Peter Hegseth, Secretary of Defense appointee, is next up for severe public scrutiny. Hegseth is under pressures from both parties

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MARLOWE

for questionable behaviors/statements, lack of demonstrated competencies for managing an immense organization, ill-fitting notions about women in the military as well as of Muslims in an era of Middle East turmoil. For Hegseth, Princeton and Harvard degrees along with a weekend gig on Fox are not A level qualifications for leading an \$800 billion, three million person organization. B- talent and character - or lower ratings- are attributable to other cabinet selections: Kennedy (Samoa measles deaths, mental instability), Gabbard (connection with ousted Syrian President Assad) Patel (conspiracy laden) followed by McMahon, Noem, Bondi - an obscure Florida sheriff has stepped down from an appointment to the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Agency.

Trump’s cast of appointees for senior administration offices are billionaires or B-talent/character wanta-be’s vs accomplished, prominent persons with experience in areas they are charged with managing. Trump’s swath of billionaire appointees (numbering so far seven) have garnered massive personal wealth yet what do they know or care about service to the nation, to its citizens? Are their priorities personal rather than national? What they have proven by their abundant wealth is preservation of self-interest along with a willingness to donate millions to campaigns pledged to lowering their taxes and eliminating costly governmental restrictions.

Though Trump in his candidacy firmly stated he knew nothing of, certainly had no support for Project 2025, his appointees include the founding core of Project 2025 — a project set to decimate the US government by unwinding citizen rights and access to long established programs and services: Social Security, health care, clean air and water, veteran benefits and more.

Many of us may liken our current status – post the 2024 Presidential election - to being in the cheap seats for the shaping of our coming years. The plurality-elected President has, as was expected, strong-armed most Presidential transition processes including the vetting of senior officials and ethical pledges regarding domestic and foreign conflict of interests. The ethical pledge finally signed by the Trump transition team, months after its due date, excludes the President-elect. Trump is positioning himself, his Presidency, the Oval Office to front his businesses – he is under no ethical restrictions and has been granted total criminal immunity.

Who will stand for the Constitution? Who in the legislature will enact the precepts of their responsibilities - adhere to their oaths? A long, hazardous transition ahead. Happy holidays.

“It’s ok to have your eggs in one basket as long as you control what happens to that basket.” —Elon Musk

Kathy Herald-Marlowe lives in Sharon.

Brief history of vaccines: Smallpox

High on a slope above Farmington, Connecticut, far from settled places, there is a slab of granite angled so that its face is nearly vertical. Names have been chiseled into the rock. They are not the work of graffiti artists, but rather are carefully done, as if by stone masons with time on their hands in the 1790s. The site contained a smallpox hospital, probably only a cabin of which there remains no trace, where people who had vaccinated themselves with fluids from smallpox pustules stayed until the scabs fell off and they were no longer infectious. (I learned about these carvings after a talk I gave before the pandemic and in the five or six years since, sadly, I lost the names of the people who told me.) There were other hospitals in New York and New England, including the ruined smallpox hospital on Roosevelt Island in the East River of New York whose ruins remain.

Smallpox was ferociously contagious and deadly. It probably killed or disfigured more human beings over the centuries, perhaps more than any other disease. It came in waves, killing or scarring as much as 8% of the population at a time. The death rate once a person had smallpox was much higher. People knew it when they saw it because its symptoms, including frightening pustules, were unique.

THE BODY
SCIENTIFIC
RICHARD KESSIN

Wikipedia has an excellent summary, including images of patients and a U.S. Army training film from 1967. It is grim, but to understand the devastation of such viruses, far beyond Covid, and the painfully acquired knowledge that eradicated smallpox in 1977, read the text and watch the film.

The first preventative was variolation, a vaccine precursor used in China starting in about 1500 and introduced to Europe by Lady Mary Montagu, who is usually but inadequately described as the wife of a British diplomat posted to the Ottoman Empire. There was much more to her. She defied a tyrannical father who wanted her to live without books and to marry a wealthy man named Viscount Sir Clotworthy Skeffington (forgive me). The diplomat, Edward Wortley Montagu, took Mary to Constantinople and promptly found that she was intrepid and visited many places including the women’s baths which she described in letters and books. She was a gifted and curious traveler and writer. Mary Montagu had two children and when she returned to Great Brit-

ain, she had them ‘engrafted’ with smallpox, the first British children to be treated, against strong opposition from the British medical establishment who viewed the procedure as folk medicine.

What did the medical establishment know about infectious disease in 1800? The answer is practically nothing. They knew that once a person had a disease and survived, they were usually immune to it thereafter. They did not know about viruses or bacteria. Bacteria had been seen under van Leuwenhoek’s microscope, but never associated with disease. Neither physicians nor scientists knew that living organisms were essential for making bread, wine, or vinegar. Viruses would not be described for a hundred years until 1894. They were called filterable agents and not seen until the 1940s when electron microscopes became available. The physicians and scientists of 1800 had no idea that there was something we now call the immune system, or that people and animals had defenses that could be mobilized.

The smallpox story turns to Gloucestershire and dairy farms where a disease, called cowpox is caused by a virus (we now know) that closely resembles smallpox in its DNA sequence. (Monkey pox is also part of this group.) Cowpox is relatively benign, causing only a few

mild scabs on the arms of milkmaids and other dairy workers. Milkmaids who got cowpox, never got smallpox, and they noticed. It’s a little late, but credit to them.

Edward Jenner was a Gloucestershire physician who also noticed the peculiarities of cowpox and prepared many case studies, showing that prior infection with cowpox prevents infection by smallpox. Edward Jenner assembled his case studies with fine drawings and submitted them for publication to The Royal Society where he was rejected. Someone who did see virtue in Jenner’s work was Napoleon Bonaparte, then in power; he welcomed Jenner to France with honors and vaccinated his armies.

All of this might make you think that after 1800 there would be a deluge of new vaccines. But it took 80 years, or four generations, and much of the 19th century. To explain why, we will keep going, vaccine by vaccine: first anthrax, then animal cholera, and finally, the rabies vaccine, which arrived on a wing and a prayer in 1885.

Richard Kessin is Professor Emeritus of Pathology and Cell Biology at The Columbia University Medical Center and has been writing The Body Scientific column for 15 years.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago —
December 1924

Litchfield County leads the state in dairy production, ranking first in numbers and value of its dairy cattle and in the amount and value of its dairy products. Dairy is the leading agricultural industry in the county and because of this fact the Litchfield County Farm Bureau is pushing its Purebred Bull campaign as the most effective method of inspiring a profitable industry.

Mrs. Maggie Frink had the misfortune to fall from her chair, fracturing one of her hips last Thursday. She is now in the Winsted hospital for treatment, under the care of Dr. David Reidy.

TACONIC — An epidemic of gripe colds is spoiling the attendance at the public school.

Henry Atkins has moved his family from Lincoln City to a part of Mrs. Cullen’s tenement house at Davis’ Ore Bed.

Samuel Whitbeck severed his connection with Laverly’s Pharmacy last Saturday night, and is taking a short vacation before taking over Champagne’s Pharmacy in Salisbury January 1st.

50 years ago —
December 1974

Bruce Kaiser of Waterbury said this week he will “definitely” file a formal application for a charter to operate rail service on the Brookfield-Canaan section of the Berkshire Line. The bankrupt Penn Central Transportation Company now owns the tracks and the operating rights on the line. But Penn Central does not offer service south of Canaan or north of Kent, with relatively few freight trains running north of New Milford. The railroad has applied for permission to abandon the tracks from New Milford to Canaan.

State Conservation Officer Peter Begley appealed to dog owners this week to restrain their pets so as to prevent them from running deer. There have been many complaints of dogs chasing deer in the Northwest Corner, he said. It was necessary for conservation officers to shoot a large buck that had been injured by dogs and run onto ice on Mudge Pond in Sharon last week. He also called attention to a provision of law that calls for up to a \$200 fine and 60 days in jail for allowing dogs to roam. Dogs found to be running deer will be shot on sight, he said.

Sandra Gomez, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Gomez of Lakeville, is participating in the annual field program of work and independent study sponsored by Keuka College where she is a student. She is working at Serenity Hill Farm in Canaan.

Eugene Freund of East Canaan was presented with the Connecticut Farm Bureau’s “Outstanding Member Award” at its annual banquet held Nov. 20. Eugene and Esther Freund started farming in 1949, and currently own and operate a 160-cow dairy farm, producing 2¼ million pounds of milk annually. Mr. Freund currently serves as treasurer of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, a member of its Executive Committee, and its Board of Directors. His services to other organizations are many.

Members of the Falls Village Ambulance Squad turned actors Tuesday afternoon when they took part in a Madison Avenue photo promotion for Sony Corp. of America. Sony was filming an advertisement for its new U-matic Recorder for electronic news gathering. A phony two-car crash was staged on Barnes Road took part in the production. Money earned by the fire-

men during the filming will be used to help finance the new ambulance recently purchased by the fire company.

25 years ago —
December 1999

CORNWALL — Staff changes and the resignation of Principal William Oros were the main topics of discussion at the Dec. 16 meeting of the Board of Education. After 29 years at Cornwall Consolidated School, Mr. Oros is leaving to accept a position at the Bethany Community School. Mr. Oros has been the principal of CCS since 1984, taking one

year off to serve as Region 1’s interim assistant superintendent in 1989. Prior to becoming principal he taught fifth through eighth grade at the school.

The New England Press Association has advised The Lakeville Journal’s weekly guide to Tri-State events, Compass, has won an award in its 1999 newspaper contest for an April 29, 1999, feature by Sunny MacMillan on the artist Georgia O’Keefe. Marsden Epworth edits Compass. The award will be presented at NEPA’s annual convention this winter.

Status Report

SALISBURY — Dan Dwyer reported a mountain lion sighting on Salmon Kill Road Dec. 14. He noted a long tail on the big cat and estimated it to be about 125 pounds. With no photo evidence, his social media post attracted hundreds of commenters discussing the unverified presence of mountain lions in the area. Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) maintains that no

breeding population of mountain lions has been present in the state since the 1800s and that bobcats (up to 40 pounds) are the only wild felines active in Connecticut today.

NORTH CANAAN — In an effort to improve communications and provide a more welcoming atmosphere at Town Hall, a reception window was installed at the front office earlier this month.



Realtor® at Large

The EPA web site has an informative update on the cleanup of PCBs in the Housatonic River basin which were generated since the early 1900s by General Electric’s industrial site in Pittsfield. PCBs are cancer causing and usually are found in the sediment. However, they also get into the food chain, hence the prohibition since 1979 on eating any fish caught in the Housatonic River. This report will update you on the current status of the cleanup and what remains to be done. It also gives notice to the upcoming public meetings. To find out more, please go to: www.epa.gov/ge-housatonic.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Tis the season — considering the gift of the moment

In these challenging times, embracing the beauty amid the chaos can be difficult. With so many voices pushing us to fear, embody busyness and buying, and check off our many holiday lists, it can be overwhelming to consider the gift of the moment. Therefore, I offer these thoughts to encourage and empower those who read them to celebrate some of the spiritual gifts of the season—whether they are “church-folks” or not. More than a few traditional Christian teachings are worth considering and embracing to increase your spiritual health this December.

December 1st was the first Sunday of Advent, marking the beginning of the Christian New Year. Echoing how the light of creation came out of chaos and darkness, Advent is a season where the days get shorter, and the world has much more darkness than light. During these shadowy times, Christians are called to meditate on hope, joy, peace, and love—the secret sauce of the light and grace the world desperately craves. Like an answered prayer, the Winter Solstice passes, and then we see the coming again of the Light in the celebration of Christmas. This constant and abiding celebration of Christ-light is a clarion call for the belief that brighter days are coming again, inviting us to enter a life lived in the light instead of the darkness.

Advent is a season encouraging us to give sincere thought and planning regarding our belief in the Light and our commitment to being a people of the Light. Each week, we consider the four core values of our faith: hope, joy, peace, and love. We prepare our hearts and our homes for the inbreaking of the heavenly into the earthly realm. We reach out to others with goodwill and generosity. We show through our words and deeds that we believe in the brightness of the human

soul, sharing care and compassion with whomever we meet.

As we go forth into this transformative month, we know the light still shines even in the darkest moments. It beckons us to live in its warmth with all our hearts. It entices us to share its illumination with our friends, family, community, and country. Yes, it is a tender and challenging moment for the world. This is why we need people who believe in and nurture the light more than ever. Please join us in the work that lies ahead by recommitting to faith in the Divine and humanity's ability to reflect the light in beauty-filled ways. You, dear one, have a light worth shining. Keep glowing, friends. With luminous faith,

**Rev. Dr. Anna Crews
Camphouse
Pastor of Lakeville UMC,
Millerton UMC,
and Sharon UMC**

The Democrats show they still don't get it

More than a month after the election, the shell-shocked Democrats and their allies in the media, academia and Hollywood are still clueless as to what happened.

They're in full denial as they point fingers at everything but themselves. Instead of ditching their hugely unpopular agenda, they're doubling down with a “Second Resistance” to Donald Trump and wondering what's wrong with the millions of Americans who voted for him. Didn't those yokels hear what a threat to democracy he is?

Yes, the yokels heard all about it, but they saw through the left's lies. Only the Dems and their media handmaidens who peddle those lies believe them. Together they seem cognitively incapable of comprehending that it is their own lies, extremism and

A favorite Christmas story, circa 1946

A week ago, when I was at a meeting of the Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT at Noble Horizons, we were all asked by the leader to tell our favorite Christmas story. This was my story:

When I was ten years old, in 1946, my family moved back to our pre-war home in Buckinghamshire, England, not far from Windsor Castle, and on Christmas morning my parents took their three children to the Christmas morning service at their old village church in Farnham Royal. We kids (aged 13, 10 and 9) didn't pay much attention to the sermon, until we heard the Rector saying, “I would like you all to consider inviting one or two of our local German prisoners-of-war to your Christmas Dinner today.” At the word “German” we three kids all froze. “German! Prisoners of war! Real live Germans! In our house! No!”

All our remembered lives we had had German aircraft in the sky above our heads, where we lived in our grandfather's house only a quarter of a mile from the heavily barbed-wired beaches and

waves. The German planes had been over our heads, first in small strafing attacks and then in huge squadrons of heavy bombers coming and going while we hid in air-raid shelters. My brothers knew the names of every German aeroplane that came over, and could tell from their sound which exact one was over us — Heinkel, Messerschmidt — and who was going after them — Spitfire, Hurricane — So imagine our shock when we got outside and heard our parents telling the Rector that they would welcome two German prisoners-of-war to our Christmas Dinner! “No! No!”

But we kids were not consulted. My father had only just got home from 3 1/2 years as a prisoner-of-war himself, in the jungles of Siam and Burma. So they came, and all too soon we were standing in the front hall and shaking hands with our visitors — two young men with bundles under their arms and shy smiles on their faces. We all went into the living room and sat down, we kids totally silent and frozen with fear. Our parents and

their guests tried to talk — the Germans knew a little English after years of working on our farms and roads — so we heard one of them asking if they could give us kids something, and pulling things wrapped in brown paper from their bundles. John, my elder brother, opened up a light balsa-wood aeroplane with round RAF circles on its wings, and my little brother unwrapped a stout wooden train engine, and I found a beautiful polished wooden box with a pretty tin picture nailed to its lid, taken from a pre-war candy box. And when I opened the lid, I found it contained lots

of little compartments, for spools of thread and needles and scissors. And then the prisoner-of-war who had given it to me said “It's a lady box!” And I — well, I would have hugged him if I'd had the courage!

And by the time we sat down at the table for our turkey feast, we were all talking and laughing and the Germans were naming our cat's new family of kittens — all German names, which we happily learned, and we were all friends. That was a happy Christmas Day!

**Gaile Binzen
Salisbury**

Ambulance needs

Thank you for your excellent article about Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service and their need for our assistance.

Toward the end of the story it mentions that the Squad responds to 700 calls per year. This is a huge task for this all volunteer group and anything we can do to lighten their load is important.

As Jacquie Rice said, many

of these calls come in the dead of the night. I can attest to this having lived with a Squad member for many years. They just get up and go ... no salary, no benefits and sometimes little recognition for the invaluable service they provide to our special community.

Please take a moment and look at the recommendations in the article, especially having an up to date and accessible File of Life. And while you're at it, please consider making a donation to SVAS. They are supported by private funding and we are so very fortunate to have them.

**Lee Hayes
Bristol, RI**

**More letters appear
on Page A6.**

**The deadline for
letters to the editor
is 10 a.m. each
Monday.
You may email
letters to
publisher@
lakevillejournal.
com.
Please limit
letters to 500 words.**

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE TAX COLLECTOR TOWN OF SALISBURY CT

Pursuant to Sec 12-145 of the Connecticut State Statutes, the taxpayers of the Town of Salisbury are hereby notified the third installment of the Grand List October 1, 2023 is due and payable January 1, 2025. Pursuant to Section 12-71b of the Connecticut State Statutes, the Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax is due on January 1, 2025. Payments must be received or postmarked by February 3, 2025. If said Real Estate, Personal Property and Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes are not paid on or before February 3, 2025, interest at the rate of 1% (18% per year) will be added for each month from the time when such tax becomes due and payable until paid. Minimum interest \$2.00.

Mail to: Tax Collector, P.O. Box 338, Salisbury, CT 06068 or at Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9am-4pm (Closed for lunch 12:30-1:30) or use the drop box located in the vestibule of the Town Hall, 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday. You may pay by E-Check or Credit Card at www.salisbw.yct.us. Click blue tab View/

Pay Taxes. A fee is charged. Dated at Salisbury CT this 11th day of December 2024.

Jean F. Bell
CCMC Tax Collector
Salisbury CT 06068
12-19-24
01-09-25
01-23-25

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF KENT

The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2023 is due and payable January 1, 2025. The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2023 will become delinquent on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

As soon as the tax becomes delinquent, it shall be subject to interest at the rate of 1.5% per month from January 1, 2025 until the same is paid.

Bills may be viewed and paid online by going to the Tax Collector's page on the Town of Kent website at www.townofkentct.org.

There are two options for online payment: credit card or electronic check.

The Tax Collector's office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday,

Tuesday, and Wednesday. There is a red drop box next to the

front door of the Town Hall for payments. Payments are also welcome through the mail at P. O. Box 311, Kent, Connecticut 06757.

Deborah Devaux CCMC
Tax Collector
12-19-24
01-09-25
01-23-25

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF CANAAN

Pursuant to Sec. 12-145 of the Connecticut statutes, the Tax Collector, Town of Canaan gives notice that she will be ready to receive Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes and the 2nd installment of Real Estate & Personal Property taxes due January 1, 2025 at the Canaan Town Hall, PO Box 47, 108 Main St., Falls Village, CT 06031.

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00-12:00.

Payments must be received or postmarked by February 3, 2025 to avoid interest.

All taxes remaining unpaid after February 3, 2025 will be charged interest from January 1, 2025 at the rate of 1.5% for each month from the due date of the delinquent tax to the date of payment, with a minimum

interest charge of \$2.00. Sec. 12-146

Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer of their responsibility for the payment of taxes or delinquent charges. Sec. 12-30

Rebecca Juchert-Derungs,
CCMC
12-19-24
01-02-25
01-23-25

Legal Notice Town of Kent Town of Sharon

Notice is given that a copy of the collective bargaining agreement between Region 1 BOE and HVRHS Faculty Assoc. for 7/1/2025 - 6/30/2028 may be inspected during Town Clerk's office hours.

Darlene Brady
Kent Town Clerk
Linda Amerighi
Sharon Town Clerk
12-19-24

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF STEVEN J. PRESSLEY Late of Falls Village (24-00471)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated December 5, 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:
Jean Pressley McClung
c/o Michael Dennis
Ryback

Guion Stevens & Ryback,
LLP, 93 West Street, PO Box 338, Litchfield, CT 06759

Beth L. McGuire
Chief Clerk
12-19-24

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF GILBERT JEROME BEERS Late of West Cornwall (24-00483)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated December 3, 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 fiduciaries are:
David Beers, Louise Beers
and Mary Angela O'Neal
c/o Michael Anthony
Giardina

Henry & Giardina, LLP
295 Main Street South
P.O. Box 5013
Woodbury, CT 06798

Beth L. McGuire
Chief Clerk
12-19-24

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF DAVID HENRY ELWELL Late of Salisbury AKA David H. Elwell (24-00472)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated December 3, 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:
George Blake Cabot
c/o Michael Peter Citrin
Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP
7 Church Street
P.O. Box 101
Canaan, CT 06018

Beth L. McGuire
Chief Clerk
12-19-24

Our Towns

Legislative Roundtable stresses strain on homeless shelters, food banks in Northwest Corner

By Jennifer Almquist

TORRINGTON — On a cold, blustery morning, Nov. 22, state legislators and advocates for homeless people met in the Torrington Library to discuss the current state of unhoused people in the Northwest Corner. The emphasis of the dialogue, by the Waterbury-Litchfield County Coordinated Access Network, concerned the crisis within our statewide system of care and housing.

Homelessness is up 14% in Connecticut since 2022, and numbers are rising steadily. There are 51 shelter beds for a known population of 482 men, women, and children sleeping outside in tents, cars and under bridges.

Due to a \$500,000 cut in Connecticut Cold Weather Emergency Response funding, the overflow winter shelter opening at Trinity Church in Torrington was delayed until Dec. 1, which meant more frigid nights spent sleeping under layers of blankets in tents in the woods.

Deirdre Houlihan Di Cara, Executive Director of Friends in Service to Humanity welcomed the concerned crowd that filled the room. FISH is a 35-bed shelter with five beds reserved for veterans and a food pantry serving the most vulnerable people living in the 900 square miles of the Northwest Corner of Connecticut.

More than half of the clients using the FISH shelter are senior citizens whose Social Security no longer cover their rent.

"We have over 2,652 neighbors in need using our FISH Food Pantry," DiCara said. "This is an increase of 952 people this past year. We distributed enough food items for 182,859 meals. At their coat drive in November FISH distributed 1,800 cold weather items. Funding through the Department of Housing covers half of the cost of operating a shelter. Di Cara added, "We are trying to save lives."

Nancy Cannavo, Director of the Gathering Place/New Beginnings daytime drop-in center reported since this October that 604 new people began using the facility. Of the 1,188 housing requests they fielded, 64 people were



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST
Front left: Jessica Gueniat, Torrington Library director; Sarah Fox, CCEH CEO; Leonardo Ghio, Northwest Hills Council of Governments; Nancy Cannavo, director Gathering Place/New Beginnings; Deirdre DiCara, executive director of FISH/Friends in Service to Humanity of Northwestern CT. Back left: The Rev. Carrie Combs of Trinity Episcopal Church; Julie Scharnberg, NWCT Community Foundation; Greg Brisco, executive director of YMCA NWCT; David Rich, The Housing Collective.

housed, 2,391 hot showers were taken and 810 loads of laundry were done. Cannavo proposed that non-photo IDs, such as birth certificates and social security cards should be free.

Anne Giordano, early child specialist at EdAdvance (whose mission promotes the success of school communities) revealed the group most likely to be homeless are infants. Of the 53 homeless people in Torrington, eight of them are children under 6. Giordano expressed concern, "The impacts are negative because the lack of consistency and nurture often have long-lasting effects on the development of children."

Nationally 1.2 million pre-K through 12th grade children are homeless — 365,000 of them under the age of three. "In Connecticut we have 4,000 homeless children from pre-K through 12th — 1,000 of them under the age of three," Giordano said.

Only 68% of homeless kids graduate from high school, contrasting with the 86% national average. Giordano concluded the negative cycle continues as high school dropouts are four times more likely to become homeless.

Julia Scharnberg, vice president of Community Engagement at the NWCT Community Foundation emphasized the role of philanthropy in finding solutions. Credible websites with accurate data are essential to address negative assumptions. Banishing the stigma of homelessness is crucial. Housing is the vital answer

to this dilemma, but housing development is slow. Obstacles to housing are landlords not accepting vouchers, limited credit and rental history, jobs with low wages, and insufficient space — Connecticut currently has a 2% housing vacancy rate.

Leonardo Ghio, Project Director of Northwest Hills Community Health Network at NW Hills Council of Governments and Co-Chair of CAN explained the importance of annualized funding. Ghio expressed concern for young people without trusted adults who suffer adverse childhood experiences during the trauma of being homeless.

State Rep. Jay Case (R-63) often gives hands-on help at area shelters. He said the funds for addressing homelessness must become a line

item in the Connecticut budget, which newly elected State Rep. Joe Canino (R-65) and State Sen.-elect Paul Honig (D-8) acknowledged.

Sarah Fox, CEO of Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, recalled being homeless as a child which informs her advocacy. Fox shared a working draft of legislative priorities including annualized funding, homelessness prevention measures, tax incentives for landlords honoring housing vouchers, expanded shelter capacity, and protections to prevent criminalization of homeless people.

Even after approval for housing vouchers, the wait for a home can take up to a year. Fox estimated that Connecticut needs more than 98,000 affordable housing units to close the gap.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Situated on 1.8 acres this almost 2,000 square foot house on Horseshoe Lane built in 1960 was the least expensive property recorded in November at \$625,000. According to MLS records the property was offered for sale at \$974,500 in April.

Fewer sales, higher prices in Salisbury

By Christine Bates

SALISBURY — There were only four recorded sales of single-family properties in Salisbury in the month of November with only one home closing above a million dollars. The 12-month average median price in November 2024 was \$912,500 compared to three years ago in November 2021 when it was \$715,000. This increase of 28% is in line with price appreciation in all of Litchfield County in the last three years. During this same period the number of units sold annually has dropped from 89 to 46. Currently there are 15 residences for sale in Salisbury with only four under a million dollars. In contrast there are 17 rentals — 12 furnished seasonal rentals and five unfurnished homes at \$3,500 or less.

Transactions

42 Horseshoe Lane — 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home built in 1960 sold by Estate of Dolores Carlson to McBride

Builders LLC for \$625,000.

40 Canterbury Lane — 4 bedroom/3 bath modern home sold by Naomi Goldstein to Vivian Kimmelman for \$1.27 million.

84 Bunker Hill Road — 4 bedroom/4.5 bath home on 8.58 acres sold by Estate of Stephany Warick Haines to Gregory and Dina Meindl for \$950,000.

48 Covered Bridge Road — 4 bedroom/2 bath house on 2.15 acres sold by Susan Ward Spring to Brendan Seamus and Lauren Mann Cranna for \$725,000.

** Town of Salisbury real estate transfers recorded as sold between Nov. 1 and Nov. 30, 2024, provided by the Salisbury Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market data courtesy of Smart MLS and InfoSparks. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.*



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Wishing you all the joys of the season and happiness throughout the year to come!

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Our Towns

Kent hears application on long unpermitted pottery studio

By Alec Linden

KENT — A last minute addition to the Dec. 12 meeting agenda of Kent's Planning and Zoning Commission focused a neighborly dispute on Stone Fences Lane between newly arrived residents and a long established — but unpermitted — home pottery studio.

The contentious application was submitted for a special events permit by Alison Palmer Studio, represented by 48 Stone Fences Lane residents Alison Palmer and Steve Katz. The couple had planned an "open house" style event which invited guests to stop in at Palmer's in-residence studio to enjoy light refreshments and peruse the ceramics while she worked. The event was scheduled to span the dates of Dec. 14 to 22, during which the studio also had a single-day workshop planned.

Palmer and Katz apologized for the 11th-hour submission of the application, stating that they hadn't known that a special permit was needed for such events,

or for running a home studio. P&Z Chair Wes Wyrick told the couple bluntly that the studio's unpermitted events and commercial activity "is not according to our zoning regulations."

"We are remiss, as far as that's concerned," Katz replied, vowing that they will diligently adhere to the regulatory process for future activities. "We didn't know," claimed Palmer, adding later that "It was a surprise to us ... we've always wanted to comply."

As the application discussion was not a public hearing, public comment on the topic was restricted to the beginning of the meeting, while the applicant presented their case later on.

Dave and Denyse Stoneback, residents at 11 Stone Fences Lane, sent a letter to the Kent's Land Use Administration to report a zoning breach, who then alerted the Alison Palmer Studio of the situation. The couple presented their complaints during the public comment section, primarily regarding increased traffic and speed-

ing on the private road, which they claimed is directly correlated to events held at 48 Stone Fences Lane.

"It is our opinion that the applicant has demonstrated blatant disregard for the Kent zoning ordinance and permit process, and total disrespect for the other residents on Stone Fences Lane," Stoneback said to the commission.

Stoneback mentioned that he and his wife had recently moved from the Chicago area for a quiet life in the countryside, but had been troubled to find a busier environment than they were expecting on Stone Fences Lane. "The speed of the cars coming down the road is not only disruptive on our daily walks, but also is a concern for safety," Denyse Stoneback argued.

Katz, during the applicant's presentation later in the meeting, countered that the workshops held at his wife's studio were generally low attendance, and primarily populated by "women from 40 to 60 years old" who he would be surprised to see speeding, he said. He pointed out that there are 24 homes on Stone Fences Ln., which puts a lot of cars on a relatively short roadway, and as such doubted that the traffic the Stonebacks had reported was the cause of the pottery studio.

He also expressed surprise that such new transplants to the area — he stated that they had moved into their home in June of 2024 — would be so eager to campaign against the pottery studio. The couple had lived on Stone Fences Lane for 26 years, he assured,

and have been running workshops in the pottery studio for 16. "In 16 years, nobody has said anything," he added.

"I think maybe these people should live here for a little while and figure out where they actually moved before they start complaining," Katz said.

While the commission agreed that the events and workshops the household had been running were in violation of the town's zoning ordinances, several members expressed appreciation for the pottery studio's place within Kent's cultural landscape.

"It's a cottage industry," said P&Z Vice Chair Karen Casey. "I like the idea that artists live here and have their studios here, and I think most people do," she continued — "This is a pretty big part of our charm."

The commission informed the applicant that beyond this one-off event, they will need to come back for special permitting for future programming at the studio.

"I'm glad we have a path to eventually make this a permitted and sanctioned and controlled activity," commission member Darryl Cherniske contributed.

After some discussion, the commission ultimately voted to approve the special events permit application, which applies only to the Dec. 14-22 open house event.

Palmer and Katz assured P&Z that they would return in January to formally apply for a special permit to run a commercial operation from their home with the proper paperwork.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The Right Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello spoke at the 200th anniversary of St. John's Episcopal Church in Salisbury.

St. John's celebrates two full centuries

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — St. John's Episcopal Church in Salisbury celebrated its 200th anniversary Sunday, Dec. 15, with a visit from the Right Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello, the Diocesan Bishop of Connecticut.

He brought greetings from the 30,000 Episcopalians in the state.

In his sermon, Mello asked the parishioners to consider what it means to say they are from St. John's, and urged them to present themselves in such a way that "those seeing us in action say 'see how they love each other' and want to know more."

Mello greeted worshippers as they filed out of the church, and mingled further at a post-service luncheon.

St. John's was consecrated on Sept. 15, 1824, by the Bishop, Dr. Thomas C. Brownell.

Brownell wrote of the building: "This edifice is constructed of brick in the gothic style or architecture. It is neatly furnished, and its accommodations are judiciously arranged."

He added that the cost of the building "has been borne with cheerfulness."

"The zeal and liberality which this parish has evinced afford an encouraging promise of its future prosperity."

St. John's has been active in its support of community organizations, with substantial donations in 2024 to the Lakeville Hose Company (\$2,650), Housatonic Youth Services Bureau (\$2,200), the Chore Service (\$1,000), Hispaniola Health Partners/Louise Lindenmeyr (\$2,000), the Corner Food Pantry (\$4,000), Salisbury Family Services (\$3,500), Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service (\$2,650), and Project SAGE (\$1,000).



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Mrs. Claus comes to Salisbury

Mrs. Claus, accompanied by Chief Elf Wendy, entertained two groups of young students from Salisbury Central School Thursday, Dec. 12 at Noble Horizons.

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"I love The Lakeville Journal because it tells me what is going on in the community and it's an independent newspaper."

KATY KINSOLVING

"I like The Millerton News as a way to find out local news and they publish pictures of my children. There's so much that people can do in our community but only if they have a local news source."

MEGAN MUSGROVE



"I love The Lakeville Journal because it holds our whole community together."

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"I grew up in northwest Connecticut and The Lakeville Journal has always been part of my life and part of my family's life. It has everything you need to know. It's the voice of the community and it is so important to support independent journalism; something that is dying in the United States. That requires people to step up to the plate and support it."

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"I like the editorial page. I'm thrilled with Natalia Zuckerman's new events newsletter. She's really opening our eyes to what's happening all over our area."

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"It's a way to understand how the community works. I've been a devoted Millerton News subscriber and I almost always read it cover to cover. You need to have a source for the facts in age with so many different platforms, so a local newspaper is important."

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"I love the police blotter and hearing about all the events happening in our community, and letters to the editor."

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"I've been reading it for 48 years. Great news coverage, great editorials."

DICK CASSIN

"I've been reading The Millerton News since we moved here 60 years ago. I check all the latest school board news and other local government meetings. The paper is important for accountability of government and how they spend our money."

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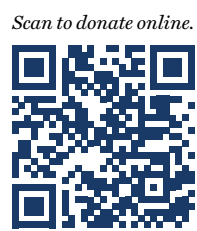
"We've lived here for 60 years and the Journal is what you go to for all sorts of information. It's always been a wonderful thing to read each week."

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"I love The Lakeville Journal because I am a newspaper junkie. It's local and it's a wonderful way of connecting with the community."

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WAKE ROBIN

Continued from Page A1

the public throughout the application process, despite uneven — and sometimes antagonistic — relationships between the public and P&Z.

“Some of the stuff that has been said I found highly offensive,” Klemens said, “but the bottom line is I think the neighbors have made a very good case — that the size of this expansion is out of character.”

At the Dec. 12 meeting, the commission also ultimately decided the intervenors — a panel of experts and attorney Perley Grimes representing Wells Hill Road residents Bill and Angela Cruger — had not met the burden of determining that the project would have significant detrimental environmental impacts. Josh Mackey, attorney for Aradev LLC developers, upheld at the Dec. 10 meeting that the intervenors had failed to demonstrate negative environmental repercussions associated with the project “as was the basis of their petition.”

While the intervenor didn’t sufficiently demonstrate cause for significant environmental concern, attorney Grimes’ closing remarks to the intervenor’s presentation at Tuesday’s meeting fundamentally appealed to scale and neighborly disturbance as the true

driving issues with the project. “It’s too much for the site,” he said. “It’s too intrusive. It’s too large.”

“I’m sure the residents of Salisbury look to you to see to it that the quality of life is ensured,” he appealed to the commission.

At the Dec. 12 meeting, Klemens and Cockerline both suggested that the applicant withdraw without prejudice before the vote date so that they may restructure their plans, including downsizing and specifying data points within their construction schema.

Thursday night’s proceedings also allowed the commission to air some grievances that have haunted the affair, such as addressing public insinuations that P&Z and the Land Use Office, primarily directed at Klemens and Land Use Director Abby Conroy, had colluded with the applicant Aradev LLC while renegotiating zoning regulations regarding hotels in residential zones.

Cockerline asserted that the alterations in question have been in development for years: “This is nothing new, and it really boils me that [Conroy and Klemens] in particular are being grilled on actually doing a great job.”

BREWERY

Continued from Page A1

down operations in the new year, according to a recent announcement.

“We’re on the frontlines of this economic challenge,” Tripler said of brewing enterprises. “I don’t know if this is becoming more of a hobby industry.”

GFBC publicized the news via Facebook on the evening of Wednesday, Dec. 11. “We had a damn good run,” the post reads, thanking the brewery’s patrons, employees, non-profit partners, business associates and others who supported and contributed to the brand over its six-year run.

Tripler said he would have loved to continue on with the work, but that high operating prices due to inflation and other pandemic-related stressors on business had made moving forward unsustainable. “The economic winds are just too hard in our face,” he said.

On Thursday evening, Dec. 12, long-time patrons of the establishment gathered to reminisce fondly on their time at the cherished haunt. “Memories were made here,” said Julie Canty, who has been an investor in the brand for three years with her husband Steve. “It was always a good time,” Steve added.

Norfolk resident Star Childs recalled evenings

out on the brewery’s outdoor seating area under the shadow of Canaan Mountain: “I used to sit on the porch in the evening with my dog and the light would be perfect.”

The brewery and its assets are now for sale — “and there are quite a few assets,” Tripler added. He’s hopeful that brewery continues under a new guise, he said: “Somebody who has a vision, enough capital, and who could really make something of this place might step in and do that, and that would be great to see.”

Tripler said that after New Year’s, he’s not sure what the next chapter is, but that he needs a clean break from the beer industry for a while. He does eventually plan to write a book called “Cautionary Ales,” which will help other small breweries “avoid the rocks in the way of the ship.”

Until then, GFBC’s December schedule is loaded with parties. Saturday, Dec. 14 saw the celebration of the brewery’s 6th anniversary. Employees, families and patrons holding “mug club” (beer subscription) memberships are invited to celebrate on Dec. 20. A 1980s themed New Year’s Eve party will close out the brewery’s celebrated run in Union Depot, and as Tripler put it, “there’s a lot of beer to drink.”

ENERGY COSTS

Continued from Page A1

Gas’s \$209 million rate hike request filed with the regulatory authority would raise revenue for the company by 29%, and residential customers who use gas to heat their homes would see bills rise by 43%.

“Read the room, Eversource,” Tong said in a Nov. 13 statement. “Connecticut families are fed up with sky high energy costs and can’t afford this massive increase. This is yet another tone-deaf slap in the face from our out-of-touch public utilities.”

Referring to Yankee Gas’s recent rate hike request, “You don’t have to be a lawyer to see some basic obvious overreach in this filing,” the attorney general said. “They’re asking for profits that are completely out of whack with other public utilities, including tacking on a non-starter ‘regulatory risk premium’

to account for the fact that our public utilities don’t like oversight and accountability.”

He pledged to “comb through every page of this application ... to fight for Connecticut families.”

Yankee Gas has 252,000 residential customers across 85 towns in Connecticut.

Public can follow the Yankee Gas case

PURA has initiated Docket no. 24-12-01, “Application of Yankee Gas Services Company d/b/a Eversource Energy to Amend Its Rate Schedules.”

“The gas authority has 350 days to complete a gas rate case in Connecticut,” said Taren O’Connor, director of legislation, regulations and communications for PURA.

The schedule for this proceeding will be updated to include all related meetings

Yankee Gas’ \$209 million rate hike request filed with PURA would raise revenue for the company by 29 percent, and residential customers who use gas to heat their homes would see bills rise by 43 percent.

and action items, including hearing and decision dates, O’Connor explained.

Anyone interested in following the proceeding can sign up at the authority’s Rate Case Information webpage, which offers several YouTube videos highlighting the specifics of a rate case.

‘People are absolutely furious’

Connecticut residents had the highest energy bills and had the second-highest percentage of residents who were unable to pay a bill, at 36%, according to a recent study by Lending Tree.

The study found that Con-

necticut has the third-highest electricity rate at 29.93 cents per kilowatt-hour, behind Hawaii and California.

“Here is even more evidence that electricity bills are too damn high for working- and middle-class Connecticut families,” according to a joint statement by Harding and fellow Republican state legislators Sen. Ryan Fazio (R-36), ranking Senator on the Energy and Technology Committee, and Sen. Jeff Gordon (R-35).

“People are absolutely furious at the electric bills that they’re paying and they want to see changes.”

PALEY FARM

Continued from Page A1

applied to DOAG for building approval. Their proposal included a two-story home, pool and outdoor spa, all of which were later approved in a letter from DOAG Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt.

Flaton and SLT contend that the approval decision ran afoul of the intent of the easement and constituted a misappropriation of public funds; the state paid today’s equivalent of about \$900,000 for Paley’s development rights.

These arguments were not the focus of Monday’s hearing, however, which centered instead on the defendants’ motion to dismiss the case. The pivotal question was whether Flaton and SLT had legal standing to bring the suit in the first place.

Representing DOAG, attorney Gail Shane argued that the plaintiffs’ claims are not legally relevant under the doctrine of sovereign immunity, which holds that the state cannot be sued, in all but a few select cases, for conducting its given duties.

A memorandum prepared by the defense emphasized that the 1984 deed granted the state the “right to enforce the restrictions” on development, turning over sole responsibility for the deed’s future interpretation to DOAG staff.

Shane stated at the hearing that, without proof that Com-

missioner Hurlburt engaged in wrongful conduct to reach his approval decision, the plaintiff’s argument is “factually and legally” incorrect.

Adding to Shane’s argument, attorney Ken Slater emphasized that his clients, the Bainbridges, complied with DOAG’s construction application process and were duly approved by the department. He argued that the Bainbridges met the “incidental to farm operation” stipulation by laying out their plans to oversee continued farming on the land.

“We very much disagree that this isn’t going to be [dedicated] to agricultural use,” said Slater.

Shane and Slater also contended the plaintiffs’ standing, arguing that SLT and Flaton had not demonstrated that they were specifically and injuriously impacted by the construction.

While the plaintiffs’ initial complaint referenced SLT’s position abutting the property and the alteration of ridgeline views for hikers on SLT land,

Shane asserted that the personal feelings of speculative hikers are irrelevant to SLT’s standing.

Slater meanwhile argued that Flaton’s position as a taxpayer and resident is insufficient to show standing, as any neighbor might disagree with how the house is built.

“It’s between the owner and the party that has the easement or the covenant over my clients’ land,” said Slater.

In his rebuttal, attorney Wilson Carroll, on behalf of the plaintiffs, contended that not only did Hurlburt’s decision constitute wrongful conduct, thus meeting an exception to the sovereign immunity doctrine, it also ran afoul of the public trust doctrine by misusing taxpayer dollars.

“This is a matter of significant public concern in Sharon and in the rest of the state right now,” said Carroll.

Carroll asserted that the “groundswell of public opposition” to DOAG’s decision legitimizes the plaintiffs’ standing as public representatives, and decried the lack of public

oversight in DOAG’s easement interpretation process. To date, 485 people have signed a petition calling for stricter easement enforcement.

“The public has not ratified this [decision] in any way,” Carroll said.

Judge Menjivar has yet to rule on the case.

In a comment following the hearing, Slater said his client was “very happy that the hearing on the motion to dismiss was held” and that he is personally “very hopeful” the yuling will be in their favor.

SLT Board President Jennifer Dillon was less pleased with the hearing.

“We’re still just talking about these technicalities and not the merits of our argument,” she said. “I would love to get to a point where we can talk about the merits of the case.”

Flaton said that should the case be dismissed on standing technicalities, they plan to try again.

“We will simply refile. It will be much more straightforward,” said Flaton.

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PHOTOGRAPHY: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Shooting the breeze with Christopher Little

What I really feel lucky about is having had the chance to meet and photograph so many people who had a real impact on our lives," said Christopher Little whose new memoir, "Shooting the Breeze: Memories of a Photojournalist" was just released. The book is as eclectic and colorful as the man himself and offers an intimate look into Little's globe-trotting career spent behind the lens, capturing some of the most iconic figures, events, and human stories of the past half-century.

In 2021, the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at The University of Texas acquired Little's photographic archive.

"I had two young women who spent three months in my basement cataloging this stuff," said Little. "So, while they were working, I was scanning as much as I could for this book." After the three months, Little described that a "big blue truck" came to take away his 371,574 images which are now a permanent addition to the Briscoe Center's internationally significant photojournalism collection. "It's very bittersweet," shared Little. "It was literally a life's work driving away, but I'm so glad to have it there. And I'm in good company."

Little has always kept good company; his career is a testament to a charmed life and relentless curiosity. Born



Little with his dog, Ruby.

PHOTO BY MARTIN TANDLER

and raised in Manhattan, Little's father was a journalist with The New York Herald Tribune writing a five-day-a-week column covering the theater. His mother was a playwright, and the couple often had famous people to their apartment.

Little's father was beloved and dropping

his name not only helped open doors early on but put his subjects at ease. "He taught me a lot about journalism and the basic idea that I should look for another angle."

This "other angle" is what makes Little's photographs so evocative—he's able to capture an entire story in a static im-

age. "There's a picture by Nat Fein, a really famous picture," said Little about one of his early influences. "It was the first sports photograph to ever win the Pulitzer Prize. It's a

Continued on next page

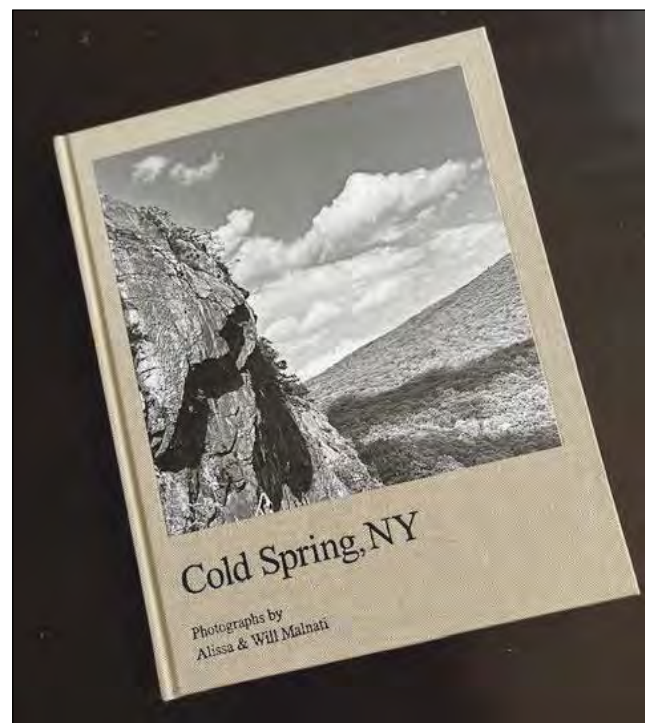


PHOTO BY KRISTA A. BRIGGS

"Cold Spring, NY" depicts life in a notable Hudson River town with a rich history and much natural beauty.

BOOKS: KRISTA BRIGGS

Cold Spring, a not-so-hidden Hudson Valley gem

According to Alissa Malnati, co-creator of the new coffee table tome, "Cold Spring, NY", after twenty-five years in the urban jungle, it was time to go in search of a cure for the angst which, for some, can come with metropolitan living. "My husband and I were soul sick," explained Malnati of the couple's move to Cold Spring, a Hudson River town located in leafy Putnam County.


"We were seeking restoration and quiet, and to be in nature, away from the hustle and bustle of the city."

The time was right for a move in 2021. The Malnatis relocated from busy Brooklyn to a tranquil mountaintop abode which allowed them to decompress without the intrusion of cell phones and ceaseless city noise. With the shift to the


Continued on Page B3

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...Christopher Little

Continued from previous page

picture of Babe Ruth on his last day at Yankee Stadium and it's shot from behind. It's always stayed with me."

Little studied psychology at Yale, another element that seems to have guided him to a deeper understand of his subjects. It was while he was still a student at Yale that Little began working for Newsweek. "I was at Yale from '67 to '71 and the campus was one news story after another with the student movement, the Bobby Seale (co-founder of the Black Panther Party) trial, and all that. So, I'd photograph stuff and then I'd get on my motorcycle and drive to New York. I had a loose relationship with Newsweek and I would give them my film, they'd process it, and if they liked something, they'd buy it. And then they started giving me assignments." After college, he worked for Time Magazine and by 25, he was working with People magazine, beginning a 21-year stint during which he shot more than 350 assignments.

"The early days were incredible," Little recalled. "I couldn't have been a freelance journalist now. It almost doesn't exist." From covering the Watergate hearings for Time magazine to serving as official photographer for the Aga Khan and working with William F. Buckley Jr. on bestselling sailing memoirs, Little's assignments brought him into the orbit of world leaders, celebrities, and everyday heroes. His work has been published

in Life, Time, Newsweek, The New York Times, Vanity Fair, Esquire, GQ, and Architectural Digest, to name a few. Little's work also went beyond famous faces. Some of his favorite assignments were stories about "ordinary people doing extraordinary things," such as the first million-dollar lottery winner whose life fell apart under the weight of sudden wealth. "It was heartbreaking to witness," he said.

The self-designed book, laid out in Adobe InDesign, gave Little the creative freedom he craved. "Nobody told me what to do," he said. The cover, a playful collage, mirrors the book's non-linear structure and personal touch. Beyond photography, Little has led a vibrant life. A father and grandfather, he recently retired from serving as an EMT in Norfolk, Connecticut, after tearing his rotator cuff. "It seemed like a good time to retire," he said. He spends his time now with his wife Betsy and takes digital photographs in the woods with his dog, Ruby.

Reflecting on his multifaceted career, Little shared, "I have no regrets and no bitterness. It's a great luxury to look at it all from afar." With "Shooting the Breeze," Little has ensured future generations can explore the remarkable life and work of a photojournalist who truly captured the world. To purchase a copy of "Shooting the Breeze" visit: www.christopherlittle.com

ART: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Ani Jenkins brings whimsical wood sculptures to HVRHS gallery

"I have pieces of wood that'll sit around for years and then suddenly, I'm looking at it and think, 'Oh! This is what you want to be,'" said artist Ani Jenkins whose extraordinary solo exhibit of wood sculptures opened at Housatonic Valley High School's Kearcher-Monsell Gallery on December 13. This show marks a new milestone for the gallery, featuring its first collection of exclusively three-dimensional works. Jenkins, who moved to Falls Village during the Covid-19 pandemic, has brought her intricate and interactive wood sculptures to the Northeast, much to the delight of students, staff, and visitors.

Jenkins grew up in Boulder, Colorado, surrounded by art, as her mother was pursuing her MFA during that time. Her exploration of wood began in the 90's when she had an opportunity to take an inlay class.

"Everything came so easily and naturally, it was as if I'd been working with wood my entire life," said Jenkins. She continued to work for many years adding inlay to furniture and musical instruments but shared, "I was craving more three-dimensionality, so I started playing around with all the little scraps and cut-offs and building sculptures with those. It all just exploded and snowballed." Her practice eventually evolved into creating larger, sculptural pieces that are infused with deep mystical themes, reflections of ancient civilizations and visions of times and places still yet to be seen.

"Wood tells a story," Jenkins explained. "A lot of these pieces almost build themselves. It's about getting out of the way rather than intentionally creating."

The exhibit at HVRHS, titled "Visions," was curated by students under the guidance of senior Elinor Wolgemuth, the

gallery's lead intern. As part of her role overseeing gallery operations, Wolgemuth used the experience to develop her senior capstone project: a comprehensive guide to help future student interns manage the gallery effectively.

"It's a step-by-step guide on how to have a show, how to run an opening, things like that. It's about creating a team that will flow throughout the years and work together," said Wolgemuth. Jenkins noted of the students' dedication, "They've been as professional as any gallery I've ever worked with."

Art teacher Lilly Barnett, who started at the school this fall, emphasized the importance of showcasing Jenkins's work. "Ani elevates the artistry of woodworking, breaking traditional gender stereotypes. It's powerful for our students to see." FFA students have also expressed admiration for Jenkins's craftsmanship, with many

inspired by the precision and creativity in her pieces.

Jenkins and her family relocated from the west coast to Falls Village in 2020. Never having been to the east coast, the artist was delighted to find that surrounded by Connecticut's hardwood forests, she was newly inspired. "I'm much more of a small-town person, so this is a great place to be," she said. Having grown up in Northern New Mexico and Colorado, her work often reflects mystical themes, ancient civilizations, and the essence of the natural world. "There's a lot of femininity in my work," Jenkins shared. "I love bringing flowing lines into my pieces, contrasting with the rigidity

Continued on next page

At The Movies

Continued from previous page

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Advertising deadline including legal notices, for the Jan. 2TH issues will be **FRIDAY, DEC. 20TH, at NOON**

Classified line deadline will be **MONDAY, DEC. 23RD, at NOON**

NO NEWSPAPERS PRINTED THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

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PANAGEA

COMPASS

...Ani Jenkins

Continued from previous page



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Ani Jenkins

of traditional woodworking.”

Jenkins’s fascination with “containment” is evident in her work, which often features hidden drawers, compartments, and interactive elements designed to engage viewers. The intricate wooden creations invite touch and exploration, offering a magical, hands-on experience. Even better, all the pieces are available for purchase, with proceeds supporting the school’s art department.

Ani Jenkins’s intricate and interactive sculptures have brought a unique and inspiring artistic experience to

Housatonic Valley High School’s Karcher-Monsell Gallery. “I’d like to be an artist after high school,” said Wolgemuth. “I’m not sure if I want to do curatorial or more freelance work with my own art, but finding that balance is important to me.”

“I want to build fully moving pieces—big totems where people can arrange all the different pieces,” said Jenkins, hinting at future projects.

The exhibit will be on view through January 10, 2025. To make an appointment, call (860) 824-5123

...Cold Spring Continued from Page B1

Hudson Valley, Alissa, a writer and fashion executive, and her husband, Will, a podcaster and television producer, found the peace they were searching for in Cold Spring, a semi-rural town known for its boutiques, antique shops, and world-class hiking trails.

While modern Cold Spring offers an array of unique independent retailers as well as specialty restaurants and coffeehouses, it is also a destination point for nature-lovers and an historical town.

Many of its current and decaying sites have been documented in “Cold Spring, NY”, coauthored and co-photographed by both Alissa and Will. It served as the home of the West Point Foundry – now enshrined as the West Point Foundry Preserve – which produced artillery for the U.S. government starting in 1818, and it also became known for its Parrott rifles during the Civil War. The town was once visited by Abraham Lincoln back in 1862. In 1970, as part of an effort to raise environmental awareness through the Clearwater Organization, Pete Seeger’s boat, the Clearwater, was once docked at Cold Spring during a music festival at which Seeger performed. Cold Spring remains actively committed to preserving its small-town character, its waters and historic sites.

The Putnam History Museum is also located in Cold Spring.

“We never intended for it to be a book,” the couple explained of the process that came about very organically. “At first, it was just photographs that we framed, then photographs that became photo albums, and eventually we decided to print it into a coffee table book.”

Their collaboration proved to be a very positive one which brought them closer. “We loved working on this together and hope that we are able to do more as a duo,” Alissa said, noting that future shared projects along the same lines as “Cold Spring, NY” are already being explored by the couple.

“Cold Spring, NY”, which contains over one hundred pages of vivid black-and-white photography, highlights the town’s very active Main Street as well as its Hudson riverfront, local mountainous terrain, nearby woodland wonders, and sites of antiquated interest.

“There is much beauty in the town that no matter where we were, there was a photo to take.”

While the Malnatis

captured as many historical and modern sites as possible for the book, there was an omission of a more recent occurrence. “There was one photo we didn’t take that haunts us to this day,” Alissa recounted. “There was a massive rainstorm in the summer of 2023 and the streets of Cold Spring were flooded. The stairs that take you underneath the railroad from Main St. were also completely submerged in about ten feet of water that had accumulated below. It was like a scene from a movie, and, unfortunately, we were in such shock that we didn’t think to grab the photo.”

Among the photographs they were able to capture, Will Malnatis’s preference is for the Bannerman Castle snaps on pages 23-24. Said Will, “The Bannerman Castle shots are a favorite – how much history it has and how beautiful it is up close. People don’t travel there very often or at all, so it was special to see it


from the base of it. I also love the human portraits – so much character and love in each of them.”




Alissa is most enthusiastic about the photo on page 31 titled “Optical Illusion”, saying, “You can flip the photo upside down and it would look the same, unless you are present with the photo and notice a small ripple in the water.”

The Cold Spring experience proved so refreshing for the Malnatis that while they eventually had to return to Brooklyn, they felt very strongly about leaving a parting gift for their adopted community in the form of the book. They’re also hoping they can eventually return to the community again someday on a more permanent basis. And while some Cold Spring residents prefer for the town to remain a hidden gem of the Hudson Valley, the Malnatis have a different take. Said Alissa, “Cold Spring is a special town and like anything special, it’s difficult for it to remain a secret for too long.”

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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. Submit calendar items to editor@lakevillejournal.com

DECEMBER 19

A Christmas Carol

Sharon Playhouse, 49 Amenia Rd., Sharon, Conn.

The Sharon Playhouse is thrilled to present its fourth annual Holiday YouthStage production: an inventive twist on "A Christmas Carol," adapted by Doris Baizley and co-directed by Andrus Nichols and Drew Ledbetter. This one-hour production brings the magic of Dickens' classic to life in an engaging, family-friendly format. "A Christmas Carol" runs in The Bok at the Sharon Playhouse on Wednesday, Dec. 18 through Sunday, Dec. 22, with evening and matinee showtimes. Tickets range from \$20 to \$35.

DECEMBER 20

Concert with Guitarist Stephen Bennett

Sharon United Methodist Church, 112 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn.

There will be a concert with guitarist Stephen Bennett at Sharon United Methodist Church on Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.

Benefit of Fishes & Loaves, the food pantry in Canaan.

There's a suggested donation of \$20, kids under 12 get in free.

DECEMBER 22

Pancake Breakfast

Pine Plains Firehouse, Pine Plains, N.Y.

The Pine Plains firehouse is having a pancake breakfast from 8 to 11

a.m. on Dec. 22. We are also having a special visitor at the breakfast. It's Mr. Santa Claus himself so instead of cooking breakfast come on down to the Pine Plains by our house have breakfast and meet Santa.

DECEMBER 24

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

Church of St. John in the Wilderness, Copake Falls, N.Y.

There will be a Christmas Eve Service at the Church of St. John in the Wilderness on Tuesday, Dec. 24. The Candlelight Service and Carols begin at 7 p.m. and the Service at 7:30 p.m.

ONGOING

Ani Jenkins: Visions

Kearcher-Monsell Gallery, Housatonic Valley Regional High School, 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, Conn.

Artist Ani Jenkins will display her wood sculptures in a solo exhibition in the Kearcher-Monsell Gallery at HVRHS. The show will be up through January 7. Ani Jenkins uses a variety of wood types to create whimsical stories with interactive features. This is the gallery's first exhibition with exclusively 3-dimensional pieces. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit anijenkins.com, @hvrhsgallery on Instagram, or reach out to student Ellie Wolgemuth: ewolgemuth@hvrhs.org.

"Inside for the Winter"

Kenise Barnes Fine Art, 7 Fulling Lane, Kent, Conn.

"Inside for the Winter" - Paintings by Amanda Acker, Sally Maca, and Melanie Parke will be on view from Dec. 7 through Jan. 26, 2025.

Art Show

Douglas Library, 108 Main St., North Canaan, Conn. douglaslibrarycanaan.org

The Douglas Library of Canaan is featuring a retrospective of artwork by the late Mary Monnier. The show runs from Nov. 6 through Jan. 15. Monnier was a local artist, with family roots dating back generations. Her artwork reflects her love of people, of nature, and the beauty of the Northwest Corner.

Art Show

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

The next art show at The Cornwall Library. "Illustrating the Chronicle, Sketching Cornwall's Stories Over the Years," runs from Nov. 2 through Dec. 28. With this show, the library celebrates the Cornwall Chronicle, arguably the monthly infusion of local news, humor, and event listings that binds the community together.

D	E	P	T	H
S	H	O	V	E
C	H	I	E	F
C	H	E	E	K
C	H	E	E	R

Lakeville, was one of the early producers of pocketknives in the country at a time when everyone needed and carried one. A display featuring the craftsmanship of the company, hosted by the Salisbury Association's Historical Society, is now on view.

Flow Yoga with Caroline Robins @ NECC

NECC, 51 S. Center St., Millerton, N.Y.

Free and open to every body; gentle movement with modifications offered. Thursdays 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Bridge Class

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

Bridge is back with Gary Steinkohl: An ongoing series every Thursday through December from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. at the Cornwall Library. If you know basic bidding and play and want to improve your game these classes are for you. The fee is \$10 per class, payable to the instructor.

For questions and to register contact Gary at garysteinkohl@gmail.com.

Old School: Visions of Local History and Personal Pasts

Sharon Historical Society and Museum, 18 Main St., Sharon, Conn.

Visit the Sharon Historical Society and Museum to see an exhibition by The Beard Collective (Theo Coulombe & Katro Storm), which explores how personal and local histories blend into a creative dialogue.

Holley Knife Exhibit

Academy Building, 24 Main St. Salisbury, Conn.

The Holley Manufacturing Company, located on Holley Street in



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

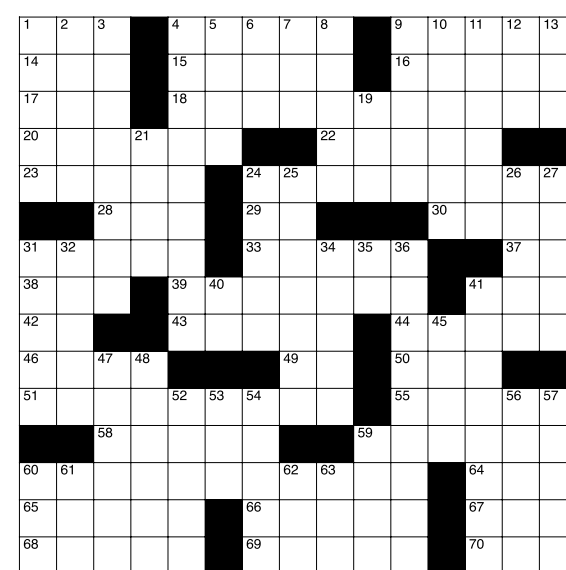
Music in the air

Toes tapped to lively Celtic/Irish tunes as an enthusiastic audience gathered at the Amenia Town Hall on Sunday, Dec. 15, for a Celtic Christmas Concert. Music was provided by the Upstate Celtic Allstars, including Joseph Sobol of Amenia, joined by David Paton, son of Sandy and Caroline Paton of Sharon. The free event, complete with seasonal refreshments, was a musical gift from the Town of Amenia to the entire community.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Miller beer variety
- Member of people inhabiting Bering Sea islands
- Stomach
- Investment vehicle
- Fictional soccer coach Ted
- Irregular in botanical parlance
- Cease standing
- "American Horror Story" actress
- Grow milk teeth
- Plant parts
- Snow house
- Most contemptuous
- Note to repay
- Old English
- Wings
- Financial institutions
- Parks and Lopez are two
- Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Give off
- Semitic alphabet letter
- Farm state
- Actress Sarandon
- Back parts
- Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- Touchdown
- One point north of due east
- Refurbishes
- Silver and Dogg are two
- Former Tigers catcher Alex
- Type of envelope
- Seriously considered
- Unhappy
- Past (archaic)
- Asian wild dog
- Old English letter
- Young domestic sheep
- Football players need to gain them
- Witness



- World leader
- Midsection
- Jewish calendar month
- Urological condition
- A small quantity of anything
- Mountain Time
- Affirmative
- Word element meaning ear
- Carried away
- Short-billed rails
- Newborn child
- Sword
- Groups of people
- Prickly, scrambling shrubs
- Become less intense
- Polishes
- Indicates position
- Songs sung to one's beloved
- The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
- Insects
- Israeli politician

- Pre-digital
- Roaming
- Ambience
- Brew
- Late
- Make ecstatically happy
- Semitic alphabet letter
- Blend
- Dash
- Self
- Exclamation of satisfaction
- Hill or rocky peak

Dec. 12 Solution

C	A	N	S	T	S	S	B	P	O	N	S		
O	L	E	A	N	P	O	C	O	A	S	I	A	
B	A	R	F	S	O	R	A	S	N	S	E	C	
B	E	D	E	V	I	L	E	D	C	O	A	C	H
	S	I	B	Y	L	G	O	P	E	S			
O	L	A	M	I	A	N	D	O	L	A			
S	E	E	D	U	N	F	E	E	L	I	N	G	
S	A	G	E	S	D	A	W	S	E	D	A	N	
D	I	S	A	R	R	A	Y	S	S	E	B	E	
	S	E	P	O	Y	O	A	K	S	S	E		
A	C	C	O	B	O	R	L	O	P				
S	H	I	R	R	M	A	K	E	S	H	I	F	T
P	E	B	A	B	A	S	E	S	A	R	E	A	
E	M	I	T	P	A	I	R	A	G	A	I	N	
N	O	S	E	I	R	S	S	E	N	N	A		

Sudoku

			6					
	4			8				2
1		6		7	3			
7	8	9				6		
	9		3					
		8			6	1		
							8	3

Dec. 12 Solution

5	7	1	3	4	6	2	8	9
8	9	4	2	1	7	5	6	3
6	3	2	5	8	9	4	7	1
7	4	8	9	6	1	3	5	2
1	2	9	8	3	5	6	4	7
3	5	6	7	2	4	1	9	8
2	8	5	6	7	3	9	1	4
4	6	7	1	9	2	8	3	5
9	1	3	4	5	8	7	2	6

Level: Intermediate

Word of the Week

Hints relate to adjacent five-letter words. Solve to reveal correct letters. Green tiles indicate correctly placed letters in the Word of the Week. Yellow tiles indicate a correct letter in the wrong place. Uncolored tiles indicate letters that do not appear in the Word of the Week.

- Pertaining to the Moon
- Airplane captain
- Simple skateboard jump
- Yuletide red berries
- Santa's seasonal spirit

WORD OF THE WEEK ©THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL



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Our Towns

Scoville Library talk outlines mixed bag for America's birds

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Bird expert George E. Wallace said Connecticut's bird population faces distinct challenges despite the overall growth in total forested area in the state. Wallace, recently retired from the American Bird Conservancy, spoke at the Scoville Memorial Library Thursday, Dec. 12 (sponsored by the Salisbury

Association Land Trust). Wallace gave some background, and without delving too deeply into the rise and fall of the iron industry in Salisbury and the Northwest Corner, noted that by the 1920s, when the industry ceased operations, most of the local forest was cut down for the charcoal needed for iron production. Wallace described this as "catastrophic deforestation."

That means that the current forest, while extensive, grew back more or less all at once.

And the "new" forest has vulnerabilities, including invasive species, overbrowsing by deer, insects like the emerald ash borer and spongy moth, and diseases such as Dutch elm disease and American chestnut blight.

All of these elements combine into a very mixed bag of results for birds.

North America lost about 3 billion birds between 1970 and 2019, Wallace continued.

Specifically, 720 million (or three out of four) grassland birds, 500 million (nine out of 10) boreal forest birds, 2.5 million (two out of five) migratory birds, and 160 million (two out of five) aerial insectivores.

On the plus side, Wallace said raptors are doing well in North America, with some 15 million added, largely due to regulation of pesticide use and hunting.

There are 14 million more woodpeckers around than before, and 35 million waterfowl. Wallace pointed to hunting regulation and the activities of conservation groups such as Ducks Unlimited for the waterfowl increase.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Carolers fill Falls Village with cheer at the Holiday Extravaganza Dec. 14.

Holiday music and merriment

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — On a bitterly cold evening, Saturday, Dec. 14, the Center on Main was the place to be.

The Falls Village Holiday Extravaganza, hosted by the Recreation Commission, the David M. Hunt Library and the Center on Main, had music, poetry, caroling, the lighting of the town's tree on the Green, and a visit from Santa Claus, who arrived in a Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department fire truck decked out in lights.

Permeating the entire affair was the smell of hot chocolate and popcorn.

Rock group Midnight Buzz kicked off the festivities. The band featured Lev Sadeh

on drums and vocals, Ezra Wolfe on vocals and guitar, Dutch Dekker on bass, Brook Martinez on guitar and piano, and Rachel Gall on violin for the last number.

Martinez noted it was Dutch's debut on the electric bass guitar.

The group charged through "Jingle Bell Rock," "Old Time Rock 'n' Roll" and "Just What I Needed."

Ann Bidou read what she called "two rather silly little poems" to general acclaim, and Ruby Cameron delivered an a cappella rendition of "Silent Night."

Pachelbel's "Canon in D Major" was next, with Lara Mittaud on piano and Gall on violin.

Dana Dominick read e Cummings' "Little Tree," and John Holland was announced as the winner of the Hunt Library raffle prize of a three-string cigar box guitar made by David Reed of Sheffield.

The show wrapped with the Berkshire Resilience Brass Band. Everyone then trooped out into the cold to the Green for more singing, the lighting of the tree, and Santa's dramatic arrival.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Allison Piracci offered Harris tweed items for sale.

Artisans sell handmade goods for Christmas

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Christmas shoppers crowded into the White Hart Saturday, Dec. 14, for the second of two sales events from Salisbury Handmade.

Charlie and Margie Vail completed their shopping lists with a certain air of satisfaction. The last items checked off were key fobs (for the grandchildren) from Allison Piracci of Solulu Handmade of Niskayuna, New York.

Piracci's main stock in trade are handbags and other items made from authentic Harris tweed.

She said the Harris tweed authorities guard their trademark carefully, and only after jumping through a number of hoops do the authorities send her the authentic Har-

ris tweed labels, with the distinctive orb. The labels must be sewn on any item that uses Harris tweed.

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