



# The Lakeville Journal

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



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

## A year to remember

In 2024 the Northwest Corner experienced many highs and lows that helped strengthen the bonds of the community. From a volunteer effort to rescue a dog stuck deep in a quarry, to a summer baseball championship for the Housy Juniors (pictured above), to young aviators taking flight above the rolling hills of the southern Berkshires. In this issue of The Lakeville Journal, reflect on the past 12 months with annual recaps for Our Towns on Pages A3 and A4 and Sports on Page B5.

## Cornwall saxophone sensation goes viral

By Sava Marinkovic

CORNWALL — Donald Polk, an eighth grader at Cornwall Consolidated School, had only been playing alto saxophone for two years when he performed the notoriously challenging “Flight of the Bumblebee” at his school’s Winter Holiday Concert. His mother, Tamara Polk, posted a recording of the performance to TikTok, not expecting that Donald’s audience would quickly come to outsize that of a school auditorium.

When The Lakeville Journal interviewed Polk Saturday, Dec. 21, the young musician’s scorching saxophone solo had accrued more than 1.7 million views, 360,000 likes, and 2,500 comments.

See POLK, Page A8



PHOTO BY TAMARA POLK

Donald Polk, right, performed “Flight of the Bumblebee” at Cornwall Consolidated School’s winter concert. A video posted online by his mother has garnered millions of views.

## Developers withdraw special permit application to expand Lakeville’s Wake Robin Inn

By Alec Linden

LAKEVILLE — Aradev LLC has withdrawn its application to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a special permit to redevelop the Wake Robin Inn.

In a letter submitted to P&Z Chair Michael Klemens on the afternoon of Tuesday, Dec. 17, law outfit Mackey, Butts & Whalen LLP announced its client’s withdrawal. The decision comes after a several month application process in which Lakeville residents — particularly

neighbors of the Inn on Wells Hill Rd. — aired their grievances with the project over a public hearing that spanned six separate evenings.

The public cited concerns regarding environmental impacts, sewer capacity, increased traffic, noise pollution, and general incongruity with the village’s character as reasons to halt the proposed expansion.

“It feels like we’re trying to fit a square peg in a round hole,” said Sharon Road resident John Franchini at the Tuesday, Dec. 10

session of the public hearing.

The public hearing was finally closed at the Dec. 10 meeting, after which P&Z began their deliberation process on the evening of Dec. 12.

Klemens surveyed each member of the commission whether they would accept or deny the application at a vote that was scheduled for Wednesday, Dec 18. Four of the five members present said that would likely deny the appli-

See WAKE ROBIN, Page A8

## Busy start for North Canaan’s health center in opening year

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — Since opening last summer, the new federally qualified health center serving the Northwest Corner has treated more than 1,000 patients seeking help for medical and mental health issues.

“It’s been going great,” Joanne Borduas, CEO of Community Health & Wellness Center’s (CHWC) regional North Canaan facility, reported during a mid-December interview.

“We have seen 800 patients for medical and mental health services, and 426 kids through our school-based clinics. We are seeing what we anticipated, and probably then some.”

Strong demand prompted the hiring of several additional providers at the new health center, which is expected to be at full staffing level in early 2025 and will help broaden the facility’s capacity for

scheduling.

A full-time family nurse practitioner is expected to start in mid-January, and CHWC has tapped Sarah Humphreys to take on the role of Chief Medical Officer, whose area of expertise includes infectious diseases.

Humphreys is expected to join the North Canaan health center in early March.

“We’re very excited to have her and to bring that specialty to the area. She grew up in the Salisbury area and left to practice medicine in New York, and is now coming home,” said Borduas.

The newest hires will bring staffing to 15 at the North Canaan health center, which was two decades in the making and was unveiled with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting attended by elected officials and key funders on May 10. The next day, CHWC hosted an open house to introduce the two-story, 7,300-square-foot regional center to the public. By the end of June, practitioners were seeing patients.

See HEALTH CENTER, Page A8

## Rising from the ashes

## Cornwall approves plan to rebuild burned down lumber yard

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Nearly 10 years after the lumber yard burned down in Cornwall Bridge, Northeast Building Supply has received approval to rebuild.

Jan Cohen, owner of NBS, and Rob Hiltbrand of R.R. Hiltbrand Engineer & Surveying presented building plans to the Planning and Zoning Commission Dec. 10.

“The fire almost put us out of business,” said Cohen, noting he



RENDERING FROM R.R. HILTBRAND ENGINEERING & SURVEYING

A concept design for the approved new construction of Northeast Building Supply’s facility in Cornwall Bridge, the site of the lumber yard that burned down in January 2015.

See LUMBER YARD, Page A8



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### Online This Week

#### More 2024 recaps

Read about Salisbury's battle against hydrilla and look back on Norfolk's 2024 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.

### Failure to yield right of way

On Thursday, Dec. 19, at approximately 10 a.m., Jamie Armstrong, 19, of Falls Village, was westbound on Brinton Hill Road in a 2024 Subaru Crosstrek, approaching the intersection of Salmon Kill Road. Jason Sonner, 54, of New York City, was making a left turn onto Brinton Hill Road in a 2022 Ford and collided with the Subaru. There were no injuries and both vehicles were towed from the scene. Sonner was issued a written warning for failure to yield right of way.

### Hit by snow plow

On Friday, Dec. 20 at approximately 6:30 p.m., Campbell Lynch, 21, of Falls Village, Mass., was making a left turn from Route 44 onto Route 7 north in North Canaan in a 2007 Toyota Rav 4. While waiting for traffic to pass, the Toyota was struck from behind by a 2016 Ford F-250 with attached plow driven by Shawn Duntz, 38, of Canaan. No injuries were reported. Duntz was issued

an infraction for failure to drive a reasonable distance apart.

### Leaving the scene after sideswiping plow

On Tuesday, Dec. 24, at approximately 12:30 p.m., John Cables, 45, of East Canaan, was traveling west on Route 44 in Salisbury near Belgo Road in a 2015 Ford F-350 and was attempting to turn left into a residence when the truck was sideswiped by a 2016 Jeep Cherokee driven by Louise Black, 82, of Millerton, who was passing in a No Passing Zone. A plow on the Ford sustained functional damage. Cables stated that the Jeep left the scene. Troopers, aided by New York State Police, located the Jeep at a residence in New York. The Jeep sustained damage to its bumper and its tire was coming off the wheel. Black received a summons for leaving the scene of an accident and for operating an unregistered vehicle.

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.

# New POCD passes in Salisbury

By Alec Linden

SALISBURY — The Planning and Zoning Commission voted Dec. 17 to adopt its new 10-year Plan of Conservation and Development. The document went into effect on Dec. 27, on schedule to receive discretionary state funding.

"We are just squeaking by," Michael Klemens said at the Dec. 17 meeting, explaining that the schedule has been kept tight to ensure the document gets adopted by the funding deadline.

The POCD is a state-mandated document that functions as an "an advisory framework to address long-term community needs consistent with the Growth Management Principles of the State of Connecticut's Conservation and Develop-

ment Plan," as per the Salisbury town website.

The vote comes after a months-long deliberation and editing process which included a public engagement meeting in September, review by both the Board of Selectmen and the Northwest Hills Council of Governments, and a public hearing on Dec. 16.

While the Sept. 30 public engagement meeting brought a large turnout, many of whom were concerned by what they perceived as overreliance on certain studies and overly-directive language in the document, the public hearing in mid-December yielded comparatively few participating residents.

At one point in the meeting, Land Use Administrator Abby Conroy noted that

there were only 14 people in attendance, which are scant numbers for a commission that has become accustomed to several-hour-long hearings with more than 70 audience members in recent months.

Klemens and Conroy presented the marked-up document during the hearing, which showed edits derived from public commentary at the September meeting and feedback from the BOS. Contributions from residents were few, with only several comments added to the record over the 1.5-hour session.

Notable issues discussed due to the public comments included the lack of sewer access around the entire perimeter of Lake Wononscopomuc and multimodal use of the rail trail, which would

consider allowing both pedestrian and vehicle traffic on parts of the pathway.

Klemens reassured, as he had in previous meetings regarding the POCD, that the strategies outlined in the POCD are exploratory, meant to allow for future discussion and consideration. "It doesn't mean we have to do it," he said of the document.

The Dec. 17 meeting, which lasted less than a half hour compared to recent meetings that have run for nearly five hours, had a mildly celebratory atmosphere fitting with the holiday season. "It's really a product I believe we, as a Planning and Zoning Commission, can be quite proud of," said Klemens, before the commission gleefully adjourned just before 5:30 p.m.

## River Woods developers resubmit 20-lot design

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — Landowner Bruce McEver and the team working to develop a subdivision along the Housatonic River withdrew its previous 33-lot loop road design and reapplied with a 20-lot cul-de-sac proposal Dec. 9.

The Planning and Zoning Commission heard from Allied Engineering's George Johansen at its regular meeting later that evening.

The newly filed application is actually one that was already the subject of several public hearings earlier in 2024. It was withdrawn once before due to existing limitations on the length and lot-maximum of dead-end streets in North Canaan.

After numerous hearings on potential changes to the dead-end regulations, and the resignation of the previous P&Z chairman, the

original 20-lot design with a 3,750-foot cul-de-sac is now in line with zoning regs.

Johannesen explained there will be an emergency access road for first responders to reach the rear of the cul-de-sac in the event of a road blockage. The emergency road will be maintained by the homeowner's association.

A conservation easement will be in place extending 300 feet from the river's edge. Johannesen said he expects Northwest CT Land Conservancy to receive the easement.

Johannesen said, due to the previous proceedings on this project, a public hearing was "not required by state statute."

Johannesen requested that the town waive fees for the newly filed application.

"We've submitted more than \$10,000 in application fees already," Johannesen said.

Commissioner Mike O'Connor made a motion to waive the fee and forego the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Peter Brown said since the application was filed earlier that day, P&Z was unprepared to decide on the application itself.

"I think we want to have a month to look at this," Brown said, adding that it will be discussed at the next meeting Jan. 13.

During public comment, Neil Marcus, attorney representing Housatonic Valley Association, said a notice of intervention will be filed for the 20-lot application. He urged P&Z to hold a public hearing on the newly submitted

ted application.

"If this application is similar to the prior applications, both of them, then they didn't address a number of issues that were raised by the state DEEP and the state historian as well," Marcus said. "You're obviously fast-tracking this, but you have 65 days to determine if you're going to have a public hearing and to do it in less than 65 minutes is a little unusual."

### New P&Z officers

Following the resignation of Chairman Tim Abbott in November, P&Z voted in new officers at the Dec. 9 meeting.

Mike O'Connor was elected to be the new chairman.

Dalton Jacquier was elected to be the new vice chairman.

Cooper Brown was elected to be the new secretary.

## Cornwall receives state funds to assess lot for potential housing

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — As part of a \$20 million state initiative to support remediation and redevelopment of blighted properties, Cornwall was awarded \$200,000 for assessment of the 12-acre parcel at 282 Kent Rd..

Cornwall's Board of Selectmen discussed the announcement at its Dec. 17 meeting. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway explained the funds will be delivered to the Northwest Hills Council of Governments to assess of the property.

Gov. Ned Lamont (D) approved the funds in December. Money will be released through the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development's Brownfield Remediation and Development Program.

The testing will check for contamination issues and determine feasibility for redevelopment for affordable housing.

The vacant property at 282 Kent Rd. was sold by the Town of Cornwall in a tax lien auction in October 2023. It was bought by David Berto on behalf of the Cornwall Housing Corporation.

Ginni Block, president of the Cornwall Housing Corporation, said that the CHC has an option to purchase the property from Berto, who is a grant writer for affordable housing opportunities in the region. If the environmental assessment verifies feasibility, CHC intends to work with Litchfield County Center for

Housing Opportunities to develop the lot.

On Feb. 22, CHC plans to hold a site walk at 282 Kent Rd., which will be followed by a group discussion at Cornwall Library.

### Composting

Cornwall has applied with the state for permits to begin a composting program at the Transfer Station.

The application package was submitted Dec. 18 along with 25 letters of support, including one from State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64).

Per state regulations, leaf composting is a necessary precursor to food scrap composting. Once the leaf program is established at the Cornwall Transfer Station, food scraps can begin to be mixed in. This requirement has delayed the start of Cornwall's composting program, which was conceptualized more than a year ago.

Once the program is up and running, Ridgway said the town hopes to divert 100 tons of food scraps out of the waste stream annually.



## LEGAL NOTICES

### Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on December 17, 2024:

To adopt by resolution "Sustainable Salisbury-2024 Town Plan of Conservation and Development" dated December 16, 2024 effective December 27, 2024. A copy of the Plan is available on the Town website at www.

salisburyct.us/planning-zoning-commission/plan-of-conservation-and-development/

Any aggrieved person may appeal these decisions to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §8-8. This notice of decision was also published in the December 23, 2024 edition of the Republican American.

Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission  
Martin Whalen, Secretary  
01-02-25

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# 2024 Recap

## Salisbury grappled with a changing landscape in 2024

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — It was a busy year in Salisbury on various land-use fronts.

The Salisbury Association closed on a new preserve of 48 acres on Route 112.

The Hecht Preserve has high ecological value with core forest, rugged slopes and bedrock exposures. A pure, cold-water stream traverses the property, draining to the Salmon Kill and providing habitat for native fish.

The Salisbury Housing Committee's application for the 20-unit Dresser Woods affordable housing development was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission after a lengthy public hearing over several nights. P&Z also approved an affordable housing plan from the Salisbury Housing Trust for two homes on Undermountain Road, also after a lengthy public hearing over several nights.

And the SHC opened 10 new units of housing at Sarum Village with moderate fanfare, including a visit by U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Students sought native species during the Bio Blitz.

Late last month, Aradev LLC withdrew its application to redevelop and expand the Wake Robin Inn after a lengthy public hearing over several nights revealed significant opposition from neighbors. The commission was leaning toward turning the application down before the developer pulled it back.

The Salisbury Winter Sports Association added a rebuilt 30 meter jump and synthetic landing material that allows for year-round ski jump training. SWSA's application before the Inland

Wetlands and Watercourses Commission to build a snow-making pond beneath the ski jumps was withdrawn from consideration in December. SWSA's Ken Barker said the organization needed time to restructure the plans in response to new information from the commission and letters from the public.

There were several anniversaries of note in 2024: Trinity Episcopal Church in Lime Rock celebrated its 150th year, St. John's Episcopal Church in Salisbury its 200th year, the Rotary Club of Salisbury hit the 75 year mark, and Stacey Dodge marked her 25th year overseeing the town Grove.

The Salisbury Association kept the town informed and enlivened with exhibits on biodiversity, the Corner Food Pantry and the Holley Knife Company.

The Scoville Memorial Library sponsored numerous events, often taking advantage of the grounds for the purpose. Visitors searched for native species in the nearby Wachocastinook Brook during the Bio Blitz, or got an up close and personal look at the local wildlife. Inside the library, children learned how to become Oompa Loompas, and adults learned how to research the history of their homes.

## A year of progress, cultural growth in Kent

By Alec Linden

KENT — Bellies are full, the air is brisk and the sun sits low and cold in the southern sky — it's January in Kent, marking the close of a progressive year for the riverside town.

The Board of Selectmen reformed several subcommittees during the year, including the Broadband and Communication Working Group that has been busy trying to modernize and expand the town's broadband connection. While internet service providers have been hard to reach and state-funding opportunities difficult to get a hold of, fiber optic cable is being laid in town, and the group is working hard to every residence in town wired with "future proof" broadband connection.

The creation of the Cemetery Committee bolstered the town's volunteer roster. The management of the six town-owned cemeteries were transferred to the control of the newly-formed committee, which is overseen by the BOS.

The Cannabis Regulations Subcommittee formed within Planning and Zoning to help the town decide how to best update its regulation of recreational cannabis.

The Kent Sustainability Team was also reformed.

Aside from town governance, Kent's cultural institutions saw growth and activity throughout the year. The Kent Memorial Library

received two million dollars in funds at the October meeting of the Connecticut Bond Commission which will be put towards a large scale expansion project connecting the existing library to the adjacent old firehouse building. The idea is "more space for more people," according to Library Director Sarah Marshall.

The Eric Sloane Museum and adjacent Connecticut Antique Machinery Association's museum brought visitors from near and far to their tranquil grounds throughout the year. Their busy programming schedules ranged from CAMA's Spring Startup locomotive ride in April to Kent-based non-profit TradesUP's third annual SPARK event in October introducing children to the many worlds of the trades industries.

Alterations to municipal life have had mixed popularity with the public over the past year. The "orange bag" municipal waste program saw the completion of a successful trial period, reducing waste levels in the town while offering a unit-based pricing system for residents.

A push to install traffic safety cameras along Route 7 in downtown Kent was met with controversy, with some deeming them intrusive or unnecessary while others said such a move is long overdue. Originally scheduled for Dec. 6, the town vote on traffic cameras has been pushed to Jan. 7.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

This three bedroom antique house at 112 Town St. was built in 1826 with four fireplaces. The July sale of \$1.15 million was over the 2024 median sale price for Cornwall of \$1,115,000.

## Properties lingered due to cooling real estate market

By Christine Bates

The regional real estate market returned to equilibrium in 2024 with fewer sellers and patient buyers.

Multiple offers on listed properties were infrequent and discounts from listing price were small. Buyers looking for move-in ready HGTV-perfect remained the norm with little interest in updating, not to mention renovating. Younger professional purchasers both from Brooklyn and California continued to find the Litchfield Hills attractive.

The performance of the real estate markets in 2024 in Connecticut's Northwest Corner showed slight declines in median prices in five of our eight towns compared to 2023. The highest median price was in Cornwall at \$1,115,000 and the lowest in North Canaan at \$255,900. The number of closed residential sales was also down in five out of eight towns with Goshen — the most active market — edging out Salisbury with 48 sales during the last 12 months. At the same time price per square foot increased in most towns except for Sharon which decreased by 17% to \$279 and Canaan, down 18% to \$378 per square foot.

The results of this year demonstrate once again how a few high sales can dramatically change comparative

town statistics. This year the Town of Cornwall is a splendid example with the sale of two properties over \$5 million — 400 5½ Mile Road for \$12 million and 40 Cobble Hill Road for \$6.25 million. The estate built for tennis great Ivan Lendl on 5½ Mile Road with 18,000 square feet and 446 acres had been on and off the market for some time before selling in January 2024 — the most expensive property ever sold in Litchfield County. A month after selling their estate the Lendls purchased a slightly smaller 6,400 square foot house on 187 acres in Cornwall — the second most expensive house in our region in 2024.

Million-dollar properties continued to be sought after and accounted for approximately 22% of all properties sold, with Salisbury accounting for 22 of the 63 million-dollar properties selling in the eight towns.

New Home construction continues, and 55 pieces of vacant land were sold in the eight towns. The most expensive was 59 acres on 189/195 Amenia Union Road in Sharon which sold for \$1,775,000; however, the 11 acres at 4-5 Mount Mauwee Lane in Kent at \$500,000 was the most expensive price per acre at \$45,000. On the affordable end of the market, 14 sites ranging from 19 acres to half an acre sold for less than \$100,000.

## Year-end grants support Canaan Child Care Center

The Canaan Child Care Center received a \$2,500 critical needs grant to purchase coats, snow pants, boots, hats and mittens for children in need who attend the center.

The 2024 Year-End Critical Needs grant round is from the following Northwest CT Community Foundation funds: Roberta Lee August

Fund, Draper Foundation Fund, The Making Cents Fund, Marion W. and Alice Edwards Fund, PLK Fund, Douglas and Janet Roberts Fund and Anson and Caroline Catlin Hungerford Trust.

The CCCC also received \$1,350 from the Winter Trillium Fund to fund mulch for the playground.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Finn, 12, found his wings at Triumph Airfield June 1.

## North Canaan soared in 2024

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — An action-packed year made for big news in North Canaan.

A terrier was rescued from a quarry, a new health center opened, and Canaanites welcomed new businesses to town while saying farewell to an old favorite.

The year began with two downtown eateries opening. McMuckle's Market came to town and Nutrition on Railroad reopened under new ownership.

In March, Town Hall introduced a new face in Paul Mattingly, executive assistant. Mattingly and First Selectman Brian Ohler launched initiatives to revamp municipal operations like Make It Happen Monday, when all permitting officials are present in Town Hall to streamline applications.

In springtime, a volunteer rescue effort saved Rippy the terrier from a quarry. Animal control, local fire departments, regional ropes rescue team and the first selectman, equipped with an infrared detection drone, teamed up to save Rippy in a multi-day effort.

Community Health and Wellness Center cut the ribbon on its North Canaan facility in May. CHWC CEO Joanne Borduas spoke on the monumental achievement and what it means for the people of the region, saying the new center "welcomes everyone through the door without stigma and without discrimination. And for that, we are so grateful."

Young aviators took flight at Triumph Airfield when Experimental Aircraft Association made its first appearance in North Canaan. In total, 32 first timers got a feel for flying with the assistance of certified pilots.

Railroad Days rolled into town in July under new leadership. The North Canaan Events Committee presented two weeks of town-wide fun that culminated with a parade plus a dazzling firework and drone display.

The Transfer Station got a face lift courtesy of local artist Cheri Johnson, who painted a 40-foot mural welcoming visitors and promoting recycling.

In September, the Attorney General's office handed down its findings on an investigation into Town Clerk Jean Jacquier. Misconduct was found in three incidents, but no punitive action was taken. Jacquier, an elected official, is suing the town for legal costs accrued during the investigation. Torrington Superior Court set a hearing for Jan. 27 at 2 p.m.

Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD) ramped up production of syringes at its North Canaan plant in response to quality issues with plastic syringes imported from China. Fallon McLoughlin, director of public relations and corporate communications, said, "We've added over 100 full-time associates in the last year, and currently have more than 500 full-time associates and nearly 50 contingent associates."

In the 2024 election, North Canaan was a true bellwether town. Voters chose Trump (R) for president, Murphy (D) for senate, Hayes (D) for congress, Harding (R) for state senate and Horn (D) for state representative. Each won.

As the year wound down, North Canaan said farewell to Great Falls Brewing Company. The Union Depot fixture closed its doors at the end of December after several slow years beginning with the pandemic.

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## Natural triumphs and trials last year in Sharon

By Alec Linden

SHARON — 2024 was a big year for Sharon's natural and protected landscapes, which achieved victories, suffered losses and became sites of legal controversy.

Just one month into the year, a cherished sugar maple that stood at 60 Millerton Rd. for nearly three hundred years was felled for threats to power lines. Despite the loss of an integral piece of the town's natural history, Sharon's stately trees made a comeback in the fall when a common apple tree on the Sharon Land Trust's Hamlin Preserve was declared the state champion of its species by CT Notable Trees, joining a nearby Chinkopin oak as Sharon's second tree to win the title.

The Hamlin Preserve was abuzz with activity this year, with local nature photographer and environmental educator Tom Zetterstrom joining forces with SLT in leading a campaign to fight the spread of invasive bitter-

sweet on the preserve where it had already strangled a cedar forest. Zetterstrom used the site as a case study to train the HVRHS Envirothon team in invasive plant management as its members prepare to try and represent Connecticut for the 11th time in the national competition later in 2025.

Aside from managing invasives, SLT kept busy. In October, it was announced that the Posey family donated 128 acres to the Trust, which will ensure it is protected as agricultural land in perpetuity as the Posey Family Preserve.

Elsewhere in town, however, historic farmlands were in trouble. Two separate parcels, known as the Paley Farm and Turkiewicz Farm, have been bought and are being developed into residences despite having been protected by agricultural easements since the 1980s. SLT and concerned resident Carol Flaton filed an injunction to stop construction on the farms, and are continuing to fight in court.



Tom Zetterstrom shows off the state champ apple tree to HVRHS's Envirothon Team.

While lands were being disputed in the hills, culture was booming on Main St. The Voice of Art's Fine Art Festival went down on a sunny September afternoon, with artists of all disciplines showcasing their craft under the grand façade of the newly-renovated Hotchkiss Library.

The Library, whose resignation was completed in the summer of 2023, was honored in the October/September 2024 American Libraries

issue "2024 Library Design Showcase" for its melding of its historic charm with contemporary infrastructure. According to newly-appointed board president Lorna Edmundsson, the library is "bucking the trends" afflicting other libraries with high subscription rates and a packed schedule of programming.

2024 also saw the BOS and other commissions act to improve municipal life in town. In February, Sharon received a grant of \$1.1 million from the state's Transportation Rural Improvement Program to repair degrading sidewalks around the green. In May, the volunteer-run Sharon Connect Task Force saw the completion of its project with Comcast Xfinity to bring high-speed internet to 270 previously unserved locations in town.

It marks yet another careful step into the future for Sharon, a town whose leaders and residents alike seek modern amenities without sacrificing its rural charm or historic character.

## Falls Village celebrated heritage in 2024

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department kicked off its 100th anniversary year with an open house at the Emergency Services Center Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024.

The fire department continued with events throughout the year, including an assembly of fire trucks and apparatus from all over the state at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and an informative lecture on arson investigation.

Secretary of the State Stephanie Thomas visited Town Hall on Jan. 30, to award the Municipal Democracy Challenge Cup for the best voter turnout (68.7%) in the small town category in the 2023 election. First Selectman Dave Barger thanked Thomas for the recognition and the town's election officials and volunteers for their efforts.

The Planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimously to adopt the 2024 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) after a public hearing Thursday, Jan. 25. Both the hearing and subsequent meeting were held online only.

The David M. Hunt Library sponsored a wide range of programs for all ages during 2024. A highlight was a unique exhibition of photographs that opened March 16.

The show, "From the Great Falls to the Hilltops: The Mabel Hallaway Collec-

tion of Early 20th Century Photography,"

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

The images were printed out using modern technology by Rika Laser, assisted by Sara Laser, Sergei and Zoe Fedorjaczenco, and Garth Kobal.

The exhibition opening was preceded by a presentation on glass slide photography with Daniel Karp of Bard College at Simon's Rock.

In December, after three years of operation, the Falls Village Cafe closed at the town-owned 107 Main Street. The Board of Selectmen quickly found a new tenant, Liz Ives of Salisbury, who also plans to run a cafe. A public hearing is necessary but the selectmen did not set a date at their December meeting.

The Center on Main, under the leadership of Rebecca Bloomfield, expanded the offerings and activities at the venerable space, including the monthly "Big Talk" (as opposed to small talk), a singing circle, drop-in art making, ongoing music lessons with Brook Martinez, the recent Holiday Extravaganza and hosting Taekwondo three times per week.

And, of course, the Center hosted the productions of the Falls Village Children's Theater, whose "Jungle Book" was a major success in 2024.

## Cornwall kept active all year long

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Looking back on the past 12 months, Cornwallians had a busy year filled with activity.

The year began with a visit from Governor Ned Lamont Jan. 11 to announce an initiative promoting outdoor recreation at state venues. Lamont cited Mohawk Mountain, a private ski lodge situated within a state park, as a prime model for public-private recreation ventures in Connecticut.

"We can make sure we bring people to our parks and maximize use out of that," said Lamont. "You can come and really enjoy yourself here."

Cornwall Park and Recreation proceeded to launch an indoor pickleball program for the winter months. Players filled the courts at Cornwall Consolidated School each Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m.

If that wasn't enough to get the blood pumping, Cornwallians saw red when incidents of mail theft began occurring at blue drop boxes in the winter. Jim Young was the victim of a stolen and cashed check for nearly \$4,000, and he was one of several.

In February, Cornwall was



2024 in Cornwall began with a visit from Gov. Ned Lamont (D) at Mohawk Mountain, Jan. 11.

awarded a TRIP (Transportation Rural Improvement Program) grant for \$868,000 to construct new sidewalks and traffic control measures in West Cornwall and Cornwall Village. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said the goal in each section of town is to increase pedestrian safety and slow traffic down in those areas, particularly in West Cornwall.

As winter gave way to spring, the Little Guild animal shelter broke ground on a new multimillion dollar facility in West Cornwall. The project saw the old facility demolished in favor of a new 8,000 square foot state-of-the-art animal shelter. In the interim, the staff has set up

temporary trailers and pens at Foote Field.

In May, Cornwall Consolidated School's seventh graders earned state recognition for a civics project. Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas awarded the school with the "Red, White and Blue" distinction thanks to the group's research on the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Repairing stormwater damage was a recurring theme in 2024 with retaining walls and culverts being replaced around town. To address the impact of a turbulent climate and better plan for the future, Cornwall Planning and Zoning Commission hosted Trinkaus Engineering's Steven Trinkaus for an info session at Cornwall Library July 10.

"The goal really is to have a site ... that acts like a forest or a meadow, which is what it was before you put a shovel in the ground," said Trinkaus.

In autumn, the CCS Walk-A-Thon returned for its 20th year. Students trekked the hills of Cornwall for a cause, raising money for the class trip as well as the New York Marine Rescue Center.

Cornwall Transfer Station set up a fund for victims of hurricane victims in Asheville, North Carolina. Ted Larson and Dave Williamson traveled down with all the collected supplies in November and saw firsthand the level of destruction in the area.

Following the presidential election, Cornwall achieved the top voter turnout rate in the state with approximately 90% of active registered voters casting their ballots.

"I do believe we get a trophy for that," said Ridgway.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

## Salisbury students learn ski jumping tips

Members of the Salisbury Winter Sports Association came to Salisbury Central School Thursday, Dec. 19, to promote the ski jump program for children and teenagers. Islay Sheil, a sophomore at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and, at age 15, a veteran jumper, demonstrated the proper crouch on a wheeled board before the students gave it a try.



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# OBITUARIES

## Dorothy Lukis Hosterman

KENT — Dorothy Lukis Hosterman passed away peacefully, at home in Torrington, on Dec. 20, 2024, at the age of 94, after a long journey with dementia. Known to friends and family as “Dot” up until the end, she maintained her kindness, grace, compassion, appreciation of beauty, and love of family and friends.



her many friends. Dot was a resident of Kent, for over 40 years where she was a fixture in the community, having been involved with a multitude of activities and volunteer programs over the years. Dot was an avid crocheter and donated dozens of blankets to the elderly in her community. She spent lots of time in the kitchen cooking. She would be pleased to know that her Marinated Lamb, Chili, and “Magic Cookie Bars” recipes have been properly handed down.

Dot loved Betty White, cheap white wine, and Fudge Ripple ice cream—though not necessarily in that order.

A skilled gardener, Dot always had a house full of plants. She was especially fond of her Christmas cactus, which she inherited from her mother in the 1960s. Dot’s children and grandchildren now have their own offspring of “Grandma Lukis’ Christmas Cactus”, which bloom faithfully every year, and which, with their caretakers, will go on and on for lifetimes to come.

There will be a Celebration of Life held on Jan. 4, at 11 a.m. at Cornwall UCC, 8 Bolton Hill Road. All are welcome. In lieu of flowers, monetary donations can be made to The Kent Food Bank 41 Kent Green Blvd, Kent CT 06759.

Born and raised in Buffalo, New York, to immigrant parents from the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, Dot was predeceased by her parents, John and Catherine, and 11 brothers and sisters. She is survived by her three children and their spouses; John and his husband Eric of Northfield, Minnesota, Tracy and her partner Sam of Amenia, New York, and Catherine and her husband Josh of Cornwall. She is also survived by her five grandchildren; Nicky, Dan, Ian, Zachary, and Eliza, and numerous nieces and nephews. Dot attended the State University of New York at Buffalo, earning her degree in nursing. Dot was proud to be a nurse and enjoyed her profession immensely. However, she changed directions after several years and devoted the remainder of her long life to raising her children, spending time with her grandchildren, and organizing “field trips” with

SALISBURY — Mark Joseph Grusauski, beloved husband and loyal friend, passed away on Dec. 15, 2024, at the age of 63. Born on July 29, 1961, to Mary (Harz) and John Grusauski, Mark’s adventurous spirit and passion for discovery defined his life.

Mark grew up in Kent, Connecticut, graduating from Kent Center School and Oliver Wolcott Technical High School. His love of aviation began in high school, when he built a hang glider in his parents’ basement, and taught himself how to fly. At 18, he purchased a 1941 Piper J3 Cub and earned his Private Pilot license. His training continued through the Florida Institute of Technology Flight School, where he earned seaplane, commercial, instrument, and multi-engine ratings.

Over the course of 45 years, Mark owned and restored many types of airplanes, logging thousands of

hours in the sky. His flying adventures included scouting forests for lumber, ferrying planes between sellers and buyers, exploring and sightseeing from coast to coast of the United States, splashing down on pristine lakes, barnstorming across grass strips, haylots, and cornfields, and whisking Laurie away on spontaneous excursions. Most importantly, Mark shared the joy of aviation with anyone who would climb into the cockpit with him.

Mark’s first true professional experience was at Ewald Instruments, where he honed his skills in precision miniature welding and machine work, marking the beginning of a career of technical excellence. He also worked with his father and brother in the family

business, G&G Builders, renovating and building fine homes. When his wanderlust took him to Michigan, his expertise in carpentry and his love of flying led him to work restoring the historic Mackinac Island Grand Hotel and towing banners over Lake Michigan and the Pontiac Silverdome. Upon returning to Connecticut, Mark channeled his passion for restoration into a successful business by founding Wingworks at the North Canaan Airport, a venture that spanned 20 years. Through Wingworks, he restored numerous iconic aircraft, including the 1999 Oshkosh Reserve Grand Champion 1943 Howard DGA, and the 2003 Oshkosh Bronze Lindy-winning 1935 Waco YKC (currently in the New England Air Museum’s collection). His impeccable craftsmanship, attention to detail, flawless paint jobs, and precision metal fabrication earned him admiration throughout the aviation community. In 2002 he received the FAA’s New England Region Aviation Technician of the Year Award. He was truly a “Jack-of-all-Trades, Master-of-Most.”



Mark and Laurie met in 1994 and married in 2001. Mark designed the home that they built in Salisbury, and the many unique details are a testament to his creativity and artistry. Beyond his skill as a pilot and craftsman, Mark was a talented banjo player and avid telemark skier. His hobbies and innovative spirit led him to endeavors with guitar building, custom ski production, and inventions such as the “Kanga” powder-simulator ski boot, and a chainsaw-powered margarita blender. Mark is survived by his wife, Laurie (Hammond) Grusauski of Salisbury; his brother and sister-in-law, David and Stephanie Grusauski, of South Kent; his nephews and nieces, John, Tucker, and Sadie Grusauski; Brian, Josh, and Sterling Bishop; Jace and Griffin Tomaino; Drew and Abby Vernali; Colton Conlogue; and his dear Aunt Margaret (Grusauski) Wilson. He was predeceased by his sister, Karen Bishop.

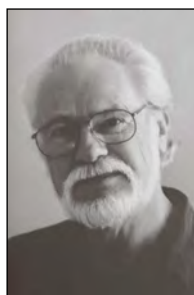
In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Salisbury Winter Sports Association or the Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association in Mark’s memory. A celebration of Mark’s life will be held on Jan. 4, 2025, 1:00 – 4:00 pm, at Candlelight Farms Airport, 5 Green Pond Rd., New Milford, CT 06784.

Mark is survived by his wife, Laurie (Hammond) Grusauski of Salisbury; his brother and sister-in-law, David and Stephanie Grusauski, of South Kent; his nephews and nieces, John, Tucker, and Sadie Grusauski; Brian, Josh, and Sterling Bishop; Jace and Griffin Tomaino; Drew and Abby Vernali; Colton Conlogue; and his dear Aunt Margaret (Grusauski) Wilson. He was predeceased by his sister, Karen Bishop.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Salisbury Winter Sports Association or the Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association in Mark’s memory. A celebration of Mark’s life will be held on Jan. 4, 2025, 1:00 – 4:00 pm, at Candlelight Farms Airport, 5 Green Pond Rd., New Milford, CT 06784.

## John Richard Dildine

FALLS VILLAGE — John was born on Dec. 15, 1934, in Evanston, Illinois, and died on June 3, 2024. John graduated from high school in Silver Spring, Maryland, with a focus on audio, radio and music. He curated and hosted a popular Folk Music radio program recorded at WAMC and broadcast by NPR. He was the first president of The Folklore Society of Greater Washington in the early 1960s. He provided audio support during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on Aug. 28, 1963.



John, his wife, Ginny, and their three children (son Wesley, daughters Debbie and Connie) performed as

The Dildine Family Folk Songs and Marionettes for ten years at folk festivals, schools and folk venues.

John was a self-employed sound recording engineer for documentary films and television. He was also a voice recording artist. The John Dildine and Ginny Dildine Papers now reside at the Library of Congress-Folklife Division.

John loved travel, painting, pottery, and family. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Ginny, his son, Wesley (Chelsea), daughters Debbie (Joel) and Connie (Lars); and two granddaughters, Leah (Matt) and Shannon, and four great grandchildren.

## Roy Fraser Barrows

SHARON — Roy Fraser Barrows died peacefully at Hillcrest Commons Nursing Center in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, on Oct. 18, 2024. He was 76 years old. Roy was born on March 31, 1948, in Philadelphia to Fredrick Barrows and Margaret Adams Barrows.



He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Margaret Degnan Barrows, his son Scott Barrows, daughter-in-law Kate Kubarek Barrows, and grandson Samuel Barrows, all of Colrain, Massachusetts. He also leaves a niece, Elizabeth Barrows and nephews James Barrows and Kevin Chapko.

Roy grew up in Pompton Lakes, New Jersey and attended Rutgers University. He married Peg in 1970, and they moved to Sharon, two years later. They lived there on Sharon Mountain in the same house for the next 48 years. Roy spent some of the early years working with Vance Jones on the

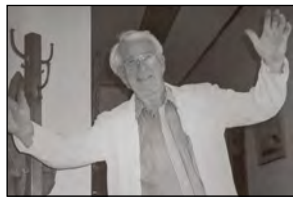
East Street Farm haying and splitting firewood. Later he coached youth baseball.

Roy was a fisherman and a poet. He spent many hours fly fishing the Housatonic River and Mudge Pond, and many hours writing poetry and novels in his studio above the garage. His other interests included computer programming, chemistry experiments, and tesla coils. Roy’s favorite genre was science fiction comedy, and he styled himself a reclusive mad scientist. He loved his Old English Sheepdogs and Maine Coon cats. He claimed to be a genius, and we believed him when it came to Tetris and Legend of Zelda.

Roy was not interested in money or success. He was concerned with seeking the truth, speaking it well, and teaching his son about baseball and life. He had much to teach and led a most interesting life. Goodbye Roy. Thanks for everything and godspeed to you.

## Donald Terance Martin

NORTH CANAAN — Dr. Donald Terance “Doc” Martin, 86, of North Canaan, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024, at his home in North Canaan, which was his last wish.



Dr. Martin was a dentist in Canaan, retiring in 2014. He served the community and their needs whether they could pay or not, and at all hours of the day and night. They do not make men like Don “Doc” Martin anymore.

Born on Aug. 27, 1938 in Walla Walla, Washington, he was the youngest of George T. and Anna Mae (McGrath) Martin’s eight children. Don proudly served in the US Navy with the Seabees during the Vietnam War. He adopted the Seabee’s “Can Do” attitude that served him for the rest of his life. Don married Lynne Horner in 1964.

Don was a 50-year friend of Bill W. He sponsored numerous others through his devotion to Alcoholics Anonymous. When people asked how he managed to stay sober for five decades, he said, “Don’t drink. Go to meetings. And don’t die.” And, “If you’re going to get old, you should do it in the program.”

Don fiercely loved his family, and he embraced his community. Wherever he went, people shouted, “Hi, Doc!” He enthusiastically supported local causes. In the early 1980s, he founded Friends of Football, a booster club for the Housatonic Valley Regional High School’s football team. He was a regular at Housy athletic events during his children’s years as students there, and continued to support the teams even after his youngest child graduated.

In addition to his loving wife of 60 years, Don is survived by a son, Rick Martin of Canaan, and two daughters, Kelley Marshall and her husband, Bill, of Hyde

Park, New York, and Laura McCarthy and her husband, Neil, of Berlin, Connecticut. He is also survived by four grandchildren; William Marshall, V, Meagan Marshall and her fiancé, Cameron Jones, Maxim Martin and Meave McCarthy; a special friend, Jeff King, cousins Ann Kaufman, Jay Martin, Kathy Horner, Dan Horner, John Horner, Katherine Edlund, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A memorial service was held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024, at the North Canaan Congregational Church, 172 Lower Rd, East Canaan, with Pastor Mark Brady officiating. The repass followed from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at the VFW Post #6851, 104 S. Canaan Rd., Canaan, CT.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Doc Martin should be made to the Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry, P.O. Box 306, North Canaan, CT 06018 or VFW Post #6851, P.O. Box 913, Canaan, CT 06018.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home, 118 Main Street, Canaan, CT.

For more obituaries, see page A7

### RYAN FUNERAL HOME

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## Worship Services

Week of January 5, 2025

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

<p><b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b> 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><b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b> 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 a.m., in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God’s Shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p><b>St. John’s Episcopal Church</b> 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p><b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> 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><b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b> Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God’s people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7252</p> <p><b>FISHES &amp; LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH</b> is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm &amp; Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p><b>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT</b> Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, January 12 at 10:30 a.m. <b>JUSTICE AMIDST INJUSTICE</b> For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p><b>Congregation Beth David</b> 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><b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b> Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville <b>MASS SCHEDULE</b> Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 a.m., Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church <b>DAILY MASS SCHEDULE</b> 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><b>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</b> 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><b>UCC in CORNWALL</b> 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><b>Falls Village Congregational Church</b> 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><b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b> 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><b>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</b> 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p><b>Sharon Congregational</b> 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><b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b> 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><b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b> 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>



## Trump's new environmental team

"Fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be a bumpy night."  
Bette Davis  
"All about Eve"

Will the environmental policies and actions of the upcoming Trump administration be a continuation of the Biden agenda? No, definitely not. Trump has made no secret of his intentions. One of his first moves would be to rescind the more than 100 environmental Executive Orders installed by President Biden (many reinstating ones originally put in place by President Obama). Next he might remove the United States from the United Nations 2015 Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty on climate change adopted by 196 countries at the UN Climate

Change Conference covering climate change mitigation, adaptation and finance.

More than two dozen agencies and other federal organizations have some role in environmental affairs. Among the major entities are the Environmental Protection Agency, the Interior Department, the Commerce Department, the Transportation Department, the Agriculture Department, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services. Here are a few of Trump's candidates to run these agencies.

Lee Zeldin, a former congressman from eastern Long Island is an "election denier" who refused to certify Biden's election in 2020. He campaigned against the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, the largest environmental bill ever (but since most of its funds are being spent in Republican districts, he will no longer try to block it). The League of Conservation Voters gave him a score of 13% for his voting record covering his 8 years in Congress, a terrible record for one about to lead the nation's leading environmental agency.

Trump's pick for Secretary of the Interior, North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, a billionaire businessman is unlikely to follow the path of his predecessor Deb Haaland, known for expanding the country's National Parks and Monuments, Burgum plans to play a key role in greatly increasing coal, oil, and gas production in public lands.

Proposed for Secretary of Transportation is former (2011-19) GOP congressman from Wisconsin, Sean Duffy. Recently he has been a host on Fox News "The Bottom Line". He has no particular experience for the job but is a devoted Trump supporter.

Trump has chosen Chris Wright, the head of a fracking company, to be the next Energy Secretary. A vigorous enthusiast for fossil fuels, he minimized the contribution of cleaner energy. An MIT grad, he may alter his views somewhat in the future in response to scientific knowledge.

Howard Lutnick, proposed Secretary of Commerce, might become in-

OCCASIONAL  
OBSERVER  
MAC GORDON

involved future plans for its subsidiary agency NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The current Republican guidebook, Project 2025, has called for it and its ancillary organization, the National Weather Service, to be dismantled. Calling NOAA "a primary component of the climate change alarm industry", Project 2025 calls for NOAA to be downsized and the NWS to be sold to commercial interests.

Proposed Secretary of Education, Connecticut's Linda McMahon was the chief of the Small Business Administration during the first Trump administration. Brooke Rollins, the proposed Secretary of Agriculture is a Texas attorney, active in state Republican politics, she has no prior federal government experience.

Health and Human Services proposed Secretary, Robert F. Kennedy has little to recommend him but his famous family name; he has no medical training or experience running a large organization. His attacks on various aspects of the medical profession, especially vaccines, have made him many enemies.

However, should he be confirmed, he might possibly help foster something positive; his enthusiasm for better nutrition and improved school lunches, and his condemnation of industrial agriculture would be welcomed by environmentalists as would his hostility to pesticides and other poisons so prevalent around us. Although he won't get far inveighing against corn syrup and ethanol. The main key to success here would be keeping Trump happy.

Unless they have a major falling out, Elon Musk, Trump's benefactor and, some say "co-president" will likely reverse Trump's hostility to electric vehicles, a major environmental accomplishment. And who knows what else?

Trump's appointments, especially Cabinet Secretaries, tend to have little experience directly relevant to their proposed new positions. Also, nearly all are very wealthy; several are billionaires. And (without any evidence), many are referring to Musk as "the world's richest man".

Trump's victory is a massive blow to environmental progress. But even though slowing, much less halting, climate change, may be stymied for a few years there are countless other significant accomplishments that may be possible. We need to remain positive and hopeful. As Monty Python put it, "Always look on the bright side of life . . ."

Architect and landscape designer Mac Gordon lives in Lakeville.



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

### Jimmy Carter — the best president in my lifetime

I get mad when people say, 'oh Jimmy Carter, a terrible president but a commendable post-president.' Carter was the most underrated president in my 70-year lifetime. His image was irreparably damaged by the failed attempt of the U.S. military to rescue American hostages held by the Iranian government, bad luck that was not his fault.

President Carter's presidency deserves high marks because of numerous accomplishments during his single term. Through sheer perseverance against poor odds, he single-handedly used moral suasion, unrelenting persistence, and the position of the presidency to coerce Egypt and Israel to make peace in what are known as the Camp David Accords. He signed the Panama Canal Treaty, which was unpopular with the American people, but rather necessary to prevent continued conflict with Panama, which could have disrupted this vital shipping channel. A lot of people don't know that it was President Carter who established full diplomatic relations with China. And when Middle Eastern countries increased the price of oil fourteen-fold, leading to rampant inflation, he appointed Paul Volker as Fed chairman, who made the necessary and unpopular decision to increase interest rates to the upper teens to cool down the economy, and ultimately inflation. However, President Reagan, who succeeded Carter, wrongly



COURTESY THE JIMMY CARTER LIBRARY  
The Inaugural Parade

got the credit for that.

I got to know President Carter about 20 years ago when I helped The Carter Center on one of the President's health initiatives to eradicate various diseases in Africa. I have a health care background. At that time, he told me to call him Jimmy, which I never did out of respect. I remember sitting with him in his private office in Atlanta, and I was gobsmacked that he knew so much about me, some things that few people other than my family knew. A couple of years later, I had a private dinner with him during which I asked him if he had any regrets about his decisions that led to his defeat by Reagan, preventing him from having a second term. The subject immediately turned to the American hostages held by Iran. He said he could have bombed Tehran

and received the strong backing of the American people and Congress for taking such a muscular effort, however he believed that it likely would have led to the loss of the American embassy hostages as well as perhaps ten thousand Iranian civilian lives. He said this was not something he could have done in good faith, even if it meant assuring his reelection.

This decision exemplified the core of who President Carter was. He was inherently a good, decent, and compassionate human being whose strong character, morality, and humility are the anthesis of the vast majority of Washington politicians today. He was willing to make difficult decisions and do the right thing at personal political sacrifice. He was also one of the smartest people I've ever met. I could talk to him about anything over the years, and I always felt smarter and more informed afterwards.

It is with great sadness that the passing of President Carter has inevitably arrived. He was a great American patriot in every sense. Goodbye, Jimmy. I will miss you.

Lloyd Baroody  
Lakeville

### Thanking Salisbury P&Z

I am Kitty Kiefer, a Selectman in Salisbury. I want to publicly, even regionally thank our Planning and Zoning Commission, and Land Use Office in Salisbury for fair, open, honest work—and hours and hours of open meetings over the proposed changes to a property currently for listed sale in town. The town's website has all documents and recordings of these meetings. I encourage all interested individuals to go to the website for all the information contained therein.

And, may your holidays be filled with civil discourse, joy and good health.

Kitty Kiefer  
Salisbury  
Selectman

### Correcting Errors

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

### THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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### Fall Haikus: 2024

There once was a boy  
Who wanted a brand new toy.  
It was not there. Oy

Macey Levin

Blue skies chilling winds  
Fall is just a winter tease  
Spring's so far away

Peter Fitting

Great Dane bends to look:  
What does this silly thing say?  
Tiny dachshund growls.

Eileen Epperson

From the Scoville Memorial Library adult writing group. Haikus written on the theme of fall.



## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago —  
January 1900

At 10:30 last Wed. night fire was discovered in C.B. Dakin & Co.'s store, Sharon, and the fire alarm was sounded. From the top floor in the north east corner in a store-room a small fire was threatening. Firemen were quick to action, couplings were made in a jiffy, a line of hose run up a back stairway right to the fire. It looked as though one good squirt would suffice to put it out, but it was a stubborn fire, burned like chaff, on the inside, and being sided with iron was hard to fight from without. Firemen worked like beavers. Amenia Hose Company was summoned and at 12 o'clock the combined companies were playing stream after stream, with worlds of water and good pressure, but the big clock struck three before the fire was under subjection. This is Sharon's first fire and Sharon has a right to pat the firemen on the backs for confining the blaze to the one building. As is usual, with the first fire, outsiders hindered the work of the firemen by running every which way, yelling and giving orders, conflicting with the orders from those in charge and causing a general confusion.

SALISBURY — Mr. and Mrs. M.E. Sherwood are receiving congratulations upon a new Christmas present. It is a bouncing boy, born Christmas morning.

Things are beginning to warm up in the political field, but at present they are not a patch on what they will be as the campaign grows older.

Judged by the number of the young people taking music lessons Falls Village ought to be well supplied with music for some time to come.

FALLS VILLAGE — Mr. D.B. Tiffany starts one of his saw mills on a 300,000 foot job on Canaan mountain Thursday.

B.F. Hoyt has everything in the stove line you want. Get your wife a new range. The West Shore is unequalled for a cook stove and the Round Oak for a heater.

Mabel Bartholomew and Ethel Roberts on Thursday of last week picked up a quart of chestnuts in the woods and picked a dandelion in full bloom and Millard Silvernail also picked a couple of thrifty looking dandelions on the George Harrison place. Now all we wish is that somebody would gather some strawberries and watermelons and the list of vegetable freaks would be complete.

Edward McCue is putting up a barn on his land. This building will be constructed from the frame work and lumber of the old annex to the Wononsco House. The timbers are of solid oak and so hard that Ed says he has to dip all the nails in oil in order to drive them without having them double up.

According to one of the distinguished goose-bone prophets this will be an extraordinarily mild winter. The goose-bone is nearly all white. Only the slightest bit of purple could be seen on the tall ends of the bones. The purple indicates cold weather, away off in March probably. All the rest of the bone was white, which shows beyond a question that there

will be no winter at all.

C.A. Stupplebeen of Glens Falls is in town interested as usual in the lives of others.

100 years ago —  
January 1925

SALISBURY — Miss Marion Eggleston is home from her duties as Home Demonstration Agent in New Hampshire for the week.

The driver of the daily newspaper auto truck ran into the bridge near the Library on Friday. A section of the bridge was broken off and the truck was quite badly damaged. The driver escaped injury.

Mr. Charles Wiesing of Salisbury is ill and confined to his bed, but is able to receive visitors and is always glad to see any of his friends.

Falls Village now has a firefighting apparatus of which it may well take pride. The new chemical truck has arrived. It is equipped with a steel body, a 70 gallon booster tank and 100 feet of hose for chemical, in addition to the pumper rigged with standard couplings so that if necessary hose can be coupled up with companies from other towns. Quarters have also been ready in which to house the new apparatus.

The lake froze over Sunday night for the first time this season.

The icy conditions of the streets have made walking a risky thing and automobiling still more so.

Master Petie Scoville had the misfortune to fall on the ice Sunday, cutting a bad gash over his left eye. Dr. Bissell closed the wound with three stitches, while Petie watched the operation with interest by means of a mirror.

Albert Tompkins caught a five pound bass at Twin Lakes on Tuesday. This is the record thus far this season.

There is said to be a new counterfeit 100 dollar bill in circulation. We have examined our stock of 100 dollar bills and we don't find a single solitary counterfeit among them.

50 years ago —  
January 1975

Close to 70 farmers from New York State and Connecticut gathered Monday at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village to discuss the plight of the dairy farmer today. A bleak picture was painted for the future of dairy farmers by milk producers. "The dairy business is in trouble," stated Lou Longo, president of Yankee Milk Cooperative. Mr. Longo said "it's twice as black as he painted it," referring to statements made by another speaker, Willis Belter, who said, "I don't know how some are going to make it, even the established ones are caught in it."

A surprise snowstorm brought a white or whiter Christmas to the Tri-State area Wednesday, leaving from 3 to 5 or more inches of new snow. There was more atop the mountains.

Construction continues at Lakeville Precision Molding Inc. on a new addition to its manufacturing facility, substantially enlarging the size of the plant in Lakeville.

The Lakeville plant, a division of The Norton Company of Worcester, Mass., manufactures precision plastic components for such firms as Western Electric, IBM, Burroughs and Polaroid. The 6,000 square foot metal structure will give the plant a total of 20,000 square feet. The new addition will house the firm's tool room, the shipping department and assorted equipment and molds, all to ease the present overcrowding in the plant.

An era came to an end in Canaan last month when Penn Central Transportation Company ended (at least temporarily) the 102-year railroading history of the old Canaan Union Depot. The Depot was opened Dec. 2, 1872. Just 102 years and 18 days later, its last agent, Frank Zucco, closed the Penn Central Canaan freight office for the last time. Mr. Zucco, who says that he has now closed out four stations (West Cornwall, Kent, Canaan and Lenox) for the Company, will assume new duties in Danbury.

KENT — An Eagle Scout Court of Honor was conducted last Friday to present to Raymond E. Donahue the highest award in scouting. Donahue was a member of Troop II from 1970 until his entry into the U.S. Air Force last autumn. He completed all the requirements for the Eagle rank before his enlistment. He is the fourth local scout in as many years to attain the Eagle rank.

W. Samuel Whitbeck began his second half-century as proprietor of the Salisbury Pharmacy on New Year's Day by working in much the same fashion as he has almost every morning for the past 50 years. "I'd go crazy if I didn't," he declares. But he actually has been working in drug stores in and around Salisbury a lot longer than that. Born in Lime Rock 83½ years ago, Sam managed the store for Clark and Dempsey and then worked for its next purchaser, A.L. Dickinson, before he obtained his pharmacist's license in 1914.

Annabel Griggs Irving, a long-time resident of Kent, has given more than 280 acres of her land to The Nature Conservancy. The land includes the summit of Iron Mountain.

25 years ago —  
January 2000

Nancy and Mark Davis have received a plaque from Steve Hedden, president of the Cornwall Fire Department, making them honorary members of the department. They were honored for their years of help and support which they contributed even though they didn't have time to become active members. Theirs is only the seventh honorary membership since 1932.

Sharon A. Pilz of Falls Village has joined the Salisbury Bank & Trust Company as a vice president and trust officer. Ms. Pilz has had more than 20 years of experience in the field of trust and financial services.

CANAAN — Douglas Library has received a state Public Library Construction Grant in excess of \$50,000. The funding is earmarked for renovations to allow expanded use of the library's second floor.

## OBITUARIES

## David Jon Greenwood

MILLBROOK — David Jon Greenwood passed away Dec. 23, 2024 at home in Millbrook New York. He was born July 9, 1944 in Putnam County, New York, and grew up in Carmel, the youngest of three boys. On his father's side, he was a descendant of Thomas Greenwood, who emigrated from England in 1665. He and his fiancée Nan returned to the ancestral home of the Greenwoods in Heptonstall, Yorkshire in 1974 to be married there, and returned several times, most recently this past summer with family to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

On his mother's side, his ancestry was Native American, indigenous to the Mid-Hudson Valley. His grandmother's mother was Wappinger, and he grew up hearing family recollections of the Wixon and Smalley families in Putnam County, including reminiscences of Native American traditions, hunting and trapping, long houses, relatives fighting in the Civil War, and the Blizzard of '88.

Mr. Greenwood pursued a lifelong interest in the visual and performing arts. His major field was art history with a specialization in American architecture and decorative arts. He earned his bachelor's degree in art education at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo, which included a semester abroad studying art history in Siena, Italy. His master's degree and supervisory accreditation were earned at SUNY New Paltz, which in 1982 named him an outstanding alumnus.

Mr. Greenwood combined his love of history and his love of art by becoming a teacher of art and advanced placement art history, joining the Carmel Central School District in Putnam County in 1967. In 1974 he was named district supervisor of art with responsibility for the entire arts program K-12, a position he held

until retiring from Carmel in 2004. He then taught Art History and Aesthetics part time for another seven years at the Millbrook School. He specialized in pen and ink renderings and his work is included in several collections and books.

He was an officer of the Putnam County Arts Council and assisted in the selection, mounting and judging of numerous shows and exhibits. In addition to work with the Putnam and Dutchess County Arts Councils, he served on an arts review panel for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Art in Public Places project.

Mr. Greenwood gave presentations throughout the region on a variety of topics, and was well known for his extensive work with local history, including re-enactments of important historic figures associated with the Abolitionist movement in the Hudson Valley.

David served on the boards of both Putnam and Dutchess counties' landmarks preservation societies and for many years as an overseer of Old Sturbridge Village, a Massachusetts living history museum. He was the historian for the Village of Millbrook and Town of Washington and parish historian for St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lithgow, and served on the Dutchess County Historical Society. He was also an ex officio member of the Millbrook Historical Society and until recently chaired the Town of Washington's Conservation Advisory Commission. Among his proudest achievements were contributing to the Museum in the Streets public history project in Millbrook, and coordinating an annual historic calendar project for 28 years, celebrating the people, places and events throughout the community's history. It was in recognition of the calendar project that in 2022 the

Association for Public Historians of New York State and the New York State Museum awarded him the Edmund J. Winslow Local Government Historian Award of Excellence.

David was also an active member of Millbrook Rotary and he and Nan served for 15 years as Inbound co-chairs on the Youth Exchange Committee for the 8-county Rotary District 7210 where they were responsible for selecting, placing and overseeing the experiences of international students who spent an academic year attending local high schools and living with local families. Attending Rotary conventions took them around the world to Europe, Asia, Australia and South America, as well as the US, Canada and Mexico.

In Millbrook the Greenwoods lived in one of the oldest houses in the village, built originally by Philip Hart circa 1800. There David was surrounded by the antiques, art, books, and historic maps and memorabilia that meant so much to him.

In May 2024 at the Millbrook Historical Society's monthly meeting, he was honored by the society and by the Village of Millbrook and Town of Washington for his decades of service as local historian, and was presented with a plaque and a proclamation that May 16, 2024 was designated David Greenwood Day in the Town of Washington.

David was predeceased by his parents and brothers. He is survived by his wife Nan and sons Calder and Wixon (Sibyl) and grandson Augustus, nephews Shawn and Harold and niece Lisle.

David was a staunch believer in supporting the local community; accordingly, gifts in his memory would be appreciated at the Millbrook Historical Society, Millbrook Community Partnership, Dutchess Land Conservancy, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook Rotary Foundation, ShelterBox or a charity of your choosing.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a future date.

## Alexandra (Winkelhorn) McClelland

CORNWALL — Alexandra Winkelhorn McClelland, 77, of Cornwall, Connecticut, and formerly of Winchester, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully on Dec. 9, 2024. Born to

Kai Winkelhorn and Sophie (Kutuzov) Winkelhorn on July 8, 1947, Alexandra was raised on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, where she graduated from the Nightingale-Bamford School and studied at the Art Students League of New York. Alexandra was presented in 1965 at the Debutante Cotillion and the International Debutante Ball and later worked for Condé Nast. Known to her adoring grandchildren as

"Nani," she was a giving and generous person to all who knew her, enriching countless lives through her passion for art, travel, love of reading, and the gift of friendship. Alexandra is survived by her loving husband, Duncan McClelland, of 47 years; her children Kai Gray, and Nicholas McClelland; her cherished grandsons Holden Gray and Henry McClelland; and her sister Karin-Marie "Bibi" Winkelhorn.

Status  
Report

NORTH CANAAN — Carter Lotz recently completed his Fire Fighter 1 training course. Lotz has volunteered with Canaan Fire Company for several years and plans to continue serving the community as a volunteer with his newly earned certificate.

LAKEVILLE — A small dog was found roaming near St. Mary's Church Dec. 28. The pup was wearing a collar but no tags. Animal Control Officer Lee Sohl reported a happy ending as the dog was returned to its worried owners later that day.

For more obituaries, see page A5

## Realtor® at Large

As we celebrate the holiday season, it may also be the time to remember the less fortunate. A wonderful way may be to support the efforts of the World Central Kitchen who have been serving over a million meals this past year in 20 countries. The World Central Kitchen volunteers are among the first in when conflict and natural disasters strike a community or country. For more information on this wonderful humanitarian organization, please visit: [www.wck.org](http://www.wck.org)



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## HEALTH CENTER

Continued from Page A1

### A 'great need' for mental health services

It didn't take long before the need became apparent, said the facility's CEO.

"In the surrounding towns we have had a great lack of primary care physicians over time, which had led to individuals living with a high number of medical conditions, and there is clearly a great need for mental health services," Borduas explained. "The acuity of illness in that area is tremendous."

The Northwest Corner is home to an aging population, and Canaan, in particular, has a significant low-income population, said Borduas. Those factors, she noted, "contributed to what people could do for themselves."

Responding to the need, she noted, "We did bring on an additional physician which was not part of the original plan."

Dr. Deborah Buccino, a board-certified pediatrician, was hired to enhance addressing pediatric needs for the community at the North Canaan facility. Borduas noted that Buccino specializes in evaluating and treating children with autism, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), anxiety, depression and other learning and behavior concerns.

The FHC is on track with its mission to offer integrated medical and behavioral health services aimed at addressing the region's dearth of health care providers, limited access to care and transportation challenges impacting both financially



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

**From left, Ronica Doyen, Gema Juarez and Rebecca Malone prepared for a patient's appointment at the North Canaan health center's nursing station on a recent weekday afternoon.**

stable families and those less fortunate.

"We are not just the doctor's office," said Borduas. "Our mission is to be part of the community." As a recent example, CHWC recently hosted a sold-out Christmas show at the historic Colonial Theatre.

### Aided by community partners

Since its inception decades ago, the new health center has been aided by a coalition of community partners to address what Borduas describes as a "healthcare desert" in rural Northwest Connecticut.

Residents living in healthcare deserts may face inadequate access to primary, emergency, mental health, dental care and experience food insecurity.

Just recently, she said, the Northwest Corner's largest

employer, BD, awarded a \$20,000 grant to the North Canaan health center.

"We are using the funds to address social determinants of health. We are going to use that grant money to purchase gift cards at Stop&Shop so we can give them to individuals experiencing food insecurity."

Through the use of the BD grant, another local employer, Lindell Fuels, Inc., will assist CHWC with providing fuel to families who need help keeping their homes warm this winter.

"We will supplement the cost of Lindell through the use of the grant dollars," said Borduas. "It really has been a tremendous, generous gift."

For now, the health center's goal is to take care of the community's immediate needs, and in the early spring, CHWC plans to con-

duct an updated Community Needs Assessment.

It has become clear that there are still healthcare gaps in the rural Northwest Corner.

"We are trying to educate the community that we are not an emergency walk-in clinic and that we operate by appointment only," said Borduas, who noted that even though people with urgent medical issues have not been turned away, that will not be possible to continue as the health center gets busier.

The closest urgent care center is in Torrington, she said, or for residents in the Sharon area, locations over the border in New York. The closest Emergency Rooms are at Sharon Hospital or Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington.

"That speaks to the need that continues to exist there."

## POLK

Continued from Page A1

"The support has been overwhelming," said Donny Polk, Donald's father, continuing to say that the experience has "opened Donald's eyes to the possibilities of music."

For his part, Donald — whose many interests include cooking, painting and theater — said he can now see himself "doing music in the long-term."

Of particular fascination for Polk's new legion of fans was his mastery of circular breathing, with many of the video's comments expressing awe at his execution of the difficult technique. Circular breathing requires wind instrument players to use their cheeks as a sort of bellows, pushing air from the mouth while inhaling through the nose, creating an uninterrupted stream of air through the instrument.

The technique is known to take months to properly grasp. For Donald, however, it came naturally.

"I looked up a YouTube tutorial," he said. "It didn't take too long to learn."

To learn the piece itself, Polk utilized a practice routine taught to him by his middle school music teacher, Alicia Simonetti-Shpur. But Simonetti-Shpur insisted that all credit is due to Donald.

"He is very motivated, he sets his own goals," Simonetti-Shpur said, remarking that the viral performance has become a source of pride for all of Polk's peers, who are "all paying attention to the view counts."

Looking to garner even more views, Donald now plans to build a YouTube channel off his TikTok fame. Remaining humble even in



PHOTO BY SAVA MARINKOVIC

**Donald Polk learned circular breathing by watching a YouTube video.**

the spotlight, Donald says he'll continue to learn, challenge himself, and perform for others all because "it's fun."

The original recording of

Donald's performance can be found on Tamar's TikTok page @maidenpaint. Donald's own YouTube channel can be accessed @Donald-PolkIII-u8k.

## LUMBER YARD

Continued from Page A1

spent more than \$1 million in legal fees fighting the insurance company. "We've come a long way to get to this point. We've been operating in trailers now since 2015."

The plans include rebuilding and reconfiguring the existing facility with new parking design and storm-water management systems. The new building will have a sprinkler system.

Hiltbrand stated there will be increased parking, but the impervious footprint on the property will be reduced compared to the existing design. By reworking the layout, he said, a natural buffer will be situated between the facility and the nearby wetlands.

The facility located at 44 Kent Rd., which was destroyed by fire in January of 2015, serves contractors

throughout the region. The proposed building will house the hardware store that is currently located up the street at 26 Kent Rd.

At present most of NBS's orders are shipped via trucks, but Cohen is hopeful that a new showroom will bring more people in.

"The new building will have a new area for displays and kitchen cabinets," Cohen said. "It will be a great, great facility for the building industry."

Prior to the P&Z meeting, Cornwall Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Agency reviewed and approved the plans at its Dec. 3 meeting. Hiltbrand noted that Torrington Area Health District has also signed off on the proposal and septic system.

Hiltbrand said the proj-

ect will be built in phases and the business will remain open during construction.

Work will begin with the office area, the parking lot and the septic field, Hiltbrand said. "Once the building up front is completed and that's all done then we'll work our way into the storage building in the back."

Land use consultant Janell Mullen noted that despite increased parking compared to the old design, the proposal is still 14 spaces shy of the minimum parking requirements per zoning regulations.

"The current plans are less non-conforming than the previous plans were and that's something that's important to us as a commission," said P&Z Chair Anna Timmel.

Following review and discussion, Timmel moved

to approve the application pending submission of average roof height calculations and impervious surface totals. The motion passed unanimously.

"You've done great work," said Timmel.

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## Borduas tapped for Governor's Health Care Cabinet

By Debra A. Aleksinas

Joanne Borduas, CEO of Community Health & Wellness Center (CHWC), has been appointed by Gov. Ned Lamont to the 38-member Health Care Cabinet (HCC) as a representative of community health centers across Connecticut.

Borduas will serve a four-year term ending in November 2028.

The HCC was created to advise the Governor and Lieutenant Governor alongside the Office of Health Reform & Innovation on health-related issues such as federal health reform implementation and development of an integrated healthcare system in Connecticut.

The nonprofit CHWC, which operates health centers in North Canaan, Winsted and Torrington, serves more than 7,000 patients and is the only Federally Qualified Healthcare Center (FQHC) in the Northwest Corner providing comprehensive services.

In making the announcement on Nov. 21, Lamont credited Borduas for her extensive experience working within the healthcare community in Connecticut.

"Her appointment to this group will provide valuable insight in our efforts to strengthen and improve our state's healthcare system. I appreciate her willingness to serve as part of this cabinet."

Borduas said she is

honored by the appointment, and intends to be the voice for patients, staff and community health centers across the state in addressing the challenges faced in the health care industry.

"I'm looking forward to tackling challenges like the rural health care crisis, pharmaceutical pricing and Medicaid reimbursements."

The cabinet, which meets bi-monthly, convenes working groups to make recommendations regarding the development and implementation of service delivery and healthcare provider repayment reforms including multi-payer initiatives, medical homes, electronic health records, pharmaceutical pricing and evidence-based healthcare quality improvement.

Cabinet members include government officials, leaders in medical practice, insurance, labor representatives, small business leaders, mental health and addiction services and public health.

Through this group, the committee will put forth recommendations to address key healthcare challenges through legislation, funding initiatives or restructuring of current efforts according to the 2024 HCC report.

The report also details various subcommittees devoted to issues like the rural health care crisis, mental health and the affordability and accessibility of urban health care.

## WAKE ROBIN

Continued from Page A1

including Klemens. "There comes a time when you can only condition so many things before it becomes unreasonable," said Klemens at the Dec. 12 meeting.

The commission thanked the applicant for its cooperation throughout the process, which included many revisions of its site plans as it responded to criticism from the commission and members of the public.

"They put a great effort, and they were very understanding and cordial," said commissioner Robert Riva.

P&Z Vice Chair Cathy Shyer agreed: "Their communication with the neighbors was obviously terrific," she said. "They were aiming for a quality product."

During the meeting, both Klemens and commissioner Allen Cockerline suggested that it would be wise for the applicant to withdraw before any vote occurs so that they have the opportunity to re-apply.

Representatives of Aradev have not yet replied for comment or announced any plans for the group moving forward.

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

2024 RECAP: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

## Art and entertainment in 2024

Whether exploring local farms, enjoying a summer concert, or attending an author talk, there was always something happening in the Northwest Corner in 2024 to inspire and engage. From live music and theater to seasonal recreational activities and art exhibitions, our community had no shortage of ways to connect, enjoy, and celebrate the creative and cultural life of the region.

Here are some highlights from events covered by Compass, the Arts and Lifestyle section of The Millerton News and The Lakeville Journal in the Art, Books, Food, Movies, Music, Recreation, and Theater categories.

### ART

From Feb. 17 to March 29, the Sharon Historical Society hosted its annual juried art show with the theme "Let's Dance." The exhibit featured a range of works exploring the theme of dance across various artistic mediums.

Opening on May 18, Wassaic Project's "Tall Shadows in Short Order" was an immersive art exhibition that featured large-scale, site-specific installations by 30 artists. It offered a unique visual experience over several months and was a highlight of the summer arts scene.

Held in September, The Voice of Art's (TVOA) Fine Art Festival differed slightly from the Litchfield Art Festival which took place in May. The September festival took place in Sharon and like the spring fest, celebrated the arts with a curated selection of works by artists from the northeastern U.S. Featuring everything from paintings to jewelry, the festival was a must-attend for art lovers.

In October, "SHELTER" opened at the Royal Arcanum Building



PHOTO BY ANNE DAY

**Benjamin Hochman and friends at Music Mountain.**



PHOTO BY MATTHEW KRETA

in Norfolk. Featuring work from fourteen area artists, the benefit raised \$20,000 for The Gathering Place in Torrington which provides essential services to the homeless across 26 towns in Litchfield County.

### BOOKS

The Salisbury and Kent Libraries hosted series of author talks throughout 2024, welcoming both local and internationally renowned authors to engage with the community about their work. These events included Q&A sessions and book signings, providing an intimate setting for readers and writers to connect.

The popular Author Series at The White Hart Inn in Salisbury continued to bring in local and national writers to

speak about and read from their work. Local authors Eric Schnall and Roxana Robinson thrilled audiences with their new novels, and journalist Jonathan Alter was interviewed by John Hendrickson, senior editor at The Atlantic magazine on his book, "American Reckoning."

In July, culture writer Laura Van Straaten skillfully interviewed Maurice Samuels, a distinguished professor at Yale University and director of its Program for the Study of Antisemitism on his new book on The Dreyfus Affair at Congregation Beth David in Amenia.

In September, Susan Seidelman, writer and director of such classics as "Desperately Seeking Susan," and "Smithereens," visited as part

of the Haystack Book Festival in Norfolk with a reading from her new memoir, "Desperately Seeking Something."

### FOOD

Troutbeck's executive chef, Vincent Gilberti, continued to delight visitors to the historic resort's restaurant and even shared a recipe for Black Emmer Pancakes with readers of the paper. This dish is a staple of their brunch,

*Continued on next page*

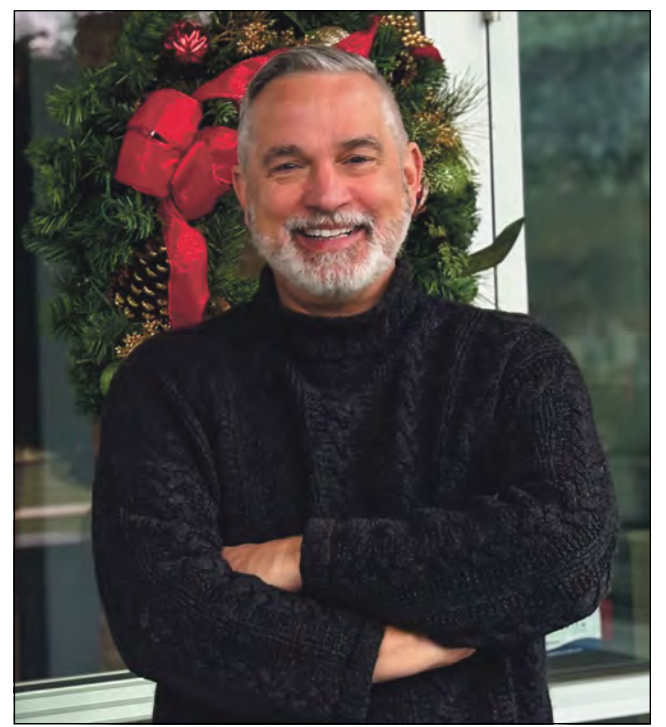


PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

**Patrick Trettenero in front of The Stissing Center in Pine Plains.**

THEATER: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

## Patrick Trettenero named Executive Director of The Stissing Center

The Stissing Center in Pine Plains announced the appointment of Patrick Trettenero as its new Executive Director. Trettenero, a seasoned storyteller with a diverse career in theater, film, television, and executive leadership, brings a wealth of experience to the role. His impressive background spans multiple industries, including arts production, creative direction, and fundraising. Having recently stepped down as President of the Board, Trettenero intimately understands the needs of the arts center and will be a valuable asset as it continues to expand its offerings and influence in the region.

A New York-based artist, Trettenero has made his mark in various creative roles. He has worked as an award-winning producer, director, writer, and mentor, and has honed his skills on both sides of the Atlantic, with

projects in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and the UK. Early in his career, he served as artistic director of Chicago's Cloud 42 theater, directing the premiere of "Late Night Catechism" which went on to stages in more than a dozen markets across the U.S. and UK, including its six-year Off Broadway run at St. Luke's Theater. His Broadway credits include investments in "Next to Normal," "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," "1984," and "Kimberly Akimbo." Trettenero also spent 20 years at NBCUniversal, leading the creative agency "Brandworks" and producing Emmy-nominated telethons, branded content, and marketing campaigns. Most recently, he produced his first Broadway show, "Here Lies Love," and only a month ago, closed an off-Broadway show he produced called, "Kafkaesque."

*Continued on Page B3*

### Local Matters

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*Thank you!*

The Lakeville Journal ■ The Millerton News



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#### WBSL FM 91.7

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



... *A&E recap* *Continued from previous page*

which relaunched in February. Panacea opened in Amenia in the site of the long-beloved Serevan Restaurant to rave reviews. Pastries by Hanna in North Canaan now offers sweet delights to go with your cup of coffee at the wonderful Ilse Coffee. The NECC began a new pop-up food market selling local vegetables and protein on a sliding scale. Robust discussions about food access in our region were ongoing and plans for a food market at Millerton Square Plaza were revealed at year's end. Farmer's markets such as the one in Sharon, Millerton, Salisbury and elsewhere continued to provide the community with locally grown produce and a vibrant weekly gathering spot.

**FILM**  
The Triplex in Great Barrington offered screenings with spe-

cial Q&A sessions. A screening of "I Am a Noise" included a guest appearance from the film's subject, Joan Baez. The theatre also hosted an election film series which included a screening of "Paving the Way," about Geraldine Ferraro's legacy. The Norfolk Library film series included screenings of wonderful, independent films such as Michel Negreponte's "Herd" and a documentary film series called "Covering Conflict." The Moviehouse in Millerton hosted numerous screenings and talk backs with filmmakers and actors, as well as the second SOAR student film showcase.

**MUSIC**  
From the blues of Robert Cray and Shemekia Copeland at Infinity Hall in Norfolk to the classical and jazz summer series at Music Mountain, our area was rich with musical offerings in 2024.



PHOTO BY FREDERIC LEGRAND

Joan Baez



PHOTO BY ANNE DAY

**Trade Secrets**

In July, The Litchfield Jazz Series returned for its 29th year. The Stissing Center in Pine Plains hosted many concerts of internationally renowned musicians. The Oldtone Roots Music Festival returned to Hillsdale in September after forming a nonprofit in 2023 and featured local and nationally touring acts.

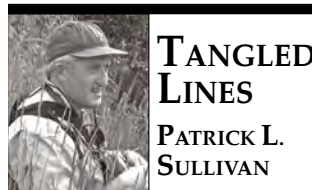
**RECREATION**  
In May, the 24th annual Trade Secrets event raised funds for Project Sage. 2025 will

be the 25th year of the fundraiser and sure to be full of botanical surprises. The annual Fall Foliage Hike at Mount Riga drew hikers from the community to experience the vibrant autumn colors of the region's natural landscape. The guided hike provided stunning views and an opportunity to explore the outdoors. The Sharon Audubon Center and the Cary Institute of Ecological Studies offered a variety of nature walks and educational programs throughout the year, allowing the community to connect with local wildlife and learn about conservation efforts.

**THEATER**  
The Sharon Playhouse continued to be a central hub for theater in the region. Its 2024 summer season featured a blend of classic plays and new works, drawing both theater enthusiasts and casual attendees for an enriching experience. The Copake Grange staged several productions including World War II drama "A Shayna Maidel." -Our area's vibrant cultural scene always offers a diverse array of arts, entertainment, and lifestyle content—2024 was no exception.

**Tangled Lines looks back on 2024**

It rained a lot in 2024, and then it didn't. That's the Tangled Lines 2024 recap in a nutshell. With recent changes in angling regulations in my two main stomping grounds, Connecticut and New York, the idea of "trout season" is now more of an idea than a legal reality. Poor conditions, not regs, keep me inside. This includes high water, low water, muddy water, and ice chunks floating in high or low, possibly muddy water. Let us not overlook the angler's poor condition. In 2024 the Tangled Lines medical beat was established, and how. Out in 2024: Ice cream. Chips. Bread. Pasta, unless it is made entirely from chickpeas, comes in an orange box and costs a lot more than the regular stuff. (Also — don't overcook it. The difference between al dente and al mush is about 12 seconds.) In: Salad. Fields and fields of...salad. It's been a tough slog. I am considering starting a nonprofit advocacy group, the Society for the Suppression of Salad. We could march in the Memorial Day parade, waving styrofoam cheeseburgers. But I did drop about 30 pounds, and kept it off. A shout out to yoga mastermind Samantha Free of Millbrook Yoga. I described my lower back pain to her. She took one look at my feet and saw I was pronating. Between deploying an inexpensive corrective



**TANGLED LINES**  
PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

I spent more time than usual this year prowling the Catskills outside of my usual Esopus watershed, with mixed results. And then everything dried up, except for one quick blast of rain in early August that didn't do much in Connecticut but brought the East Branch of the Delaware in New York up about three feet. This was not helpful. Switching to bass lake mode for August, I noticed a persistent pain in my right (casting) shoulder. At first I chalked it up to slinging gigantic, heavy flies such as the Chupacabra, which is like casting a wet sock. But it soon became clear that something was wrong. Hello, rotator cuff! The doc sent me to another low-key miracle worker, physical therapist Mike Mangini in North Canaan, and I am pleased to report I can, once again, inform fellow motorists that they are insert in my shoes and the stretches and moves Sam showed me, I no longer stagger around like a decrepit man in his early 60s. Now I lurch around like a klutz in his late 50s. Might not seem like much, but I'll take what I can get. The new and improved me voyaged into the wilds of western New York at the end of April, catching the end of the steelhead run in the Salmon River in and around Pulaski. I managed to land a steelhead. The fish struck me as a little tired out but I put it in the win column anyway, if only because I did it in the most offhand manner possible short of sitting in a lawn chair on the bank with a bobber, a worm, and a piece of line tied to my foot.

Number One with a simple, rotator cuff-dependent gesture. I don't believe in setting goals or making elaborate plans for fishing. Too often the goal is silly, like catching a big lunger largemouth with a one-weight rod. (It could be done, like tap-dancing in roller skates, but why?). Or the plan falls through because the fellow who was going to take me to the secret place disappears, leaving no forwarding address. Instead, for 2025 I will concentrate on simple things. Getting better with longer, finer leaders. Learning some form of two-handed cast without getting buried in minutiae regarding shooting heads and grain weights. And finding ways to do more with less. I am tired of rummaging around in the pack or vest du jour, looking for the only fly that will work. Because they all work — if you do it right.

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## COMPASS



PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO

Far left: Filmmaker Kip Williams moderates the question and answer period of the special screening of *The Millers in Marriage* as the cast answers questions. Brian d'Arcy James, Campbell Scott, Ed Burns, Gretchen Mol, and Benjamin Bratt. Burns wrote and directed the film.

FILM: ROBIN RORABACK

## Millerton Moviehouse hosts cast Q&A for 'Millers in Marriage'

The Movie House in Millerton hosted a special screening of "The Millers in Marriage," a film written and directed by Edward Burns. Burns and fellow actors Gretchen Mol, Campbell Scott, Benjamin Bratt and Brian d'Arcy James were in attendance and participated in a question-and-answer panel after the screening. The panel was moderated by Mol's husband, filmmaker Kip Williams. Audience members got to ask questions of the veteran actors of stage, film, and television.

The film centers around the three Miller siblings; played by Gretchen Mol as Eve, a former "indie rock" singer and song writer; Edward Burns as Andy, a painter; and Juliana Margulies, as Maggie, a writer. All three are over fifty, with the sisters facing empty nests after their children are grown. All three have problems in their marriages and are dealing with the death of their mother the year before.

Kip Williams opened the question-and-answer period by saying to Burns "I can't think of another film about this



PHOTO BY ROBIN RORABACK

Ed Burns, Gretchen Mol, and Benjamin Bratt on the red carpet at The Millerton Movie House on Dec. 21. They were there for a special screening of "Millers in Marriage" which Burns wrote, directed and acted in. All three costarred in the film.

moment in life. It's an original window. Thank you for that."

Burns said he chose that subject matter for that reason. "There are no films about us," referring to people of "generation X" now being over fifty. "I am invisible now," he said. "Our stories have no value now." It was important to him to make a movie about this stage of life.

Mol's character, Eve, was just becoming successful when she got pregnant and gave up her career to marry her manager and raise their children. Now, she wonders if it is too late to start her career again. When a writer for a magazine — played by Ben-

jamin Bratt — contacts her and reminds her of her past, his character acts as a catalyst for her to begin to think again about her music and her life.

Mol said when she read the script it was like "a conversation I've been having with my friends." She loved about her character that "she changed. She's still on the journey."

Kip Williams commented to Mol, "When I look into the eye of the character, I don't recognize you at all," describing how completely she had been able to assume her role.

Campbell Scott plays Nick, husband of Margulies' character. Scott

said that as an actor, his challenge in the film was "How unattractive can we make this guy? How whiney? And still keep him human?" Nick is a writer struggling with writer's block while his wife, also a writer, is finishing another book.

Bratt said of Campbell's performance, that it was "nuanced" and left him "wondering how he does what he does." He admitted, "I have a desperately bad actor crush on Campbell Scott."

Brian d'Arcy James' character, Dennis, is a caretaker who comes into play when the siblings go to the country for the weekend. The panel said of his character, "He's an outlier, he lacks some moral structure. He opens things up and creates a problem."

Moderator Williams commented that the themes of aging, parental death, and surviving as artists were "delicately worked."

Audience members remarked that the film was "So much fun to watch, great actors." "Well crafted, melancholy." "I wanted it to keep going."

## ...Trettenero

Continued from Page B1

As President of the Board at the Stissing Center for the last three years, Trettenero was instrumental in the growth and development of the organization. Trettenero shared, "It was an amazing experience. I'm so glad I was able to contribute to the growth of the organization, but I needed to clear my plate to start a job search."

Trettenero had his last board meeting as President in early December when, just a few days later, he got the call. "So, I get a call from the Board saying, 'we're going to make a change, would you do this?'"

After a few days of contemplation, he accepted the role, ready to focus on the future of The Stissing Center. "I really need to focus on the future," he explained. "The board felt confident that I had the skills to take on this role, and I'm excited about what's ahead."

Gwen Greene, the new President of the Board, shared, "Patrick worked side by side with Brett (Bernardini) during the latter's tenure and is admired, respected, and beloved by our Pine Plains community. Going forward, I have no doubt we'll do great things together for the community, for the arts, and for the amazing family that the Stissing Center has helped create."

Though the center will have a period of adjustment, Trettenero is optimistic about the challenges and opportunities his new role presents. "It's going to take a little while, but things are starting to calm down already," he said. "Every transition is challenging, but I'm motivated by the love I have for this town and its people."

Trettenero is committed to continuing the momentum of growth and ensuring that The Stissing Center remains a vibrant cultural hub for Pine Plains and the surrounding area. He emphasized the importance of balancing offerings for local residents, weekend visitors, and tourists alike. "We're not for everyone, but we're for anyone. There's always room at the table at The Stissing Center," he said.

With the 2025 programming already in place, Trettenero is focusing on increasing visibility and fundraising efforts. The first major event of the new season, "Fire and Ice," will launch the season and offer a sneak peek at the diverse artistic programming to come. "It's a chance for us to celebrate the exciting year ahead," he said.

As he takes on the role of Executive Director, Patrick Trettenero is focused on the long-term vision: stabilizing and expanding the facility, fostering community partnerships, and raising the funds needed to complete critical infrastructure projects.

"I'm excited, relieved, and yes, a little terrified," Trettenero admitted with a smile. "I'm hoping that what I can do is continue the momentum of growth and development and then, in a few years, hand it off to someone else to come in with a new perspective and a new approach, but always with the same mission, with the same focus on serving this community and this region." Trettenero added, "I know I don't have all the answers and I don't pretend I'm going to be here forever, but at least for the foreseeable future."

## Sharon Historical Society accepting art submissions for juried show

SHARON — Area artists are invited to submit works to be considered for a juried exhibit at the Sharon Historical Society Gallery. The exhibit and sale, exploring the theme of "Memories" will open on Saturday, Jan. 18 and continue through Friday, March 7.

Original works in any medium may be submitted for consideration, including Oil, Acrylic, Watercolor, Photography, Pastel, Ink, Graphite, Drawing, Print, Mixed Media, Sculpture, Assemblage, Fabric, Stone, Clay, Metal, and Digital.

The exhibit will align with the Historical Society Museum's current

exhibition titled "The Memories We Keep" that displays items from the museum's collection of objects that provide connection with the lives of Sharon residents and therefore collective community memory.

Exhibit organizers indicate that artists' works should conform to the theme of "Memories" by linking with a personal memory of love and loss, triumph and despair, humor and reflection, or whatever the theme inspires whether places, events or people that inhabit the artist's memory.

There is a non-refundable entry fee of \$25 for up to two works, and

\$10 for each additional submission. The judging process will determine the choice of pieces to be exhibited and the cash prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50. Exhibit visitors will have the opportunity to vote for a "Crowd Pleaser" of their choice.

Artists must deliver their works to the historical society on Saturday, Jan. 11, between 10 a.m. and noon, although works will be accepted earlier by arrangement with the museum staff. Artists are also asked to submit high-quality photos of their works

For more information and entry forms, go to [www.sharonhist.org](http://www.sharonhist.org).



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## TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

### JANUARY 3

#### First Friday Music

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

The Congregational Church of Salisbury will present its monthly First Friday Music in the Meeting House on Friday, Jan. 3 at 12 p.m. at 30 Main St., Salisbury. The Meeting House will open at 11:30 a.m. This month's program will feature tenor Richard Trey Smagur, winner of the 2017 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and praised for his "attractive lyric tenor" and "vivid presence" by Opera Today. Mr. Smagur will perform Ludwig van Beethoven's song cycle, "An die Ferne Geliebte." David Baranowski will accompany on piano.

#### Live Animal Program

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

Humans may wear layers and drink more hot chocolate in winter, but what strategies do wild animals use to get through the cold months? Learn about how our local wildlife stay warm in winter with plays, games, and more during our LIVE animals program with White Memorial Conservation Center on Friday, Jan. 3, at 2 p.m. This program is free and open to the public.

### JANUARY 4

#### Twelve Moons Coffee House: Live Music & Open Mic

Twelve Moons Coffee House, 24 Main St., Falls Village, Conn.

Enjoy an evening of live music and open mic on Jan. 4. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the open mic is at 6:30 p.m. Erin Ash Sullivan, an award-winning New England singer/songwriter, performs from 8 to 9 pm. Her new album Signposts and Marks debuted at #4 on the FAI Folk DJ chart. BYO dinner and drinks or enjoy coffee, tea, and fresh baked goods.

### JANUARY 10

#### Banned Book Club

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

On Friday, Jan. 10 at 4 p.m. the David M. Hunt Library and the Falls Village Equity Project will host a Banned Book Club. This month we will be discussing the book "My Sister's Keeper" by Jodi Picoult. Copies of the book are available at the library. This group is open to anyone high school aged and older.

#### Lunch and Learn at

##### Hotchkiss Library of Sharon

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

Beginning Jan. 10, join us on the second and fourth Fridays of every month for a nutritious lunch and a variety of activities including movies, chair yoga, Qigong, crafts, Scrabble, cards, and more! The program runs through September 2025, with activities changing each session. Pre-registration required; limited to 12 participants per session. Register for January 10: hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com/event/13742089 Register for January 24: hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com/event/13742094 For more info, call (860) 364-5041 or visit hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org.

### JANUARY 11

#### Hotspot: Paintings by Kit White

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

Cornwall Library presents Hotspot, an exhibition of dramatic paintings by Kit White, inspired by California wildfires and climate change. Featuring White's innovative technique of embedding photographs in oil paint, the works offer a powerful, layered response to the apocalyptic imagery of wildfire and memory. Kit White, a New York-based artist and writer, has exhibited widely, including at the Guggenheim Museum, and is known for his exploration of photography's impact on our perception of the world. The exhibition will be on view from Jan. 11 to Feb. 22. There will be an Artist's Reception on Saturday, Jan. 11, 5 to 7 p.m. (Registration requested: cornwalllibrary.org/events)

#### Connecticut's Foxes

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

Join Ginny Apple, Master Wildlife Conservationist, on Jan. 11 at 1 p.m. for a talk about Connecticut's two species of fox: the Red Fox and the tree-climbing Grey Fox. Learn about their roles in the ecosystem and their fascinating behaviors. Free and open to the public. For more info, visit huntlibrary.org or call (860) 824-7424.

### JANUARY 16

#### Virtual Author Talk

Online.

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, in collaboration with Essex Library

Association and Darien Library, to announce a Virtual Author Talk with Betsy Lerner on Thursday, Jan. 16 at 6:30 p.m. Author Betsy Lerner will delve into her debut novel, "Shred Sisters." Spanning two decades, "Shred Sisters" is an intimate and bittersweet story exploring the fierce complexities of sisterhood, mental health, loss and love. If anything is true it's what Amy learns on her road to self-acceptance: No one will love you more or hurt you more than a sister. Register online at youressexlibrary.org or by calling the Library at (860) 767-1560.

### JANUARY 18

#### Love to Dance Party

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

On Jan. 18, from 7 to 9:30 p.m., warm up this at the Copake Grange LOVE TO DANCE night (all songs include LOVE or DANCE.) The dance is at 628 Empire Road, Copake, N.Y. (right behind Clock Tower Pub & Grill). Admission is FREE (\$5 suggested donation), refreshments available, BYOB. Guests are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item or hygiene product for donation to the Roe Jan Food Pantry & Taconic Hills Schools' Care Closet Submit a suggested dance tune that includes the word "LOVE" or "DANCE". Go to tinyurl.com/JanuaryDance

### JANUARY 19

#### Classic Film Series

##### Presentation: "Mississippi Burning"

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

On Sunday, Jan. 19, at 3:30 p.m., in conjunction with Martin Luther King Day, Copake Grange will show "Mississippi Burning." This film, based on true events, is a fictionalized version of the FBI's search for the killers of three civil rights workers in the South in 1964. Starring Gene Hackman, Willam Dafoe and Frances McDormand, it was directed by Alan Parker and won an Academy Award for best cinematography. Grange Classic Film Series organizer, Lenny Barham, will provide commentary and insights about the film. Movie admission by donation. Stay after the movie for dinner - soup, salad and dessert for \$10. Vegetarian options available.

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### COMMUNITY: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

## Scoville unveils renovated building

A group of 20 or so patrons of the Scoville Memorial Library took a tour through the nooks and crannies of the building on Friday evening, Dec. 20.

The tour was a repeat of last year's tour, but everybody who showed up was new to it.

There were fewer staffers on hand due to the snow that was falling at show time. Karen Vrotsos, the head of adult programs, stood in for library director Karin Goodell. Also leading groups were volunteers David Rogers and Macey Levin, and the latest addition to the staff, children's librarian Kyla DeRisi.

Vrotsos took a group to the director's office, where they admired the portrait of Andrew Warner — one of the founders of Hartford — and heard how a long shot inquiry from a descendant led to the portrait turning up in the library's holdings.

Then it was up the narrow spiral staircase to a room that holds



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN  
Kyla DeRisi with bound copies of The Lakeville Journal.

the original books that made up the library's initial collection.

The books are small, fragile, and lean heavily toward religion and morally uplifting subjects.

There is also a sword, which might have been made in France in the 1770s and exported to the American colonies for use in the Revolution.

Moving to the reading room, Macey Levin reminded the younger members of the group that it used to be the children's section, directed the group's attention to the stone carving in the wall — from Salisbury Cathedral in England — the Oak Room

(aka the Kobler Room or the Tower Room) and the map on the wall in an alcove showing the old 14 school districts within Salisbury.

In the basement, DeRisi pointed out a display of miniature books donated by the late Whitney North Seymour. The display was once in the main room of the library, was stowed away in the director's office, and was then relocated downstairs during the most recent renovation.

There are also bound copies of the Lakeville Journal.

Upstairs under the bells, Rogers explained why the group could not go up the "rickety" ladders to see the actual bells. (Answer: insurance).

Rogers said the "Parsifal Peal" used by the library for its bells is based on Richard Wagner's "Parsifal" opera and as far as he knows is the only bell tower in the United States that plays it.

He then obliged by playing it on his saxophone.

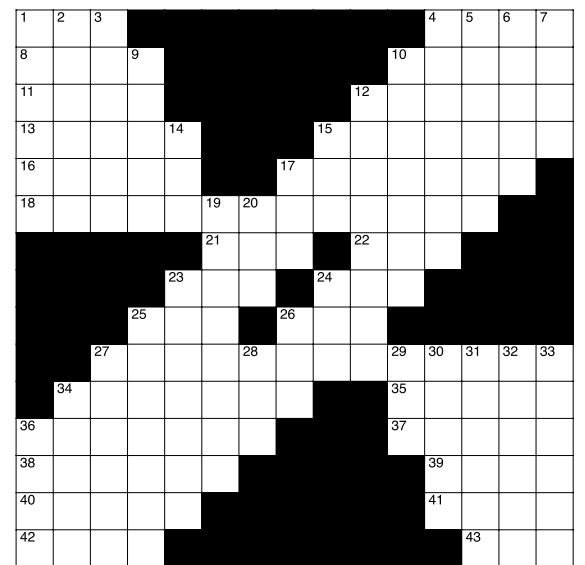
## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

- Americans' "uncle"
- Chair
- Ancient kingdom
- Egyptian city
- Alaskan glacier
- One from Somalia
- Ancient alphabets
- Relating to vocabulary
- Small mongrels
- Natural settings
- Weekend entertainments
- Line from which light seemingly streams
- Your own private code
- Swiss river
- Satisfaction
- A person's brother or sister
- Folk singer DiFranco
- The Blonde Bombshell
- Kids' school project
- Bluish greens
- Classifying
- Cube-shaped
- Choo-choos
- Indian religious god of dissolution
- French department
- Leak into gradually
- Foundation
- Midway between south and southeast

### CLUES DOWN

- Counterbalancing debt
- In slow tempo
- Glamorous city
- Japanese lute
- Makes law
- Informative book



- Animal's body part
- American playwright
- Blood poisoning
- Angels
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Written account
- Unwelcome pest
- Saddle horses
- Type of gibbon
- Delta is one
- NE Massachusetts cape
- Soup cracker
- Yes vote
- Muddy ground
- Physics apparatus (abbr.)
- Type of drug

- German city
- Animal disease
- Martini ingredients
- Get away
- Spanish municipality
- Thrust a knife into

### Dec. 19 and 26 Solution

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

### Sudoku

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

### Dec. 19 and 26 Solution

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


- Ctrl+V
- Slow-cooked meat
- Step to climb
- Ironman's alter ego
- Welcome to 2025



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# Sports

## Another year of cheers for the Mountaineers

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE — In 2024, Housatonic Valley Regional High School athletes succeeded in every season.

Girls basketball set the tone early. The junior varsity squad won a mid-season tournament against regional teams. HVRHS took down Dover High School, Northwestern High School and Indian Mountain School to claim victory.

The girls varsity basketball team carried the team's success into the postseason with an upset victory over Nonnewaug High School in the quarterfinal round of the Berkshire League Tournament. HVRHS's Kylie Leonard locked down Nonnewaug's star Ireland Starziski from start to finish to help secure the win.

In the spring, girls varsity lacrosse continued with a championship appearance in the Western Connecticut Lacrosse Conference tournament. The Mountaineers lost a nailbiter 13-12 to St. Paul Catholic High School. Marissa Zinke, Lola Clayton, Lou Haemmerle and Sophie Nason were each selected to the All-Berkshire League team.

Track and field athletes took strides later in the spring at the Class S state meet. Kyle McCarron placed 3rd in the 1600-meter run and 4th in the 3200-meter run. Ava Segalla and Anthony Labbadia each placed in the high jump in 2nd and 5th respectively.

When summer rolled around, HVRHS swung in the off-season with a championship victory in the regional Babe Ruth League summer baseball tournament. The team, composed of Mountaineers aged 13 to 16, defeated Barkhamsted 6-5 at Veterans' Field Aug. 1.

"I don't care if we're up by 10 or down by 10, they've got the same look on their face. That's what distinguishes a champion from an ordinary player," said Coach John Conklin after the win.

When school was back in session, the success kept coming.

Both boys and girls varsity soccer teams qualified for



Above, Kyle McCarron (leader) competed in the State Open track meet 1600-meter run June 3. Below, Jesse Bonhotel split the Terryville defense.



Kylie Leonard battled Ireland Starziski from start to finish in the Berkshire League quarterfinal Feb. 16.



Above, Anne Moran slid safely into third base in softball. Below, HVRHS soccer congratulated Ava Segalla for scoring against Thomaston soccer Oct. 17.



Class S postseason tournaments. The girls earned the best regular season record in the Berkshire League at 13-2-1. For the boys, Manny Matsudaira was selected All-Berkshire League and for the girls, Ava Segalla, Mia Dodge and Lola Clayton earned the league honors.

In cross country, HVRHS was well represented in the Class S meet in Manchester Saturday, Oct. 26. The Mountaineers had seven boys and six girls attend. HVRHS seniors Kyle McCarron and Gabi Titone both earned all-state status and qualified for the State Open Meet.

HVRHS volleyball qualified for the Class S state tour-

ament this fall and sophomore Sydney Howe earned All-Berkshire League team recognition.

As winter sports get underway, hopes are high for varsity basketball. For the boys team, the full starting line up from last year is returning along with several newcomers. The girls will look to continue previous success despite the loss of senior captains Anne Moran and Haley Leonard.

A new sport was added for the winter season in 2025: indoor track. HVRHS's running talent will stay active through the cold with several invitational meets during the season.



Upper left, Tyler Roberts recovered an onside kick late in the GNH game against Torrington Sept. 28. Above, HVRHS played St. Paul Catholic High School in the WCLC championship lacrosse game May 21. Left, the boys soccer bench took in the game against Torrington Sept. 18 beneath a vibrant sunset.

PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

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