

First baby of 2025 Page A2 'A Complete Unknown' Compass, Page B1



Local matters, Column, Letters Pages A4-5 Tag Sales, Help Wanted, Services, Real Estate Pages B5-6

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



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ED BUTLER

1979: President Jimmy Carter standing next to chief engineer Gordon Priess, Rick Schwolsky on the left foreground, and Ed Butler on the right, checking out the newly installed solar panels on the roof of the White House.

Local power: Norfolk's link to Jimmy Carter's White House solar panels

By Jennifer Almquist

NORFOLK — In 1979, at the height of a national energy crisis when OPEC countries limited the flow of oil to the West, U.S. President Jimmy Carter began a federal initiative to jumpstart the development and use of alternative energy. The goal of "Solar America" was that 20% of America's energy would be renewable by the year 2000. Carter had solar panels installed on the roof of the White House to heat the water used in the West Wing.

Norfolk's Tom Strumolo was on the original team that installed the 32 solar panels. He was part of a band of young, long-haired New England solar energy mavericks who made history.

As a recent Yale graduate, Strumolo was working in the new Energy Department in Hartford where he met Gordon Priess from Mystic, Connecticut. He was "a heat transfer guy who designed water heaters, and became chief engineer of the White House project," according to Strumolo. They learned the White House was taking bids for a big solar installation, and their \$50,000 bid was accepted.

Ed Butler, a Connecticut native, joined the crew. Butler and his partner Rick Schwolsky founded Sunrise Solar Services in Vermont in 1976. They gathered friends



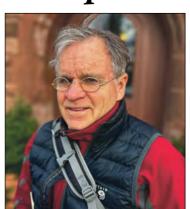


PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIS

Tom Strumolo of Norfolk, founder Energy General LLC, was on the crew that installed solar panels on the roof of the White House for President Jimmy Carter in 1979.

with skills necessary for the project. Students from a Groton, Connecticut, technical school welded the steel framework. They transported it to DC on a flatbed truck. The General Services Agency (GSA) installed 1" plywood to protect the entire White House lawn. A massive crane rolled in to lift the entire structure to the roof of the West Wing.

Strumolo laughed, recalling that security was very tight. "Our Secret Service detail told us 'We shoot to kill,' so we did not mess around." They had sniffer dogs checking them out each day. When President and First Lady Rosalynn Carter climbed to the roof for an official photograph, Strumolo warned the President the paint was still wet on the

See SOLAR, Page A6

New CT laws take effect: Paid sick leave, absentee ballots, coerced debt

By Gabby DeBenedictis
CT Mirror

Legislation concerning student loan repayment assistance, paid sick days and absentee ballots are among over a dozen laws that took effect in Connecticut on Jan. 1.

Laws are passed by the Connecticut General Assembly during each year's legislative session or in a special session. They typically take effect on Jan. 1, July 1 or Oct. 1.

Here are some of the new laws that were implemented when the new year began.

Paid sick days

Legislation passed in 2024 expands Connecticut's paid sick leave law beginning Jan. 1 by applying it to more employers and broadening the definition of a "family member" and the circumstances that qualify

for sick time

As of Jan. 1, employers with at least 25 employees will be required to offer paid sick days. That employee count will lower to 11 in 2026 and then to one on Jan. 1, 2027.

Seasonal workers — those who work 120 days or fewer in any year — will remain largely exempt.

Employees can use sick time to care for a family member, and the law expands the definition of "family member" to include a sibling, parent, grandparent, grandchild, or an individual whose "close association the employee shows to be equivalent to those family relationships."

Previously, the law had only covered care for children and spouses.

Additionally, the new law covers employees who use sick leave

because of the closure of their workplace or a family member's school or place of care due to a public health emergency, and when an employee or family member is deemed at risk to others after being exposed to a communicable illness.

Absentee ballot application changes

A new law requires that absentee ballot applications be clearly marked with the specific year they're valid for, and prohibits applications and ballots without the year noted on them from being distributed or used.

The law also puts tighter regulations on absentee ballot application requests, prohibiting town clerks from giving a person five or more ballot applications if the date they

See LAWS, Page A6

Norfolk's newest eatery 'a welcome addition to our community'

By Robin Roraback

NORFOLK — Tasty food, coffee and a friendly atmosphere are drawing people to the ICBX, a new café offering breakfast and lunch.

The ICBX, so named in honor of Norfolk being known as the Icebox of Connecticut, opened on Monday, Dec. 2, after many delays in the installation of an exhaust system.

"Something you'd think would take two weeks, ends up taking three months," café co-owner Peter Crippen said. In this case it took much longer than three months, closer to two years. He said the bigger companies kept pushing back the job in favor of bigger jobs. Fi-

See ICBX, Page A6



PHOTO BY ROBIN RORABACK

Marinelle Crippen, left, chats with David Gourley as he waits for his made-to-order omelet at ICBX in Norfolk. Miranelle takes care of the counter while her husband, Peter, does the cooking. Gourley called the ICBX "a wonderful meeting place and a welcome addition to our community."

Salisbury welcomes Simmons as Clerk

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — It's official. Kristine Simmons is the town clerk in Salisbury.

She took over in December following the retirement of Patty Williams, who served as town clerk for 21 years.

A Lakeville Journal reporter stopped by Town Hall before the holidays.

Simmons and the new assistant town clerk, Jada Wilson, were running a little late returning from

lunch because of an accident on Route 44.

They were accompanied by Levi Simmons, who had a half day at school, and Tito Wilson, a German Shepherd puppy with photogenically floppy ears.

Simmons is a native of North Canaan and her brother is North Canaan Selectman Craig Whiting.

She graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1997, where she was prominent in

See TOWN CLERK, Page A6



Kristine Simmons

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Local Matters

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Online This Week

HVRHS Honor Roll

Principal Ian Strever released the 2024-25 first quarter honor roll. More 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.

Car strikes fallen tree on New Year's Day

Early in the morning on Jan. 1, Fortunella Indomenico, 40, of Newington was traveling westbound on Route 4 in Sharon. Driving a 2017 Nissan Pathfinder, Indomenico was navigating a curve during rainy and foggy conditions when she struck a fallen tree in the roadway. The car remained operable. and Indomenico was able to drive the vehicle to her destination of the Sharon Health Center. Indomenico was uninjured, but noticed fluid leakage and employed AAA service to tow the vehicle.

Car flips on snowy roads

At approximately 10 p.m. on Jan. 1, a 2012 Dodge Ram was traveling north on Route 272 in Norfolk amongst slippery conditions. While negotiating a right curve, due to the snow-covered road, the tires lost traction with the asphalt and began to slide across the roadway. The driver, Rory Distin, 21, of Torrington, began to oversteer in an attempt to correct the slide, and the vehicle rolled onto its left side. The vehicle was disabled by the crash, and had to be towed from the scene. Distin was uninjured, though he was issued a written warning for failure to maintain lane.

Second car strikes fallen

Late in the evening on Jan. 1, Joseph Bartlett, 19, of Amenia was traveling westbound on Route 4 in Sharon in a 2017 Ford Taurus. Just before 11 p.m., Bartlett rounded a curve and saw a downed tree blocking the roadway. Unable to stop in time, the vehicle collided with the tree. Bartlett was uninjured, and the vehicle was driven from the scene with minor damage.

Disturbance at White Hart

Shortly after midnight on Jan. 2, the Salisbury's Resident State Trooper responded to a call of an unwanted party at the White Hart Inn. After arriving at the scene, Trooper Veras arrested Segundo Lalvay, 51, of Millerton, charged with criminal trespass in the 2nd degree and interfering with an officer. Lalvay was unable to post a \$1,000 cash or surety bond, and was scheduled to appear at Torrington Court GA 18 on Jan. 3.

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

Sharon Housing Trust acquires land for new affordable home

By Alec Linden

SHARON — The Sharon Housing Trust will host an informational meeting on Sunday, Jan. 12 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. to review the Trust's recent accomplishments, discuss upcoming projects, and highlight the importance of bringing affordable housing options to town. The meeting will occur at the Bok Gallery on the Sharon Playhouse campus, at 49 Amenia Rd., and will be free of charge and open to all.

Two recent achievements will be discussed. First, the recent donation of a parcel of land to build a single-family affordable home. Second, the repayment of a \$100,000 bridge loan, as announced in a Jan. 3 press release from

The parcel of land is located within the Silver Lake Shores neighborhood near Mudge Pond, and will be developed to reflect the character of other nearby homes. The Trust hopes to begin construction this year, pending funding. In the press release, the Trust identified this type of affordable housing as "scattered site." The land was gifted anonymously, and the Trust thanked the donor for their generosity.

Also donated anonymously was the \$100,000 bridge loan, which the Trust received in June 2023 to aid the purchase of three adjacent buildings at 91, 93 and 95 North Main St. The Trust thanked those who offered private donations which enabled the repayment. The Trust has an option from the town to lease an adjacent building on North Main St., which would enable the construction of a unified affordable housing campus.

In the press release, Trust President Richard Baumann stated, "It is a testament to the generosity and community spirit of Sharon's residents, foundations and businesses that the Housing Trust has been able to accomplish so much this year. We already provide affordable housing to tenants, we are poised to start renovations for our planned four-building campus on North Main Street, and we now have a new parcel on which to build a single-family, scattered-site affordable house. We are grateful for the enthusiastic support we have received from all corners."



First baby of 2025

Sharon Hospital's first newborn of the year arrived Jan. 2 at 4 a.m. Jackie Hamish Fichera was born to parents Amelia and Jeff Fichera of Copake, N.Y. Her older sister, Frankie, 2, was also born at Sharon Hospital.

SWSA reaches \$100K fundraising goal

Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA) has announced the completion of its \$100,000 grant challenge and thanks everyone who contributed.

In October, an anonymous foundation had offered to grant \$100,000 if SWSA could raise an additional \$100k. The fundraising effort was completed just before year's end.

"All of us at SWSA want to thank all of the individuals and businesses and foundations who combined to make this challenge grant

successful" said SWSA president Ken Barker. "It took the generosity of hundreds of people, with checks large and small, to reach our goal."

Groundwork has begun for the new 36 meter jump with completion scheduled for spring.

Falls Village Children's Theater to host auditions

The Falls Village Children's Theater will hold auditions for its Spring Production of Dinosaurs Before Dark, based on the beloved Magic Tree House book by Mary Pope Osborne. This opportunity is open to children in grades K through 8, offering both onstage and

backstage roles.

Join our supportive theater community and develop skills in acting, singing, dancing, art, and teamwork. No experience is required, and every participant is guaranteed a part.

Auditions will take place Saturday, Jan. 25 from 1 to

3 p.m. at 103 Main St, Falls Village. Deadline to sign up is Jan. 17.

Performances will be March 28, 29 and 30.

For more information and to sign up for auditions, visit www.thecenteronmain.org/ spring-production

PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAM MELNICK, ELYSE HARNEY REAL ESTATE

The iconic midcentury retreat at 275 Dibble Hill in Cornwall was designed by Harry R. dePalo in 1955. With luxurious finishes, terraced gardens and panoramic views it sold for \$1,190,000.

Cornwall prices keep going up

By Christine Bates

CORNWALL — The most recent two months, October and November, based on transfers as recorded by the Town Clerk, show Cornwall's median home prices continue to rise. Four properties were transferred in these two months - above average for Cornwall which has yearly sales of fewer than 20. Median sales prices on single family residences on a rolling 12-month basis as tracked by Smart MLS indicate that Cornwall reached another all-time median price high in November of \$1,115,000.

At the end of December there were eight residential properties for sale, four for \$575,000 or less and four for over one million dollars.

October and November Cornwall recorded sales

19 Wright Hill Road — 3 bedroom/2 bath house on 5.6 acres sold by Heidi R. Stefanski, Heidi M. Rick and Michael A. Stefanski to Julia Catherine Anderson and Zachary Steven Bucek for \$777,000 on Nov. 14, 2024.

275 Dibble Hill Road — 2 bedroom/4 bath hillside house sold by Robert Alan Southern to Stephen Skowron and James Seuss for \$1.91 million on Nov. 18,

82 Sharon Goshen Turnpike — 4 bedroom/4 bath antique home sold by Bank of America Trustee for Estate of Charles and Isabelle Cabot to Sarah Blodgett and Michael Hilbig for \$660,000 on Oct. 17, 2024.

435 Town St. — 2 parcels including a 3 bedroom/3 bath house on 21 acres sold by Ralph Sawyer Junior to John Enquist for \$1,108,748.

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

The Lakeville Journal - The Millerton News Why support local news?

Local Matters

Since becoming a nonprofit, what's kept The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News going are the thousands of loyal readers and advertisers who value both publications as the most reliable sources of information in our area, and the generous donations from people like you and your neighbors.

Here's what your neighbors are saying about why they value The Lakeville Journal & The Millerton News

"It's a balanced way at looking at events and I like the caliber of the reporters. It's very important to the community."

REV. DOUGLAS GRANDGEORGE

PAT JENNY



"I read The Millerton News to help stay connected to the community because that is the role of local journalism to make people $aware\ of\ resources\ and\ wonderful\ things\ in$ their neck of the woods. That's the number one thing that a newspaper should be doing. I think it's important that people have a stake in where the live and have a passion for it. And to build that you need to have someone exploring for them because we can't go out individually and interview everyone that a newspaper can."

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

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

"I've been reading The Millerton

News since we moved here 60

We get it every week. It keeps me in the loop about what is going on up here. I not have it. JIMMY AYOUB

"I like The Millerton News and The Lakeville Journal because I'm a great supporter of non-profit news and that's the way to go from here on out. I read everything in the paper." FRANK FITZMAURICE

years ago. I check all the latest school board news and other local government meetings. The paper is important for accountability of government and how they spend our money. JULIE SCHROEDER

Please consider donating today. Visit lakevillejournal.com/donate or millertonnews.com/donate, or mail a check to The Lakeville Journal & The Millerton News, 64 Route 7 N, Falls Village, CT 06031.



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OBITUARIES

Eileen M. Mulligan

Mulligan, 77, of Salisbury,

passed away on Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024, due to complications from Parkinson's disease.

She was born in Bridgeport to Edward and Margaret Mulligan. Eileen graduated from St. Ann's School and

Notre Dame High School. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Health Services Administration from Quinnipiac College and dedicated 45 years to serving the elderly as the Administrator at Noble Horizons in Salisbury. Known for her kindness, generosity, and impeccable taste, Eileen was an avid traveler and reader. She had a great appreciation for fine jewelry and was a fan of Tom Selleck. Eileen resided at the Mozaic Jewish Home in Bridgeport and previously lived in Salisbury and Naples, Florida.

She is survived by her siblings; Margaret M. Mulligan of Mora, New Mexico, Joseph L. Mulligan of Salisbury, Christine M. Mulligan Firella of Bridgeport, and Edward M. Mulligan of Bridgeport. She is also survived by

SALISBURY — Eileen M. Catherine M. Trichka and Scott Trichka of Bridgeport,

> numerous nieces and nephews, and her beloved dog, Teddy.

Eileen was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Margaret Mulligan.

A Funeral Mass for Eileen was held

on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at Saint Mary's Church, located at 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville, Connecticut. The burial followed immediately afterward at Saint Mary's Cemetery in Salisbury, Connecticut. For travel directions or to sign Eileen's online guest register, please visit www.LeskoFuneral-Home.com.

The family expresses their deep gratitude for the staff of the Katie Grace House at Mozaic Jewish Home for the love and care they showed Eileen over the past 4 years. In lieu of flowers, donations in honor of Eileen can be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research www.michaelifox. org or the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service www.salisburyambulance. org/gifts.

In Appreciation: Eileen Mulligan

With great respect and admiration, the staff and Board of Directors at Noble Horizons recognizes the passing of Eileen Mulligan. Eileen served as Noble Horizons' first Administrator, from its founding in 1972 until her retirement in 2017. Over a truly extraordinary career spanning more than four decades, she came to personify Church Homes, Inc.'s mission of supporting its residents with dignity, care, and compassion. Eileen forged close bonds with the countless residents she cared for and whose lives she

ers and employees at Noble Horizons; and with many in the Salisbury community of which she was a part. She will be remembered for her caring and professionalism, her great sense of humor, and for her dedication to Noble Horizons and those who live and work there. The Board of Directors and management of Church Homes wish to extend our sincere condolences to Eileen's family, former co-workers, and friends at this time.

touched; with her cowork-

— *The Board of Directors* of Church Homes

Donna Rae Filous

passed away on Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024. Donna worked in retail her entire career and was store manager at several local businesses. She retired from the human resources department at Walmart in Torrington.

Born on Jan. 13, 1945 in New Milford, she was the daughter of the late Frederick R. and Ruth E. (Miller) Erickson. She was married to Ottmar Konrad Filous who predeceased her on Dec. 29, 2009. Donna was a member of the Canaan Northwest Lions Club, Daughters of Isabella in Canaan, and a parishioner of St. Martin of Tours Church of St. Joseph, also in Canaan.

Donna is survived by three brothers, Richard L. "Rick" Erickson of Torrington, Frederick R. "Rudy" Erickson of Chicopee, Massachusetts, and Charles Erickson of Danbury, and a sister, Eileen Corr of Coventry, Rhode Island. She is also survived by six nephews; Bob, Bill, Fred, Michael, Kevin and Charles Erickson, Jr; three nieces Stacy Frome,

> For more obituaries, see Page A5

CANAAN — Donna Rae Christine Penney and Jen-

and generosity.

Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home. 118 Main Street, North Canaan, CT.

A Funeral Mass will follow at 12 noon at St Martin of Tours Church of St Joseph, 4 Main St, Canaan, CT 06018. In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Mrs. Filous should be made to the: Torrington Area Parkinson's Support Group, 88 East Albert Street, Torrington, CT have been entrusted to the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home, 118 Main Street,

Filous, 79, of Torrington, nifer Colangelo. Above all,

Donna was known for her kindness

Calling hours will take place from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 13, 2025 at the

06790. Funeral arrangements North Canaan, CT.

 ${\tt SALISBURY-It\ is\ with}$ heartfelt sorrow that we announce the passing of Alice Schwab Combes, beloved mother, grandmother,

friend, educator, leader, and protector of mountains. Alice passed away on Dec. 21, 2024, surrounded by the love of her daughter, Andrea, sonin-law, Eric, and her grandchildren, Mary August, Axel Born on Oct. 26, 1946, energy, slight irrev-

to Gustav and Josephine Schwab, Alice grew up in Garrison, New York where she attended primary and middle schools and later was a proud graduate of the Emma Willard School in Troy, New York. In 1966, Alice gave birth to her daughter, Andrea, and spent the next two decades living in the Boston area before moving to Danbury in 1988. Ultimately, she found her way to spend time in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, to be close to

her family. Her last years

were spent snuggled in her

cozy Vermont home in Roch-

and Berit.

ester. Alice's academic accomplishments were nothing short of impressive because if Alice was going to do something, she was going to do it right: a BA from UMass Boston, two master's degrees, and multiple post-graduate certificates in Reading, Special Education, School Psychology, and Neuropsychology. The crown jewel of her education was her Doctorate of Education from Nova Southeastern University.

Her career as an educa-

tor spanned over 35 years, with her first years working with students struggling with learning and emotional difficulties in Quincy, Massachusetts. She then moved to Danbury, where she worked as a School Counselor and School Psychologist in neighboring Ridgefield for another twenty years. Alice acted as an unparalleled advocate for her students; throughout her career, she never allowed her students to simply meet expectations, she encouraged them to find meaningful challenges, and explore every educational opportunity available to them. Her boundless dedication to assist her students to find scholarships, jobs, training programs and travel opportunities is reflected by how often her former students have returned to share their successes and appreciation. After retiring from Ridgefield, Alice couldn't stay away from her true calling and reyears as a school

erence for the rules, crazy earrings and her exemplary

throughout her life— educator, travel guide, corporate president and ski ambassador among others. She co-founded the educational travel company Geo-Vista and spent 15 summers teaching reading skills at Salisbury Summer School. But, her most meaningful role was as mother and grandmother. Alice loved her daughter with a strong and unconditional loyalty, only to be equaled (sometimes surpassed) by her love for her grandchildren. Alice and Andrea were each other's strongest supporters, cheerleaders, and absolute best friends.

Her grandkids, Mary Au-

George Varriale

LAKEVILLE — George Varriale, 76, of Lakeville, passed away peacefully at The Sharon Health Care on Dec. 14, 2024. He was the loving husband of Cozette Roulin.

George was born May 29, 1948, in Hartford, the son of the late George and Anna (Solamon) Varriale. He graduated from Bloomfield High School. He then began working for his father in the carpentry business.

He was a long time member of St. Mary's Church.

RYAN FUNERAL HOME

255 MAIN STREET • LAKEVILLE, CT 06039

860-435-2700

He is survived by his wife, Cozette, and his two brothers, Ken, of Enfield, Connecticut, and Timothy of Florida. George is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance, 8 Under Mountain Rd, Salisbury, CT 06068.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Alice Schwab Combes

turned to work in Seekonk, ing them to ski moguls, jump Massachusetts for five more somersaults, appreciate the

psychologist. At every school she worked, Alice was valued by her colleagues not only for her expertise and experience as an educator but for her wicked sense of humor, boundless

skills and work ethic.

Beyond the classroom, Alice's leadership as Director and President of Mount Riga, Inc. in Salisbury, was legendary. As MRI President, Alice boldly led multiple initiatives to provide environmental safeguards to protect the forest and lakes as well as fostering community engagement and connection. She fiercely protected and nurtured "her" beloved mountain, ensuring that its beauty and peace would be passed down for generations. At any given moment, Alice could be seen yanking dreaded invasives from the side of the road, planting daylilies along fences, or leading a rambunctious crowd of children with lawn games. You were sure not to miss her as she came speeding up the mountain road, usually with a pack of dogs and a grandchild or three in the back of her pickup truck. There wasn't a community event or party that she didn't attend with joyful exuberance. Her cabin was her beloved sanctuary, and Alice enthusiastically invited friends, colleagues, and the occasional hunky hiker from the Appalachian Trail to visit (and work on) her beloved

Alice wore many hats

gust, Axel, and Berit, were the light of her life. Alice adored them fiercely, teach-

fine art of pancake-making, and slow down with a little bite of chocolate. Her cabin, her mountain, and her

life were always open for adventure. Sometimes a little too much adventure, as in the time their mother

learned Alice let them ride the roof of her Astro Van. She gifted them with a childhood of unforgettable experiences like visits to the American Girl Doll Store in New York City, snow sledding with huskies, and even a trip to Paris. That was Alice—a generous spirit, full of joy and spontaneous fun.

Filled with curiosity about the world around her, Alice explored the world both solo and with friends, often seeking out the most delicious food and interesting people. She was never shy about offering her opinions, especially if the subject was current events or how the world should be run (which, in Alice's mind, was always better with more tea and useless things from TJ Maxx). If you find yourself in need of a life-sized ceramic dalmatian sculpture or a three-foot-tall painted Humpty Dumpty, please call her daughter.

Alice is survived by her daughter, Andrea W. Combes and her son-in-law, L. Eric Olsson, and her grandchildren, Mary August, Axel and Berit Olsson. Over the years, she gathered a devoted pack of beloved dogs, including Benjamin, Coalie, Otis, Max and Samantha with whom she is now most likely sitting, reading her New York Times Sunday Edition, opining about the state of the world and how much better she would make it if she were in charge. And let's not forget her many wonderful friends, who will always remember Alice for her laughter, her loyalty, and her zest for life.

A private burial service will be held by the family. However, in full Alice fashion, there will be a celebration of Alice's extraordinary life at the mountain she loved so much, where we will raise a cup of tea (or something stronger) in her honor. In lieu of flowers, Alice would have preferred you share a laugh, taste something delicious, go on an adventure, wear a bold pair of earrings, and, if you can't resist, definitely buy something outrageous from TJ Maxx.

Alice's spirit will live on in the mountains, in the many lives she has touched, and in every laugh, swim in the lake, and ski slope we conquer from here on out.



Worship Services

Week of January 12, 2025

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

Christ Church Episcopal

in Sharon
9 South Main, Sharon CT
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.
Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org

St. John's Episcopal Church

12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)

In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290

North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC

Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/ northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232

FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, is at Pilgrim House

30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org

Congregation Beth David A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon

845-373-8264

info@congbethdavid.org

The Lakeville United **Methodist Church** 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School

n Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Steet, North End of Sharon Green

Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net

Falls Village Congregational Church 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 The Smithfield **Presbyterian Church**

656 Smithfield Valley Rd Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m.

www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building

Canaan United Methodist Church

2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts – Open Minds – Open Doors Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.

30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
Whoever you are,
wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming
www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442

Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.

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CREMATIONS • FUNERALS • BURIALS • CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE

JONATHAN J. RYAN

The Lakeville Lournal

EDITORIAL Local matters

ater this month a landmark building in Hartford will be up for auction. It is the former home of The Hartford Courant and was built in 1928 at 285 Broad Street across from the State Armory. More than a century and a half ago, in 1764 — when we were a colony — The Hartford Courant was founded as the weekly Connecticut Courant.

In recent years, The Courant became part of Tribune Publishing and then Alden Global Capital, a New York-based hedge fund. In 2020, Tribune Publishing announced it would be closing the Broad Street newsroom. Staff was told they would continue to work — remotely as they had been working during the pandemic.

As 2024 was coming to a close, another newspaper whose mailbox appears on roadsides throughout the Northwest Corner announced it was in talks to change hands. The Republican-American said it was negotiating to be acquired by the Hearst Connecticut Media Group. The Waterbury paper's roots date back to 1844. Its iconic Meadow Street building with a landmark clock tower is being considered as an apartment complex with a restaurant.

Hearst Connecticut Media Group employs approximately 170 journalists across the state at eight daily newspapers and 13 weekly papers, plus Connecticut Magazine and websites. Three decades ago, in 1994, the Hartford Courant's newsroom peaked at almost 400, but in a little over a decade it began to offer early retirement and buyout packages as the national trend to digital from print in the early 2000s carved away at circulation across the country.

Here in Connecticut, we are steeped in our own history, and these two newspaper histories nod to pre-Revolutionary times as well as a mid-19th century boom that saw Waterbury rise as an industrial power.

The story of local news in 2024 across America is hallmarked by changing ownership and consolidation. According to the Medill Local News Initiative at Northwestern University, last year 258 newspapers changed ownership compared to 180 in 2023. Medill reports that 10 companies control one in four of all U.S. newspapers and more than half of all dailies. Four of those ten companies are majority owned by private equity or hedge funds.

The Poughkeepsie Journal, the oldest paper in New York state, is owned by Gannett Co., which is America's largest newspaper group.

Our own story is one of local ownership. Local matters. The Journal has been a community staple since 1897; The Millerton News was founded 93 years ago in 1932.

Today, The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News are published by LJMN Media, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that was formed in 2021. Our two publications have survived and they continue to grow because of community, donor and advertiser support. This support has made it possible to strengthen our commitment to local news.

Across America, from 2022 to 2023, newsroom jobs decreased by almost 2,000 positions. Considering overall newspaper employment changes, the shrinkage in our industry is one of the "most significant declines in employment across any sector over the past two decades," according to Medill researchers.

Yet Medill found "bright spots" in the local news landscape in 2024 and noted that, among other factors, there was one common thread: "they're locally controlled."

Yes, local matters.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appreciating dedicated community volunteers

As we welcome 2025, we hope we do so with a renewed appreciation of our town: Its history, people, environment, schools, fire and safety, and the efforts and dedication of commission members and staff. There are new pressures on our resources as issues become more complex and often controversial. All of these commission members are completely voluntary, and they work with capable staff to balance property rights, neighborhood values, education, solid waste, and even more subjective issues that define who we are as a town. Please offer a thank you to all of the people who devote their focus and energy to keep Salisbury's strong sense of place and the values that we cherish in an increasingly complicated world. Thank you and here's to a great 2025.

> **Curtis Rand** Chris Williams

Salisbury Rand is First Selectman, Williams is a Selectman

Best Christmas present

My daughter Martha gave me the best Christmas gift. She bought a bag of books for \$5 at the recent sale at the Douglas Library in Canaan.

All of the books are in like new condition. I was especially happy to find a new edition of Agatha Christies' "And Then There Were None." I saw the play "The Mousetrap" adapted from this book in London during the mid-70s, but had never read the book.

Also interesting is Christina Baker Kline's book about Andrew Wyeth's famous painting "Christina's World" Title is "A Piece of the World." There was a real Christina who had a quiet

I'm glad to have helped the library with its fund raising and recycling.

Carolyn McDonough



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanking Kiefer in call for civility

I wish to thank Salisbury Selectman Kitty Kiefer for her letter in the Jan. 2, 2025, edition of The Lakeville Journal, which in turn thanked the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission and Land Use Office "for fair, open honest work," in connection with the now-withdrawn application of Aredev LLC for redevelopment of the Wake Robin Inn.

Ms. Kiefer's letter, calling for a return to civility in our public discussions, stands in stark contrast with, and clearly responds to, a letter published in the Dec. 19/26 issue of the Journal in which Mr. Thomas Murphy, Jr. in essence accuses the Town's Land Use Director, Abby Conroy, and the chair of the P&Z Commission, Dr. Michael Klemens, of secretly and dishonestly paving the way for the Aredev application, through meetings with representatives of Aredev prior to the developer's application.

It is regrettable that Mr. Murphy submitted that letter, besmirching two fine public servants, and that the Journal printed it, without first checking the public records of the P&Z Commission. Had Mr. Murphy and the Journal done so, they would have found, among other things, a public memorandum from Dr. Klemens and Ms. Conroy, dated Oct.15, 2024, explaining on behalf of the Commission the standard preapplication process in which they routinely meet with potential

The memorandum notes that such preapplication meetings were held with Aredev, that in the course of those meetings the developer submitted a proposed change to the Town's regulations that would have benefited Aredev, and that their proposal was NOT accepted. In contrast, the P&Z Commission drafted a different change to the regulations that were the product of several years of study. As the memorandum notes, these amendments were "referred to the Northwest Hills Council of Governments for a mandatory review that ensured that these amendments were consistent with regional planning goals. This was followed by a duly noticed public hearing to consider these amendments on Monday May 6, 2024, at 6:45 p.m. As with all the P&Z hearings since 2020, it was held via Zoom. At least one member of the public spoke at the hearing and her questions were satisfactorily addressed. The Commission members deliberated and rendered a decision to adopt the Regulations. The subsequent decision was published in the Lakeville Journal and was not appealed."

In short, Mr. Murphy's supposed "questions" concerning the process had been publicly answered two months earlier. Indeed, the Journal itself, in the same issue in which that letter was published, reported on

the Commission's Dec. 10 meeting in which Commission member Cockerline stated, "[T]he alterations in question have been in development for years." "This is nothing new," he added, "and it really boils me that [Conroy and Klemens] in particular are being grilled on actually doing a great job."

So thank you to Selectman Kitty Kiefer for her letter standing up for the Town's Land Use Director and for the Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission (and, by extension, the full Commission). It is regrettable that the other members of the Board of Selectmen did not do so.

By way of full disclosure, the undersigned also notes that he is married to the vice-chair of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission, who works closely with the Land Use Director, and that Dr. Klemens is a member of the Board of Directors of a not-for-profit of which the undersigned serves as Board president. In so noting, however, the undersigned further states that these connections only strengthen his belief that the leaders of this town need to stand up for these outstanding public servants.

Mike Abram

LETTERS

White Hart thank you for support

The Salisbury Handmade Group would like to thank the White Hart Inn for their community support and warm hospitality. For nearly 20 years, we've had the privilege of gathering at this wonderful venue for craft shows, both on the lawn and in the ballroom. The White Hart has consistently helped promote our work, both locally and through their broader outreach efforts.

One of the most touching aspects of our relationship with the White Hart is their generosity—when we receive our bill, we are told to make the payment out to the volunteer ambulance service instead. That's true community spirit!

Despite the busy nature of the holidays, the team at the White Hart always ensures their staff gets well-deserved holiday time while taking excellent care of us, their own guests, and providing diverse and delicious dining experiences.

We encourage everyone to recognize what an invaluable asset the White Hart Inn is to our community.

Once again, thank you to the White Hart managers, staff, and owners for all that you do.

With gratitude,

The Salisbury Handmade Group

Helping hand

So. This morning I came out of the Post Office, put a package in my car, turned to open the front door, and tripped over my cane. I sat on the side of the road saying, "Now what the (heck)?" when a gentleman stopped his vehicle in the middle of the road, stopping traffic, came to help me, and a second man pulled over to help him help me.

They got me up, got me situated, got back in their cars, and went on their way.

I don't know who they were, but I want to say "Thanks" and say how much I appreciate that kindness still raises its head now and

Happy New Year to those gentlemen, and to all.

Peter Fitting

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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Salisbury

Volume 128, Number 23

Mission Statement

LJMN Media, Inc. Publishers of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News

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

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Lakeville

Thomas K. Carley Chief Operating Officer

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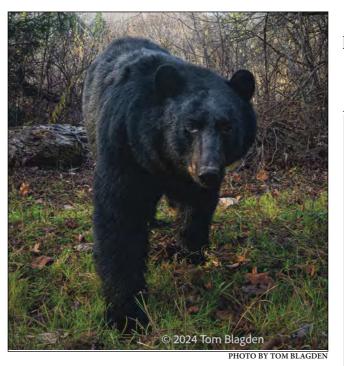
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Face to face

Salisbury's Tom Blagden captures a seemingly pensive black bear at Great Mountain Forest last November.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

Norma Bosworth

125 years ago -January 1900

SHARON — Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Dakin who were prostrated, or nearly so, by the loss of their store, are able to be about again. We extend our sympathies to them.

Barnum, Richardson Company advanced the wages of many of their employees ten percent on New Year's day. The wages of some of the moulders were increased that amount last fall.

Everybody is filling his ice house or getting ready to do so. The water in Salmon Creek is very low and the cold weather of the past week has frozen that nearly all solid.

Miss Grace PerLee entered upon her duties at the post office on Tuesday last. Mr. Marvin has moved his telegraph office into Mr. Marckress jewelry store.

The lake froze over Fri. Dec. 29. Last winter it closed on Dec. 13.

A.H. Heaton & Co.'s store is now nicely lighted by acetylene gas — a great improvement over the oil lamps.

Weather Prognosticator Gates of Winsted says there are 34 snow storms between us and the time when the dandelions begin to raise their heads again. For seven years he has told within one of the number due each year. Even the government officials recognize his abilities as a weather prophet, for at their request he now submits two monthly reports to the weather bureau.

100 years ago -January 1925

Messrs. Martin and Rand wish to announce that they will as usual take contracts to fill ice houses and sell ice at the lake as they have done in recent years. Old customers will be taken care of and any new ones welcomed.

News comes from Providence, R.I., that Francis Mitchell, formerly of this place, recently took unto himself a bride. Francis' many friends here extend hearty congratulations.

LIME ROCK — Morris Judd has moved on his father's farm in White Hollow.

50 years ago — January 1975

The Brothers Pizza House in Lakeville has received a second warning to package its garbage so that animals will not strew it over the neighborhood, Salisbury Health Officer Dr. Henry E. Gallup said this week. Neighbors have repeatedly complained that dogs and raccoons have feasted on the garbage from the restaurant on Ethan Allen Street, Dr. Gallup explained. He and Town Sanitarian Joseph Pinkham have investigated.

If you're wondering about that "crow" in Lakeville that seems to like to land on the uncovered heads of humans, his name is Smokey. He is a friendly pet raven belonging to 14-year-old Jim Hickey of Lakeville. Tuesday morning, Smokey tried to land on Jeff Folland, 12, in front of the Post Office. This startled many passersby thinking the bird was attacking the youth.

KENT — The new public skating rink behind the town garage is ready for gay blades. Lights are being installed at the rink to increase the hours of skating fun. Backed by the Park and Recreation Commission, the new facility was made possible by volunteer effort on the part of the Kent Fire Department, the Boy Scouts, the Kent town crew, and private individuals.

W. Samuel Whitbeck has been a patient at Sharon Hospital this week. He slipped and fell last Sunday morning outside the Salisbury Pharmacy, but apparently suffered no broken bones.

Karl Saliter of Jackson Hill Road, Sharon, is reported in fair condition and recuperating from injuries sustained in a truck accident Christmas Eve on Leedsville Road in Amenia. Mr. Saliter, returning to Sharon on a service call in Amenia, lost control of his Sharon Oil Company service truck when the vehicle skidded on ice at approximately 6 p.m. The truck slid down a ditch alongside the road and struck a culvert. The truck was totalled in the mishap. Mr. Saliter, owner of the Sharon Oil Company, suffered a broken right hip and four broken ribs.

Richard L. Kubarek will be among Connecticut's 46 new licensed pharmacists to be honored at formal ceremonies next Monday at the new Sheraton in Hartford.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Belter of South Burlington, Vt., formerly of Tory Hill Farm, Lakeville, are the parents of a son, David, born Jan. 1 at 8:30 a.m. He was the first baby of 1975 for Burlington. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Nelson of New Canaan. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. J. Henry Belter of Lakeville.

Canaan has its own New Year's baby this year — little Lori Jean Becker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Becker of High Street. Lori Jean made her debut in this world at one minute past midnight New Year's morning. She was born in Winsted Memorial Hospital.

25 years ago -

January 2000 More than 80 people crowded into Kent Town Hall last Tuesday Night to learn more about the consent decree to clean up the PCB contamination in the Housatonic River caused by the General Electric Company plant in Pittsfield. Officials from federal and state environmental agencies attempted to give an overview of the consent decree and answered numerous questions. However, after the four-hour meeting was over it was clear those present wanted more time to understand exactly what the decree contains and whether it is in the best interest of the Housatonic River. Others at the meeting left uncertain the contamination in the Connecticut portion of the river would ever be cleaned.

Although 8-pound, 7-ounce Aaron James Greene was due on Christmas, he took a little longer — until Jan. 2 — making him the first baby born at Sharon Hospital this year. The son of Ruth and James Greene of Millbrook, Aaron was born at 11:48 a.m. Sunday after just four hours of labor, something Mrs. Greene attributes to staying active right until she was about to give birth.

OBITUARIES

Barbara M. McEnroe

AMENIA — Barbara M. McEnroe, 84, a lifelong area

resident, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family at home on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024. Mrs. McEnroe was a licensed beautician and worked at Fanny's Beauty Salon in Amenia and later

worked at Wassaic Developmental Center in Wassaic, retiring in 2003.

Born on July 25, 1940 in Sharon, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Lena (Clum) Carberry. She was a 1958 graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional School in Falls Village. On Sept. 29, 1962 in Sharon, she married Joseph F. McEnroe, who survives at home.

Mrs. McEnroe was an active parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, a volunteer at the Church's Thrift Shop and with the Vine and Branches

In addition to her loving husband, she is survived by three daughters; Maureen Willig and her husband, Peter, of Stanfordville, New York, Jamie McEnroe and her partner, Jason Nolan of Lee, Massachusetts and Joann Potter and her husband, Barrie, of Marcellus, New York. She is also survived by three grandchildren; Emmylou Potter, Barrie Lucas Potter and his wife, Marguerite, and Christopher Willig; a great grand-

daughter, Wyvette Potter; her brothers-in-laws, Jerry Wil-

cox of Amenia and James McEnroe and his wife, Abigail, of Burlington Flats, New York; her sister-in-law, Dorothy Casey of Kent, and several nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, she was prede-

ceased by brothers, Vincent, Robert, Joseph, Paul, Donald, Francis and Thomas Carberry, and sisters, Virginia Kendall, Dorothy Frasier, Helen Passante, Mary Lango and Emma Paley.

Calling hours will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 10, 2025 at Hufcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, Dover Plains, New York. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025 at Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Rd., Amenia with Rev. R. Kent Wilson officiating. Burial will follow at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia. Memorial contributions may be made to Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavella Rd., Amenia, NY 12501 or Hudson Valley Hospice, 374 Violet Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 or online at www. hvhospice.org/.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Hufcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY. For directions or to send a condolence, visit www.hufcutfuneralhome.com.

Aldo Louis Pecco Jr.

LAKEVILLE — Aldo and her husband, Samuel, of Louis Pecco, Jr., 81, of South-

field, Massachusetts, formerly of Lakeville, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts. Mr. Pecco was the Director of Maintenance at

Camp Sloane in Lakeville for 15 years and later worked in the maintenance department at Lone Oaks Campsites in Canaan, for 10 years.

Born on Oct. 28, 1943, in Waterbury, he was the son of the late Aldo L. Pecco, Sr. and Florence (Murano) Pecco. On June 23, 1962 in Thomaston, he married Patricia Hock who survives at home after 62 years of marriage. Mr. Pecco loved the outdoors and camping. He was an avid ice fisherman.

In addition to his loving wife, Mr. Pecco is survived by a daughter, Gina A. Gates Canaan, and a sister, Gloria

Pecco of Florida. He is also survived by four grandchildren; Giavonna and Aaron Pecco, Gregory and Zachary Labshere; and a great granddaughter, Willow Pecco. Besides his parents, Mr. Pec-

co was predeceased by two sons, Ronald Aldo Pecco and Steven Louis Pecco and four sisters.

Graveside services and burial will take place at 1 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 10, 2025, at Mountain View Cemetery, 80 Sand Road, Canaan, CT. Contributions in memory of Mr. Pecco should be made to: Baystate Health Foundation, 280 Chestnut Street, Springfield, MA 01199.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home, 118 Main Street, North Canaan, CT 06018.

For more obituaries, see Page A3

Status Report

KENT — The Planning and Zoning Commission will host an educational forum on cannabis regulations with industry experts exploring options for the sale, use and cultivation of cannabis in town. The meeting will be held Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. both in person and online; residents may join at the Town Hall meeting room at 41 Kent Green Blvd. or on zoom via meeting room ID 865 9026 8268. Submit questions in advance to landuseadmin@ townofkentct.org

NORTH CANAAN Winter weather blew into town for the start of 2025. High winds and ice cess of selling the building.

accumulation caused tree limbs to fall onto roads, which were cleared by the highway department in the early hours of Jan. 2. By 5 a.m., First Selectman Brian Ohler reported all roads were passable and no power outages were in effect.

FALLS VILLAGE The Board of Selectmen held a three-minute meeting Tuesday, Dec. 31, to formally designate \$3,631.33 in remaining funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act. The selectmen voted unanimously to assign the money to the town-owned 35 Railroad St. The town is in the pro-

Edward R. George

NORFOLK — Edward R. Mary, he is survived by his George, 86, of Norfolk, and

Key West, Florida, passed peacefully away, Dec. 20, 2024, at Wolcott Hall with his wife Mary by his side. He was the beloved husband of Mary (Welch) George. Ed was born on Sept. 17, 1938, in

Torrington during the Hurricane of '38.

He was the youngest of six born to Richard and Sophie (Swyden) George. He proudly served 17 years as a Torrington firefighter, retiring after being injured in a house

Ed owned and operated Merit Quality Pools, a business he started with his son as a service company and built it into a construction, retail store and full-service company for over 45 years.

He was very proud of his Lebanese heritage. Ed was an avid gardener and fisherman. Ed and Mary spent a good part of each year in Key West where they had a wonderful group of friends.

There were picnics at the beach every Sunday and holidays. Ed was always ready for a good time or a road trip.

In addition to his wife,

son; Michael R. George

(Mary), his daughter, Lynn Colangelo (Peter) and his stepdaughter, Shannon Santoro (Gaetano) of Harwinton; one brother, Fredrick George (Joan) of Torrington; three grandchildren, Michael E. George

(Maria) of Torrington, Lauren Santoro and Nicolas Santoro of Harwinton; three great grandsons, Gabriel, Nikolas, and Zachary George of Torrington as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by three brothers, Ernest, Louis and Marshall and one sister, Jeanette King.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025, at noon at Cook Funeral Home, 82 Litchfield St, Torrington, CT. Burial was private. Relatives and friends called from 10 a.m. until noon at Cook Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Norfolk Lions Ambulance PO Box 399, Norfolk CT 06058.

Condolences may be sent to the George family by visiting www.cookfuneralhomect.

Robert James Habacker

SALISBURY — Robert James Habacker, 84, of Hemlock Lane, passed away peacefully at home on Dec. 21, 2024. He was the loving husband of Ola Harden Habacker.

Robert was born March 15,1940, in Brooklyn, New York, the son of the late James and Muriel (Holz) Habacker. He attended the Berkshire School and later graduated from the Southside High School in Rockville Center, New York. After graduation he attended college at Nicholas College. He was an avid tennis player, golf player and bowler. In 1959 he began working for the Hawas started in 1902.

In 1959 Robert met his loving wife and later wed in 1960. They had two sons together, Richard and James.

Besides his wife and sons, Richard is survived by his loving grandchildren, Jonathan, Joseph, Ryan and Lauren. He is also survived by two great granddaughters whom he cherished so much, Rose and Gracelyn.

Besides his parents he was predeceased by his sister Vivian, and a grandson, James.

All services are private. Memorial contributions may be made to an animal shelter/ rescue of the donors choice.

The Kenny Funeral Home backer family business which has care of arrangements.

Stephen Brindisi Darnell

Brindisi Darnell, 73, a life-

long area resident died peacefully at his home in Amenia, on Monday, Nov. 25, 2024.

A Celebration of Steve's Life will take place on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, from 1 to 4 p.m. at The Lan-

tern Inn, 10 Main Street, Wassaic, NY.

Steve's family and friends are invited to attend. Burial at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia will take place privately in the

AMENIA — Stephen Spring of 2025. Rev. Robert K. Wilson will officiate.

Memorial contributions may be made to Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Road, Amenia, NY 12501.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral

Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. To send an online condolence to the family or to plant a tree in Steve's memory please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.

Realtor® at Large

it is a perfect time to gain a better understanding of our woodlands. When we were young, this was relatively easy as we learned from walking with local foresters like George Kiefer who would explain the different habitats and landscapes. Today I would recommend getting to know the wisdom of Tom Wessels, a terrestrial ecologist specializing in the New England's landscape. This can be done by either reviewing his book entitled Reading the Forested Landscape or by viewing his educational videos on YouTube. One will start to view walking through our woodlands in a completely new way. For example, examining how a stone wall is constructed will reveal its original purpose for either cropland, pasture or a woodlot. My caution is that this new insight will absolutely slow your pace down as you begin to observe all the signs that surround you in the forest that will disclose its past!

With the leaves down for the winter,



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ADVERTISEMENT

SOLAR

Continued from Page A1

metal. Carter said, "I am not going to mess up your paintjob!" Strumolo was more concerned about the President's suit.

President Ronald Reagan had the solar panels removed from the White House in 1981. The parts were stored for years in a warehouse. The Reagan Administration reduced Carter's renewable energy program by 90%. Half of the White House solar panels were moved to Unity College in Maine where they heated the water in the dining hall for 12 years. Some of the original solar panels reside in the Carter Museum and the National Museum of American History.

Jody Bronson, forester emeritus of Norfolk's Great Mountain Forest (GMF), recalled, "Ed Butler's team installed the solar panels on the White House for Jimmy Carter. My wife Jean and I have three of the panels that

"A generation from now, this solar heater can either be a curiosity, a museum piece, an example of a road not taken, or it can just be a small part of one of the most exciting adventures ever undertaken by the American people — harnessing the power of the sun to enrich our lives as we move away from our crippling dependence on foreign oil."

President Jimmy Carter, June 20, 1979

were supposedly installed on the White House. We can't confirm this. In 1990 they were installed on our home in Falls Village by Ed Butler. The panels are still functional and have provided all the domestic hot water for our house for 35 years! If more households in our area had done this 30 or 40 years ago, think about how much energy they could have saved." Bronson said there is a treasured can of "Billy Beer" in the Forestry Office at GMF.

Butler reminisced, "I was really excited when we won the bid to work on the solar project at President Jimmy Carter's White House. It was such a great opportunity for a relatively small New

England solar company. It was something I believed so strongly in and was proud to have been a part of it. Since 1976, we have done several hundred solar jobs in New England."

Strumolo remains committed to "creating adequate and equitable responses to our changing climate." He wrote "Decentralizing Energy Production" (Yale Press, 1983) and was a driving force behind the recently installed 13-acre solar array at the town's transfer station. His energy audits have been used in thousands of buildings. After fifty years Strumolo is "still working, still on the path Carter inspired me to follow. There is so much work left to be done." In 2008, artists from the Kunsthaus in Zurich created a film, "The Story of the Jimmy Carter White House Solar Installation", which will be shown at the Norfolk Library in February.

In the words of the late President Jimmy Carter, "Pessimism did not build America, it was built with vision, faith, and hard work. It is time to pull ourselves out of our national doldrums, to recognize our great untapped potential and resources, to build a more prosperous, self-reliant future." Had the original solar panels remained in use on the White House they could have saved 20,000 gallons of heating oil.

Peter Crippen, own-

er of the ICBX cafe

at Station Place in

Norfolk, prepares

to cook a made to

order omelet. ICBX

opened on December

2nd. Peter and his

wife Marinelle run

the cafe together and

offer breakfast and

lunch from 7a.m.

to 2p.m., everyday

except Tuesday.

Laws

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO BY TONY SPINELLI

The Connecticut Capitol Building in Hartford, March

25, 2021.

request them is 90 days or more before absentee ballots are issued for that election.

The updated regulations follow an ongoing absentee ballot scandal in Bridgeport, where a judge ordered the city to re-do its 2023 mayoral primary election between Mayor Joe Ganim and his opponent John Gomes following allegations of absentee ballot fraud.

Earlier this year, Connecticut prosecutors also charged several Bridgeport political operatives with abusing the absentee balloting system during the city's 2019 Democratic primary for mayor.

Elder care reform

A wide-ranging law reforming the elder care industry requires that beginning Jan. 1, the Department of Social Services must develop and maintain an online home care provider registry to help consumers find workers who have the correct language proficiency and skills.

Historically, people on the state's Medicaid program seeking care at home have received a binder with printed pages that in many cases contained outdated employee information.

Other portions of the law have previously been implemented, including a requirement that DSS and the Department of Public Health post prominent links to a federal website that uses a five-star rating system to compare nursing homes and a requirement that home care workers wear badges with their name and picture during client appointments.

Coerced debt

A new law seeks to provide recourse to victims of "coerced debt," which is debt that is incurred in an individual's name under duress, intimidation or threat of force — typically by a victim's former spouse or partner.

The law requires that when a person claims their debt was coerced and provides documentation, collection entities must pause collecting that debt for at least 60 days while they review the individual's claim.

If a collection entity decides to stop collecting from a victim and had previously given negative information about that person to a credit agency, the collector is required to tell the agency to delete that information.

If a court determines debt was coerced, the person who caused it can be held liable to the collection agency for the total debt, as well as to the victim for legal fees.

Employer student loan reimbursement

Existing Connecticut law allows employers to receive a tax credit for making payments toward qualifying student loans on behalf of an employee. The new legislation expands eligibility by applying the law to all student loans, rather than only loans issued by the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority.

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Child Support

Modification

ICBX

Continued from Page A1

nally, using local contractors was the key and the work was done more quickly.

Marinelle Crippen, Peter's wife and partner in the business, works at the counter greeting customers and taking orders while Peter is in the kitchen cooking.

"Things have been going very well," Peter said. "We get busy, we handle it and learn each day how to refine the flow from everything for customer service to food preparation." Marinelle agreed, saying, "It's been fun so far."

The Crippens are not strangers to working with food. They bring their experience running Rex Café in Hell's Kitchen in New York City, managing the Mermaid Inn in Chelsea and Red Rooster in Harlem, to

In addition, Peter's mother makes Mrs. Crippen's Bourbon and Molasses Fruitcake, which is available at ICBX. His sister ran Irving Farm

Coffee House in Millerton, New York, for many years. When Peter and son Rex went on a fishing trip recently, his sister filled in at the grill.

"It is amazing how the Breakfast Burritos have gone over." Peter remarked. He also said that he has brought back something he remembers from childhood: toasted muffins. He said that once customers have a toasted muffin "it is the only way to eat it."

David Gourley of Norfolk has quickly become a regular customer. He sat at the counter, chatting with Marinelle. "It's a wonderful meeting place and a welcome addition to our community," he said. Of his made to order three egg omelet, he said, "The tomatoes are warmed on the grill first. Delicious."

ICBX offers coffee, tea, biscuit sliders, oatmeal, yogurt and granola. Breakfast sandwiches can be made to



PHOTO BY ROBIN RORABACK

order with a choice of sausage, ham, egg, avocado, bacon, tomato and cheese. Breakfast Chorizo Burritos have options of onion, egg and hot sauce. Vegetable Burritos can be made with green peppers, mushrooms, black

beans, egg and hot sauce. A variety of baked goods is also available, including scones, breads and muffins.

Starting Thursday, Jan. 2, the café began offering lunch. The lunch menu contains two sandwiches, soup and salad.

In December they were open every day except Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and in January extended the hours until 2 p.m. For more information, call (860) 671-0005 or stop by the ICBX at 10 Station Place in Norfolk.

Town Clerk

Continued from Page A1

the Housatonic FFA chapter. "I loved the FFA program," she said. "It got me through high school."

Simmons subsequently studied to be a surgical veterinary technician at the State University of New York at Cobleskill and at Northwestern Connecticut Community College, and spent 24 years in that field.

Simmons said she loved the work but as her children got older, she felt she needed a regular work schedule.

So she came on board as assistant town clerk in Salisbury in 2021 when Rachel Lamb retired, and has now taken over for Williams, who retired last month.

Wilson graduated from HVRHS in 2018 and was also an FFA stalwart. She studied Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut.

She started training to be the assistant town clerk in September of this year.

Asked for the most interesting or challenging aspects to the job thus far (and not counting the recent election), Simmons thought for a moment and settled on requests for information on properties when the caller doesn't have a lot of information to start with.

She said a recent inquiry was trying to track down a property once owned by a relative but the only real clue — the name of the road the property was on — had been changed.

With only that to go on, Simmons and Wilson puzzled it out.

"We might not get it right away but we do get back to them," said Simmons.



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Local Matters

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PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Jada Wilson is the new assistant town clerk in Salisbury. And Tito is the assistant to the assistant town clerk.

When it comes to finances, it matters who has your back.

Meet Beth Coon, branch manager of our Pine Plains branch. If you ask her what she likes most about her job, she will say it's all about the customers - from helping high school grads open their first bank accounts, to assisting older customers maneuver new banking services like Online Banking. With over 30 years of local banking experience, Beth says "it's great to be part of a bank where family and community are so important."

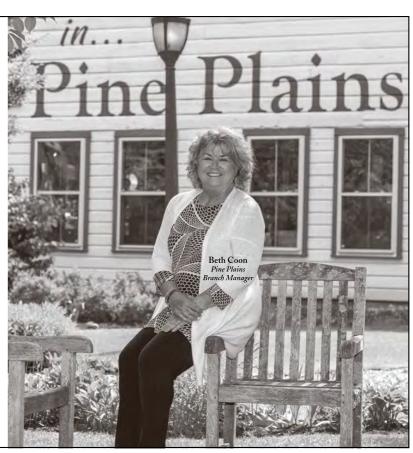
Stop by, say hi to Beth and tell her what financial services she can help you with. She's a great listener!



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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

FILM: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

'A Complete Unknown' — a talkback at The Triplex

hen Seth Rogovoy, acclaimed author, critic, and cultural commentator of "The Rogovoy Report" on WAMC Northeast Public Radio, was asked to lead a talkback at The Triplex in Great Barrington following a screening of the Bob Dylan biopic "A Complete Unknown," he took on the task with a thoughtful and measured approach.

"I really try to foster a conversation and keep my opinions about the film to myself," said Rogovoy before the event on Sunday, Jan. 5. "I want to let people talk about how they felt about it and then I ask follow-up questions, or people ask me questions. I don't reveal a lot about my feelings until the end."

The film, directed by James Mangold and starring Timothée Chalamet as Bob Dylan, portrays young Dylan's arrival in Greenwich Village during the early 1960s. The film depicts his interactions with key figures like Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Joan Baez, and Suze Rotolo (called



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Seth Rogovoy at the screening of "A Complete Unknown" at The Triplex.

Sylvie Russo in the film), while also exploring Dylan's evolution from performing traditional folk songs to writing his own, including iconic tracks like "Blowin' in the Wind." The narrative touches on his struggles with fame, identity, and the pressure to conform, culminating in his controversial electric performance at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival.

"I went into seeing the film with an open mind," said Rogovoy, "recognizing that this film is not for me. It's not for 'Dylanologists,' for experts. It's a Hollywood film. I don't think it does harm, but I think it doesn't do a lot of what it could have done."

The film presents a sentimental narrative with many historical inaccuracies. "According to Elijah Wald, whose book the film is based on, he said he likes the film but that it's entirely fictional," said Rogovoy.

The talkback itself was lively, with audience members sharing their thoughts on the film's nostalgic appeal and its historical inaccuracies. Several attendees mentioned how the film helped them relive the cultural transformation of the era.

"It brings to mind the first time I heard that music, and the change it had on our culture," shared one audience member.

Another attendee, who was just a baby during the time period depicted in the film, said, "I loved how much of his music they did

 $Continued\ on\ next\ page$

PHOTO COURTESY IMDB.COM

A scene from "Exterminators of the Year 3000"

FILM: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Schlock and Awful: winter edition

he Lakeville
Journal's Bad
Cinema desk
sincerely hopes everyone
had something better
to do last summer than
sit inside and watch
appallingly bad movies.
Anything would do.
Hiking. Antiquing. Going
for coffee.

Even — and we realize this is strong stuff — writing poetry.

But now, winter is here. For those looking to while away the hours during the hibernation period, here are five more of the most spectacularly bad flicks currently available on streaming services such as Tubi, Freevee, and Sickee, not to mention Plex, Yecch and Blecch.

'Silent Madness' (1984): This '80s slasher was originally in 3D. Nobody cares but there it is. The best film ever shot in Nyack, New York, the cast includes some names regular people may have seen in normal movies. Loony bin in New Jersey lets psycho killer out by mistake, and psycho killer starts picking off sorority girls. Starts off nicely with death by vise grip, but then a whole lot of plot intervenes. Really bad mise-en-scene. As Jean-Luc Godard once said, "Le pfui."

"Deliria" aka "Stage Fright" (1987): Italian

slasher, in which the cast and crew of a play about a serial killer called the Night Owl are locked into the theater by the tyrannical director until they get the darn thing right. Well, the joke's on Mr. Big Shot Director because local psycho Wallace is also in the theater, and he starts killing everybody. And he does this while dressed as a big owl. With plucky heroine and ambiguous ending.

"Truck Turner" (1974): Isaac Hayes is Truck Turner, bail bondsman and smooth lover, forced by circumstances beyond his control to clean up the streets and get his jailbird girlfriend a kitten. With gratuitous nekkidity and unironic fried chicken. The terrific soundtrack by Hayes adds a great deal, with toe-tapping, car-crashing numbers such as "Pursuit of the Pimpmobile," "Hospital Shootout," and "Drinking."

"Exterminators of the Year 3000" (1983): Aka "Mildly Miffed Max," this Road Warrior rip-off was made in Italy and Spain for about \$11.87 (that's \$37.62 in today's dollars). The big difference between this and the Mad Max films, besides

Continued on B3

EDUCATION: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Joy-filled Bunny Story Hour at the David M. Hunt Library

n Thursday, Jan. 2, the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn., hosted a joy-filled "Bunny Story Hour with Piper and Otis the Rabbit." Otis is the 8-year-old beloved pet rabbit of Piper and Walter Peterson, who live in Falls Village. "I guess she's about 50 in bunny years," said Piper.

Brittany Spear-Baron, the library's assistant director and youth programming coordinator, curates the twice-a-week (Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.) themed story-time for children. "We usually get kids aged 1 to 4 years old, but it's a wider range right now because of the holiday."

Once the children were seated, Piper explained how to care for Otis—from feeding, to cleaning, to his sleeping needs. "Otis is nocturnal," Piper explained. Piper then read several books to the group that she had selected about rabbits.

Spear-Baron said, "It's a fun way for kids to meet each other and have some community time."

For more information about ongoing programs and special events at the library, visit: huntlibrary. org

> Piper Peterson reading to the group.



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN





COMPASS



PHOTO PROVIDED

Fire & Ice event at Stissing Center kicks off 2025 season

On Saturday, Jan. 18, the Stissing Center in Pine Plains will host its Fire & Ice event, a celebratory kickoff and unveiling of its 2025 season. The evening fundraiser will consist of a cocktail party and a performance and will also serve as also the introduction of the season's theme, "Find Your Center."

After a cocktail hour complete with a signature Winter Margarita and delicious food, there will be a 90-minute show demonstrating the variety of arts entertainment ticket holders can expect this season. Musical artists include Will Lawrence from the Felice Brothers, Alec Sisco, The Stissing Climb-

ers (a bluegrass band), and Sophia Zhou, the Stissing Center's director of chamber music, playing Gershwin. The evening will feature two brief dance pieces curated by Catherine Tharin, along with the premiere of "Mr. Marty Pants," a short comedy written and directed by the Stissing Center's new executive director, Patrick Trettenero, filmed in Pine Plains. Comedian and Pine Plains resident Rachel Lenihan will emcee the event.

"I'm thrilled to have a fun, festive way to show off the promise of the amazing new season at Stissing Center," said Trettenero.

For tickets, visit thestissingcenter.org

continued from previous page play. It wasn't just one and again. My underverse and then cut away. I really got a renewed preparation was that he

play. It wasn't just one verse and then cut away. I really got a renewed appreciation for his genius. I'm going full Dylan when I get home."

... The Triplex

While Rogovoy's approach during the talkback was to facilitate discussion, audience members were eager to hear his analysis. His 2009 book, "Bob Dylan: Prophet Mystic Poet" explores Dyan's connection to Jewish liturgy. In contrast to "A Complete Unknown," Rogovoy offered a reminder of "I'm Not There," the 2007 experimental musical drama co-written and directed by Todd Haynes where six actors portrayed different facets of Dylan's persona. He described the film's nonlinear narrative as offering what he called "a Dylanesque portrayal" of the artist, capturing more of the complexity of Dylan's identity. Rogovoy characterized Chalamet's portrayal as "one note."

"And how do we know about the essence of Bob Dylan at that time?" asked Rogovoy. "Well, because there are a number of documentary films with footage of that time, which I'm sure that they (the filmmakers and cast) all viewed again and again. My understanding of Chalamet's preparation was that he really immersed himself in everything to be a credible Bob Dylan. But in the end, I just found him to be entirely monochromatic."

The screening and talkback provided a nuanced platform for discussing "A Complete Unknown"—a film that, while not without flaws, ignited a conversation about Bob Dylan's influence and his enigmatic role in shaping American music and culture.

At The Movies

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A COMPLETE
UNKNOWN

OH, CANADA

OH, CANADA

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NATURE: FRITZ MUELLER

On planting a Yellowwood tree

s an inveterate collector of all possibly winter hardy East coast native shrubs and trees, I take a rather expansive view of the term "native"; anything goes as long as it grows along the East coast. After I killed those impenetrable thickets of Asiatic invasive shrubs and vines which surrounded our property, I suddenly found myself with plenty of open planting space.

That's when, a few years ago, I also planted a Yellowwood tree, (Cladastris kentukea). It is a rare, medium-sized tree in the legume family-spectacular when in bloom and golden yellow in fall. In the wild, it has a very disjointed distribution in southeastern states, yet a large specimen, obviously once part of a long-gone garden, has now become part of the woods bordering Route 4 on its highest point between Sharon and Cornwall.

It has always intrigued

me that so many species, whose native ranges today are much further south, grow so well here. Besides Yellowwood, that includes, for example, the Bald Cypress (Taxodium distichum) of southern swamps whose natural range reaches into southern New Jersey. However, it also grows in Litchfield hills gardens and, incongruously, even as a street tree in New York. Among others are PawPaw (Asimia triloba), Carolina silverbell (Halesia carolina), American snowbell (Styrax americanus), Redbud (Cercis canadensis), and Sourwood (Oxydendron arboreum), a good-sized tree with white flowering racemes and outstanding brilliant, deep red fall foliage. Besides our local swamp and Pinxter azaleas, others that are very hardy here include the early-flowering Pinkshell azalea (Rhododendron vaseyi) of the North Carolina mountains and



PHOTO BY FRITZ MUELLER

The author planted this Yellowwood tree a few years ago on some of his open space.

from the mountains of Georgia, the rare-in-the-wild, July-flowering Plumleaf azalea, (*R. prunifolium*). Robust and larger in habit and most stunning of all is the Flame azalea (*R. calendulaceum*), which historically grew as far north as southeast New York, where it is now extirpated.

After some research, I learned that *Cladastris* kentukea might have grown over a much wider and more northern area, but during the last glaciation episode, it survived in the wild only in those isolated southern locations. That it survived at all so close to the glaciers edge is in itself an indication of cold hardiness. It is estimated, based on fossil plant and pollen records, that with the retreat of the icecap around 16,000 years ago, trees migrated again northward at a rate of approximately 50 km per century. This may apply to prolific sprouters such as maples, ashes and oaks, but it could be much slower, I suspect, for the many rarer plants which don't get around by wind, squirrels, and birds, or are—unlike our common trees—finnicky to sprout

from seeds. I can also imagine how many of the rarer trees and shrubs, for example Fringetree (Chionanthus virginicus), became collateral damage during the 19th century clearcutting for charcoal and farming. In any case, Yellowwood didn't manage to recolonize its former range, and a similar scenario may apply to those other woody plants with a more southerly distribution today but that are perfectly hardy up here.

Climate change, which used to occur over millennia, now seems to happen within half a century. Birds, like the Carolina wren, can adapt quickly and become abundant after just a few warm winters—but plants are stuck. They need help to keep up with such rapid change. In the case of trees and shrubs, human gardeners can assist them in expanding their ranges into areas that are now warm enough for them to live thrive again.

to live thrive again.

I bought a sapling Water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*), native to southern swamps, from a Missouri nursery. It has survived two winters so far—albeit quite mild ones—in a woody swamp here at

1100ft elevation. One hundred years from now, who knows—ugar maples, which thrive in cold, snowy winters, might be replaced with sweetgum (*Liquidam-bar styraciflua*), a more southern hardwood.

I found space for trees by clearing thickets of invasives. The modern trend of transforming excessively large lawns into natural meadows also provides an opportunity to plant native trees with an understory of shrubs and ferns, whether as a stand-alone copse or a forest edge. This is not meant to replace flowers and grasses but to complement them, based on the understanding that, in our region, the primary ecosystem is forest—an exceptionally species-rich one to boot. with over a half dozen oaks alone.

Compared to watching grass grow, watching a tree—any tree—grow is almost exciting, given a bit of patience. Early on, protection against deer is necessary, but later, maintenance is relatively minimal; the leaves can simply fall and stay where they may.

Fritz Mueller lives in Sharon.



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WBSL FM 91.7

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

COMPASS

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

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 Jan. 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,

Connecticut's Foxes

events)

public.

Jan. 11, 5 to 7 p.m.

cornwalllibrary.org/

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

(Registration requested:

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 treeclimbing Grey Fox. Learn about their roles in the ecosystem and their fascinating behaviors. Free and open to the

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.

1. Boxing match interval

2. Canal transport vessel

3. Square root of nine

4. A stanza in poetry

5. Australian Open starts Jan. 12

WORD OF THE WEEK ©THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

JANUARY 12

A.J. Croce: Croce Plays **Croce – The Jim Croce Birthday Bash**

Warner Theatre - Oneglia Auditorium, 68 Main St., Torrington, Conn.

On Sunday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m., join A.J. Croce for a heartfelt tribute to his father, Jim Croce, in this emotional, high-energy performance. Featuring iconic hits like "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown" and "Time in a Bottle," A.J. Croce

celebrates the timeless legacy of Jim Croce, while showcasing his own remarkable music.

Tickets start at \$49. Visit warnertheatre.org or call (860) 489-7180 for tickets.

JANUARY 16

The Devil's Element: Phosphorus and a World Out of Balance -**Book Talk with author Dan Egan**

Lovejoy Auditorium, Cary Institute, Millbrook, N.Y

On Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m., in person at Cary's Lovejoy Auditorium or virtually, watch author

save the worst for last.

from the entire Elfman

family, neatly and con-

cisely explains why it's

too close to your local

voodoo practitioner. (A

simple "Hello, how are

you?" will suffice.) This

incredibly strange film

should have made "Eat

Da Whizzo" a national

catchphrase, but didn't.

sort of, and righteous

retribution against the

bad guys. Highly recom-

With shrunken head sex,

never a good idea to get

This flick, brought to you

Dan Egan give a book talk. Phosphorus can be both lethal and lifegiving. Can we find a phosphorus balance, so that we can have food on the table and healthy waters? In his latest book, The Devil's **Element: Phosphorus** and a World Out of Balance, Pulitzer Prize finalist Dan Egan investigates the past, present, and future of what has been called "the oil of our time."

The doors open for the

event at 5:30 p.m. with

the film showing at 6 p.m.

with remarks by Hanley.

Also in attendance will be

the film's videographer

Brad O'Connor, film ed-

itor Jim O'Connor and

snacks will be provided

by The Black Rabbit Bar

ry's debut, it will air on

Connecticut Public TV

(CPTV) on the following

dates: Jan. 13 at 10 p.m.,

Jan. 15 at 2 p.m., and Jan.

18 at 7 p.m. It will also air

on CPTV Spirit on Jan.

22 at 7 p.m., Jan. 25 at

4 p.m. and Jan. 27 at 10

SWSA's plans, programs

and Jumpfest 2025 visit

jumpfest.org.

To learn more about

and Grille.

Complimentary

After the documenta-

narrator Brian Smith.

To advertise your event, call (860) 435-9873 or email advertising@lakevillejournal.com

SWSA film premiers

"The Jump," a docu-

on Saturday, Jan. 11, at

the Colonial Theatre, 27

Railroad Street in North

Canaan. The event is free

to the first 120 attend-

ees on a first come, first

was written, produced

and directed by Rich

Hanley, a Grammy-nom-

inated filmmaker and

professor emeritus at

Quinnipiac University

and covers the histo-

ry of Satre Hill from its

beginnings in the 1920s

umentary is Roy Sher-

wood, a hometown hero

who overcame a bout of

polio to compete in the

Featured in the doc-

through 2014.

The hour-long film

served basis.

at Colonial on Jan. 11

talent, is in this one it's water, not gasoline, that everybody's after. There are a lot of cars crashing around and some weird dialogue that doesn't make much sense and girls in leather pants which must have been really uncomfortable in

"Shrunken Heads" (1994): Here at The Lakeville Journal's Bad

... Schlock and Awful

Continued from B1

Cinema desk, we like to

P	A	S	Т	E
R	0	A	S	Т
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S	Т	A	R	Т

mentary about Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA), will show

the desert.

In last week's WotW, the 'T' in ROAST should have appeared green.

P	A	S	Т	E
R	0	A	S	Т
S	Т	A	I	R
S	Т	A	R	K
S	Т	A	R	Т

1956 Olympics. mended, especially if

CLUES ACROSS

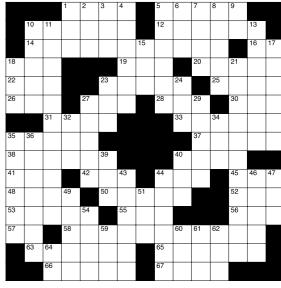
you're in traction.

- 1. Hand (Spanish) 5. Siskel and ___, critics
- 10. Seaman
- 12. Chemical weapon 14. One who eliminates
- 16. They precede C 18. Baseball stat
- 19. Americans' "uncle"
- 20. Cassia tree
- 22. Surround 23. Crisp and Pebbles are
- 25. A sudden very loud
- sound 26. Affirmative
- 27. Disadvantage
- 28. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 30. OJ trial judge 31. New York art district
- 33. Become more bleak
- 35. Upstate NY city
- 37. Clarified butters
- 38. One who witnesses
- 40. Condemn 41. __ juris
- 42. Natural
- 44. Prohibit
- 45. Swiss river
- 48. Greek war god 50. 5 iron
- 52. New Zealand
- mountain parrot 53. Scandinavian surname
- 55. Follows sigma 56. Doctor of Education
- 57. Spanish be
- 58. One that feeds on bugs
- 63. Tooth issue
- 65. Get into
- 66. Lumps of clay
- 67. Overly studious
- student

CLUES DOWN 1. Variety of Chinese

- 2. Boxing's GOAT 3. Japanese classical
- theater
- 4. Prayer
- 5. Inspire with love
- 6. Ballplayers' accessory 7. Retailer payment system
- 8. More raw
- 9. Atomic #81 10. Fencing sword
- 11. Hostilities
- 13. Sea dweller

Brain Teasers



- 15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
- 17. Businessmen
- 18. Rest here please (abbr.) 21. Loud devices
- 23. Make a soft murmuring sound
- 24. One point west of due
- south
- 27. Trout 29. Type of grass
- 32. South American plant
- 34. Letter of the Greek alphabet
- 35. Not secure
- 36. Traveler 39. Sweet potato
- 40. Period after sunrise and before sunset
- 43. Some are choppy
- 44. Asian country 46. Genus of mosquitoes
- 47. Cool!
- 60. Decorate a cake with frosting 61. Videocassette recorder

49. Shrill, wailing sound

51. A baglike structure in

a plant or animal

54. Within

59. Unhappy

62. Largest English dictionary (abbr.) 64. It cools a home

January 2 Solution



Sudoku



January 2 Solution

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Rooted in community: The Local cultivates connection by supporting growers and makers

By Robin Roraback

CORNWALL — Area locavores in search of goods and food produced right here in the Northwest Corner have found The Local at 415 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike in West Cornwall, just past the covered bridge.

Libby Mitchell, who oversees The Local, said, "In the beginning we had three farmers and one bread maker." Now it has more than 124 vendors in the shop.

She explained that The Local began on Dec. 5, 2020, during the pandemic. "The Hughes Memorial Library had made many attempts at community programming at its location at 35 Lower River Road but the lack of water into the building made a two day a week indoor farmer's market impossible, so the board voted to rent the space at 415 Sharon Goshen Turnpike and The Local was born." She added, "The library has since bought the building."



A selection of food from The Local, all made by local bakers from throughout the northwest corner. The Local sells the wares of more than 124 local artists, bakers, farmers, potters and craftspeople throughout the Northwest Corner.

Mitchell went on to say, "I never say no" to someone who wants to sell at the shop. "I don't curate. The public

A smattering of items for sale range from pottery by

Jane Herold, Pam Church, and the Cornwall Bridge Pottery, to jewelry by Marci Vincitorio, handsewn stuffed animals and book marks by Lauren Kendrick Creations, honey from the local hives of



PHOTOS BY ROBIN RORABACK

A selection of work from local potters at The Local in West Cornwall.

Sharon Valley Honey, maple syrup from Ridgway Farm, herbal teas and herbal remedies from Treasa Pattison, handmade jewelry and felting from Jennifer Hurlburt Markow, two kinds of quiche, one from Pebbles Bakery and one from Amy From Church Farm who also makes or-

ganic kabocha pie, original Kentucky Bourbon balls from Eama's House, greeting cards by various artists, jam from Tea Jams, wooden cutting boards by Brian Saccardi, horses made from corks by Jodi Bogus, and kale salad from Frank Food Company. Vendors come from all over the northwest corner of Connecticut and neighboring regions.

Mitchell pointed out Undermountain Weavers of Salisbury who make their products with wool from Birdseye and Tanner Brook Farms, another vendor, as a product that is by a local business from local materials.

The long wooden table in the center of the shop is filled every Friday with pies, salads, raspberry apple oat bars, focaccia bread, quiches, homemade breads, and other edibles and "by the end of the day Saturday, all the food is gone." She notes this is mostly due to locals, "Tourists who come to see the covered bridge buy different things than the locals. The locals go for the foods."

When items sell, 90% of the sales go back to the vendors while 10% goes to the running of the building.

Mitchell also oversees The Union next door to The Local. The Union has high-speed internet access, which people can reserve a time to use for free. Upstairs is The Wellness Collective with Yoga classes six days a week in the mornings and evenings.

The Local is open on Fridays from 12 to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. when Mitchell is joined by assistant, Joseph Villa Arpi, both ready to help customers.

Welcoming 2025 in the Northwest Corner



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Kent kids celebrate

Youngsters joined Kent Memorial Library on New Years Eve to hear stories about the Eve. Kate Zarin, Youth Services Director of the library, read two books special for the occasion. Kids and adults both enjoyed "Squirrel's New Year Resolutions" and "The Night Before New Year." After the books were read, kids gathered at the art table and with paper and colors in hand, they created art works for the New Year.



Making noise at Scoville

A group of eight children plus assorted parents and grandparents got a head start on ringing in the New Year at the Scoville Memorial Library Tuesday, Dec. 31. Fabian Smeall, age 4, concentrated mightily on making her noisemaker as her father Andrew struggled with a stubborn glue bottle.



Sweet start to 2025

Cornwall ushered in the new year with stacks of flapjacks Jan. 1. A decades-long tradition, The Parish House at the United Church of Christ was filled with hungry residents and busy volunteers serving up fresh pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee and real maple syrup. The first breakfast of the year supported Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department's efforts to save for two new trucks. Above, local pancake experts, from left, Steve Brandfield, Mary Van Tassel and Kirk Van Tassel flipped more flapjacks than they could count.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Noon Year's Eve in Falls Village

The children's area of the David M. Hunt Library was a seething mass of children participating in a "Noon Year's Eve" celebration Tuesday morning, Dec. 31. Brittany Spear-Baron blew bubbles and small children chased them.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Holiday season wrapped

Sharon Hospital, in partnership with Angels of Light, collected more than 50 donated gifts for local children in need this holiday season. Sharon Hospital President Christina McCulloch (left) and Clinical Navigator Jim Hutchison thanked visitors and staff for their generosity.



session in Sharon By Alec Linden

SHARON — This winter, Northwest Corner residents will be able to receive a cardiovascular health screening at the Sharon Town Hall.

From 9 to 11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 3, Pulse4Pulse will be offering 20 minute, non-invasive circulation tests with real-time results and recommendations from registered clinicians.

Most insurances will be accepted at the event, and

not covered may pay a \$100 cash price if between 18 and 64 years old, or a \$50 fee if 65 or older.

those whose insurance is

Pulse4Pulse affirms the importance of early detection medicine in successful treatment for cardiovascular disease, identifying asymptomatic patients through preventative screening.

To register for a screening, call Doreen Napoli from Pulse4Pulse at (860) 919-

LEGAL NOTICES

Cardiovascular health

screening service to hold

Legal Notice

The Audit report for the Town of Sharon for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2024 is on file for public inspection in the Town Clerks office during regular office hours and online at sharonct.gov.

> Linda R. Amerighi Sharon Town Clerk 01-09-25

LEGAL NOTICE

The Audited Financial Statements for the Town of Salisbury covering the period from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 are on file with the Town Clerk and available for inspection.

> Kristine M Simmons Town Clerk, Salisbury 01-09-25

LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

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

All taxes remaining unpaid after February 3, 2025 will be charged interest from January 1, 2025 at the rate of 1.5% for each month from the due date of the delinquent tax to the date of payment, with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00. Sec. 12-146

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

Rebecca Juchert-Derungs,

CCMC 12-19-24

01-02-25

01-23-25

Sports



Housatonic's Olivia Brooks stole the ball from Lakeview's Shae Higgins as HVRHS clawed back in the fourth quarter.



The visiting section erupted in shock and applause after Housatonic's Kylie Leonard nailed a deep three-pointer to tie the game with six seconds remaining in regulation.

Housy girls beat Lakeview in OT, boys fall short

By Riley Klein

LITCHFIELD — Housatonic Valley Regional High School girls varsity basketball came back to win 47-40 in overtime against Lakeview High School Jan. 2.

HVRHS trailed by 12 points at the half and never led in regulation. After tying the game late in the fourth

quarter, HVRHS held Lakeview scoreless in OT.

"This is a team that never quits," said Coach Jake Plitt after the road victory.

Housatonic's Kylie Leonard nailed a deep three-pointer with six seconds remaining to tie the game 40-40. Leonard went on to score four more in overtime to help seal the win.

Lakeview's guards put on a shooting clinic for the first three quarters. Sophomore Allie Pape finished with 20 points and senior Shae Higgins ended with 14 points. Lakeview fans were vocal about contact in the second half that went uncalled by the refs.

HVRHS's forwards dominated the boards on both

ends of the court with Khyra McClennon and Maddy Johnson reeling in rebounds left and right. Disciplined defense kept the Mountaineers in the game.

"We really pride ourselves defensively and when we have high defensive energy it turns into offense," said Coach Plitt.

HVRHS was led in scoring by Tessa Dekker with 13 points. Kylie Leonard ended with 12 points. Olivia Brooks and Khyra McClennon each scored eight points.

The Mountaineers advanced to .500 on the season with a record of 3-3. Lakeview moved to 2-4.

Boys game

Immediately following the girls showdown Jan. 2, the boys teams from both HVRHS and Lakeview took the court.

Lakeview's shooters refused to miss early on and quickly established a comfortable lead. A series of four consecutive three-pointers in a row gave Lakeview a 25-10 margin after the first quarter, which grew to 49-20 by halftime.

Lakeview stayed hot in the second half and the game concluded 82-34 in favor of the Bobcats.

Following the result, both teams' records moved to 2-4 for the 2024-25 season.

HVRHS returns to home court Friday, Jan. 10, to host Northwestern Regional High School. Junior varsity tips off at 5:30 p.m. with varsity to follow at 7 p.m.

Real Estate



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Above, HVRHS's Anthony Foley matched up against Lakeview's Cole Karpicki. Below, from left, HVRHS's Wes Allyn, Lakeview's Connor Aldrich and HVRHS's Owen Riemer jostle for positioning below the net.



Housy boys win Holiday Tournament

The HVRHS Mountaineers secured a 60-39 win over O'Brien Technical High School Dec. 30 in the Berkshire League/Connecticut Technical Conference Holiday Tournament championship game. This was the fourth year of the BL/CTC Holiday Tournament and the first time HVRHS took home the trophy. Owen Riemer led the Mountaineers in scoring with 19 points against O'Brien Tech. Anthony Labbadia scored 11 and Jesse Bonhotel scored 10. In the first round of the tournament, HVRHS defeated Gilbert High School 62-40 on Dec. 27.

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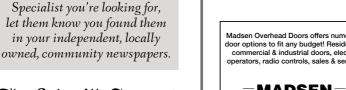
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