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



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Jumpfest returned to Satre Hill in Salisbury for a weekend of high-flying action on Saturday, Feb. 1 and Sunday, Feb. 2. The event's 99th year drew thousands of attendees for the competitions, which concluded Sunday with the Eastern U.S. Ski Jumping Championships. Above, Dylan Cote flies through snowflakes. Jumpfest coverage is on Pages A3 and A8.

'Paddle' season in full swing at the Grove

By Sava Marinkovic

LAKEVILLE — Serving up good-natured competition, platform tennis has some winter sportspeople changing out their skis for sneakers. The cold-weather variant of tennis — played with paddles on a raised, heated court — has been growing in popularity since public courts were introduced to the Salisbury Town Grove in the late 1990s.

"There is a huge amount of enthusiasm" for the game, said player Amy Lake, evidenced by the fact that teams come out to the courts undaunted by snow or subfreezing temperatures. "It gets people outside during all weather," said Lake, cheerily relating that deck shoveling and preparation are just "part of the workout."

Following its conception in 1928, platform tennis was largely confined to country clubs, garnering a reputation for exclusivity. However, public courts have since propagated and become community fixtures. Players, who refer to the sport colloquially as "paddle," stress the inclusive, social aspect of the game as one of its main draws.

'It's almost always played as doubles," said Town Grove organizer Suzanne Quaintance, with





PHOTO BY SAVA MARINKOVIC

Ann Becket tossing a ball to open a rally of platform tennis at the Town Grove in Lakeville.

fellow player Barbara Bettigole adding that "the small court size encourages friendly exchanges." Jokes, banter and compliments on an opponent's plays all build a social fabric that keeps the paddle community tightly knit. "I love to see the other side of the net doing well," said Bettigole.

Once per month, Town Grove paddle players gather for bonfire socials, rotating between the court and the fireside. For those who wish to further turn up the heat,

more competitive round robin tournaments are organized on a regular schedule. Whatever the format of play, "it's a great way to meet people," said Quaintance.

For those interested in learning or improving their game, the community hosts professional lessons and clinics in the Fall. But, according to player Angie Engle, "most people just pick it up and learn." Promising a "good time at

See PADDLE, Page A8

Connecticut's growing online gambling habit

"It's a big

problem, and

it's growing."

Kaitlin Brown,

Senior Director

of Programs and

Services at CCPG

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — These days, some sports fans are invested in more ways than one.

Sports gambling became legal in the United States with a Supreme Court decision on May 14, 2018. The decision overturned the 1992 Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act of 1992, which restricted sports betting to a handful of locations, primarily the state of Nevada and Atlantic

City, New Jersey.

In the seven years since, online sports gambling has exploded. Gambling of all kinds has increased significantly.

And this phenomenon is causing problems for a lot of people.

It took a few years for Connecticut to catch up, but online gambling was legalized in

the state in 2021. Kaitlin Brown is the Senior Director of Programs and Services at the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling, or CCPG, a nonprofit organization based in

Hartford. She said the preferred term is "problem gambling," rather than "gambling addiction" or "gambling disorder," which are clinical terms with precise definitions. "Problem gambling" is a convenient term and covers a lot of ground.

She was asked if problem gambling is a big problem.

The answer was unequivocal. "Yes, it's a big problem, and it's growing."

Brown said that some 1.8% of the population of Connecticut meets the clinical definition of an addiction or disorder. That's roughly 66,150 people — assuming a state population of about 3,675,000, per the 2020 census.

> Some 3% to 4% of Connecticut residents have experienced gambling harm, Brown continued. That's between 110,250 and 147,000 people.

Brown said there is a lot of overlap between screening for and treating problem gambling and addiction to alcohol and drugs.

Someone having problems with gambling will likely be preoccupied with gambling, just as alcoholics and addicts are preoccupied with maintaining their supply.

Brown said problem gamblers will lie about what they're doing, try to hide their finances, and will continue gambling despite experiencing negative consequences.

"Sometimes they're using gambling as a form of self-medication."

See GAMBLING, Page A8

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Regional

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Online This Week

Sharon Land Trust seeks public comment SLT is applying to renew its accreditation seal and invites community input. 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 flips on Route 4

Not long after midnight on Jan. 28, Antonio Scott, 20, of Sharon was driving a Chevrolet Malibu westbound on Route 4 in Sharon. Scott lost control of the vehicle, and it struck a mailbox before overturning, coming to a rest on its roof. Scott reported minor injuries and was transported to Sharon Hospital for evaluation. He was issued an infraction for violation of C.G.S. 14-236, Failure to maintain proper

Vehicle misses driveway, strikes house

On the afternoon of Jan. 29, Macas Betty Contento, 22, of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, was attempting to turn into a driveway on Route 44 in North Canaan. Driving a Nissan Altima, Contento failed to make the turn and proceeded across an adjacent lawn, eventually striking a small tree and a corner of the house belonging to Jesse Tweed. The reason for the incident is unknown. The house sustained superficial but no structural damage. Contento declined medical attention, and the vehicle was driven from the scene. Contento was issued a written warning for C.G.S. 14-236, Failure to maintain proper lane.

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

Salisbury Central School plans for kindergarten registration

Salisbury Central School Kindergarten pre-registration for the 2025-26 school year is scheduled for Feb. 26, Feb. 27 and March 11.

Bring your child's birth certificate to confirm the date of birth and a current record of childhood immunizations.

Because of new Connecticut legislation, Public Act 23-208, Section 1, children must turn five before Sept. 1 to be eligible to enroll in kindergarten. If your child turns five between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, they will be eligible to enroll in the early-kindergarten program at Salisbury Central School.

Please call Pat in the school office at (860) 435-9871 to schedule an appoint-

Sharon Center School sets kindergarten registration dates

Kindergarten pre-registration for the 2025-26 school vear is scheduled for Feb. 28 and March 7.

Bring your child's birth certificate to confirm the date of birth and a current record of childhood immunizations.

Because of new Connecticut legislation, Public Act 23-208, Section 1, children must turn five before Sept. 1 to be eligible to enroll in kindergarten. If your child turns five between Sept. 1 to

Sharon Center School Dec. 31, they will be eligible to enroll in the early-kindergarten program at Sharon Center School.

For info, please contact Kim Robinson at (860) 364-5153 or email krobinson@ sharoncenterschool.org

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

Check them out inside.

Herrington's

LJMN board adds members, elects officers

FALLS VILLAGE — LJMN Media, which publishes The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, has announced the addition of two new members to its board of directors. Dick Hermans and Scott Siegler join Meg Downey, Henry Blodget and Rob Fish, each added early in 2024, as its newest members.

Hermans, of Pine Plains, co-founded Oblong Books & Records with locations in Millerton and Rhinebeck. He has also served on the Pine Plains School Board and is a current member of the Pine Plains Planning Board. Most recently, he co-founded The New Pine Plains Herald, a digital newspaper covering Pine Plains, and serves as Vice-President of its board.

Siegler, a resident of Sharon, participated in the startup of TriStar Television Studio, Netscape Communications, Pandora Media and Granada America. He has served on the board of the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard's Kennedy School and The Center for Public Integrity.

Downey, of Millerton, began her career in journalism as editor of The Millerton News, executive editor of The Poughkeepsie Journal and managing editor of the Tennessean in Nashville, Tennessee. Downey is a twotime Pulitzer Prize finalist and has won more than 40 national journalism awards. In her career, she has also taught journalism and ethics at Vassar College.

Blodget, of Cornwall, is co-founder, Executive Chair of the Board and occasional columnist of Business Insider Inc., a global journalism organization with offices and affiliates in more than 17 countries. A former Wall Street analyst, he is often a guest on CNBC, CNN, MSNBC, NPR and other networks.

Fish, of Salisbury, founded the design firm Robert V. Fish & Associates, which specialized in residential architecture in Hartford, Fairfield and Litchfield Counties and won dozens of design awards. He has served multiple terms on the boards of Sharon Land Trust and Sharon Playhouse.

H. Clark said, "The addition of these members reinforces our commitment to strong local journalism in our communities in the Northwest corner of Connecticut and Eastern Dutchess County in New York. As we continue to look at new ways of delivering the news, each of their skill sets and expertise will be invaluable."

Board membership now stands at 14 representing diverse professional backgrounds and expertise.

of the board.

On assuming the chairmanship, Dwyer noted that "the challenges we face are more complex than simply 'saving the paper.' Our Board's duty is to provide financial stability and resources that enable management and editorial staff to continue the improvements they are making. We are also responsible to develop a plan for the future, so we are finding ways of getting information to our communities - when and how they access it — so we remain the trusted source of local news, information and opinion. I'm confident our Board is up to the challenge.

To learn more about The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, go to lakevillejournal.com and click on "About us."

CEO and Publisher James

Additionally, the Board of Directors elected a new slate of officers at its annual meeting in December. Dan Dwyer, of Salisbury, has been elected Chair; Brian Ross, of Sharon, Vice Chair; Devereux Chatillon, of Sharon, Secretary and Karen Byers, of North Canaan, Treasurer. The Board recognized Noreen Doyle, who served as founding Chair and who will continue on as a member

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AARP tax prep program Wednesdays at the Grove

Salisbury Senior Services will be offering the AARP Tax Aide program at the Salisbury Senior Center at the Town Grove, 42 Ethan Allen St., Lakeville.

Volunteers trained by AARP and certified by the IRS will be available to assist those 60 and older, and low-income residents with the preparation and filing of all tax forms free of charge.

This service will be available on Wednesdays beginning Feb. 12 through April 9 by appointment only.

Contact Lisa McAuliffe at (860) 435-5186 to schedule an appointment.



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SWSA Jumpfest



Henry Loher flew farther than any other competitor at Jumpfest 2025, gliding 71 meters on Sunday, Feb. 2.



Youth ski jumpers gather at the landing zone to recognize the national anthem before the Eastern U.S. Ski Jumping Championship began at Satre Hill.

Community shines at Jumpfest 99 in Salisbury

By Alec Linden and Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Jumpfest 2025 attracted thousands of guests to Satre Hill for a weekend of ski jumping, traditional treats, bonfires and brews Feb. 1 and 2.

Typically a three-day event, Friday night's festivities were canceled due to rainy conditions, which made for slick slopes on Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday was bright, clear and on the cold side in the mid-20s, with an irregular wind that the jumpers had to be mindful of. Snowflakes were flying when the action kicked off at about 9 a.m. with the youth competitions on the K20 jump.

"It's very winterlike here at Satre Hill," said WZBG Radio's Dale Jones, who once again assumed announcing duties for the competition. Gusty winds had fortunately mostly abated for the jumpers of smaller stature, with windows of sunshine intermittently breaking through the flurries and illuminating the paint-streaked landing hill

SWSA's own Caleb Bodwell, who placed 2nd last year, put down a sizable 10-meter jump. Shortly after, Catherine Chor flew 11.5 meters, the furthest of the day so far.

Larry Stone, a ski jumping coach in winter sports mecca Lake Placid, New York and Chief of Competition for the weekend, said that Catherine's sister Caroline would be one to watch later in the day in the older age group. The sisters train together at their local jumping facility in Hanover, New Hampshire, Stone explained: "They're a good twosome."

Temperatures dropped as the day went on, and in response the two bonfires flanking the landing of the big jump kept growing. Lakeville local Fisher Rydingsword was stoking the flames with scrap wood, a picnic table and seemingly infinite pallets. At 16 years old, this is his eighth year tending to the fires, and he likes the work: "It gives me an excuse to play with fire," he said as he heaved another pallet atop the blaze.

The Cook Shack was busy around mealtime, as was the food truck offering pulled pork and mac and cheese.

To wash it down fans could choose between craft beers or hot toddies made with bourbon or rum as the main ingredient. The action was steady here too.

Some fans coped with the wind with tent-like shelters, but most were content to be bundled up and rely on the sun to stay warm. If that failed, there were the usual two bonfires on either side of the main jumping hill and a number of smaller fires in



at Satre Hill.

The SWSA crew maintains the slope



Youth cross-country skiers depart.

PHOTO BY RANDY O'ROURKE

Ski jumpers pack into the shuttle truck for a lift back up to the K65 jump on Sunday, Feb. 2.



Caleb Bodwell lands a jump on the K20 hill.

buckets and portable fire pits.

Salisbury Central School eighth grade students Bryce Salmon, Quin Sheil and Tommy Downey prowled the crowd selling baked goods and handwarmers. The boys were raising funds for the annual class trip to Washington, D.C.

A little before 1 p.m., a well-prepared group were getting in the mood. Steve and Adrienne Fayette from Newtown and Rich and Amy Ferrari of Brookfield had comfy chairs and were well and warmly clad. They were fortifying themselves with salami, cheese and crackers and a bottle of red wine to start. Rich Ferrari said after that they'd get to the sand-

"We love this event," he

At about 2 p.m. fans were still coming into Satre Hill. The parking lot was completely full, and people were sticking their cars wherever they could and hoofing it.

Sunday saw less wind and grayer skies for the Eastern U.S. Ski Jumping Championships with temperatures remaining more solidly in the mid-20s. These were good, fast conditions explained Jones, and the jumpers took advantage, putting on a spectacle of flight for the crowd.

The tone of the afternoon, though still joyous, was less boisterous and more focused than on Saturday. As skiers dropped in from their perch high on the tower, a hush would fall over the crowd, broken by cheers and the clang of more cowbells once the skis returned to snow.

Salisbury's own Islay Sheil surpassed 40-meters on her best Sunday jump. Sheil, who is 14, is the first SWSA youth athlete to have jumped the K65 since SWSA coach Seth Gardner jumped it in his early days, Spencer Taylor said.

Colin Delaney, who described himself as the "official/unofficial" coach of the Eastern Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined team, said that Jumpfest is a vital component to the national circuit. "It's a really important hill size for training," he said, emphasizing that the event "brings together athletes with different goals in the sport."

While the Eastern Championship is a wrap, jumping season is far from over. Loher, who emerged from Jumpfest highly decorated, will be competing at the Junior World Championships on Feb. 11, while other jumpers on the team will travel to Park City, Utah for the Junior National Championships on Feb. 22.

Jumpfest 2025 was well attended with an estimated 1,600 guests on Saturday and 1,500 on Sunday.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN Hot toddies remain a staple treat at Jumpfest, plus SWSA bratwurst from the Cook Shack.



Bonfires keep guests warm on crisp winter days.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF RICHARD G. RALPH Late of Canaan

(24-00532)The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 16, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is: Richard M. Ralph c/o Kevin F. Nelligan The Law Offices of Kevin F. Nelligan, LLC, 194 Ashley Fls Road, PO Box 776, Canaan, CT 06018

> Megan M. Foley Clerk 02-06-25

NOTICE TO **CREDITORS ESTATE OF** ELIZABETH K. **RICHARDS Late of Salisbury** (24-00526)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate

Court, by decree dated January 16, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

LEGAL NOTICES

The fiduciary is: Timothy J. Richards c/o Arthur Charles Weinshank

Cramer & Anderson, LLP 51 Main Street, New Milford, CT 06776

Beth L. McGuire Chief Clerk 02-06-25

NOTICE TO **CREDITORS ESTATE OF** ROBERT J. HABACKER Late of Salisbury (25-00001)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated Janaury 23, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is: Ola H. Habacker

c/o Emily D Vail Vail & Vail, LLC 5 Academy St PO Box 568 Salisbury, CT 06018 Beth L. McGuire Chief Clerk

02-06-25

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF SUSAN B. PRATT Late of Norfolk **AKA Susan Beedzler Pratt**

(24-00524)The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 23, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is: Leslie D. Hall c/o Douglas KO Connell Howd, Lavieri & Finch,

682 Main St., Winsted, CT 06098 Megan M. Foley Clerk 02-06-25

Our Towns

Indian Mountain School unveils new performing arts center

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — The Indian Mountain School officially opened a new performance space last week.

The new Qianxun Performing Arts Center is where the old gym used to be.

It seats 290 people and the acoustics are excellent — not anything like an echoey gym.

On Saturday evening, Feb. 1, the school was celebrating the Lunar New Year. It is the Year of the Snake.

Students surged to and fro, most of them decked out in Chinese garb — brocaded silk jackets and the like.

Danny Tieger, Director



Interior of the new Qianxum Performing Arts Center.

of Performing Arts at the and noted that the seating is school, showed a reporter retractable, which provides

the spacious backstage area maximum flexibility for dif-

Falls Village Historical Society honors Black civil war volunteer

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Just in time for Black History Month, the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society has added an exhibit about Milo Freeland, a Black man who served in the Civil War with the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

This is the unit that was the basis for the 1989 film "Glory."

Judy Jacobs of the Historical Society said Freeland was from Sheffield, Massachusetts, and East Canaan, Connecticut.

In the early 1990s, Walt Arbo was walking his dog at the Hillside Cemetery in the East Canaan section of North Canaan when he spotted a headstone that was broken and tipped over.

It was the headstone of Milo Freeland, and it now resides at the Historical So-

The Journal seeks young reporters for summer internship

The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News are seeking young journalists for an educational internship program.

The six week program provides training in the everyday operations of a community weekly. Interns will learn the news-gathering process from pitch to print through regular workshops with industry professionals on topics such as photography, libel and copy-editing.

Interns will also work closely with the papers' staff. Editors will collaborate with interns to develop stories and provide feedback throughout the program. The papers' reporters will take interns into the field for shadowing opportunities, teaching interviewing and photography in

By the end of the program, interns should be capable of reporting and writing a hard news story or feature fit for print, and should have an article clip and a photograph to start a reporting portfolio. Interns should finish the six-week program with an understanding of current community journalism best practices, interviewing techniques and news-writing skills.

Interested students can find the application online at lakevillejournal.com/education-internship-programs or on our social media ac-

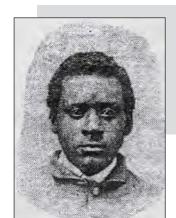


PHOTO PROVIDED

A replica was made and installed at the cemetery in

Karl Munson of Falls Village reattached the surviving pieces, but Jacobs said the missing section has not been found.

Arbo has done considerable research on Freeland, and states that Freeland was the first Black man from the North to enlist in the Union Army in the Civil War, signing up in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, on Feb. 16, 1863.

Civil Warveteran Milo Freeland is featured in Falls Village—Canaan Historical Society's new exhibit honoring Black History Month.

Jacobs and historian Peter Vermilyea aren't so sure if Freeland was the first Black recruit, but agree that Freeland was certainly among the first Black volunteers.

But then there's the headstone inscription:

"Milo J. Freeland Died April 16, 1883 Aged 43 A member of Co. A 54th Mass. Voll's The first Colored Man enlisted from the North in the rebellion of 1861"

The historical society is open Tuesdays 9 a.m. to noon or by appointment.

Vermilyea will give a talk about Black soldiers at the Hunt Library in Falls Village Saturday, Feb. 8 at 2 p.m.

Before Saturday's lineup of Lunar New Year performances, Sarah Smith, Assistant Head of School for External Relations, took the stage to thank the major donor, Limin Kong, and her daughter Qianxun "Tiffany" Zhao — IMS class of 2023 — for whom the facility is

Smith said that Limin Kong is a former Indian Mountain School parent and

"And even a faculty member when she stepped in to teach Mandarin for a term."

Her daughter, Qianxun Zhao, is a student and musician at Phillips Andover Academy in Andover, Massachusetts.

"What was once an old gym has been reimagined into a space where creativity will flourish, where our students will find their voices, and where they will develop lasting friendships," said



PHOTO BY CORADO GALIZIA COURTESY OF STEPHEN DREZEN, WILLIAM PITT SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Overlooking Woodridge Lake, 300 East Hyerdale Drive was sold for \$2.25 million.

Goshen real estate market maintains affordable end

By Christine Bates

GOSHEN — Unique Goshen is a town with a continuum of home prices ranging from affordable to over a million dollars and many sales of building lots.

The most expensive house sold last year in Goshen was \$2.25 million on East Hyerdale Drive in Woodridge Lake — one of only six houses sold over a million dollars during the year.

By the end of January, eight pieces of land were for sale and only six houses, with two over a million dollars.

December

40 Sherbrook Drive Woodridge Lake Lot 413 — 4 bedroom/2 bath home sold by Estate of Albert Downey Stancs to Jason and Melanie A. Mancarella for \$550,000.

300 East Hyerdale Drive Woodridge Lot 516 — 4 bedroom/3.5 bath home on 0.82 acres sold by Amy S. Heller to 300 Ehyer LLC for \$2.25 million.

Cornwell Drive, Woodridge Lake Lot 783 — 0.8 acres sold by Rebecca C Godson to Ed & AJ Building and Remodeling LLC for \$78,000.

*Town of Goshen real estate sales recorded as sold between Dec. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024, provided by the Goshen Town Clerk. Property details provided in town tax cards. Note that recorded transfers occur after the actual real estate closing and will also include private sales. Current market activity from Smart MLS. Transfers with no consideration are not included. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Advisor with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.

Housatonic FFA donates \$4,800 from holiday store

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Housatonic FFA chapter officially donated \$4,800 to five food banks and one nonprofit organization in a brief ceremony at Housatonic Valley Regional High School Friday, Jan. 31.

Chapter president Chris Crane said the sales from the FFA's holiday store allowed the organization to make \$800 donations to Cornwall Food and Fuel, the Corner Food Pantry in Lakeville, the Kent Food Bank, Fishes and Loaves in North Canaan, the Sharon Food Pantry, and the Jane Lloyd Fund.

Representatives from most of the organizations

were on hand to accept the real checks and to pose for photos with the FFA officers and a large prop check.

The food bank people all said that need continues to go up. Kathy Meara of the Corner Food Pantry said that the last distribution served 138 families, up from 80 to 90 in recent years.

Region One Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley thanked the students for their efforts, and the FFA and agriculture education programs in general.

"There is so much education and experience here that goes beyond the walls of the school," she said. "And that is truly where the work takes place."













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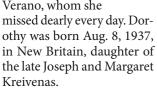


OBITUARIES

Dorothy Irene Verano

Irene (Kreivenas) Verano, 87,

of Salisbury, died Thursday morning, Jan. 30, 2025, at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport, after a brief illness. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Frank Verano, whom she



She graduated at the top of her class from New Britain High School in 1955 before attending Boston University, where she received her Bachelor's degree. She began teaching elementary music in the New Britain Public School system and later received a Master's degree from the University of Hartford. Prior to marrying Frank, she enjoyed road trips along the East Coast with her friends and her sister, Marian. In 1966, she married her soulmate, Frank, and moved to their peaceful, idyllic property in Salisbury. She retired from New Britain schools in 1994 after 35 years of service. She served on the Salisbury Board of Education and was a dedicated parishioner of St. Martin of Tours Parish, St. Joseph's Church where she looked forward to attending weekly mass.

She loved attending live musical performances at Tanglewood with her sister, and listening to their radio broadcasts when she could not attend. She was a skilled pianist and played for various events throughout New Britain including as a backup pianist for the New Britain Symphony Orchestra, but her

SALISBURY — Dorothy most appreciative audience was her family at holidays, weddings and fam-

ily visits.

Dorothy shared a special relationship with her sister, Marian (Kreivenas) Glynn and brother-in-law, James Glynn, who were her weekly

Friday lunch dates. She is also survived by her niece, Susan (Glynn) Grandpre and husband, Michael, her nephew, Steven Glynn, and his wife, Cathleen, five great nieces and nephews, Abby, Matt, Kate, Evan and Alex, and by Frank's children and grandchildren. She was especially close to his daughters, Evelyn Caron (Ken) and Katherine Verano, their children, Brandon, Daniel and Kaitlyn (Ashley), and Dorothy's great-grandson Braythan, who all provided love and support over the years. Dorothy was also fortunate to have wonderful friends she could count on, including her longtime friend Jean and helpers Hope and Pat.

Calling hours were held Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St. Canaan, CT 06018. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, at 11 a.m. in St. Martin of Tours Parish St. Joseph's Church 4 Main St. North Canaan, CT 06018. Burial followed at St. Joseph's Cemetery North Canaan, CT 06018. Memorial donations may be made to the Chore Service, PO Box 522, Lakeville, CT, or St Joseph's Cemetery foundation. Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St. Canaan, CT 06018.

Robert G. Grandell

Grandell, 81, of Canaan,

passed away peacefully on Jan. 29, 2025.

Robert was born in Waterbury, on Aug. 29, 1943, the son of Isabella (Brickett) and Art Perkins. He married Janet (Van Deusen) on June 27, 1964.

Bob worked at various factories throughout his career, retiring from Electric Motion Co., Winsted, in 2005. He enjoyed coaching Little League baseball and junior bowling. He also liked to watch the UConn Women's Basketball team and the Green Bay Packers.

He and Janet liked to go on bus trips and vacation in Lake George, New York.

Bob is survived by two sons; Gary and his wife Lau-

CANAAN — Robert G. rie of Canaan, Dennis and his wife Carolyn of New Hart-

> ford, one sister; Anna Mae Mac-Neil of Arizona, one brother; Bill Perkins and his wife Candace of Torrington, and six grandchildren.

Bob is predeceased by his parents and two

sisters, Joan Parsons and Eleanor Gurney.

Calling hours were held on Sunday, Feb. 2 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at The Kenny Funeral Home, Sharon. All other services are private.

Memorial contributions may be made to the North Canaan Ambulance, 15 East Main St., Canaan, CT 06018 or to the North Canaan Volunteer Fire Department, 4 East Main St., Canaan, CT 06018. Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

In Remembrance

Barbara Victorien

I knew Barbara when she worked at Nicolas-Tobin in Kent. I paid bills in person for the pleasure of speaking to her. Our contact was minimal but she left a deep impression of grace, kindness and capability.

When she learned that I was going to Berlin, New Hampshire, she told me that a great uncle who was a Civil War veteran was buried there. Berlin City Hall told me exactly where to look. The modest stone, less than 12" by 12", is in the front row near my parents' grave. I always stop at the soldier's resting place. Now I will think of her, too.

How will you remember Barbara?

Jon Lafleur

Walter Axel Pearson

SHARON — Walter Axel Pearson of Sharon, passed away suddenly on

Jan. 15, 2025 at his winter residence in Palmas Del Mar, Puerto Rico at the age of 93.

Walter grew up in Huntington, New York, where he attended Huntington High

School. He went on to earn a degree in business management from SUNY. Walter had a lengthy and distinguished career in the US Military, serving 8 years as an air traffic controller at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and 24 years as Captain of the Port in the Coast Guard Reserves at New London, Connecticut. He was a member of the PGA, playing on the tour from 1949 through 1953 prior to his Naval service. He was also the teaching professional at the Huntington Crescent Club for many years after he was discharged.

Walter was an extraordinary salesperson, primarily for the Connecticut Natural Gas Company and the Culligan Water Conditioning Company, and was also a plumbing and heating contractor for many years in

Walter is survived by his loving wife, Elizabeth (Betsy), his son, Robert, and Robert's wife Nikki, and his daughter Lora. He was a

devoted husband, father and proud grandfather to Robert and Nikki's daughter, Hayden.

He was predeceased by his parents, Nils and Julia Pearson of Huntington, New York, and his brother,

Hugo Pearson, of Jacksonville, Florida.

Walter had a passion for golf and not only played whenever he had free time but traveled extensively to play golf courses most people only see on TV. He was also a member of the Rotary Club in Salisbury, where he served as an officer in the capacity of secretary for many years. His friends and family remember him as a quiet gentleman with integrity and warmth. His sense of humor was subtle and often disarmed those around him.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Palmas Del Mar in Humacao, Puerto Rico, on March 16, 2025 from 4 to 7 p.m., and another in Sharon, at a date in April to be determined. Donations can be made to the PLCC Scholarship in memory of Walter Pearson at https:// givebutter.com/Vr7AQg or to the Sharon Woman's Club Scholarship Fund, PO Box 283, Sharon, CT 06069.

Charlotte Hoose Murphy

AMENIA — Charlotte Hoose Murphy, 98, of Amenia, passed away peacefully with her family by her side at home on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025. Charlotte was a lifelong resident of Amenia, born on June 26, 1926, to Fred and Fanny Carpenter Hoose. She graduated from the Amenia High School in 1944 and from Middlebury College, Class of 1948. She worked part-time as a teller for the First National Bank of Amenia and its many successors, retiring in July, 2000. On Oct. 2, 1948, she married James Maroney Murphy in Amenia. He passed away in 2004 after 56 years of marriage.

Charlotte is survived by her daughters and sons-inlaw; Cathleen (Michael) Homrighaus of Cortland, New York, Adrienne (Mark) O'Brien of Weaverville, North Carolina, and Elizabeth (William) Kanauer of Helena, Montana. Sons and daughters-in-law; Dr. Robert (Marie) Murphy of Cornwall, Brian Murphy of Millerton, Lawrence (Nancy) Murphy of Wassaic, and

Andrew Murphy of Amenia. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren; Jerry Murphy, Jay Murphy, Alicia Peterson, Nicholas Kanauer, Justin Murphy, Greta Murphy, Jason Homrighaus, Zachary Homrighaus, Noah Homrighaus, Brian J. Murphy, Kimberly Dolan and Marjorie O'Brien. She is also survived by 9 great-grandchildren, and one greatgreat-grandson. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by a granddaughter, Laurel Hayes Murphy, a great-granddaughter,

RYAN FUNERAL HOME

255 MAIN STREET • LAKEVILLE, CT 06039

860-435-2700

Stephanie Amber Murphy, and sisters, Jane Bentsen and Margaret Pulver.

Charlotte was very active in many organizations area wide. She was a 72-year active member of the Amenia Fire Co. Ladies' Auxiliary, served many years as a trustee and treasurer for the Amenia Free Library, the Junior Women's Club of Amenia, a trustee and treasurer for the Violet H. Simmons Scholarship Fund, and was a Board member of the Rex Brasher Association. She also served as Court Clerk for her husband, James, during his 46 years as Amenia Town Justice.

Calling hours will take place on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Ave., Millerton, New York. The Amenia Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary will conduct a service at 6:30 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, at 10 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia.

Memorial donations may be made to The Amenia Free Library Association, PO Box 27, Amenia, NY 12501, or The Amenia Fire Co. Auxiliary, PO Box 166, Amenia, NY 12501, or the Violet H. Simmons Summer Enrichment Scholarship, c/o Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, PO Box 400, Sheffield, MA 01257 or Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation, 80 Washington St., Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. To send an online condolence to the family, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

Anthony J. Stewart

Road lost his battle with ALS as the sun was rising on Jan. 28, 2025, at the Hospital of Central Connecticut in New Britain with his sisters at his side. He was born Nov. 13, 1962, in Winsted, the son

of Patricia A. (Piretti) White of North Canaan and the late Bradley Stewart.

Anthony was the owner of Anthony J. Stewart Landscaping and Tree Service.

Anthony grew up in North Canaan, loving to be outside and in the woods. It was truly fitting that after graduation from HVRHS and working for local landscapers that he started his own business. His work on many properties in the area and the beautiful views that he cut are a testament to the creative visions he had. Anthony was his own man and fiercely protective of his family. If he called you "Bud" you knew you were his

In addition to his mother, Anthony is survived by his two daughters; Victoria A.

SHARON — Anthony J. Stewart of Torrington and Stewart, 62, of 40B Jackson Erica Opromollo, her hus-

band Joe of Watertown and their two sons Nolan and Lincoln. Anthony is also survived by his two sisters; Kim Casey, her husband Jay of North Canaan and Jill McGee, her husband Ray of

Peoria Heights, Illinois. His two nephews; Jason Casey, his wife Allison, and their two daughters, Willow and Weslyn; and Ryan Casey.

A service of remembrance and celebration of Anthony's life will both be held at the North Canaan VFW, 104 South Canaan Road, Canaan, CT 06018 on Friday Feb. 7, 2025. The service will begin at 5 p.m. with the celebration immediately following.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Anthony's name to: ALS United CT https://alsunited.org/ or Compassionate Care ALS https://ccals.org/

Both of these ALS organizations have given us invaluable support and resources offering us strength and support throughout this journey.

More obituaries on Page A7

Send obituaries to editor@lakevillejournal.com



Worship Services

Week of February 9, 2025

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT

nday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to ioin us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org

Trinity Episcopal Church

484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627

North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC

Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT www.Facebook.com/ northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232

FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm

www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org **Congregation Beth David** A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia

SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM 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** 9:15 a.m. Worship Service

9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship A Friendly Church with 860-824-0194

UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House

Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTO Community

The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology

Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service

in an Historic Building

"Open Hearts – Open Minds – Open Doors Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!

Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, Cl

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website ncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services

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

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

St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE In-Person and on You-Tube

www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290

Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons

Sunday, February 9 at 10:30 a.m. WHAT IS YOUR COMMITMENT IN THE FACE OF INJUSTICE? For information, contact Jo Loi at jokiauloi@gmail.com

All are Welcome

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH

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

Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information.

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

please call 860-824-7078

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

The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall

Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome!

www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gatesl

St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30

IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality

Promised Land Baptist Church

29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting — 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org

All Saints of America

Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 | allsaintsofamerica.us

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JONATHAN J. RYAN

The Lakeville Lournal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025

Here comes climate change

ately, people who in the past seldom gave it a second thought are beginning to talk about the weather.

The main reason, of course, has been the catastrophic wildfires forming the worst natural disaster in California's history, still continuing with no clear end in sight. California has become known all over the world for the frequency and ferocity of its wildfires but this one is the worst so far. Climate change is clearly the underlying reason.

The year 2023 was the Earth's warmest on record until 2024. Climatologists tell us that the next few years are going to be hotter still. And the incoming Trump administration's plan to burn more fossil fuel than ever before will guarantee more new record high temperatures.

For those who are unaware, the Earth's atmosphere has a growing proportion of heat-blanketing "greenhouse gases," especially carbon dioxide and methane, largely the result of the burning of coal, oil and natural gas. These gases lock in the heat of the sun's rays in the atmosphere thereby heating up the air, the water and the land.

Oil companies have been avidly promoting what they call "carbon capture and sequestration," the removal of carbon dioxide from the air and its capture and storage deep underground. The fossil fuel businesses believe that CCS provides a justification for using oil and gas indefinitely. But this technology is extremely expensive, potentially very dangerous and unworkable at anywhere near the scale needed to make a meaningful difference.

Global warming or climate change does not cause bad weather conditions; rather it seriously exacerbates them making them more severe. Warmer air allows clouds to hold more moisture and thus drop more rain in a storm. This summer's catastrophic floods in Spain were made much worse because the Mediterranean Sea, surrounded and cut off from the Atlantic, warmed up significantly and together with the mountainous land along the coast turned typical floods into enormous ones.

Usually, hurricanes follow fairly predictable paths, staying generally along the coastline. But last summer's Hurricane Helene veered into far west North Carolina causing massive storm and flood damage. Primarily this happened because of the mountainous terrain of the Blue Ridge chain of western North Carolina, which formed a natural barrier, forcing the storm's moisture to condense, causing extreme rainfall in the valley near Asheville especially when combined with the already saturated ground from ear-

In the middle of the country tornados are occurring with increasing frequency, arriving with little warning and causing considerable

Across the world crippling heat waves hospitalized and even killed people unprepared for the incredible temperatures. All around the U.S. summer heat waves have been growing. Phoenix had temperatures over 100 degrees for more than a month. In India, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia temperatures reached

OCCASIONAL **OBSERVER MAC GORDON**

130 degrees Fahrenheit.

Florida used to be the place much of America chose to get away to, either for a warm, sunny holiday or for retirement, escaping the harsh northern winters. But in addition to trying to cope with an enormous population explosion over the past 60 years, Florida has environmental problems that can't be overlooked. As a peninsula flanked by the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, Florida is battered by hurricanes more than any other state. A hurricane crashing onto the East Coast is likely to continue through the state's narrow midsection and maintain its destructive path through to its west coast and beyond into other nearby states. As with other states that become resort areas, development has been overwhelmingly on or near the coasts where weather damage is greatest. Home insurance has become difficult to obtain. Rising seas, a worldwide phenomenon, is unusually acute and is coupled with sea water rising from below due to the porosity of the land underneath. As a result, Florida's streets are often flooded when there has been no rain.

I used to think that forest fires were a problem mostly just for California and a few adjacent states. And to listen to Donald Trump and others one might think the problem would go away if only Democratic politicians would "maintain their forests." But in the summer of 2023, the largest, most noticeable wildfires were happening in Quebec followed by others all across the U.S. and Canada. In the summer of 2024 there were even a batch of devastating wildfires in the Northeast that extended into New York City including Brooklyn's Prospect Park, a harbinger of what's to come.

The Northwest Corner offers one of the most benign climates in the United States and this becomes especially true as the country's climate becomes increasingly troubled. Connecticut was once called "the land of steady habits," a reference perhaps to what many considered dull, excessive moderation. But with the increase in severe and often violent weather a more boring climate seems a decided plus. Over the past 40 years, the Northwest Corner has experienced no weather calamities worthy of national attention, the last one of note being the 1955 flood centered in Winsted. There've been only two tornados over the past 40 years midwestern states usually have at least two per year only modest hurricane damage and minor droughts. In recent years, unpleasant and often dangerous heat waves across the country have kept residents huddled indoors around their air conditioners but Northwest Corner folks can still enjoy summer out of doors.

The climate here remains more agreeable than it is in much of the rest of the country; but it is changing and at an increasing rate.

Architect and landscape designer Mac Gordon lives in Lakeville.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appreciating Lakeville Hose Co. and Volunteer Ambulance Service

The Riva family would like to send a huge thank you to the outstanding volunteers from the Lakeville Hose Company and the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service. We had a chimney fire Thursday, Jan. 23, during dinner time that warranted a call to 911. Our volunteer fire personnel were here in 6 minutes — 4 firetrucks, an ambulance and other assorted rescue vehicles. Upon arrival, the EMT's immediately checked on us. They were comforting, concerned and

reassuring. We have lived in this community for over 32 years — my husband, his whole life.

The professionalism and efficiency was outstanding. We knew once we saw the trucks in front of the house, that they had everything under control. We can't thank them enough for responding so quickly on this freezing night to help us. It is remarkable the amount of time these volunteers give to this town and citizens. The care and compassion they showed emulated through this house, it was heartwarming.

After our incident, it just reconfirmed why as a community we need to work hard and make it a priority to develop affordable housing for our EMT's, fire personnel, and others in our community. We need these volunteers residing in our town.

A heartfelt thank you to Lakeville Hose Company and The Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service.

Bob & Charmaine Riva

LETTERS

SWSA Snow Ball thank you

As organizer of the Salisbury Winter Sports Association annual Snow Ball Dance, I want to send a big thank you out to the many people who made it happen again this year at the Lakeville Town Grove. Thanks to Stacey Dodge and her amazing team, the place was decorated perfectly for the event!

Also, a big thank you to the many volunteers who always come through to assist me at the event and dozens of local businesses who donated wonderful prizes to the annual Snow Ball raffle.

We had a fabulous turnout and some great music and the crowd danced the night away. We would also like to thank our friends at the Norbert Farm Brewery for their support. Without these people and businesses our event would not be possible. See you at our next SWSA event!

John Sullivan On behalf of the Salisbury **Winter Sports Association**

'Tallow' as name for restaurant?

I'm happy that the old Mc-Donalds building may host a new restaurant in Millerton. However, if they are promoting healthier eating they may want to rethink their name. Beef fat may strike the wrong

Just saying!

Lakeville

Dan Lewis

Criticizing Israel is not anti-Semitic

The hackneyed response on Jan. 30, 2025, from various Israel supporters in our community to my Jan. 16 letter to The Lakeville Journal regarding the genuine benefits of making Israel the 51st state was totally expected. They reflexively used the cliché that criticizing Israel, a foreign country, is antisemitic. If anyone criticizes the policies of the U.S. government, does that make them anti-American? Of course not. Is Israel uniquely beyond reproach? It seems so to them. Are Israelis too special to criticize? Absolutely

The authors of the letter against me couldn't help themselves by resorting to name calling, suggesting how obnoxious and antisemitic I am. Isn't that a bit personal and over the top coming from my neighbors? It is ironic that I, as a proud American with Lebanese ancestry, am probably more semitic than the Jewish writers of the letter against my views. What Eastern European countries did their ancestors come from that gives them standing over the indigenous people of the Middle East?

It is telling that the authors of the letter never once addressed the basic premise of my letter that Israel becoming the 51st state would be a win-win for both the U.S. and Israel by guaranteeing Israel's security while giving the indigenous people of the land, namely the Palestinians, equal rights. Do they believe in apartheid?

Many Israelis and their supporters continue to perpetuate the myth that they are the poor victims when they are indeed the aggressors. They have all the weapons and power, and they continue to massacre tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians who have few weapons, no air force, and most certainly no support of the most powerful military nation in the world, namely the U.S. They are hardly victims. That's a myth.

The writers of the letter expectedly took issue with my use of the word holocaust — and genocide — to define what Israel is doing to the Palestinians, as if the term is "owned" exclusively by Jews. Rather than address the atrocities being committed by the Israelis, they point to genocides occurring elsewhere in the world, as if that makes the genocide being committed by Israel more acceptable. In fact, most countries as well as the International Criminal Court

view Israel as committing

crimes against humanity. So I guess that means Israel, the U.S. government, and some of its European vassal states are correct, and the entire rest of the world is totally wrong and misguided. This is the ultimate in arrogance.

We are now one quarter way through the 21st century. Isn't it about time that we decided that no one group is special or better than the other? That no matter what their religion or lack of one, all humans deserve equal dignity and justice?

Lloyd Baroody Lakeville

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

Please limit letters to 500 words. Include town and phone number. Letters are subject to condensation.

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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

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Viewpoint

Hot or Not? Leveraging Mark Zuckerberg's wisdom

ere we let in for our looks? be judged on them? Yes," proclaimed the facemash. com site Mark Zuckerberg created and posted in 2003 by hacking Harvard houses and academic sites. Zuckerberg's perhaps first fully public display of "masculine energy" was a website that sought viewers to rate photos of Harvard co-eds – rating them hot or not. The site was immediately brought down by Harvard in 2003 but perhaps not downed was Zuckerberg's own sentiments.

Today in January 2025, post the inauguration of the 47th president who garnered a slight plurality of votes, 1.5% more than his competitor, there are American 2024 headlines/headliners to rate hot or not — leveraging Zuckerberg wisdom.

In 2024, Americans are, as in any year, riveted to athletic performance. Unquestionably HOT is Shohei Ohtani, LA Dodgers pitcher, now a hitter; Caitlin Clark, WNBA Rookie of the Year leaving the NCAA with the most points scored (3,667); Patrick Mahomes, Kansas City Chiefs super bowl quarterback, and of course Simone Biles, superlative U.S. gymnast/Olympian. HOT.

In 2024, Taylor Swift soared at award ceremonies

OPEN SPACE KATHY HERALD-MARLOWE

as well as set a \$2 billion world on-tour record. Madonna amassed 1.6 million attendees — largest ever convened — at a free concert on a Brazilian beach. HOT

Artificial Intelligence is emerging with alacrity. AI, technologic genius, is laced with an abundance of uncertainties: positive extraordinary capabilities along with potential ultra-negative consequences. Too HOT to handle?

In 2024, reduction in violent crimes across the U.S. Lowest unemployment in 50 years. Wages up. A booming, globally envied U.S. economy. Infrastructure projects in many states are fantastically late but finally funded, employing locals. HOT

Jimmy Carter at 100 relinquished a life of decades upon decades of good works — for people around the globe — political progress, disease eradication, hammer-in-hand-houses built, a Nobel prize — justly conferred. Carter & Rosalynn, of true consequence, are beyond self-service — way beyond today's persons of power. HOT

NOT

Natural disasters including Hurricanes Helene and Beryl and 8.4 million acres of wildfires. Record number of tornadoes. NOT HOT

With 245 million Americans eligible to vote, 89 million didn't vote in the 2024 election. Seventy-seven million, 31,4% of eligible voters voted for Trump, 75 million 30.6% voted for Harris. Six million who voted for Biden in 2020 did not turn out to vote for Harris in 2024 - not to vote for a woman, not to vote for a Black woman, not to vote for Harris or Trump? Not voting in 2024, 89 million, over 1/3 of Americans with the privilege and responsibility. NOT HOT

Violent felons from the Jan. 6, 2020 Capitol insurrection are pardoned or their sentences commuted by the newly inaugurated President, also a felon. Agents & prosecutors slashed. NOT HOT

According to Zuckerberg, a lot of the corporate world is pretty culturally neutered. He says the workforce is being sucked dry of aggression, "masculine energy." The CEO of once Facebook, now Meta, mega-wealthy Zuckerberg dominates in a U.S. technology workplace made up of 35% women, 11% in executive positions — masculine energy endangered?

Kathy Herald-Marlowe lives in Sharon.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

Norma Bosworth

125 years ago — February 1900

SALISBURY — We are informed that Parker W. Hicks has decided to drive double through life, he having secured a better half. We wish him much joy.

Mrs. Thrall's youngest daughter Mary has been very ill for two weeks but is now greatly improved. The child caught cold which resulted in congestion of the brain.

SHARON — Mrs. Wike and sons of White Hollow entertained many of their friends on Tuesday evening of this week, celebrating the birthdays of two of the sons, Edward and Benjamin Wike.

The editor has been having a slight tussle with the grip this week.

Russell Miller has been appointed inspector and superintendent of the Lakeville Gas Company's plant and mains.

About fifteen of the pupils of the intermediate department took a sleigh ride to Sharon and return in one of J.K. Stuart's teams, last Tuesday afternoon.

Louis Goderis met with a very painful accident Tuesday night while trying to open a glass jar of tomatoes. The jar broke and Louis received a large gash on the palm of the hand, necessitating the care of Dr. William Bissell. Hiram Pulver is helping at the market at present.

100 years ago — February 1925

SALISBURY — Little Betty McLain and a number of little friends enjoyed a party at the home of Lester Hoysradt on Tuesday.

Mr. William Conklin was pleasantly surprised on Wednesday evening, February 4th, by several men friends who called and spent a pleasant evening, to help him celebrate his 90th birthday. In the afternoon he was presented with a wallet, which contained ninety one-dollar bills, given by many friends in the village, and which pleased him very much. The card club of which Mr. Conklin is a member. gave him about \$25.

LIME ROCK — A party of young people attended the dance in Millerton Friday night. They had to go by way of Canaan, as the traveling is bad, and they got home in time to eat breakfast the next morning.

Gerald Bauman returned Sunday evening from a trip to the west and California lasting over several months. He motored to Kansas in company with William Mathewson. Mathewson returned some time ago, but Bauman later went by train to Los Angeles. Finding employment there very uncertain he decided to come back to Lakeville and completed his trip last Sunday by train.

The three children of George H. Sylvernale are all confined to the house with whooping cough. Mrs. Sylvernale has also been ill but has recovered and is now out of doors again. Mrs. Eva Hamm has been caring for the family during their ill-

Lester Andrews, aged 40, died at Ellsworth last Sunday.

The deceased was a brother of W.F. Andrews of this place, and was a track walker on the New Haven Railway. It is thought his death was due to exposure in the recent severe weather. The funeral service took place Wednesday and the remains were placed in a vault at the cemetery in Sharon.

50 years ago — February 1975

Robert D. Gillette, 24, of Silent Meadow Farm in Lakeville, has been chosen by the Connecticut Jaycees as the Outstanding Young Farmer for 1974-75 in the statewide competition. The young farmer, who operates the 350-acre dairy farm owned by John and Martha Briscoe, said this week that as a youngster he had no idea he was going to become a farmer. Today though, he has been cited for his significant strides in the field of agriculture, successfully operating and expanding his dairy farm.

The pollution problems caused by thousands of geese and ducks on Lake Wononscopomuc in Lakeville can be controlled only by changing the law to permit a limited open hunting season, Salisbury First Selectman Charlotte Reid said Tuesday night. This conclusion followed a recommendation by Dennis DeCarli, chief of the Wildlife Section of the Department of Environmental Protection, Mrs. Reid told the Board of Selectmen. DeCarli found after an inspection of the lake that a limited season would be "the only sensible wildlife management," she said.

Sumner M. Gerstin has sold property on Wells Hill, the former Amy MacLeod place, to Edward T. Carroll Jr. and Jean Ann Carroll of Upper Monclair, N.J., for a tax-indicated price of \$66,000.

Continuing the early inauguration of the swimming season last week by Rod Aller, Jim Palmer of Sharon had an unexpected dunking in Lake Wononscopomuc Sunday when his iceboat crashed through thin ice. His wife Ginny also was doused. Palmer reported that about 200 feet from shore he suddenly encountered a square of thin ice which looked as if ice had been harvested from it. Despite cold temperatures of the past few days, the lake has not yet frozen all the way

25 years ago — February 2000

Those strolling the halls of Cornwall Consolidated School Jan. 28 may have been a little surprised. As part of a final farewell to Principal

William Oros, students and staff sported a photocopied image of him tied to the backs of their heads. At the start of the farewell party, an unsuspecting Mr. Oros thought he was just going to say a simple goodbye to his staff and students. Instead, when he entered the gymnasium he was greeted by more than 200 images of himself as students from kindergarten through eighth grade, teachers, staff, parents and even State Rep. Andrew Roraback (R-64) turned around revealing the paper cutout. The disguised principals then broke out into a song they had written for him and the day was proclaimed Mr. Oros Day. "I'm touched you all came to say goodbye," Mr. Oros said. He added that if the students were good he would be willing to give them Saturday and even Sunday off from school. And if they were really good it looked like they could have Monday off too if it snowed enough. Mr. Oros came to the school 29 years ago as an upper-grade teacher and has been principal since 1984. He has accepted a position in the Bethany School District beginning in February.

Already known to car enthusiasts as a "jewel" among race courses, Lime Rock Park is getting a \$250,000 upgrade that will improve the park for fans and drivers alike. "This track is really a jewel, a beauty spot among tracks of this type," said John Fitch, a former championship race car driver and one of Lime Rock's original designers and managers. He is a resident of Lakeville. A new irrigation system is being installed that will affect conditions in the paddock, the spectator areas and even the snack stands.

SHARON — WKZE 1020 AM has added Larry Wright to its team of broadcasters. Mr. Wright will host the Tri-State Marketplace each Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Tri-State Marketplace is a live show where listeners can call 860 364-1020 to sell items on the air.

CANAAN — It wasn't just the burgers and fries that were hot at McDonald's Saturday morning. An electrical fire in a menu board filled the Route 44 restaurant with smoke and forced an evacuation of customers and employees. According to manager Betsy Ross, there were 15 to 20 customers and seven employees in the building at the time. No injuries were reported. Canaan Fire Company officers quickly determined the source of the smoke. Power to the menu board was turned off and an electrician was called. The restaurant reopened about 30 minutes later.

OBITUARIES

Robert A. Barton

COPAKE — Robert (Bob) A. Barton of Copake Falls passed away at the age of 80, on Jan. 23, 2025, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He was vacationing at his sister's home in Sarasota, Florida, at the time of his death.

Bob or Bobby, as he was affectionately known, was a shining light in the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him. Bob's personality brought warmth and joy to everyone he encountered. His journey on this earth was one marked by love, giving spirit, compassion, and unwavering faith in God. His passing has left a void in the hearts of his family, friends, and many more whose lives were touched by him

Bob was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, Nov. 22, 1944, along with his twin brother Richard, a real surprise to his parents, Kenneth L. Barton and Carolyn H. (Chadbourne) Barton. Bob grew up in Ancramdale, New York. He always loved Ancramdale and felt fortunate to have grown up in such a beautiful place. Bob attended elementary school at Pine Plains Central School, Pine Plains, New York, middle school at Immaculate Conception School, Amenia, New York, high school, St Mary's Academy, Hudson, New York. He received his associate's degree from Dutchess Community College, Poughkeepsie, New York.

Bob was a radio, teletype operator during his time as a veteran of the US

Army (1967-1969); he was stationed in Germany for a year. In 1971, after his military service and a year living in Boston, Bob and his twin brother Richard bought a small general store (Grube's) in Copake Falls. He and his brother operated the store and lived over the store for five years before renting the store space to the US Postal Service. The Copake Falls Post Office continues to occupy that space. Bob and his brother continued occupying upstairs, sometimes part time, sometimes full time until his death.

After college, before being drafted into the Army, Bob worked in Wallace's Department Store, Poughkeepsie, New York, as an assistant buyer in the home furnishings department. After military service he located in Boston, Massachusetts where he worked at Filene's men's department.

In 1970 Bob decided to move back to Columbia County, New York to join his brother in a business venture in Copake Falls. In 1979 Bob, again moved back to Boston to work at the US Small Business Administration, District Disaster Office. Soon after transferring to the Boston Veterans Administration Hospital in late 1979, marking the beginning of his long career with the VA Health Care System. In 1986 he moved to Plainsboro/Princeton, New Jersey area to join his life partner, continuing to work for the Veterans Administration in

the VA Health Care System, New Jersey, until he retired Dec. 2007 after 28 years with the VA Health Care System.

After retirement Bob moved back to Ancramdale with his partner of 35 years, John (Jack) W. Seiber. Bob and Jack married on Aug. 1, 2011, in Manhattan. After a few years in Ancramdale, they moved to Sarasota, Florida. After Jack's death Bob moved back to Copake Falls in 2023.

In addition to his husband, Bob is also predeceased by his parents Kenneth and Carolyn Barton; his brother, Walter E. Barton; sistersin-law Karen S. Barton and Shirley H. Barton and nephews Fred Barton and Jacob Barton.

He is survived by his

brothers; Kenneth Fred Barton, San Antonio, Florida, Gerald Barton, West Copake, twin brother Richard, Copake Falls, and sister Elizabeth (Betty) Podris (Lizzy to her brother Bob) and brotherin-law Robert (Bob) Podris, Ancramdale. Also surviving him are nephews and nieces; Brian Barton, Saratoga, New York, Jeffery Barton, Groveland, Florida, Michael Barton, Ancram New York, Kristin Barton McNary, Saratoga, New York, Jason Podris, Belfast, Northern Ireland, David Podris, Sarasota, Florida, Hunter Barton, Millbrook, New York and many great nieces and nephews and his dear friend Pradeep Gupta (Pg), Bronxville, New York.

Time and date of services to be announced later. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery, Pine Plains, New York. Anyone wishing to make a memorial donation should send it to Ancramdale Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 99, Ancramdale, NY 12503, Roeliff Jansen Historical Society. PO Box 172, Copake Falls, NY 12517 or Copake Iron Works, PO Box 222, Copake Fall, NY 12517.

Realtor® at Large Given the current events, it

is now imperative that our immigrant neighbors know their rights under the Constitution. A great place to start is with the ACLU Connecticut website: www.acluct.org/en/know-yourrights/immigrants-rights. For our Spanish speaking friends and neighbors, the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants has an informative website: cirict.org/wp-content/ uploads/2024/12/KYR-New-V2.1Spanish.pdf. Para nuestros amigos y vecinos de habla hispana, el Instituto para Refugiados e Inmigrantes de Connecticut tiene un sitio web informativo: cirict.org/wpcontent/uploads/2024/12/KYR-New-V2.1Spanish.pdf.



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GAMBLING

Continued from Page A1

Jamie Calvano, Senior Director of Quality and Compliance at the McCall Behavioral Health Network based in Torrington, said part of her job at the moment is using a state grant to train staffers in how to work with problem gamblers — because it keeps coming up.

She said since the advent of online gambling in Connecticut in 2021, the gamblers have gotten a lot

"We're seeing a lot of college students."

Michelle Feuerbach is the Program Manager of Outpatient Services at Mountainside Treatment Center's North Canaan campus.

She confirmed the increase in younger gamblers.

"Definitely younger males, often former athletes," she said. "Gambling makes them feel included."

Mountainside treats problem gambling when it is a co-occuring disorder along with substance abuse because the facility is not licensed to treat gambling as a standalone disorder, she said.

So when she or another clinician discusses gambling with a client, "I want to know what it does for them."

Feuerbach broke down

different categories of gam-

Sports gamblers feel a connection with the games and enjoy the competitive aspect of sports betting.

Action gamblers are thrill-seekers, she said. Casinos attract action gamblers, but it could take any form, such as scratch-off lottery tickets.

Escape gamblers are often women, "typically later in life."

And there are gamblers who concentrate on the various state lottery games.

Brian Hatch is the Community Engagement Manager for the CCPG, and he is a recovering gambler.

He said he started gambling as a child, "playing poker with gramps" for small amounts of money.

By high school he was betting on whatever was handy.

And in his freshman year of college he spent more time at the casino playing blackjack than in class. The school asked him to leave.

He struggled for several years, putting together multi-

99th Jumpfest competitors soar to great heights

year periods without gambling, only to relapse.

His last bet was in July of

Now he works for the CCPG and hosts a podcast: "ALL IN: The Addicted Gambler's Podcast."

One thing stands out about Hatch and his story.

He does not have a co-occurring substance abuse problem.

"I mean, I drank a little, but for me gambling was always the thing."

Hatch said that while he finds total abstinence from gambling to be the key to his recovery, he is open to utilizing the concept of "harm reduction" with struggling gamblers.

In the substance abuse arena, harm reduction includes tactics such as providing clean hypodermic needles for intravenous drug users, or providing Narcan and training in its use for addicts or their friends or

In the gambling context, a gambler going to a physical gambling location such **Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling** offers a 24-hour Problem Gambling Helpline at 888-789-7777. The helpline provides free, immediate support and connects callers to treatment options.

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services offers problem gambling services and can be reached at 860-344-2244

as a casino can bring a set amount of cash and no more. When the cash is gone, it's time to go.

"Losing \$100 isn't great, but it's better than losing \$500."

Feuerbach agreed, adding that in Connecticut, the state Department of Consumer Protection offers a "Voluntary Self-Exclusion" program that cuts the gambler off from the online betting operations Draftkings, Fan-Duel, and PlaySugarHouse, and the retail sports betting outlets Winners and Bobby

The two Connecticut casinos, Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods, also offer Voluntary Self-Exclusion programs for their physical locations in Connecticut. To exclude from physical casino gaming, each casino requires individuals to complete and return

Hatch said as he gambled, he had "a sense that my life was about to change, over and over."

"It was the anticipation, not the winning."

This observation squares with Feuerbach's experience.

"It's not even about the money," she said.

"What they are trying to get out of it is usually a feel-

Nordic Combined

Saturday, Feb. 1

K65 Jump / 5-kilometer

Female 1. Caroline Chor (FS) 75.1

U16 Male

1. Will Coffin (NYSEF) 45

2. Galen McCusker (LOC)

Senior Male

U.S. Cup Male

1. Jack Kroll (NYSEF)

2. Duncan Van Dorn

3. Cadel Cox (NYSEF/

(NYSEF) 62.1 points, 13:00

K20 Jump / 3-kilometer

U10 Female

 Adalina Weibrecht (NYSEF) 118.8 points, 12:19

2. Willow Howe (NYSEF)

U10 Male

1. Wyeth Taylor (SWSA)

2. Caleb Bodwell (SWSA)

3. Frank Politi (NYSEF)

4. Henry Sheil (SWSA)

5. Camden Hubbard (SWSA) 97.2 points, 16:11

6. Emerson Bodwell (SWSA) 15.6 points, 18:58

AOC) 63.6 points, 13:07

1. Burke Pekala (AOC)

points, 15:36

points, 15:17

54.9 points, 16:57

42.3 points, 13:47

101.7 points, 14:10

74.8 points, 13:43

142.3 points, 8:01

118.2 points, 10:25

107.6 points, 12:11

85.8 points, 11:50

PADDLE

Continued from Page A1

all levels of the game," Lake remarked that players can "continue to grow better at any age."

The rules of the game closely resemble tennis, and they will be familiar to anyone who has previously picked up a racquet. But paddle player Bill Hayhurst jocularly adds another: "don't be a jerk — you might not get invited back."

For more information on platform tennis at the Town Grove, or to fill out an application, visit salisburyct.us/ paddle-tennis.

By Riley Klein

SALISBURY — Upon the conclusion of two days of competition at Satre Hill Feb. 1 and 2, Salisbury Winter Sports Association released official results for Jumpfest

Ski jumpers are scored by judges based on a combination of distance and style points. Listed here are scores and longest jump distance for the top jumpers in each category and event.

Some competitors took part in the Nordic Combined event, which includes ski jumping and cross-country skiing. Top finishing times and points are listed here.

The following clubs were represented on the podium: Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA), New York Ski Educational Foundation (NYSEF), Ford Savre (FS), Andover Outing Club (AOC), Lebanon Outing Club (LOC), Harris Hill Nordic (HHN).

Eastern U.S. Ski Jumping Championship

Sunday, Feb. 2 K65 Jump

Female

1. Caroline Chor (FS)

174.9 points, 61 meters 2. Islay Sheil (SWSA) 79

points, 40.5 meters 3. Kerry Tole (AOC) 51 points, 38.5 meters

U16 Male

- 1. Eli Larkin (NYSEF) 201.7 points, 63 meters
- 2. Spencer Jones (HHN) 164.8 points, 57 meters
- 3. Boyd Schaefer (NYSEF) 116.7 points, 48.5 meters

U20 Male

- 1. Henry Loher (NYSEF) 244.4 points, 71 meters
- 2. Jack Kroll (NYSEF) 207.8 points, 64 meters
- 3. Mitchell Penning (NY-SEF) 202 points, 64.5 meters

Salisbury Invitational

Saturday, Feb. 1 K65 Jump

Female

1. Caroline Chor (FS) 154.8 points, 55.5 meters

2. Islay Sheil (SWSA) 68.6

points, 38.5 meters 3. Kerry Tole (AOC) 43.3 points, 35 meters

U16 Male

- 1. Spencer Jones (HHN)
- 169.5 points, 55 meters
- 2. Galen McCusker (LOC) 115.7 points, 47 meters
- 3. Boyd Schaefer (NYSEF) 113.6 points, 53 meters

Senior Male

- 1. Ryan Killion (AOC)
- 123.3 points, 50.5 meters
- 2. Nathan Lorrey (AOC) 95.3 points, 44 meters
- 3. Cameron Summerton (AOC) 58.8 points, 39 meters

- U.S. Cup Male 1. Henry Loher (NYSEF)
- 221.8 points, 66 meters 2. Jack Kroll (NYSEF)
- 203.9 points, 63 meters
- 3. Mitchell Penning (NY-SEF) 187.4 points, 61 meters

K20 Jump

U10 Female

- 1. Adalina Weibrecht (NYSEF) 118.8 points, 11 metersa
- 2. Willow Howe (NYSEF) 74.8 points, 7 meters
- 3. Oona Mascavage (SWSA) 70.3 points, 7 meters

U10 Male

- 1. Wyeth Taylor (SWSA)
- 142.3 points, 14 meters 2. Caleb Bodwell (SWSA)
- 118.2 points, 11 meters 3. Alex Gavula (NYSEF)

111.3 points, 11 meters

Is a loved one, or a dear friend finding

Open Male

1. Matthew Tourville (AOC) 144 points, 11:16

For more information, visit jumpfest.org

Jack Kroll jumps for NYSEF. PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Boyd Schaefer prepares for launch as competitors wait on the stairs. a ceremonial run for the U.S. flag.

The Salisbury Invitational begins with

Mitchell Penning jumps for NYSEF. His long jump of the weekend was 64.5 meters, achieved on Saturday.

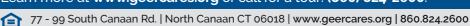
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Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

LIFESTYLE: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Dina La Fonte at Mountainside and the rise of the 'sober curious' movement

he "sober curious" movement has gained momentum in recent years, encouraging individuals to explore life without alcohol-whether for health reasons, personal growth, or simple curiosity. Dina La Fonte, a certified recovery coach, is the Senior Business Affairs Associate at Mountainside, an alcohol and drug addiction treatment center with a holistic approach to wellness that has several locations, including the one in Canaan, Connecticut. With nearly five years of sobriety, La Fonte blends professional expertise with lived experience, making her a powerful advocate for recovery.

Like many, La Fonte's path to recovery was not just about removing alcohol; it was about rediscovering herself. "Once you get sober from a substance, whether it's alcohol, drugs, gambling or what have you, emotional aspects of change come into place," she explained. "It's not a hard stop; it's a continued process of integration and struggle. Her own journey has led her to a career in recovery coaching, allowing her to help others find their own path.

"What I love about my work at Mountainside is that it allows me to be who I am without forcing me into a mold," she said. "In recovery, we identify our authentic voice, establish boundaries, and clarify what we truly want."

La Fonte explained that the rise of the "sober curious" movement may reflect a cultural shift in how we approach alcohol and self-care. La Fonte attributes this change to open conversations that break down stigma. "Even five or six years ago, admitting you had a problem came with embarrassment," she said. "Now, the more we discuss it, the more people realize they're not alone." This newfound openness has perhaps

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PHOTO BY DINA LA FONTE

Dina La Fonte

made it easier for some individuals to explore sobriety and even do so without the pressure of a lifelong commitment.

Beyond emotional well-being, La Fonte also noted the physical benefits of sobriety. "It wasn't immediate, but after a year, I noticed my skin clearing up, my energy improving, and my confidence growing," she recalled. "Casual drinking dehydrates the skin, affects sleep, and contributes to inflammation. When people realize how much better they feel without alcohol, they want to hold onto that."

In her role at Mountainside, La Fonte has expanded beyond coaching to influence organization-wide initiatives. "I still work directly with clients, but now I also help evolve how we

support them," she said. "Mountainside takes a holistic approach—integrating yoga, grief therapy, sound baths, and more. It's not about pushing people through a system; it's about meeting them where they are."

La Fonte uses her social media platform as a "micro-influencer" to promote sober living and wellness. "I focus on positivity in sobriety-whether it's skincare, self-care, or mental health. I test vegan and cruelty-free products, but I only promote what aligns with my values."

For those exploring sobriety, La Fonte's message is simple: "I'm not here to judge. I'm here to help." She encourages open conversations and meeting people where they are. "If you're curious about sobriety, let's talk. I don't need to know you to be proud of you. I don't need to know you to love you. I already love you. Just reaching out is a huge step."

With voices like La Fonte's leading the conversation, perhaps the sober curious movement is more than a trend—it's a cultural shift redefining what it means to live fully and authentically.

To contact Dina La Fonte, email her at dina. lafonte@mountainside. com, explore the Mountainside website at mountainside.com, or follow La Fonte on Instagram @dinalafonte

my hands across the chambers, the broken wood of the crowded my shoes where they

> My father's parents survived. How did they



Barbed wire at Birkenau.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Honoring the past: bearing witness at Auschwitz

an. 27 marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. I traveled to Poland as part of a delegation for the commemoration and spent a few days before the event with my father and sister learning, remembering and gathering information.

My dad's parents, Miriam and Yehuda, of blessed memory, were deported to Auschwitz -Birkenau from the Lódz Ghetto. They both had families that perished and met each other after the camp was liberated.

I put my feet in the train tracks where they would have arrived, ran walls of the horrible gas bunks, gathered dirt in would have walked, and made sure to touch the trunks of the trees along the path-innocent witnesses.

do it? Miriam was quickly sent to a work camp on the Czech border, and Yehuda played violin in the Auschwitz orchestra (aka the Death Orchestra). Music saved him. A million miracles saved them both.

Many members of our extended family did not survive.

Cuikerman was the original Polish spelling of our name. We poured over page after page of our name in the Book of Names. I can't explain it, but as I read the names-aloud and quietly—I felt some of their spirits finally release.

Innocent witnesses. I never wanted to come to Auschwitz-Birkenau. I grew up in the shadow of the Holocaust. It was part of our dark story. From the time I was very little, I saw all the images, watched the movies, read the books. I've had nightmares my whole life. I remember

Continued on B3





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PHOTO BY MATTHEW KRETA

James Shay signed copies of his book "Mohawk Mountain Skl Area: The Birth of Snowmaking" after a talk at Hotchkiss Library of Sharon Feb. 2.

BOOKS: MATTHEW KRETA

Examining Mohawk Mountain's rich history

he Hotchkiss Library of Sharon hosted local author James Shay Feb. 2 for a talk on his new book "Mohawk Mountain Ski Area: The Birth of Snowmaking."

The book follows the life of Mohawk founder Walt Schoenknecht and his important contributions to the sport of skiing.

The evening presentation was delivered to an engaged audience of skiing fans in the library's main room. Shay began his talk with a few photographs of views from the top of Mohawk Mountain, showing distant mountain ranges, uniquely eroded rock faces and structures that still stand from the times of the revolutionary war.

Shay showed pamphlets, posters and original hand drawn maps and designs from when Mohawk first opened in 1947.

Shay spoke about the life of Walt Shoenknecht, the main subject of his book. Shoenknecht founded the Mohawk ski trails in 1947, leasing the land in 1946 and spending \$45,000 on the construction of the ski

In Mohawk's second season, Mohawk did not get any snow and resorted to ordering several tons of ice blocks, crushing them and spreading them on the slopes. This process was time consuming, costly and overall a worse experience than real snow. From this season, Shoenknecht got the idea to look into snowmaking. Shoenknecht enlisted the help of the TEY Manufacturing company, run by Wayne Pierce, Dave Richey and Art Hunt. The three engineers used the research of Ray Ringer to build the first snow making machines. These machines were brought to Mohawk and are the first documented case of a trial run of the snow making machine.

TEY ended up filing the first patent for these devices, and snow machines were installed on the mountain. The machines continued to develop and evolve up through the 1980's and today there are one hundred modern snow machines on the slopes of Mohawk.

Shoenknecht was inducted into the skiing hall of fame in 1979 for his many contributions to the sport introduced in his ski areas on Mohawk and Mount Snow in Vermont. Today, Shoenkneckt's daughter Carol Lugar remains the president of Mohawk as one of the few remaining family-owned ski areas in the United States.

MUSIC: MIKE COBB

Trina Hamlin harmonica workshops at The Norfolk Library

rina Hamlin is a singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist based in Norfolk, Connecticut. Widely regarded as an accomplished performer, Hamlin has toured the U.S. and abroad for more than two decades with Melissa Etheridge, Dar Williams, Susan Werner, Charlie Musselwhite, and more.

A masterful player, Hamlin will be teaching free, introductory harmonica classes at the Norfolk Library Feb. 3 and 10 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Her affectionate, playful style on stage and in the classroom have earned her the reputation as a well loved and respected musical force among colleagues and students.

Hamlin loved music from an early age. She took piano lessons from 2nd through 8th grade, sang in her school choir, and over time, moved from piano to guitar and later into playing percussion/small drum kit. She eventually attended the Berklee College of Music in Boston.

"Harmonica was a happy accident. I had a friend who asked me to play it with her. She mentioned 'bending a note'. That opened up the instrument and my interest in it. It made it feel more like a voice. The second opening was harmonica as a rhythm instrument," Hamlin

Inspired by Boston-based band "The One Eyed Jacks," Hamlin also observed what Charlie Musselwhite and Junior Wells were doing.

fior wells were doing "Listening to that

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PHOTO BY NICOLE COMPTE

Trina Hamlin playing harmonica.

while having no technical idea of how to play the instrument made my head spin! I decided to just play and figure it out on my own," Hamlin said.

Hamlin primarily plays "Cross Harp" or "Second Position," which is typically where most blues players begin.

"I like it because it allows me to use the bendable notes for a more expressive sound. I love longer, string oriented lines and grooves. The folk or first position sound of Bob Dylan or Neil Young is not my first choice, but it is very necessary in some cases," Hamlin said.

Though she is a masterful player, the instrument continues to challenge and inspire her.

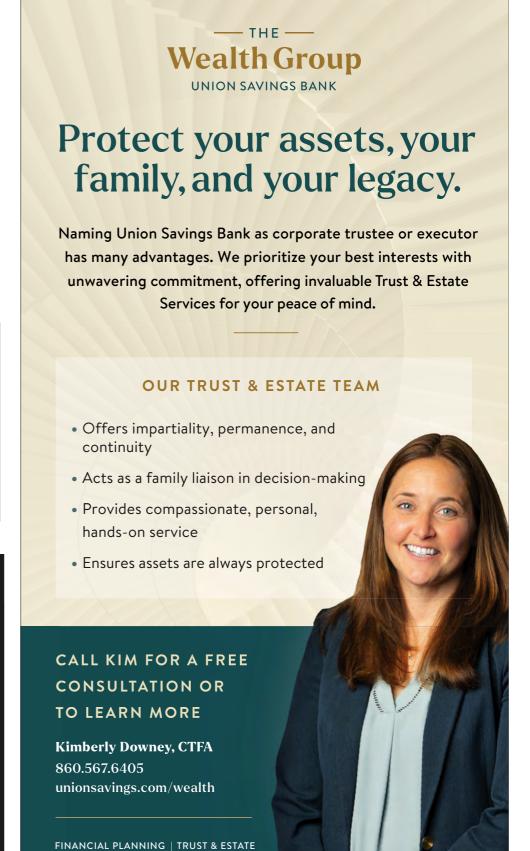
"I don't play a lot of traditional blues at this point. I love trying to play any style. The most challenging thing about it, and music in general, is leaving space for things to breathe and finding lines that add to the whole. I love that it is easy to carry and has such a wide range of expressions," Hamlin said.

Settling on the darker tones of Tombo's Lee Oskar Harps, Hamlin has suggestions for students.

"Don't buy the cheapest harmonica. They can be hard to play. Plan on spending \$25-50. Hohner Special 20's are nice and Lee Oskars are too. I usually tell students to get a C harp. You can find so many videos and tutorials online, which might help you get started. Or maybe I can help!" she said.

"Say yes and learn something new. The beauty of it is that it is set up for success, meaning, you don't need to have a musical background to make sounds. I love to give people a foundation to work with and see where it goes from there," Hamlin added.

To register for Hamlin's class, visit: norfolklibrary.org/library-events



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INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

HISTORY: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Salisbury Association gears up for 'samplers' exhibit

he next exhibit at the Salisbury Association's Academy Building will be about samplers.

Specifically, the extensive collection of Alexandra Lally Peters of Sharon and New York, which includes over 150 samplers — mostly American — dating from 1698 to 1850.

Jane Sellery was taking a look at the logistics of the display space on Saturday, Jan. 18.

Referring to a catalog of the Peters collection, she explained that samplers are usually needlepoint on linen, although there are some variations.

She pointed to the most familiar type, an alphabet, by way of orientation.

"Samplers were a status piece in the home," she said.

The exhibit will begin at the end of February, but the dates are not vet final. The show will include a talk by Peters.

Meanwhile, a visit to the Academy Building is always interesting, because there is no way to predict who or what will wander in.

The previous day, Friday, Jan. 17, when a reporter wandered in, Bill Morrill was consulting with the Association's Lou Bucceri about plans to head to Saratoga in the spring to consult with artillery experts at the Saratoga National



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Historic Park in the ongoing quest to nail down the provenance of the six-pounder cannon that stands in a corner of the

Academy building.

While this somewhat circuitous discussion unfolded, two men, one youngish and sporting

contemporary casual wear, the other seasoned and tending toward blaze orange and buffalo plaid, came in to take

Lou Bucceri, left, chatted with Bill Morrill at the **Academy Building** last month on the subject of vintage artillery.

a gander at the current show on Holley knives.

And after the cutlery enthusiasts departed, a man and his elderly mother came in, on the trail of a family portrait.

If you're keeping score, that's two visits on successive days for a combined total of about an hour, and covering the following topics: samplers, Revolutionary War cannons, knives, portraiture and men's fashion.

... Auschwitz Continued from B1

the tattoo on my grandmother's forearm. This was enough.

But until you stand in the field the size of a city and look out at the expanse of crematoria, gas chambers, bunkers, the enormity and scale is just a story, words on a page. Now I have metabolized it in a different way. Now it is part of my DNA on a deeper level. Now I am changed.

On Holocaust Remembrance Day, world leaders from fifty countries—including King Charles, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Emmanuel Macron, Justin Trudeau and so many moregathered with survivors and their families, musicians, friends and patrons of the organization in an enormous tent at the entrance to Birkenau. A freight train stood in front of the main gate. The car, from Germany, honors the 420,000 Hungarian Jews deported in 1944. Its conservation was funded by Frank Lowy, whose father, Hugo, was killed in the camp.

It radiated with horror in almost theatrical lighting, its now silenced whistle audible in the memories of all who gathered.

I listened to survivor after survivor speak. I watched as each world leader lit candles in remembrance. I said Kaddish (the Jewish prayer for the dead) with the several thousand people present.

But I only heard one person, 99-year-old Polish-born Swedish-Jewish doctor Leon Weintraub, utter any words that made sense to me, to my very fragile and shaken heart. He became a doctor after the war and told the group gathered the one absolute truth: there is only one race—the human race. He talked about the fact that under the skin, we



The gate at Auschwitz.



Prisoners slept four to a bunk at Birkenau.



Shoes taken from prisoners.

are the same, words that were beyond powerful. In the very place where the most evil "experiments" were conducted to prove the supremacy of the Aryan race, this man stood there in all his beautiful bravery and told the truth. He was able, for a moment, to remove a hierarchy of care and replace it with an expansive, human appeal. He brought the memory of all the people killed, not just the Jews when he said, "be sensitive to all manifestations of intolerance and dislike of those who differ in terms of skin color, religion or sexual orientation." He widened the conversation, lest we also forget the Romani, queer, disabled, dissidents and more that were also victims of the Nazis. Lest

we forget the lesson of



A crematorium at Auschwitz.

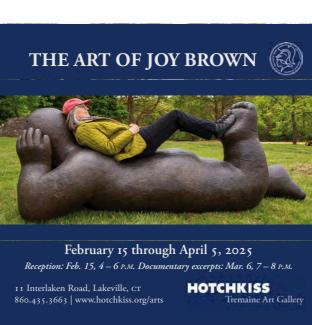
Gandhi when he said, "intolerance itself is a form of violence."

Weintraub ended by saying, "allowing the memory of millions of innocent victims to fade would be equivalent to robbing them of their lives a second time."

There are multiple

genocides on planet earth right now. There are humans in actual concentration camps as I write this. There are whole populations being murdered.

After this experience, more than ever, I vow to speak the truth as loudly and as often as I can.







Suitcases taken from prisoners at Auschwitz.

Speaking up, questioning and protesting is not only not antisemitism, it defines the core principles of what it means to be Jewish.

A beautiful Jewish human named Albert Einstein said, "Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty."

This must and will be my task. Nothing else makes any sense.



TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

Feb. 6 through March

workshop. Author and

Curran will guide you

through tried-and-

true approaches to

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feedback, support, and

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FEBRUARY 7

The Meeting House,

Congregational Church

of Salisbury, 30 Main St.,

The Congregational

Church of Salisbury

will present its monthly

First Friday Music in the

Meeting House on Friday,

Feb. 7 at 12 p.m. at 30

Main Street, Salisbury.

will open at 11:30 a.m.

This month's program,

David Baranowski will

play a varied program

including Beethoven's

beloved "Piano Sonata

C-sharp minor Op. 27,

Fantasia)." Free to the

public, Music Director

David Baranowski's

musical gift provides a time of reflection

repertory.

surrounded by inspiring,

soul-nourishing classical

No. 2 (Sonata quasi una

'Moonlight' No.14 in

of piano works,

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First Friday Music

Salisbury, Conn.

writing levels. To register

writing instructor Leigh

memoir writing, offering

techniques in structure

6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.,

for a new memoir

FEBRUARY 6

Sole Expression: An Upcycled Narrative

CT State Northwestern Founder's Hall, 4 Park Place, Winsted, Conn.

CT State Northwestern hosts artist Case Sullivan's sneaker-inspired exhibit at the Gallery at Founders Hall, Feb. 3 through 20. Artist reception: Feb. 13, 3 to 5 p.m. Free & open to the public. Info: Deborah. Kline@ctstate.edu.

It's All Relative: A Familial **Approach to Plant** Selection

White Hart Inn, 15 Undermountain Road Salisbury, Conn.

On Feb. 6 at 5:30 p.m. Patrick Cullina will explore how plant families can guide landscape design for diversity and resilience.

Christopher Bjork & William Hoynes, More **Than Just a Game**

Oblong Rhinebeck Rhinebeck, N.Y.

On Thursday, Feb. 6 at 6 p.m., Two Vassar professors unpack the youth sports industry and its impact on parenting and kids.

Free, Registration Requested. www. eventbrite.com/e/ christopher-bjorkwilliam-hoynes-morethan-just-a-gametickets-1144598156899

Memoir Workshop with Leigh Curran

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

Join us for five Thursdays,

FEBRUARY 8

Film & Discussion: Edward Hopper

Gardiner Theater, Trinity-Pawling School, 517 Route 22, Pawling, N.Y.

On Sat, Feb. 8, 2 p.m., at the Gardiner Theater, Trinity-Pawling, there will be a screening of *Hopper* by Exhibition on Screen, followed by a discussion with art historian Ned Reade. \$10 admission. No registration required.

Checkpoint Zoo + Q&A

The Moviehouse, Millerton,

On Saturday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m., there will be a screening of the film Checkpoint Zoo at the Millerton Moviehouse.

After the film: Join us for a Q&A with Director Joshua Zeman in conversation with documentary filmmaker John Hoffman.

A gripping documentary set during the early days of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, when Kharkiv's beloved Feldman Ecopark Zoo found itself caught in the crossfire between advancing Russian forces and Ukrainian defenders. Home to over 5,000 animals, the approaching front line left the zoo's creatures trapped in their

Last week's WotW

A	G	A	I	N
В	E	I	G	Е
G	R	I	M	Е
G	U	I	D	Е
G	L	I	D	Е

cages with little food and water, facing starvation and increasing danger as the Russian army approached.

Someone Special & Me **Dance**

North Canaan Elementary School - Cafeteria, 90 Pease St. North Canaan, Conn

Dance, play, snack and have fun at the Someone Special & Me Dance fundraiser event Feb. 8 from 5 to 8 p.m. Music by a DJ, a temporary tattoo shop, a photographer, pizza and refreshments in the NCES cafeteria. Support the AHA! after school program and North Canaan **Education Foundation.** Prepurchase tickets for \$10 each by contacting ahanorthcanaan@gmail. com

Art of Manifestation Class

Gerlach Hypnotherapy will host "Art of Manifestation," a virtual Zoom class to overcome limiting beliefs, on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. Learn practical techniques to align with your goals in the New Year. A fee of \$35 includes guided journey, workbook and take-home audio. For tickets, visit: www. gerlachhypnotherapy. com/classes or call (845) 789-1027 for more info.

Screening of Georgia O'Keeffe: The **Brightness of Light**

Cornwall Town Hall, 24 Pine Street, Cornwall, Conn.

On Saturday, Feb. 8 at 4 p.m., there will be a screening of the film Georgia O'Keeffe: The Brightness of Light at the Cornwall Town Hall.

The documentary is directed by Paul Wagner, narrated by Hugh Dancy, with Claire Danes as the voice of O'Keeffe. Features a Q&A with biographer Roxana Robinson. Reception follows at the library.

Duration: 1 hr 58 min

Registration: Required, space is limited.

History Talk

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

On Saturday, Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. the David M. Hunt Library, in partnership with the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society, will host local author and Housatonic Valley Regional High School history teacher Peter Vermilyea for a talk on local African American soldiers serving in the Civil War. Vermilyea will share information about Milo Freeland, a soldier serving in the 54th Massachusetts regiment whose gravestone resides at the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society

Museum, as well as those who served in the 29th Connecticut, another allblack regiment. February is Black History Month. This talk is free and open to the public.

Retreat About Mother Olga

All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church, 313 Twin Lakes Road, Salisbury, Conn.

Join All Saints Feb. 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. in celebrating the newest and first native Alaskan saint of America, Matushka Olga Michael of Kwethluk, known by the pious peoples of the Kuskokwim as Arrsamquq. Come hear about the life and miracles of this saintly woman. The retreat will be led by Fr. Steven Hosking who lived in a village in the same region of Alaska for several years. For more information email allsaintsofamericaCT@ gmail.com or call (860) 824-1340.

FEBRUARY 9

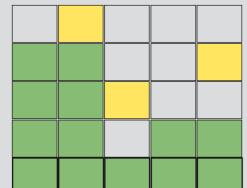
Film & Discussion: John Singer Sargent

Gardiner Theater, Trinity-Pawling School, 517 Route 22, Pawling, N.Y.

On Sun., Feb. 9, 2 p.m., at Gardiner Theater, Trinity-Pawling, there will be a screening of *John Singer Sargent* by Exhibition on Screen, followed by a discussion with art historian Ned Reade. \$10 admission. No registration required.

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. To dazzle or astonish
- 2. Description of a lush cake
- 3. Powers a car: "mover" in Latin
- 4. Estuary opening point
- 5. Black History _

WORD OF THE WEEK ©THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL



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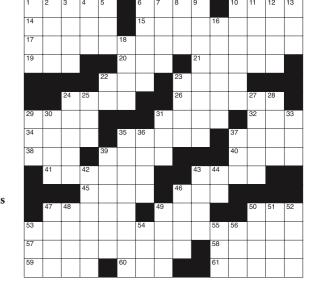
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. "The Las Vegas of the East"
- 6. Cook
- 10. Manning and Wallach are two
- 14. Chameleon
- 15. A way to fill up 17. What MLBers hope to
- play in 19. Unhappy
- 20. Indefinite period of
- time 21. Excites
- 22. Males
- 23. Mongol leader Genghis 24. Turfs
- 26. Soda comes in them
- 29. Not nice 31. Professional
- organization
- 32. Part of a play
- 34. Sea eagle 35. Emily Blunt's character
- in "Sicario"
- 37. Beige 38. Mental sharpness
- 39. Valley
- 40. Alcyone's husband
- 41. A place to gamble
- 43. Flightless Australian birds
- 45. Call out somebody's name over a P.A. system 46. US spy group
- 47. Pancakes from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Disfigure 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal 58. Early English council
- 59. Square measures 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Siskel and __, critics

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Mouths 2. Buffalo
- 3. You plug it in
- 4. Each 5. Largest English
- dictionary (abbr.)
- 6. King of Thebes 7. English name meaning
- 'mythical hunter"
- 8. Indicates near 9. More herbaceous
- 10. Gas-powered cars need
- 11. Dishonest individual 12. Systems, doctrines, theories
- 13. The woman 16. The whole of one's



- holdings 18. Witnesses
- 22. Doctor **23. Paul** _, Swiss painter
- 24. Kids look for him on December 24
- 25. Single
- 27. Competitions
- 28. Predict the future 29. Cage for trained hawks
- 30. Musician Clapton 31. Frozen water
- 33. Semiformal men's evening attire
- 35. Most worn
- 36. Common soap ingredient 37. Former EU monetary unit
- 39. Provisions
- 42. Book parts 43. Republic of Ireland
- 44. Partner to "Pa" 46. Sammy ___, songwriter 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Clare Booth ___, American writer



49. Solar disk in Egyptian

52. Monthly apartment cost

mythology

50. Minute arachnid

51. From a distance

53. Young women's

54. Tourist destination

55. "Woman" in Ojibwe

56. Pointed end of a pen

association

language

Jan. 30 Solution

Sudoku

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

Jan. 30 Solution





Sports

Housy upsets Northwestern

Housatonic Valley Regional High School girls varsity basketball snapped Northwestern Regional High School's eight-game win streak Feb. 3. HVRHS won 51-40 and held Maddie Topa, No. 22, to 13 points. Going into the game, Topa was 16 away from reaching 2,000 total varsity points. Northwestern remained atop Berkshire League standings with a record of 15-2, followed by Gilbert School at 13-4 and HVRHS at 12-5.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Hoops for hope

During the basketball games Jan. 31, Northwestern Regional High School's cheerleading team raised \$500 for The Gathering Place in Torrington. Along with a large collection of household items and toiletries, the money and goods will support homeless individuals. Nancy Cannavo, president of the board of directors at The Gathering Place, thanked the cheerleaders: "I am so very impressed and grateful for all of your efforts to raise funds for the homeless. Your actions show me that our youth have a wonderful heart and show tremendous compassion and caring for this very vulnerable population."

IMS wins basketball jamboree

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE — Indian Mountain School took home first place in the third annual Housatonic JV Boys Basketball Jamboree Feb. 1.

Hosted at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, the interconference tournament featured the junior varsity squads from HVRHS and Mt. Everett Regional School in Sheffield, Massachusetts plus the varsity team from IMS, which goes up to grade nine, in Lakeville.

Each game was played with two 16-minute halves and a running clock. All three teams matched against each other once for a fastpaced afternoon of basket-

In game one, IMS defeated HVRHS 52-46. Housatonic got out to a hot start and led 28-20 at halftime. IMS locked down the Mountaineers in the second half and capitalized offensively to claim the lead and go up 1-0 to start the Jamboree.

IMS faced Mt. Everett next and led from start to finish. Mt. Everett closed the gap in the second half but IMS held on to win 39-36.

After soundly defeating both JV teams, IMS was declared the winner of the Jamboree.

For the second place game, HVRHS played Mt. Everett. Housatonic's forwards Simon Markow and Ryan Segalla dominated the paint and HVRHS won 38-30 over Mt. Everett.



Simon Markow battled in the post for HVRHS.



Indian Mountain School won back-to-back games against HVRHS and Mt. Everett Saturday, Feb. 1



HVRHS wins the tip off.

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