



# The Lakeville Journal

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

## A new year, a new scramble to keep up with soaring egg prices, bird flu crisis

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — Theresa Freund gingerly removed a box containing 15 dozen large eggs from refrigeration. The fragile haul cost her \$92 a week earlier.

"That's 51 cents each ... and that was a low number," she explained during a Feb. 5 visit to Freund's Farm Market and Bakery, which she oversees with her daughter, Rachel.

At last check, she said, the price for 15 dozen eggs had skyrocketed to \$110, "and I bet it will be \$120 next week," predicted Freund, who uses them in a variety of baked goods made in her recently expanded commercial kitchen, as well as prepared food items like quiche.

After climbing in 2022 due to an outbreak of avian flu and dropping in 2023, the price of eggs has been steadily creeping up again and is expected to increase more than 20% this year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Price Outlook released Jan. 24.

The federal agency reported that the wholesale cost for a dozen large Grade A eggs, which were \$4.17 a dozen in November, has soared to a record \$6.57. The agency predicted egg prices will climb by about 20% within the year, compared with a predicted 2.2% increase for overall food prices.

At the beginning of 2023, a dozen eggs cost an average of \$4.82, the highest in the past de-



"Basically, what they are doing is destroying our local industry so that the international industry will survive."

— Theresa Freund, manager of Freund's Farm Market and Bakery

PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

**Theresa Freund, manager of Freund's Farm Market and Bakery in East Canaan, said the price for 15 dozen large eggs has risen by about \$10 dollars every week, with no sign of slowing down.**

cade, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### The bird flu is to blame

This year's egg shortage is linked to an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, or bird flu, a virus found in wild bird species that is highly contagious among domestic poultry and has a mortality rate of nearly 100%.

To slow the spread of the virus the government has ordered millions of chickens slaughtered. Fewer egg-laying chickens means that consumers, and businesses, are shelling out more per dozen as demand exceeds supply.

At Collin's Diner in North Canaan, a classic dining car style-diner built in 1940, the price of any menu item featuring eggs rose last week.

"I just raised the price on all my egg dishes by \$1," said Doonia Hamzy, whose family has owned the circa 1940's diner for the past 55 years. "This is the first time I've raised my prices in six years."

See EGGs, Page A8



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

From left, Salisbury Affordable Housing Commission Chair Jennifer Kronholm Clark, Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity Director Jocelyn Ayer, State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64), Connecticut Department of Housing Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno, Cornwall First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Cornwall Housing Corporation member Beth Frost, Capital for Change Director of Commercial Lending & Impact Carla Weil.

## Affordable housing project breaks frozen ground

By Alec Linden

CORNWALL — Legislators, officials and affordable housing advocates gathered despite the cold on the morning of Feb. 7 to celebrate the launch of a new program that will see the installation of ten new affordable homes across five towns in the Northwest Corner.

The project, coordinated by the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity and called the Litchfield County Homeownership Program, will construct modular single-family homes at each site

which will be affordable for families whose income is below the area median. The Feb. 7 groundbreaking ceremony was hosted at 349 Town St. in Cornwall, where trees have already been cleared in preparation for the new homes. According to LCCHO's website, Cornwall's median home price in 2024 was \$1,115,000. The other towns involved in the project — Washington, Salisbury, Norfolk and North Canaan — have similarly high housing prices.

See HOUSING, Page A8

## ICE activity prompts community response

By Jennifer Almquist and Riley Klein

NORFOLK — The detention of a man who works in Norfolk by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents during the last week of January has raised community concern about federal immigration enforcement in the Northwest Corner.

A pair of upcoming forums on the state of immigration will be held at Trinity Lime Rock Church, 484 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville.

Both talks are presented by Vicinos Seguros 2 (Safe Neighbors 2).

On Feb. 16 at 4 p.m., a local woman, whose husband was arrested by ICE but who avoided deportation after nine months in a detention center, will talk about her family's experience and answer questions. She will be joined by Gabriela Vega-Matthews of Casa Comunitaria de Recursos (Community House of Resources) in Poughkeepsie.

On March 6 at 6 p.m., Connecticut Attorney General William Tong will answer questions about how to protect neighbors targeted by ICE and how Connecticut's

See ICE, Page A8

## Connecticut's Black military history

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Historian and teacher Peter Vermilyea told a standing room only audience at the David M. Hunt Library about the Black soldiers from the Northwest Corner and Connecticut who fought in the Civil War Saturday, Feb. 8.

He started by noting that in the American Revolution, Black soldiers were not uncommon.

"Almost every Connecticut unit had at least one Black soldier."

But the Federal Military Act of 1797 prohibited Black men from serving in the U.S. Army — although not in the Navy.

Fast forward to Jan. 1, 1863, and President Abraham Lincoln's Presidential Proclamation 95 — ie. executive order — better known as the Emancipation Proclamation.

Vermilyea noted that the pro-

See HISTORY, Page A8



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The 29th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry is the subject of [www.project29.com](http://www.project29.com), a research project undertaken by Peter Vermilyea and his students at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.



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## In The Journal this week

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### Online This Week

#### Electing vs. appointing town treasurers

North Canaan plans to discuss changing the way it picks a treasurer. 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.

#### Icy skid in Salisbury

On the evening of Jan. 31, William Sherwood, 18, of Canaan was traveling on Lime Rock Road east of Mountain Road in Salisbury when he lost control amid slippery conditions and struck the wire rope guardrail. Sherwood was uninjured and the vehicle, a Chevrolet Silverado, was able to be driven from the scene. Sherwood was issued a warning for violating C.G.S. 14-218a, Traveling Too Fast for Conditions.

#### Main Street rear-end

On the afternoon of Feb. 1, a Toyota Highlander was followed by a Ford F150 traveling east on Route 44 in North Canaan when a third vehicle pulled out in front of the Highlander from the McDonald's parking lot. The driver of the Highlander, Amy Carol, 56, of Lakeville stopped quickly, and was rear-ended by the F150. Matthew Baker, 29, of Lakeville was the driver of the F150 and stated he was traveling too close behind the High-

lander. He was issued a written warning for C.G.S. 14-240b, Failure to Drive a Reasonable Distance Apart. Both vehicles sustained minor damage but were able to be driven from the scene, and no injuries were reported.

#### Endangerment charges in Norfolk

On the afternoon of Feb. 2, troopers served an arrest warrant to Theodore John Marolda, 52, of Norfolk for violating C.G.S. 53a-182, Disorderly Conduct, and 53a-64, Reckless Endangerment in the Second Degree. Troopers had possession of a statement dated Jan. 13 from a woman who had cleaned his house that Marolda had harassed her in a sexual and threatening way. Troopers placed Marolda under arrest and processed at Troop B. He was released on a \$2,500 nonsurety bond, and is scheduled to appear for arraignment at G.A. 18 in Torrington on Feb. 14.

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

## Community grants, student scholarship deadlines near

SHEFFIELD, Mass. — Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation is offering nearly 20 grant opportunities and 80 scholarship programs in its winter funding cycle, providing support for nonprofits, students and community organizations.

This winter's grant cycle includes funding for projects that expand access to fresh

food, strengthen the arts, advance environmental initiatives and support nonprofit innovation. The deadline to apply for most grants is Feb. 15.

The deadline to apply for student scholarships is March 15.

For details and to apply, visit berkshiretaconic.org/scholarships

# The Gathering Place set to close

By Jennifer Almquist

TORRINGTON — An announcement the first week of February shocked the local community by stating that The Gathering Place, a drop-in resource center for homeless neighbors, is closing its doors once its building on Prospect Street in Torrington is sold.

Since 2014, The Gathering Place served 26 towns in Litchfield County under the auspices of New Beginnings of Northwest Hills — a 501(c)3 organization.

"The Gathering Place, as it was created by Nancy Cannavo, was innovative and it is admired as a model of what communities should have as a homeless drop-in center and we recognize its value," said Julie Scharnberg, Vice President of Community Engagement at the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation. She explained, "The Gathering Place offers showers, laundry, mail services, a place to take a break and have a cup

of coffee, to talk to someone and seek information and get connected to the Northwest CT Coordinated Access Network system. It is invaluable to the community and a critical resource to anyone who is unhoused or at risk to being unhoused. It will be a tremendous loss to the community if it ceases to operate."

The catalyst to this sudden change is the creation of a new location for walk-in services at Trinity Church in Torrington.

Scharnberg continued, "Situated in downtown Torrington and co-located with both the soup kitchen and the cold weather overflow shelter which are both operated at Trinity Episcopal Church, this additional HUB location will ensure even more access to the services offered by a collective of providers. The expansion into Trinity will facilitate improved accessibility and coordination among, and between, the service providers while providing greater flexibility in

the hours of service."

Connecticut State Representative Jay Case, R-63, board member of New Beginnings, said that The Gathering Place, and the work of Nancy Cannavo, are of "crucial" importance.

According to the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, "more than 33,000 people, includ-

ing 13,000 children, experience homelessness over the course of a year in Connecticut."

The numbers have increased by 13% in 2024. Scharnberg said, "As homelessness continues to increase, the demand for services increases and our region must continue to meet that increased demand."

## NCCF scholarship applications now open for academic year

TORRINGTON — Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation is now accepting applications for scholarships.

Over \$450,000 in scholarship funding is available for the 2025-'26 school year. Students can find a comprehensive list of available scholarships, scholarship guidelines and application forms at yournccf.org/scholarships. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2025.

The majority of these scholarships are awarded to students within the Foundation's 20-town service area. This includes the towns of Barkhamsted, Bethlehem, Canaan/Falls Village, Colebrook, Cornwall, Goshen, Hartland, Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, New Hartford, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, Torrington, Warren, Washington and Winsted/Winchester.

## HVRHS seeks contact information for class of 1975

The Housatonic Valley Regional High School reunion committee is seeking contact information for members of the class of 1975 in preparation for the 50th reunion this summer

The following names are classmates the committee still needs to contact. Email Linda Amerighi at mydals101@yahoo.com with information.

Pamela Belcher, Leslee Boll, William Borggreve, Gerald Brammer, John Burne, Karen Chase, Milton Clay, Sarah Coons, Cynthia Cornwell, Siobhan Craig, Lorraine Cross, Peter Curtis, Patricia Dell, Thomas Derwin, Jean Dickerson, Darlene Dickerson, Beverly Distin, Julie Dodge, Cynthia Dumas, Rebecca Duntz, Michael Egbert, Norma Eklund, Leslie Farhner, Jacqueline Fleisher, Cindy Garavoy, Suzanna Gleason, Debra Gleeson, Francis Godburn, Joseph Guillian, Karen Harrison, June Howland, Barbara Howland, Robert Keller, Maryann Lamson, Elizabeth Landis, Mary LaPlaca, Elizabeth Matson, Kyle McGar-

vey, Susan McIntire, Priscilla Miles, Victor Monty, Grace Meyers, Susan Nelson, Heidi Parsons, Antonio Pocchia, Joyce Pond, James Potter, Claudia Roraback, William Silta, Sandra Silvernail, Caroline Smith, Robert Smith, Floyd Speed, Karl Sternlof, Felicia Sylvernale, Cesale Vergati, Karen Whitbeck, Robin Williams, Ann Wilson, Lorraine Wilson, Laurel Wolfe, Darwin Wood and Cheryl Young.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### Legal Notice LEGAL NOTICE SALISBURY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

The Salisbury Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 9:05am to act on an Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a Partial Garage Conversion at 54 Main Street, Salisbury, CT, 06068. This Public Hearing will be an In-Person meeting at Salisbury Town Hall with Remote Access by Live Internet Video Stream and Telephone. The Meeting Link will be posted on the Town of Salisbury website: www.salisburyct.us/agendas/. The application is available for review by contacting the Salisbury Town Clerk's office: www.salisburyct.us. February 13, 2025.

02-13-25

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

Notice is hereby given that the following actions

were taken by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on February 3, 2025:

Approved-Site Plan Application #2025-0274 by owner Town of Salisbury, to reconstruct an existing nonconforming (yard setback) municipal multisport court in accordance with section 504 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 11 as Lot 26-1 and is located at 30 Salmon Kill Road (Trotta Field), Salisbury.

8-24 referral was deemed consistent with the Plan of Conservation and Development - for the maintenance and improvement of the existing municipal multisports court at 30 Salmon Kill Road (Trotta Field), Salisbury. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 11 as Lot 26-1.

Denied without Prejudice - Special Permit Application #2024-0269 by owners Sievert and Eliza McCabe to for vertical expansion of a nonconforming residential

structure in accordance with section 503.2 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 14 as Lot 17 and is located at 21 Mount Riga Road, Salisbury.

Approved conditioned on Torrington Area Health District Approval - Site Plan Application #2025-0275 by owner Lime Rock Park II, LLC for a modified site plan to construct a 26'x52' open-air guest pavilion in accordance with section 803.5 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 4 as Lot 16 and is located at 497 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville.

Any aggrieved person may appeal these decisions to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes 0608-8.

Town of Salisbury  
Planning & Zoning Commission  
Martin Whalen, Secretary  
02-13-25

The deadline for legal notices is Friday at 4 p.m. for publication the following Thursday.

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# Our Towns

## River Woods subdivision passes

By Riley Klein

**NORTH CANAAN** — More than a year of deliberation on the proposed subdivision at Honey Hill Road has come to a productive conclusion.

North Canaan Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved the 20-lot subdivision known as the River Woods subdivision at its regular meeting Monday, Feb. 10.

In accordance with the intervenor — Housatonic Valley Association — four

conditions of approval were implemented. Acting chairman Dalton Jacquier read the conditions into the record, which include a deed of conservation protecting a 300-foot buffer extending inland from the edge of the Housatonic River, a revegetation and erosion control plan covering the 20-foot riparian zone along the river's edge, an endangered plant species survey and an archaeological survey.

George Johannesen of Allied Engineering, representing the applicant and

landowner Bruce McEver, thanked the public and the commission for its input throughout the application process.

Johannesen said the conditions of approval will be met before preparing a timeline for construction of the cul-de-sac road.

Former P&Z chairman and current conservation director at HVA Tim Abbott represented the intervenor and remarked on the lengthy process that produced “the best conservation outcome given a 20 unit subdivision.”

“It is important that projects of this scale and scope get all the time they need,” said Abbott. “Ultimately you can have confidence that you made the best choice you could.”

First Selectman Brian Ohler noted the significance of a large development in town.

“This is going to be a fast shot in the arm in a good way economically,” said Ohler, adding that it was the largest project he could think of in town “probably in the last 30 or 40 years.”



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

This newly built home on Hammertown Road sold for \$3.3 million on 6.23 acres. This 5,000+ square foot luxury home has big sky western views.

## Salisbury median property price reaches new high

By Christine Bates

**SALISBURY** — With strong January sales, 12-month median single family residential prices reached an all-time high of \$945,000 in Salisbury. Three of the four home sales were for over a million dollars while a modest cottage sold for \$560,000. Two parcels of land were sold including five acres of lake front property for over two million dollars. These results suggest continued demand in Salisbury at high price levels.

In early February there were 19 homes available for sale with 12 of them over a million dollars. The rental market includes only three unfurnished homes with 11 furnished academic, winter and summer homes available.

### Transactions

Taconic Road — 3.79 acre vacant lot 21 sold by Sydney L. Paine to Rita H. Welch for \$380,000.

185 Sharon Road — 5.17 lake front acres sold by Quale Properties LLC to Quentin Van Doosselaere for \$2.26

million.

1 Elman Drive — 1 bedroom/1 bath cottage on 15.62 acres sold by Claudia Greenberg to David Mabbott and Susie Reiss for \$560,000.

88 Hammertown Road — 4 bedroom/4.5 bath house on 6.28 acres sold by McBride Builders LLC to Alan Marash and Judi Glaser Marash trustees of Judi Glaser Marash Revocable Trust and Alan Marash Revocable Trust for \$3.3 million.

39 Brinton Hill Road — 3 bedroom/3.5 bath home on 17.9 acres sold by Andrew J. Kelly and Stephen C. Ringold to David and Stacey Lightfoot for \$1,395,000.

*\*Town of Salisbury real estate transfers recorded as sold between Jan. 1 and Jan. 31, 2025, provided by the Salisbury Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market data courtesy of Smart MLS and InfoSparks. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.*

## Trotta Field's court approved for rebuild

By Alec Linden

**SALISBURY** — The Planning and Zoning Commission approved a site plan to remodel a long-defunct multi-sport court adjacent to the Housatonic Day Care Center off Salmon Kill Road.

The location of the court, known as Trotta Field, has already been permitted for municipal recreational use in the past.

Salisbury Recreation Director Lisa McAuliffe presented the application to P&Z at its Feb. 3 meeting, explaining that the refurbished space will consist of a basketball court and four pickleball courts, and will be surrounded by a fence.

As it stands, McAuliffe said, the court is “unusable essentially.”

Land Use Director Abby Conroy said that the old court was laid with asphalt, which degrades quickly in variable and cold climates. The new material will be post-tension concrete, which has a longer life span of about

20 years.

“It's better for New England conditions,” McAuliffe added.

P&Z Vice Chair Cathy Shyer, who led the meeting in the Chair's absence, raised questions about the court's proximity to the proposed development on the Pope property. “My only concern is flexibility down the road of reinvestment in any of these facilities,” she said.

McAuliffe assured that the distance between the court and the proposed housing far surpasses the recommended distance for noise nuisance. If noise became an issue, though, McAuliffe promised it would be promptly addressed.

P&Z member Bob Riva corroborated that the court was decrepit, and agreed that post-tension concrete was a great choice for the new build, saying that The Hotchkiss School uses the material at its facilities.

**Lime Rock approved for new pavilion**  
P&Z received an applica-

tion from Lime Rock Park to build a new pavilion on the “infield” section of its race-track viewing area.

The pavilion would take the place of a temporary tent that goes up “four or five” times a year for special events, said Lime Rock Park investor Bill Reuckert, who presented the application to P&Z.

“Aesthetically, it's a big, big improvement” at one of the most popular viewing locations in the park next to the Lime Rock Chalet, Reuckert said.

Reuckert explained that the structure will be simple and non-intrusive as a post-and-beam construction with a shingle roof and gravel floor. The dimensions proposed are 26 by 52 feet, and there would be no plumbing or permanent electrical hook-ups installed. The plan

already has Torrington Area Health approval and a contracting company, Country Carpenters from Hebron, on board to handle construction.

P&Z member Alan Cockerline noted that usually proposed building plans at Lime Rock require a public hearing, but that this understated nature of this project might exempt it from that process. Other commissioners agreed, including Chair Michael Klemens who had joined the Zoom room from vacation. “This is pretty de minimum,” he said.

Cockerline emphasized that if the pavilion were to be further developed into a more invasive structure, then a public hearing would be required.

The site plan was unanimously approved by the Commission.



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## Our Towns

# DEEP discusses last year's low flows on the Farmington River

By Patrick L. Sullivan

Anglers will remember the summer of 2024 as a time of unusually low flows on the West Branch of the Farmington River.

The West Branch, which rises in Becket, Massachusetts, is impounded at two reservoirs before the famous trout fishing water starts below the Goodwin Dam in Hartland.

The water releases from Goodwin are consistently cold, which provides excellent habitat for trout, especially brown trout.

But an unusually dry period of 45-50 days hit the Northeast in general and the Northwest Corner in particular at the start of August 2024.

Because there was very little natural flow entering the Farmington system, fishing, tubing and other recreational uses suffered from a lack of water.

Erratic flows were not a new problem in last August. Earlier in 2024, the General Assembly, in response to complaints from various interested parties, passed Public Act 24-13, which addressed the regulatory aspects of the water. Gov. Ned Lamont signed the legislation in May 2024.

On Wednesday, Jan. 22, Mike Beauchene of the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection led an online information session on how DEEP is going to proceed with implementing PA 24-13. (The

draft plan is on the CT DEEP website.)

Beauchene explained the complicated regulatory situation, with the Metropolitan District Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers being the main players.

The bottom line is this: the commission has relinquished its historical claims to some of the water held in Coldbrook River lake and the Goodwin Reservoir.

DEEP and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will coordinate and manage releases with these elements in mind: Fish and Wildlife, Recreation and Tourism, Flood Risk Reduction, Hydropower, Safety, Stakeholder Engagement, and Challenges — such as drought or excessive rain.

Beauchene said the three “rules of the river” are:

The Metropolitan District Commission will release a minimum of 50 cubic feet per second from the Goodwin Dam at all times, the commission will pass all “natural inflow” — i.e. rain runoff — up to 150 cubic feet per second from the Goodwin Dam, and the commission will pass

through Goodwin Dam all releases from the Otis Reservoir in Massachusetts.

Asked how DEEP will decide what amount of water to request from the Corps of Engineers at any given time, Beauchene said the requests will be determined by actual people, not an algorithm.

“There is nothing automated.”

Typically the agency will ask federal engineers to adjust the flow once a week, on a Friday.

Beauchene said the new regimen will help maintain trout habitat, especially for brown trout. Asked if it will result in more and larger brook trout, Beauchene said probably not.

While the plan aims for a more streamlined and transparent flow regimen, Beauchene warned that there is only so much any agency can do in the event of drought or flood.

Right now, he said, “We need a lot of snow or rain. And we need it fast.”

[portal.ct.gov/deep/fishing/farmington-river-flow-plan](http://portal.ct.gov/deep/fishing/farmington-river-flow-plan)



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Cornwall Town Hall may be getting high speed internet later this year through the CEN Connect program.

## Cornwall slates municipal buildings for fiber internet

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Town employees and volunteers could see a boost in connection speeds later this year.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the plan and motioned to move forward with Connecticut Education Network internet Feb. 4.

CEN Connect is a state program that provides broadband infrastructure to municipal buildings and institutions. Grant funding is available to cover the cost of installation.

Through CEN Connect, Cornwall hopes to run fiber optic cable to Town Hall, both fire departments, the Transfer Station and the library.

Selectman Rocco Botto spoke with representatives of Litchfield and Goshen, which have already joined the Network and reportedly “love it.” It was described as fast, reliable and secure.

“It would be \$135 a month and that covers all our municipal buildings,” said Botto. “Our only other obligation per site would be that \$35 a month fiber maintenance fee.”

Each eligible site will be submitted to the Network for review and approval.

The internet comes from a main provider substation in Hartford. It was estimated that the rollout to Cornwall’s town buildings could be completed in about nine months.

The motion to move forward passed unanimously.

### Committee Appointment

On Feb. 4, the Board of Selectmen appointed Richard Bramley to the Wastewater Management Project in West Cornwall Village Construction Committee.

Bramley is the town treasurer and has attended most of the Committee’s meetings since its inception.

## Child care center accredited by NAEYC

SALISBURY — The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has accredited the Housatonic Child Care Center (HCCC) after a visit in October, 2024. The center passed its NAEYC assessment with an overall average of 96.67%. All classrooms and programs were above 95%.

The child care center has been accredited by NAEYC since 2015, and will go through the process again in 2030. HCCC, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization, has been serving young families in the Salisbury area since 1970, when it began in the Lakeville United Methodist Church.

The center is at 30B Salmon Kill Rd., Salisbury, Conn. The website is [www.housatonicchildcare.org](http://www.housatonicchildcare.org), the phone number is 860-435-9694. The executive director is Tonya Roussis, M.Ed, and assistant director is Betzy Rojas, BA in Child Care studies. The center welcomes new students and their families, and anyone who would like to see the center should contact Tonya or Betzy for a tour. Donations are always welcome, go to the website or drop by the center to donate.

The center will have a

Wine Tasting fundraiser on Oct. 25.

According to its website, [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org), NAEYC is a professional membership organization that works to promote high-quality early learning for all young children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood practice, policy, and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children. The association comprises nearly 60,000 individual members of the early childhood community and 52 Affiliates, all committed to delivering on the promise of high-quality early learning. Together, we work to achieve a collective vision: that all young children thrive and learn in a society dedicated to ensuring they reach their full potential.

## Town meeting increases sewer hookup fee, OKs new windows

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The four items on the agenda at the annual town meeting Wednesday, Jan. 5 all passed unanimously.

The agenda items were: accepting the town report; accepting the Board of Finance’s audited report; amending an ordinance to make new sewer hookups subject to a \$5,000 fee per unit, up from what Rand said was a badly outdated \$1,000 fee; and approving spending

up to \$450,000 on new windows for Town Hall.

Rand said the windows were original and in poor shape. The first round of bids were north of \$750,000, he added, so the town put the job out to bid again and got a better deal.

The town report for the 2024 fiscal year is dedicated to Jim Dresser.

First Selectman Curtis Rand said Dresser has a lengthy record of service to the town, including on the Board of Selectmen and the

Affordable Housing Commission, and the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service.

On affordable housing, Rand said Dresser “recognized at an early stage that affordable housing was a problem,” and donated five acres of land in Salisbury village for housing.

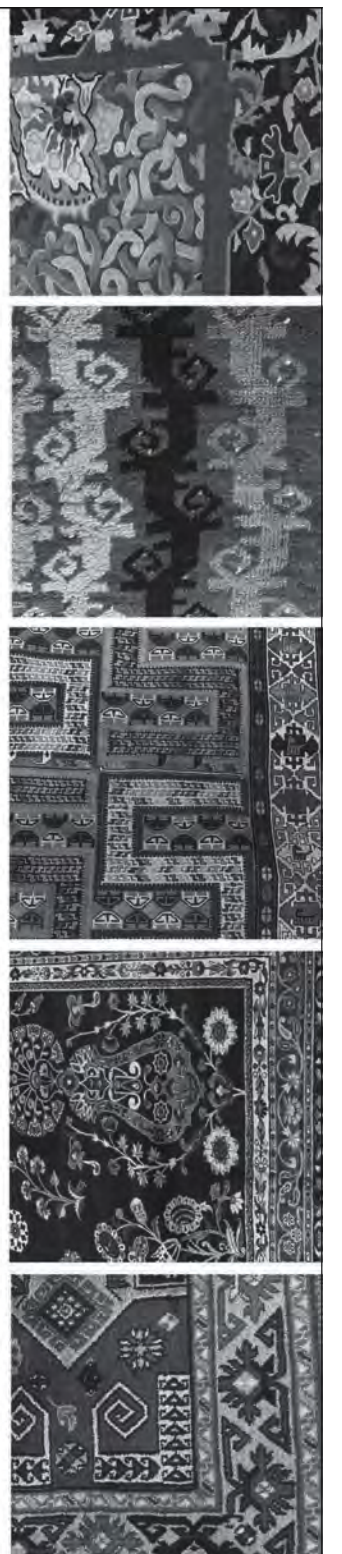
Ten people attended in person, almost all of them either members of town boards or town employees, and nine people attended online.

## CT Humanities awards more than \$10k to Sharon Historical Society

SHARON — To expand the historic and cultural narrative around Indigenous Peoples in the Northwest Corner, CT Humanities awarded \$10,829 to the Sharon Historical Society.

With the grant, the Sharon Historical Society and Museum and Litchfield Historical Society will actively engage with representatives of Indigenous communities to create relationships leading to two distinct exhibitions focusing on the Northwest Corner.

By building lasting structures that encourage mutual respect, communication, and sharing knowledge, we hope to increase understanding in the area about how Indigenous peoples, colonial settlers, and current residents have shared lands and histories.



# Tent.

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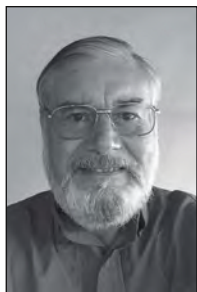
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# OBITUARIES

## Robert S. Mellis

KENT — A retired journalist and former publisher, Robert S. Mellis, age 84, passed away Jan. 31, 2025.



Robert was known for his love of storytelling, both through writing and spoken stories. Born in Inverness, Scotland, to Mary and Alexander Mellis, he was educated at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh.

He began his long journalism career as a "copy boy" for The Scotsman, the national newspaper, and later worked for a group of weekly newspapers becoming a photographer, reporter and later an editor at age 19. He emigrated to the United States in 1961 to take a position as a copy editor at the Portsmouth Herald in New Hampshire.

Robert worked for a number of well-known newspapers in various capacities across the United States. He was the news features editor at The St. Petersburg Times in the 1970s and later became the graphic arts director at The Miami Herald. He served as the managing editor at the Allentown Morning Call.

He was especially proud of the work he did as Publisher and CEO of Housatonic Valley Publishing Co., in New Milford. Robert grew the five-weekly newspaper group to seven newspapers and the flagship paper, The New Milford Times, was chosen as the best weekly newspaper by New England Press Association in 1989. The group of papers acquired 282 awards under his leadership.

Deciding to retire early at age 60, he and his beloved wife, Jo, moved aboard a sailboat and spent seven years cruising the east coast of the US and the Bahamas. The two were great travelers and ultimately decided to move

onto land to a motor home and succeeded in visiting all 50 states. Robert put his extensive photographic skills to use and captured beautiful images throughout his travels.

Later in life, he discovered a love of teaching journalism in various parts of the world. He ultimately visited 21 countries. As a Visiting Knight Fellow, Robert went to Namibia, Africa, to assist journalists at The Namibian newspaper and they invited him back for a second stint. He also served as director of the Southeast Asia Media Center based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where he lived with Jo for a year and taught young journalists from Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar how to write truthful stories and navigate authoritarian governments.

He is remembered for his humorous outlook on life and his staunch love of news and local journalism. He is survived by his wife, Margaret "Jo" Mellis of Kent; daughters Lynn (John) Mellis Worthington of Kent and Stephanie (Alessandro) Bertoni of Colchester, Vermont; granddaughters Cassandra Worthington (Mark Patrorella) of Maryland, Trisha Worthington (Derek Byrne) of Rhode Island, Isabella Bertoni of New York City; grandson Graham Bertoni of Los Angeles, California; brother William (Diedre) Mellis of England; and sister Rose Hogg of Ontario, Canada.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory may be made to the Kent Volunteer Fire Department, which was very helpful in the last year of his life, PO Box 355, Kent, CT 06757. A Celebration of his Life memorial service will be held at St. Andrew's Church in Kent, Feb. 15 at 1 p.m.

## Martha Wendt Nesbitt

LAKEVILLE — Martha Nesbitt of Lakeville, Connecticut and New York City passed away on Jan. 26, 2025. Martha, the daughter of Ruth and Henry Wendt, was born March 14, 1942, in New York City. She grew up in Sands Point and Tuxedo Park, New York.



As a child, she attended the Tuxedo Park Country Day school, and The Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, New York. Later she studied the classics at St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, and at New York University. In New York City, she worked for the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus and later in computer program design at Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America (TIAA).

Although she met her husband, Michael, in 1960 they were not married until 1972, each of them having a prior marriage. After her retirement, she and her husband of 52 years, spent most of their time in Lakeville, Connecticut. She was an active member of the Colonial Dames, the Cosmopolitan Club, the Millbrook Garden Club, the Berkshire Choral International, a mahjong group, and the Crescendo choral group. She was practicing for a Crescendo con-

cert at the time she fell ill.

She will be remembered by her family and friends as the most sweet, kind, loving and thoughtful wife, to Michael, mother to Ian, Christopher and Seth Nesbitt, sister to Nancy Evans, grandmother to Caelan, Cosmo, Esperanza, Harper, and Zephyr, and friend to all. She was especially close to her brother, Henry Wendt, and sister, Lindsay Serrell, both of whom predeceased her. A celebration of Martha's life will be held on Feb. 22, at 11 a.m. at the Trinity Church in Lime Rock, Connecticut. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Crescendo choral at: www.crescendomusic.org. Remembrances and photographs are welcomed at: marthawendtnesbitt@gmail.com The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

GOSHEN — Allan Dudley Walker, 91, of Allyn Road, died Friday morning, Jan. 31, 2025. Born Feb. 16, 1933, he was the son of Clifford R. and Irene M. (Wilson) Walker of Granby, Connecticut.

Allan was a 1951 graduate of Woodstock Academy in Woodstock, Connecticut earned a B.S. in geography at Dartmouth College in 1955, and a Doctorate degree in Education from The University of Connecticut. After serving 2 years in the Navy as 2nd Lieutenant, he settled in Woodstock in 1957, where he dedicated his life to educating young people by teaching for 3 years, and then as Headmaster at Woodstock Academy for 20 years (1960-1980).

## Linda Lee Dodge

LAKEVILLE — Linda (Hart) Dodge of Lakeville passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 4, 2025 while vacationing in Largo, Florida. She was born in Great Barrington, MA, to the late Norman and Eva Hart on Jan. 28, 1943. Linda married her late husband, Henry Dodge, and moved permanently to Salisbury/Lakeville in 1960, where she was a proud resident until her passing. She was known to most as Nana, the name her grandchildren gave her. Linda was retired from Bakers Choice Products in Beacon Falls, CT, where she was a longtime office manager. She was active in many community functions, including SWSA as a volunteer in the "food shack" at the ski jumps, the political polls, and the Lakeville food pantry. The things she loved to do most were hosting family get-to-

He was a long-time prominent figure in the leadership of the Connecticut Association of Schools starting in 1961 until his retirement. During this time, he was also active in the National Association of Secondary School Principals, serving as President from 1975-1976.



On Feb. 13, 1982, he and Joan Angelo were married and moved to Goshen, Connecticut, where they lovingly restored a 1780 Colonial and he continued his dedication to nurturing young minds as Principal of Litchfield High School (1980-88), and sub-

sequently Superintendent of Schools for the region (1988-92). Allan was an active community leader throughout his life. He was a member and officer of the Freemason Society and served in both the Muddy Brook Fire Department and the Woodstock

Volunteer Fire Association as an officer and EMT. After he moved to Goshen, he served on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Junior Republic. He was also a member of the Goshen Board of Finance from 2002 to 2025, serving as Chairman the last 21 years.

Allan loved the outdoors. He was most at home as a gentleman farmer tending his herd of Hereford beef animals, whom he treated as pets. He also enjoyed the solace and adventure of being off the grid in the northern Maine woods (T15-R9), having vacationed there since the 1960's and made many more visits there with his children and extended family. With his 2000 Porsche Boxster, he and Joan enjoyed events and tours as members of the CT Valley Region Porsche Club.

Allan is survived by his beloved wife Joan, his children, Patricia Walker of Newport,

Vermont, Allan (Carrie) Walker, Jr. of Woodstock, Connecticut, Suzanne (Ronald) Szymanski of Naples, Florida, Mary (Paul) Gallerani of Woodstock, Connecticut, Melissa (Chris) Cornell of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, his stepdaughter, Cassandra Angelo (Holly) of Glastonbury, Connecticut, his first wife, Lois Swenson and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Donald N. Walker.

The family would like to share their gratitude for the care, kindness and dedication provided by his primary VNA caregiver, Robin Gallagher, Chris Seymour, Shantal Harvey, Goshen/Cornwall Senior Bus, Goshen Fire Company and Goshen Community Care.

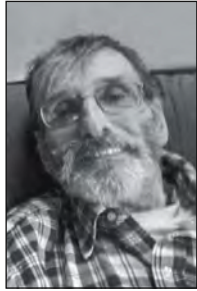
There are no calling hours. A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Connecticut Junior Republic, 550 Goshen Road, Litchfield, CT 06759, the Goshen Good Neighbor Fund, Inc., PO Box 492, Goshen, CT 06756-0492, or the Woodstock Academy, 57 Academy Road, Woodstock, CT 06281.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kenny Funeral Homes, 41 Main Street, Sharon, CT.

## Allan Dudley Walker

## Albert Kenneth 'Bud' Kniffen

AMENIA — Albert Kenneth "Bud" Kniffen, Jr., 77, a lifelong area resident died peacefully at his home in Amenia, NY on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025. Mr. Kniffen was a retired black top plant foreman, having worked for Amenia Sand & Gravel in Amenia for more than 35 years.



Born Nov. 28, 1947 in Sharon he was the son of the late Albert K. and Katherine (Ward) Kniffen, Sr. Mr. Kniffen was a graduate of Webutuck High School in Amenia and furthered his education at Alfred University where he studied black top plant operations and advancements. He served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Air Medal. He was honorably discharged on Aug. 20, 1969. Mr. Kniffen was a life member of Amenia Fire Company and Rescue Squad, a life member and past president and past secretary of the Amenia Lions Club, a life member of Millerton American Legion, Post 178 and V.F.W. Post 5444 in Dover Plains, he served on the Amenia Island Cemetery Board and was the past president of the Tri State Baseball

League. For many years he enjoyed bowling and playing softball in local leagues.

Mr. Kniffen is survived by his daughter, Jaimee Kniffen and her husband Bryan Kreps and his son, Michael Kniffen and his companion Lucinda Kalinowski; four grandchildren, Nate, Jazlyne, Elias and Saige Kniffen; his brother, Peter Kniffen; two sisters, Alberta Darnell and Linda Hamilton and several nieces and nephews and many friends. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his sister, Donna K. Whalen and her husband John and his brother-in-law Michael Darnell.

Calling will take place on Thursday, Feb. 13 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. The Amenia Fire Company will conduct services at 6:30 p.m. during visitation. A Funeral Service will be held on Friday, Feb. 14 at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will follow with Standard Military Honors at Amenia Island Cemetery, Route 343, Amenia, NY. Memorial contributions may be made to Millerton American Legion Post 178, VFW Post 5444, Amenia Fire Company or Amenia Island Cemetery. To send an online condolence please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

## Worship Services

Week of February 16, 2025

<p><b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b> 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>	<p><b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b> 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p><b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>	<p><b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b> 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>
<p><b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b> Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7252</p>	<p><b>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT</b> Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, March 9 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p><b>FISHES &amp; LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH</b> is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm &amp; Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p><b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b> Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p><b>Congregation Beth David</b> A Reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-375-8264 info@congbethdavid.org</p>	<p><b>The Sharon United Methodist Church</b> 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>
<p><b>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</b> 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p><b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b> Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates!</p>
<p><b>Falls Village Congregational Church</b> 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p><b>St. Thomas Episcopal Church</b> 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-375-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p><b>UCC in CORNWALL</b> Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>	<p><b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b> 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>
<p><b>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</b> 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p><b>Sharon Congregational</b> 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>
<p><b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b> 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>	<p><b>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church</b> 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340   allsaintsofamerica.us</p>

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More obituaries on Page A7

## CT's FOI law turns 50 — let's shoot for 100

It has been reported that the Mexican government plans to shut down that nation's highly respected National Institute for Access to Information (INAI), the country's Freedom of Information (FOI) agency. The responsibility for guaranteeing access to government information will then presumably fall to government departments subject to presidential control. In other words, a case of the proverbial fox guarding the henhouse.

INAI was modeled in significant part on the Connecticut's FOI Commission. Mexico studied the Connecticut law and its commission and learned from our successes and failures.

Unfortunately what Mexico is now experiencing with the likely closing of INAI has been happening, to one degree or another, in many countries throughout the world — including supposedly democratic ones. The United States has not been immune to this threat. Nor has Connecticut.

For example, it often takes our federal government (which has no independent FOI enforcement agency) years to process even a simple request for information and in many cases government agencies deny requests with questionable claims of exemptions. The only option then for a disappointed requester is to go to the expense of filing a lawsuit, which in itself can take years to resolve. And in Connecticut, numerous unnecessary exemptions have been added to its FOI Act and there have been several notable attempts to curtail the FOI Commission's independence and funding.

Connecticut's FOI Act turns 50 in 2025. The law was enacted in 1975 during the post-Watergate reform era. Over time, it too has been weakened. But remarkably, it has largely endured thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the commission and its staff, supporting nonprofit organizations, such as the Connecticut Foundation for Open Government and the Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information, and, importantly, the many Connecticut citizens who rely on the commission to administer and enforce the FOI law.

That is why the commemoration of the 50th Anniver-



PHOTO FROM CT.GOV

### CT MIRROR VIEWPOINTS MITCHELL W. PEARLMAN

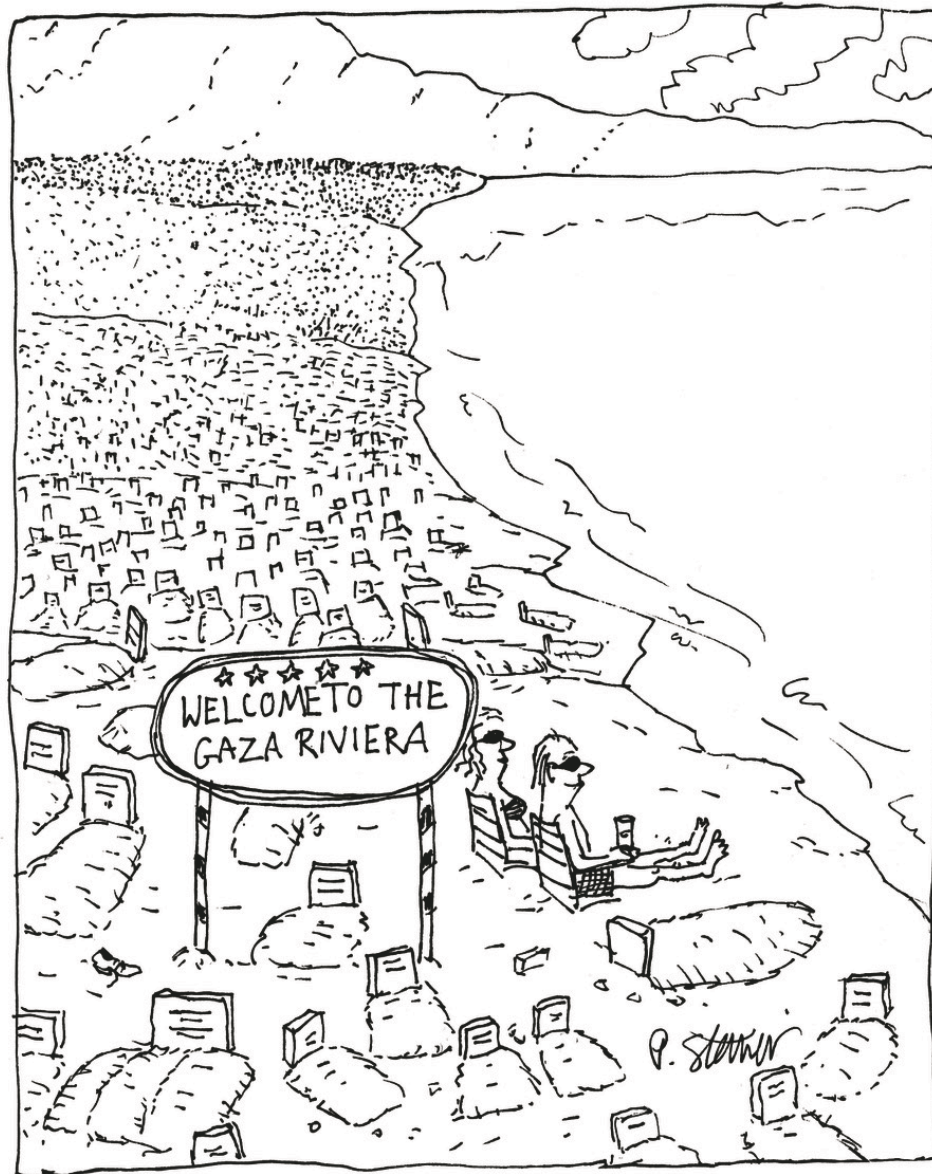
sary of FOI in Connecticut is so significant: it has survived substantially intact for half a century where in many other places similar laws have not. The law still remains a vital — and sometimes the only — tool for citizens and the press to uncover government inefficiency, waste and corruption.

But laws and institutions that promote government transparency and accountability require constant vigilance. The Connecticut FOI experience over the past 50 years proves that such vigilance does indeed work.

We should be justifiably proud that Connecticut has for 50 years maintained an effective and credible FOI law that provides its citizens with meaningful government oversight and accountability. The fact that the law has survived to its golden anniversary is a tremendous achievement.

But we can only hope to move that record forward for another 50 years or more with continued vigilance. And by doing so, we can keep Connecticut as a beacon of open government for the entire world well into the future.

*Pearlman was formerly the executive director of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Foundation for Open Government and the Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information.*



Deadline for letters is Monday at 10 a.m. Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com Include town and phone number.

### LETTERS

## Calling your senator

Whatever your thoughts and ideas about our country's political system, I strongly encourage everyone to leave a voicemail at your senator's office to express what you think. It's quick but effective in sharing what matters to you.

The phone number for all the Senate is 202-224-3121. You'll be forwarded to your senator's direct line once you say his or her name, and you simply leave a message stating your thoughts.

Lynn Curtis  
Falls Village

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Short-sighted firing at NLRB

In the onslaught of statements and actions coming at rapid speed from the Trump administration, it is often difficult to react to any particular matter. As a former administrator at the National Labor Relations Board, I feel compelled to speak out about an action taken at my former agency.

A few days ago, Board Member Gwynne Wilcox was informed by email late at night that she was fired. No notice. No hearing. No reason except that her decisions were not in line with the Trump administration

policies. Just go.

Member Wilcox, the first African-American woman to serve on the Board, was confirmed by the Senate for term that expires in 2028. This was the first time a Board Member has ever been fired since the passage of the statute in 1935. The National Labor Relations Act was specifically designed to attempt to limit political influence in the decision-making of the Board by including in the law a provision that states that Board Members may not be removed except for "neglect of duty or malfeasance in of-

face but for no other reason."

This short-sighted action, if allowed to stand, will establish a precedent that will undermine any credibility and neutrality that the Board currently possesses. The statute that the Board administers bars employers from firing employees for supporting a union, requires both union and employers to bargain in good faith, and outlaws many types of union picketing or certain threats against an employer's suppliers or customers for merely doing business with an employer in a dispute with the union. Also, signifi-

cantly, the NLRB conducts secret ballot elections to determine whether employees wish to be represented by a particular union. The discharge of Member Wilcox reduces the number of Board Members to two, less than a quorum, thereby making it impossible for the Board to make a decision in any case. A union seeking to represent employees must now turn to economic or other means of persuasion to gain recognition. One of key purposes of the Act was to provide a neutral, non-economically disruptive method of deciding if a union should be certified as the bargaining representative.

The destruction of the impartiality and effectiveness of the NLRB will have widespread consequences, including the total politicization of the Agency appointments leading to changes with every administration; certainly not within the objectives of the current administration.

Dan Silverman  
Former NLRB, Regional Director and Acting General Counsel  
Falls Village

## Need to stop provoking each other

This is regarding two letters that appeared in The Lakeville Journal, one from Mr. Lloyd Baroody concerning Israel's conduct in the West Bank and with respect to its war on Hamas, and a second, reply letter.

I feel well positioned to write this letter for four reasons. Mr. Baroody and an author of the reply letter are friends of mine, I am Jewish, I support Israel's right to exist within secure borders, and I am considered by many as significantly left of center politically.

I am critical of both letters. Mr. Baroody's because of his use of trigger words, which provoke rather than persuade people. And the reply letter because it took the bait, focused on things Mr. Baroody did not say, reacted primarily to the trigger words and ignored the substance of Mr. Baroody's criticisms.

For example, the reply letter states "there is no room for humor regarding the barbaric event of Oct. 7, the worldwide outbreak of antisemitism unleashed by that event or the constant call for the eradication of the of the State of Israel". However, Mr. Baroody's letter made no reference, humorous or otherwise, to any of that.

The reply letter justifies the size of American aid to Israel by saying it "never leaves American hands" while ignoring Mr. Baroody's implicit point that that aid supplies Israel with massive

amounts of weapons which are used in Gaza and the West Bank (aka Palestine).

Regarding the trigger words, the letter states "The most obnoxious part . . . is [Mr. Baroody's] use of the terms "genocidal slaughter" and "holocaust." Those terms, as the reply letter states, "describe the 20th Century Jewish experience in Germany and Europe" but the letter criticizes Mr. Baroody for not restricting those terms to that meaning. However, my Merriam-Webster dictionary indicates additional meanings. For example, the dictionary states "holocaust" also refers to "a mass slaughter of people," providing as an example "a holocaust in Rwanda." Note: This is not to deny that these words should be expected to trigger/provoke strong emotional reactions.

We don't need to agree with each other but we do need to stop provoking each other, and to resist taking the bait and being provoked. And we need to remain open to critically reviewing and reassessing our beliefs, views and opinions. To that end we need to actively seek out, listen to and respect people holding views with which we disagree.

Few people would, and I know Mr. Baroody does not, justify the barbaric attack on Israel on Oct. 7. Further, few people would deny the justice of a war in response. What people reasonably can differ about is the morality of the

manner in which Israel has conducted the war in light of the tens of thousands of non-combatant Gazan Palestinian men, women and children who have been killed (Israel and Hamas disagree only about how many tens of thousands) and about how Israel is conducting itself in the Occupied West Bank/Palestine.

Rick Robbins  
Sharon

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Appreciation for Auschwitz article

Thank you to the Millerton News and to Natalia Zukerman for a profoundly moving article on the importance of remembering, honoring, and bearing witness at Auschwitz. In a time when historical memory is often challenged or diminished, this piece served as a poignant and necessary reminder of our collective responsibility to preserve the truth.

Through eloquent storytelling and heartfelt reflection, Ms. Zukerman not only honored her family's legacy, the victims and sur-

vivors of the Holocaust, she also underscored the moral duty we all share to confront history with honesty and vigilance. The emphasis on remembrance as a means of ensuring that such horrors are never repeated resonated deeply with me.

I hope that more pieces like this will continue to be published, fostering awareness, education, and, most importantly, compassion. Sincere gratitude to Natalia Zukerman for her thoughtful and beautifully written piece.

Nina Peck  
Amenia

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

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**Volume 128, Number 28 Thursday, February 13, 2025**

**Mission Statement**  
LJM Media, Inc. Publishers of  
**The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News**  
Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

**EDITORIAL STAFF:** Riley Klein, managing editor; Patrick L. Sullivan, senior reporter; Natalia Zukerman, arts, lifestyle & engagement editor; Nathan Miller, Editorial and Digital Content Coordinator; Alec Linden, reporter.

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## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago —  
February 1900

Fifty years of married life. How few couples who, when they unite in the bonds of matrimony are privileged to live together fifty golden years. Reader just pause and reflect over the family history tied up in those five decades. The joy, the sorrow, the prosperity and adversity of life come to us all, and how beautiful the sight as we gaze upon the aged but faithful couple who have rounded out this remarkable record of marital happiness. We refer to a most happy event — the 50th anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Silas Silvernale, which took place at their home on Wednesday evening Jan. 31st. Mr. and Mrs. Silvernale are still in good health, although the furrows of care and toil have left their marks upon them as it must upon all of us who survive. There were about 40 guests present, the majority of whom were relatives.

The first whist party of the season was given by Miss Jennie Clark last Friday evening. About 30 guests were present and all enjoyed the evening thoroughly. Mrs. D.T. Warner and Mrs. P.H. Sellew were the fortunate winners of the first prizes. Much merriment was caused by the second prizes. One won by Miss Annie Bennett, a small riding whip with inscription "Something to make you a little smart-er!" The other won by W.R. Russell, a box of shoe blacking with inscription "You can shine at the foot, if not at the head."

Five Torrington boys between the ages of 11 and 14 plotted to rob a grocery store in that borough last week. While one boy engaged the proprietor drawing oil, two others stood guard while the remaining two robbed the money drawer of \$25. The merchant missed the cash, and had the young robbers arrested. All of the money except 80 cents spent for candy, was recovered and the boys were let off with a severe reprimand and warning against a second offence from Judge Roraback.

Asa Edleman is employed at the bicycle factory.

The West Norfolk public school building is to be enlarged and otherwise improved at the expense of Mr. Carl Stoeckel. The school has been overcrowded for some time. Mr. Stoeckel observed this and offered to enlarge the building if the trustees would give him permission to do so. The trustees gladly accepted his generous offer and Mr. Stoeckel immediately engaged Architect Kellar of Hartford to draw plans.

"The bells go ringing for Sarah" at J.M. Miller's harness store. Sleigh bells for everybody, get a set and put them on your equine.

Canaan has several cases of measles at present.

Many have been amused to witness the sport the boys have had coasting down Furnace Hill this week. A bank of snow was constructed near the foot of the hill, and when the toboggans struck it the boys, toboggan and all would bound up into the air several feet and come down with a slam. This sort of thing was heaps of fun for the boys, but wouldn't do for people with false teeth or wigs. Oh the happy hours of childhood.

100 years ago —  
February 1925

The directors and stock holders of the Sharon Casino Co. held a meeting recently, the question of rebuilding the structure recently destroyed by fire was before the meeting. The meeting proved satisfactory and it is very probable that the burned building will be replaced some time in the near future. In case there is no change in the plans it is understood that the new building will be semi fireproof. An investigation of the reason of poor water pressure at the time of the fire was conducted recently by Engineer Wadhams of the Public Utility Commission. It was found that the gate at Beardsley Pond was nearly closed when it should have been entirely open.

The ice on the lake previous to the recent thaw was said to be 25 inches in thickness.

Mrs. Daniel Lorigan, Miss Helen Lorigan and Miss Nora McCarthy motored to Pittsfield last Thursday.

Ralph Hunter of Lime Rock received from his grandmother a present of a piano.

50 years ago —  
February 1975

Salisbury's annual ski jumps became largely a two-man confrontation between friendly rivals this past weekend as Jay Rand and Petter Kongski both turned in spectacular performances on a sub-freezing Satre Hill. It was Rand though, who finally took home the big prize, retiring the Magnus Satre Trophy.

Figures presented to Court of Common Pleas judges by a committee of Northwest Corner lawyers give "conclusive evidence" of enough volume of business to justify a court session in Salisbury one day a month, attorney Frank Dooley told The Lakeville Journal Monday. The judges are to decide at a conference Friday whether to go along with the promised recommendation by Chief Judge Roman J. Lexton that full monthly sessions of the Court of Common Pleas be held in Salisbury for the remainder of 1975 on a test basis. These would be available for criminal, traffic and civil cases.

Top entries in the Dial-A-Ride poster contest at Salisbury Central School were created by Marisa Lorenzo, 3rd place; Laura Anastasio, 2nd place; David Soper, 1st place and Darin Reid, honorable mention. The posters will be displayed throughout the town this next week.

Charles and Carole Larkey have purchased five lots from the Music Mountain farm subdivision owned by William Sydney of Housatonic, Mass. The 54-acre tract adjoins the land already owned by the Larkeys. Mrs. Larkey is Carole King, a professional singer and songwriter.

A new grain and feed supply store opened in the center of Canaan early in February. The new outlet, the Canaan Grain and Supply Company, is located next to the Canaan Oil offices on Railroad Street, and specializes in Purina products. The new business is being operated by Fred Smith of Norfolk, a young man venturing into

his first major commercial operation. Mr. Smith previously operated a general services business during the summer months and worked for Canaan Oil before opening the grain business.

The Kent Milk Bar, long a fixture of village life, closed its doors earlier this year when Ted Knapp retired after doing business for 20 years on the premises. Now it is open under new management. Colleen Bianco has purchased the business and is eager to serve Mr. Knapp's former customers. Mrs. Bianco has announced that the milk bar will continue to supply daily and Sunday newspapers. We wish her the best of luck.

Backers of Peter Reilly are more certain than ever this week that the 19-year-old youth did not kill his mother, Barbara Gibbons. They were told Tuesday that lie detector tests administered to Reilly last Saturday at the home of Meyer (Mickey) Madow indicate that the young man is innocent of the charge. Peter was reported to have come through the polygraph "with flying colors," Madow said.

25 years ago —  
February 2000

Sharon Hospital officials this week named the consulting firm which will aid in its search for a partner hospital or other organization and said they anticipate establishing a new professional affiliation by September. Sharon Hospital administrators and board members remain committed to looking for ways to maintain the quality of the community facility in the face of strong adversity.

Calling the crosswalk in front of Salisbury Central School an accident waiting to happen, a group of parents has formed a traffic study committee to improve safety at the intersection of Route 44 and Lincoln City Road. The intersection has been an area of concern for many years.

Housatonic Valley Regional High School student Rob Beucler of Kent will be available at the Kent Memorial Library to assist residents and library members with Internet skills. One-hour appointments are available Wednesdays. For more information contact the library.

"Some days I see more traffic out back than I do on the road," Dottie Jacquier said, gesturing toward the wide window in her dining room. Outside, a truck sped along a snow-covered road toward the Jacquiers' immense new cow barn. If Mrs. Jacquier is the matriarch of Laurelbrook Farm in East Canaan, then her dining-room table is the farm's heart. The main meal of the day is at noon, bringing three generations to Mrs. Jacquier's table. "We do dinner (lunch) every day," she explained. "That way we can talk and plan the rest of the day." Mrs. Jacquier's life, like that of her extended family, is one governed by the seasons. "It's a rat race," said. But clearly a rat race she loves. Whether it's quilting in the evening, canning in the fall or sugaring in the early spring, there's always change. "We're not doing the same things, we're always doing something different," she said, and perhaps that accounts for its appeal.

## OBITUARIES

## Michael Richard Tesoro, MD



SHARON — Michael Richard Tesoro MD, FACS, FACS passed away peacefully on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 2024, in Sharon. He was 83 years old. Michael will be remembered for his love of and unwavering devotion to his family and his honorable and steadfast work as a medical doctor delivering over 3,000 healthy babies and women's healthcare. Born in Brooklyn, New York, on May 20, 1941, Michael was the son of Nicholas Daniel Tesoro and Lillie Della Vecchia Tesoro, whose parents emigrated from Southern Italy in the early 1900's.

Michael attended elementary school at Good Shepherd Roman Catholic Church and School in Brooklyn, where his future wife, Maureen Lennon, also attended, and where they were later married in 1964. Michael graduated from James Madison High School in Brooklyn, in 1958. He received a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Biology and Chemistry from St. John's University in 1962. He then attended New York Medical College in New York, New York, performed his Medical Internship at Greenwich Hospital in Greenwich, Connecticut, (1967-1968) and received his Doctor of Medicine (MD) in 1968. Michael performed his post-graduate Residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB-GYN) at St. Clare's Hospital in New York. (1968-1972). From 1972-1974, Michael served in the United States Air Force, Major, Chief of OB-GYN Services at USAF Hospital, Dover Air Force Base, Dover, Delaware. He became a member of The National Board of Medical Examiners in 1968; a Fellow of The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) in 1971, a board-certified Fellow of

The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (FACOG) in 1974, and a board-certified Fellow of The American College of Surgeons (FACS) in 1975.

In 1974, Michael moved his family to Sharon, a place he would call home for the next 50 years. Michael opened a private medical practice on The Green and later established satellite offices in Canaan and New Preston, and Dover Plains, New York. He became an Active Attending Staff at Sharon Hospital (1974), Chief of the OB-GYN Department (1980-1991), Chief of the Medical Staff (1988-1990), and he remained on the Consulting Staff of Sharon Hospital through 2001.

In 1991, Michael became an Associate Attending Staff in the OB-GYN Department at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. He served as the Assistant Departmental Director (1991-1995), Associate Departmental Director (1995-2000), and Assistant Director of Gynecological Ultrasound from (1991-2000). He was also the Associate Director of The Residency Program for OB-GYN (1994-2000). He later served as a consultant to the CEOs of Westerly Hospital in Westerly, Rhode Island (2001-2002), Mary Lane Hospital in Ware, Massachusetts (2003-2004), Nashoba Hospital in Ayer, Massachusetts (2004-2005).

He held various positions of leadership with American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Connecticut, Vice Chair (1991-1994) and Chair (1994-1997) and ACOG District I (Quebec, the Canadian Atlantic Provinces, all New England states, and Chile) among them, Vice Chair (2000-2003), Chair (2003-2006). He helped ACOG efforts to pass Connecticut's mandate that health insurance plans

allow patients direct access to their OB-GYN and actively involved with the team that helped shepherd national "The Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act of 1996."

Michael loved to travel with his wife of 60 years, Maureen Lennon Tesoro. They travelled extensively and visited every continent but Antarctica. In 1983, they travelled to The People's Republic of China (PRC), on one of the first medical missions from the U.S., less than 5 years after PRC began Reform and Opening efforts.

Michael was a member of Saint Bernard Roman Catholic church in Sharon. In 1986, Michael was Chair, Archbishop Annual Appeal, of the Archdiocese of Hartford. Michael was also a member of The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. He led two medical missions to provide women's health services to remote villages in the Dominican Republic in 2000 and 2002. He volunteered at Malta House of Care, a mobile medical clinic in Waterbury that provides free quality health care to uninsured and those living below the poverty line (2010-2018).

He is survived by his wife, Maureen Lennon Tesoro, and passed away one day short of their 60th wedding anniversary. He is also survived by his sister, Barbara Tesoro Finegan of Little Silver, New Jersey, and his sister-in-law Eileen Lennon, and his three children Michael Richard Tesoro Jr. (Robin Herrick Tesoro) of Windsor, Massachusetts, Jennifer Tesoro Reese (Michael J. Reese) of Larkspur, California, and Todd Lennon Tesoro of Salisbury, and 5 grandchildren Aidan Reese, Eloise Reese, Lily Reese, Francesca Tesoro, and Nicholas Tesoro.

A memorial service will be held on May 17, 2025, at 1:30pm at the Trinity Lime Rock Church in Lakeville, CT.

## More obituaries on Page A5

Status  
Report

LAKEVILLE — The Hotchkiss School's robotics team "EFX Gearcats Team 20188" is headed to the state championship. The Gearcats got the nod Feb. 2 after earning the coveted Inspire Award at the qualifying event. University of Connecticut hosts the state championship Feb. 22.

NBT Bancorp Inc. reported net income and diluted earnings per share for 2024. Net income for the year ended Dec. 31, 2024 was \$140.6 million, or \$2.97 per diluted common share, compared to \$118.8 million, or \$2.65 per diluted common share, in the prior year. The Company completed the acquisition of Salisbury Bancorp, Inc. on Aug. 11, 2023, adding 13 banking offices, \$1.18 billion in loans and \$1.31 billion in deposits. The comparisons to the full year of 2023 are significantly impacted by the Salisbury acquisition.



PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

## Tufted titmouse

## Realtor® at Large

Treat yourself to a wonderful adventure for Valentine's weekend with a visit to Ripley's Waterfowl Conservancy in Litchfield. Ordinarily this is closed until the beginning of May, but to celebrate Valentine's, they are open with reservations to have tours of their grounds. They have 90 different species of waterfowl from around the world and all will be in their mating plumage, so it's a great time to experience this magical display of wildlife. For more information, please visit: [www.ripleyconservancy.org/ducks-in-love-2025](http://www.ripleyconservancy.org/ducks-in-love-2025)



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## EGGS

Continued from Page A1

Hamzy said she shops locally every day for fresh eggs and the least expensive she has found is \$13 for two dozen. The price hike, she said, is not intended to be permanent, and was a difficult, but necessary, decision to make.

"When the egg prices go down, so will my prices. That's how we were raised."

Nearby, four customers seated at the counter around lunchtime were nonplussed about paying a dollar more for an egg selection.

"It doesn't bother me," said Gary Ross, a piano technician from Falls Village, whose favorite dish is scrambled eggs with sauteed peppers and onions. "I come here just about every day," he said, taking a sip from a hot cup o' Joe.

The next stool over, Canaan resident Hope Dunham said she got sticker shock over the weekend after shelling out \$7.50 for a dozen eggs at Dollar General in nearby Sheffield.

"It's still cheaper for me to come here," said Dunham. "Plus, I don't have to cook ... or clean up afterwards."

Hamzy said she appreciates her customer's support during these challenging times. "We live in an extremely supportive community. We are very blessed."

**Surveillance testing for bird flu**

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture conducts surveillance testing on domestic birds throughout the state. Testing for bird flu is available at low or no cost through a partnership with the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Labo-



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSIAS

**The Freund flock in its protected enclosure.**

ratory at the University of Connecticut.

The multi-generational Freund family farm in Canaan also keeps a flock of about 36 egg-laying chickens which were tested for the H5N1 bird flu virus by the state three weeks ago, the results of which came back negative.

Eggs from the family's farm operation are sold by the dozen at its Farm Market but are not permitted to be used in the farm's commercial kitchen, said Freund.

"The state Department of Agriculture tested them three weeks ago," she said of her daughter, Rachel's, egg-laying flock. "They banded and swabbed a sampling of about 20 birds."

The virus is being spread as wild birds come together with free-range birds in commercial and backyard poultry operations.

The Freund flock tested negative, as it has in the past, which its owners attribute to the chickens' caged henhouse and enclosure, which protects them from contact with disease-carrying wild birds.

**Why not vaccinate chickens?**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture last week confirmed 81 detections of avian flu in wild birds collected across 24 states between Dec. 29 and Jan. 17.

Freund said health officials "have to do more" to protect domestic flocks from the deadly virus, including vaccination, which is currently not part of the federal government's strategy because of trade concerns.

"Basically what they are doing is destroying our local industry so that the international industry will survive," said Freund. "Things have to change. Millions of birds are

being destroyed."

On Jan. 15, Avian flu was confirmed in a backyard flock in New London County consisting of chickens, ducks and peacocks.

The flock of family pets, which had close contact with wild waterfowl in a nearby pond, was confirmed to be infected with bird flu, according to a Jan. 17 statement by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

"At this time there is no effective treatment or approved vaccine for the virus in poultry. The infected flock has been depopulated to prevent spread of the disease," according to the state agricultural agency.

Signs of infection include a sudden increase in bird deaths, sneezing, coughing, nasal discharge, watery or green diarrhea, lack of energy, poor appetite, drop in egg production, swelling around the eyes, neck and head, and purple discoloration of wattles, combs and legs.

The current risk of infection from avian influenza to residents of Connecticut remains low, according to Connecticut Department of Public Health Commissioner Manisha Juthani.

"The CDC is currently monitoring numerous H5N1 cases throughout the country and tracking the spread of the virus in states where it has been identified in people or animals," Juthani said.

Flock owners are encouraged to report anything unusual, especially sick or dead birds, to CT DoAg at (860) 713-2505 or ctstate.vet@ct.gov, or USDA at (866) 536-7593.

## HOUSING

Continued from Page A1

LCCHO Director Jocelyn Ayer spoke to the precedent set by uniting disparate affordable housing developments across town lines: "I think this a great example of how to bring smaller scattered site projects in our region together as a broader project."

Attendants warmed themselves with provided hot chocolate and cookies as Jocelyn Ayer, director of LCCHO, called the group to assemble. Shoes crunched on the frozen ground as the tree tops surrounding the cleared plot of land tossed in the strong gusts. Cornwall Selectman Rocco Botto assessed the conditions poetically: "The north wind doth blow," he said, earning some chuckles from the crowd.

During her opening remarks, Ayer chose to look on the bright side before passing the mic on to the distinguished list of speakers: "At least we got some sunshine!"

The roster included representatives from the various organizations involved with the development and financing of the project, including Carla Weil of Capital for Change, Jennifer Kronholm Clark who chairs The Salisbury Affordable Housing Commission, and Beth Frost of the Cornwall Housing Corporation.

State Rep. Maria Horn, D-64, spoke first, appealing to the brutal weather as yet another reason to bring affordable homes to the region. "What better than a cold, windy day to remind you of the importance of having a warm home," she said.

Cornwall First Selectman Gordon Ridgway took the stage next, emphasizing that Cornwall is "refreshed" by newcomers to town, and expressed the need to ensure those people can be welcomed by affordable living conditions. "The needs for housing here are just as much as anywhere else in the state," he said.

Connecticut Department of Housing Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno offered the final speech, echoing Ridgway's sentiment that affordable housing development is a statewide priority: "We have a goal to keep everybody housed," she said. She was happy to be at the event despite the weather, she said — "I always love coming to this part of the state!"

Each speaker then hefted a shovel and stuck it into the frozen ground to symbolize the real digging soon to come before attendants began to retreat to the warmth of their cars. "Thanks for freezing with us!" called out Ayer as the crowd dispersed.

## ICE

Continued from Page A1

Trust Act works.

Erick Olsen, pastor of Church of Christ, UCC, of Norfolk expressed his concern about enforcement actions: "As a pastor serving a church in our community, I believe that every person has rights outlined in our Constitution, and these rights should be safeguarded. We clearly are a nation of laws that must be upheld. However, any violation of a person's constitutional rights for any reason is of course unacceptable, and I will continue to seek ways to protect such rights for all. I encourage anyone who wishes to join me in these efforts to contact me."

On Jan. 15, 2025, Janelle Medeiros, special counsel for civil rights for the State of Connecticut, office of the Attorney General, issued a memorandum explaining the Trust Act, enacted in 2013. The Trust Act — Connecticut General Statute 54-192h — "maintains Connecticut's sovereignty

by preventing deputization of local and state law enforcement for immigration enforcement." However, the Connecticut Trust Act does not protect felons, does not prohibit communication between local law enforcement and immigration enforcement about individuals in custody, and does not restrict federal immigration authorities from enforcing federal immigration laws within Connecticut.

Medeiros wrote: "Many of Connecticut's immigrant families are understandably concerned about how anticipated changes in federal immigration policy might affect them. It is the policy of the State of Connecticut to value, honor, and respect our immigrants, and refugees: they are our neighbors, family members, and friends. They are coworkers, bosses, parents, caretakers, and business owners. The entire State of Connecticut benefits when our immigrant community feels safe."

## HISTORY

Continued from Page A1

lamation did not end slavery per se.

It did free "certain persons."

Lincoln took this step in his role as commander in chief during a rebellion.

Vermilyea said there were Black soliders in state militias prior to the proclamation, but now Black men could serve in the Union army.

Within a month of the proclamation, the 54th Massachusetts Regiment was formed. This is the unit depicted in the 1989 film "Glory."

"The 54th attracted volunteers from all over the country," Vermilyea said, including 154 men from Adams County, Pennsylvania. Over half the troops were from somewhere other than Massachusetts, "but it was Massachusetts taking the lead."

Vermilyea touched on Milo Freeland of Sheffield and later East Canaan. Freeland is buried in Hillside Cemetery in East Canaan, and the original gravestone is at the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society. A replica stands in the cemetery.

The gravestone states Freeland was the first Black man "enlisted from the North" in the Civil War.

Vermilyea said very little is known about Freeland, and it is impossible to make that claim definitively.

"However, he was certainly one of the first."

Moving on to the 29th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, Vermilyea said he found out about it when a colleague gave him a "treasure chest" filled mostly with junk.

But at the bottom were half a dozen pension records of Black soldiers from Litch-

field County.

Vermilyea explained that pension records are a gold mine for historians as they contain personal information that is unavailable elsewhere.

With these records in hand, Vermilyea and his students at Housatonic Valley Regional High School began the research project that eventually turned into a massive effort and is documented at www.project29.org.

Vermilyea said some 1600 men volunteered for the 29th and the 30th Volunteer Infantry. The 30th never quite got off the ground and was later incorporated into a federal unit of Black troops.

Initially the 29th was on garrison duty in Beaufort, South Carolina, but in the summer of 1864 they were deployed to fight in heavy action around Richmond, Virginia.

The 29th played significant roles in battles at Chaffin's Farm and Kell House.

They were also the first Union infantry unit to enter Richmond, the capital city of the Confederacy, on April 2, 1865, where they met Lincoln.

It would have been nice and tidy if this highly symbolic event was the end of the story, but it isn't.

After the war, the South needed occupation troops, and there was some tension along the border with Mexico.

Vermilyea said during occupation duty in Texas and Louisiana the 29th had dozens of members fall not to bullets from hostile Southerners but to disease.

It wasn't until October 1865 that the 29th returned to Connecticut. Vermilyea related two stories of indi-

viduals who served with the 29th.

Joseph Parks, a Chilean, was a sailor on a commercial ship that arrived in New York City. He was recruited for the 29th, probably because the pay was substantially better than that of a sailor.

He was shot in the jaw at Kell House. Vermilyea said the wound and the subsequent treatment was so unusual it was recorded for the benefit of Army doctors.

"This is why we know something about him."

Unfortunately, the doctors couldn't save him, and he died on Nov. 6, 1864, of what was listed as "exhaustion."

Almon Wheeler of Sharon has a lurid story. He was also wounded at Kell House, but recovered and rejoined the regiment for occupation duty.

He then returned to Con-

necticut, in Salisbury, where he married and started a family.

Around 1889 the Wheelers moved to Chicago, and Wheeler became embroiled in a messy case of divorce, bigamy and a murder/suicide attempt in 1891.

Vermilyea said the students were able to piece the story together, again from the pension records and from contemporary newspaper accounts.

He also said it seems reasonable to believe that Wheeler's erratic behavior might have been due to what is now known as post-traumatic stress disorder.

Vermilyea also said that when students begin researching a particular name, they never know what they're going to find.

"A student will say 'my guy died of diarrhea after three months!'"

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

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

ART: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

## Joy Brown's retrospective celebrates 50 years of women at Hotchkiss

This year, The Hotchkiss School is marking 50 years of co-education with a series of special events, including an exhibition by renowned sculptor Joy Brown. "The Art of Joy Brown," opening Feb. 15 in the Tremaine Art Gallery, offers a rare retrospective of Brown's work, spanning five decades from her early pottery to her large-scale bronze sculptures.

"It's an honor to show my work in celebration of fifty years of women at Hotchkiss," Brown shared. "This exhibition traces my journey—from my roots in pottery to the figures and murals that have evolved over time."

Co-curated by Christine Owen, Hotchkiss ceramics instructor, and Joan Baldwin, curator of special collections, the scale and scope of the exhibition was inspired by a recent Ed Ruscha retrospective in Los Angeles. "I thought it would be incredible to showcase all these different aspects of Joy's work," said Owen, who has known Brown for over 30 years.

Brown's father, a Presbyterian missionary and medical doctor, opened a hospital in Japan where Brown grew up and cultivated her love of clay. Her first apprenticeship was in Tomba, a region in Hyogo Prefecture known for its ancient pottery kilns and Tambayaki pottery. "There are thousands of years of continuous history of clay there and I was working with a 13th generation potter," Brown recalled that as part of her early training, her teacher handed her a sake cup and said, "make these." With no extra instruction given, Brown proceeded to make thousands of copies of the cup. Never fired, she realized that the pieces were an exercise. She explained, "You're not really making something, you're participating in a process that these things emerge from." From there, she embarked on an apprenticeship with master potter Shigeyoshi Morioka. As part of the process she learned from Morioka, Brown has built a 30-foot-long wood-firing tunnel kiln



on her property in Kent, Connecticut, where she fires her work once a year in an intensive month-long process. The fire's natural interaction with the clay creates unique earth tones and ash patterns, highlighting the raw beauty of the material.

"I learned not just pottery but a whole way of life," she recalled. "The work is a continuous process—like practicing a signature until it evolves into something uniquely yours." Her figures, initially emerging as playful puppets, have since evolved into large-scale sculptures now found in public spaces from Shanghai to Broadway to Hotchkiss's own campus.

Brown's seven-foot "Sitter with Head in Hands" was installed near Ford Food Court in October, followed by "Recliner with Head in Hands" near Hotchkiss's Main Building in November. She welcomes interaction with her sculptures, encouraging visitors to touch them and even dress them with scarves or hats. "These figures transcend gender, age, and culture," Brown noted. "They're kind of like when you're 4 years old and you



PHOTOS BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

**Joy Brown installing work for her show at the Tremaine Art Gallery at Hotchkiss.**

didn't know or care what you were, you know? All of us meet in that field and I think people resonate with that."

In conjunction with the exhibition, Hotchkiss will host a screening of "The Art of Joy Brown," a documentary by Eduardo Montes-Bradley, followed by a panel discussion with the artist and filmmaker on March 6 in Walker Auditorium. Brown will also serve as an artist-in-residence, collaborating with students on special projects.

On being part of the celebration of women at Hotchkiss Brown said, "Fifty years ago, I was deep in the mountains of Japan, immersed in clay." With a soft spoken and almost childlike quality, Brown spoke about and interacted

with her pieces with curiosity, reverence and wonder.

"The practice of working with clay for all these years is grounding and centering for me. It challenges me," she said. "The work forces me to put myself out there. It's not just the making of the pieces that make me

*Continued on next page*



PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO

**Yale professor Elihu Rubin led discussions before and after "The Brutalist" screening at Triplex Cinema on Feb. 2. He highlighted how the film brings architecture into focus, inviting the audience to explore Brutalism as both a style and a theme.**

FILM: ROBIN RORABACK

## Special screening of 'The Brutalist' at the Triplex Cinema

A special screening of "The Brutalist" was held on Feb. 2 at the Triplex Cinema in Great Barrington. Elihu Rubin, a Henry Hart Rice Associate Professor of Architecture and Urban Studies at Yale, led discussions both before and after the film.

"The Brutalist" stars Adrien Brody as fictional character, architect Laszlo Toth, a Hungarian-born Jewish architect. Toth trained at the Bauhaus and was interred at the concentration camp Buchenwald during World War II. The film tells of his struggle as an immigrant to gain back his standing and respect as an architect. Brody was winner of the Best Actor Golden Globe, while Bradley Corbet, director of the film, won best director and the film took home the Gold-

en Globe for Best Film Drama. They have been nominated again for Academy Awards.

Laszlo Toth goes to work in his cousin's furniture store when he arrives in New York, living in the storeroom and helping his cousin build up the business. When his cousin's wife falsely accuses him of making a pass at her, he ends up living in a homeless shelter.

A would-be patron tracks him down, finds him working construction—the only job he can get—and asks, "Tell me, why is an accomplished foreign architect shoveling coal here in Philadelphia?"

Eventually, Toth gains a commission but faces prejudice as a foreigner and Jew, even though

*Continued on next page*

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#### Local Matters

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## Winter inspiration for meadow, garden and woods

Chances are you know or have heard of Jeb Breece. He is one of a handful of the Northwest Corner's "new guard" — young, talented and interesting people with can-do spirit — whose creative output makes life here even nicer than it already is.

Breece's outward low-key nature belies his achievements which would appear ambitious even for a person without a full-time job and a family. The third season of his "Bad Grass" speaker series is designed with the dual purpose of reviving us from winter doldrums and illuminating us on a topic of contemporary gardening — by which I mean gardening that does not sacrifice the environment for the sake of beauty nor vice versa. There are two upcoming talks taking place at the White Hart: Feb. 20 featuring Richard Hayden from New York City's High Line and March 6 where Christopher Koppel will riff on nativars. You won't want



to miss either.

An investment manager by trade, Breece and his wife Sabina rented a weekend house in Kent in 2011 just after they had their first child. Soon after he began to volunteer at a nearby farm and then started to cultivate a small cutting flower bed. Breece's insight — that it is a rare farmer who is great at both growing and selling — led him in 2020 to aggregate demand and supply for cutting flowers by creating a monthly flower market at Kent Barns in collaboration with RT Facts. Coinciding with Covid, the outdoor market became, in many ways, a respite during a challenging time.

Covid provoked Breece and Sabina to move full time to Salisbury. Soon after, he met Page Dickey who had



PHOTO BY JEB BREECE

### Breece Meadow

just published her book "Uprooted." Had it not been for this book and his friendship with Dickey, Breece admits that his front yard would have been landscaped with a version of boxwood and liatris and the existing grass lawn would have been maintained at great expense. Dickey introduced him to organic landscaper Mike Nadeau and a meadow was born. Meadows. I have

written quite a bit about them in this column, in part because a meadow can be a wholesale solution to the lawn issue. It is by no means the only solution but, for a large expanse, it can be extraordinary to behold. The creation of a biodiverse native habitat where there was only a version of grass and weed is a sensation-filled wonder, but it does take a while to achieve this

graceful state unless you have the wisdom of Nadeau — and his machinery — behind you. Now going into its fourth year, the Breece meadow has evolved as new native perennials and grasses show up. "It is beautiful to look at from the house but is best experienced from its interior where you can see, hear and feel the life around you."

While his world view on gardening has changed, Breece doesn't think of himself as an advocate of native habitats. But he is. The proceeds from Bad Grass this year will go to its 2025 partner project, Steep Rock Preserve's "Holiday House" project to transform the space into a "ruin garden," preserving its historical significance while enhancing its natural beauty and restoring native vegetation.

The spongy moth infestation of 2021 and 2022 feels both a long time ago and like yesterday. Walking in the woods, as I did this morning, the effects of spongy moth are more visible than they were last year; the winter winds have blown off the dead limbs from trees that succumbed to the voracious moths' leaf-eating appetites. On our property we were

able to save many trees using BtK and trunk wraps. But most of the truly glorious giant oaks — some well over 70 feet tall and almost as wide — succumbed. Now, several years later, these limbs are taking down smaller trees as they fall to the ground. There is not much to do about it right now unless you can safely relocate a fallen branch that has landed on and distorted an otherwise living tree. Events like this are a reminder of how many young tree recruits we need to ensure the viability of a woodland. This spring there will be quite a bit more light reaching the woodland floor as a result of the dead trees. The open canopy means an opportunity for growth. It is up to us to decide what will grow in these spaces as, without our intervention, they will be overgrown with invasives, prohibiting native trees from growing and destroying a previously viable habitat. Look for these spaces and pull out the invasives as they grow in. For more on the topic go to [www.theungardener.com/articles/the-over-under-a-bet-on-the-future-of-the-woods](http://www.theungardener.com/articles/the-over-under-a-bet-on-the-future-of-the-woods)

Dee Salomon 'ungardens' in Litchfield County.

### THEATER

## Sharon Playhouse announces 2025 season line-up

The Sharon Playhouse has announced its 2025 MainStage and YouthStage lineups, featuring a vibrant mix of music, comedy, and thrilling drama from May through December.

The season kicks off with "Million Dollar Quartet" (June 20 through July 6), followed by the beloved family musical "Annie" (July 26 through Aug. 10). The fun continues with the comedy "Sylvia" (Aug. 29 through Sep. 7), and the season concludes with the suspenseful "The Mousetrap" (Sept. 26 through Oct. 5).

YouthStage performances include "Sharon Playhouse Stars," "Finding Nemo Jr.," "101 Dalmatians Kids," and an exciting new original play

"The Great Amusement Park Mystery." A pre-professional program, The Launchpad Company, will debut with "Once Upon a Mattress."

The season will kick off with the Spotlight Gala on May 31, honoring Sharon Playhouse Board President Emily Soell and feature special events like a staged reading of "Love Letters" (Feb. 15) and Charles Busch's "Die, Mommie, Die!" (Sept. 12).

"From our Spotlight Gala in May to our Holiday Youth Show in December, there's truly something for everyone this season," said Artistic Director Carl Andress.

Tickets range from \$25-\$55. For more information, visit [www.SharonPlayhouse.org](http://www.SharonPlayhouse.org).

## ... 'The Brutalist' Continued from previous page

he and his wife, who he reunites with after she'd been in the concentration camp, Dachau, are both highly educated — she is an Oxford graduate and an established writer in their home country of Hungary.

Rubin began his discussion before the screening by saying, "I am thrilled this film has brought architecture to the forefront. There is something so fascinating and robust about the space Brutalist architecture creates."

Brutalism is known for using "raw materials," such as brick and concrete in ways that leave them visible. Rubin said that concrete is "incredibly expressive. It comes to the building site as

mud and becomes what it is poured out as."

"At first," said Rubin, "optimism was associated with Brutalism."

Brutalism came to the forefront of architecture in the 1950's when it was used to reconstruct housing in the United Kingdom after WWII.

Some prime examples of Brutalist architecture include Boston City Hall, Rudolph Hall at Yale University, and the Temple Street Parking Garage in New Haven.

Rubin commented, "Brutalist architecture became the de-facto language of government and institutional architecture."

Rubin said Brutalism began to fall out of favor in the 1970's when it be-

gan to be associated with urban decay and totalitarian governments, who used it extensively.

Rubin asked the audience to consider two questions as they watched the film: "Why is the main character an architect... what does it bring to the emotional core?" and, "Who or what is the Brutalist in the film?"

After the screening, Rubin commented that Brutalist architecture is about "Getting an object to, ultimately, stand by itself." Rubin explained that Brutalism "Throws off shadows of the past. No extraneous detail is left." Audience members discussed how this could

also be true of the character of Laszlo.

Rubin explained that architects face the challenge of "how to express themselves through someone else's commission." Discussion involved how Laszlo finds a way to achieve this.

The audience agreed that the film brought up some timely issues about immigration, class awareness, and acceptance, while asking them to consider how Brutalism applies to these subjects. The movie is at times, as rawly constructed as a brutalist building.

## ...Joy Brown

Continued from previous page

more whole, the pieces themselves become more present."

Brown reflected on the retrospective nature of the show and shared that putting it together has been like looking at a family album. "It's kind of like I'm seeing my whole life in front of me," she said. "It's humbling and makes me think about why I do what I do. It comes back to the

idea of those thousands of sake cups, you know? We're just here, being as present as we can be. We're not making things, we're participating in a process of being more present, and all that spirit is reflected in the work."

"The Art of Joy Brown" opens Feb. 15 and runs through April 6. For more information, visit [www.hotchkiss.org](http://www.hotchkiss.org).

### 2025 BOOK STUDY WITH KEITH MOON

**Khrushchev**  
THE MAN AND HIS ERA  
WILLIAM TAUBMAN

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize

We welcome back Keith Moon as he leads us through *Khrushchev: The Man and His Era* by William Taubman. This book is the first in-depth and comprehensive American biography of Nikita Khrushchev, and won a 2004 Pulitzer Prize as well as the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Register by going to [noblehorizons.org/events-activities](http://noblehorizons.org/events-activities), or scan the QR code below.

Wednesdays 2PM  
March 26th - May 7th  
Learning Center

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## At The Movies

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SHOWTIMES & TICKETS

FRI 02/14 > THU 02/20 (518) 789-0022 [themoviehouse.net](http://themoviehouse.net)

<b>CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD</b>	February 14 @ 12PM First Friday Film Club <b>LIVE ACTION SHORTS</b>
<b>PADDINGTON IN PERU</b>	February 15 @ 9PM Late Night Classics David Lynch's <b>MULHOLLAND DRIVE</b>
<b>OSCAR SHORTS: DOCUMENTARY * LIVE ACTION * ANIMATION</b>	February 20 @ 7PM NT Live <b>THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST</b>
<b>DOG MAN</b>	

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# COMPASS



PHOTO BY PATRICK SULLIVAN

Jessi Chacho allowed children to gently pet a rescued kitten.

**EDUCATION:**  
**PATRICK L. SULLIVAN**

## Kitten rescuer visits Hunt Library

Jenia Booth of Warren, Connecticut, runs a kitten rescue organization, Sophia L'Orange Kitten Rescue. She came to the David M. Hunt Library Saturday morning, Feb. 1, to tell an audience of mostly small children what the work entails.

From her website: "Our mission is to take in pregnant cats, nursing cats with kittens, and orphan kittens who are in need of a safe haven; foster them in a home environment, provide vet care, and adopt them out to loving families."

Accompanying Booth were two women who

have fostered cats, Laura Ledan of Litchfield and Jessi Chacho of New Fairfield. The latter had a black kitten handy for the youngsters to pet.

Booth emphasized several times how critical it is to be patient with rescued cats and kittens.

"You have to learn how to let the kitty get used to things.

"Start off slowly. Be gentle. Let the kitty come to you."

She said the hardest part of fostering cats is knowing when to let them move on.

"I can't have eight cats, but I can find eight loving families."



Jenia Booth explained how cat rescue works.

## Valentine's Day preview

Looking for the perfect way to celebrate love this Valentine's Day? Whether it's music, food, or just some good old-fashioned romance, there's something for everyone—because let's be honest, we could all use a little more love!

**Wednesday, Feb. 12**  
**28th Annual Chocolate Fest.** 3:30 p.m. at the Kent Center School Cafeteria (9 Judd Ave., Kent). Proceeds benefit the Kent Center School Scholarship Fund. Fill a plate for \$5 with delicious chocolate creations. Email for more info: [info@kcssf.org](mailto:info@kcssf.org).

**Thursday, Feb. 13 & Saturday, Feb. 15**  
**Fleece Pillow Making Workshop** at David M. Hunt Library (63 Main St., Falls Village) The DM Hunt Library is making heart pillows to give to seniors for 'Random Acts of Kindness' Week! Workshops will be held Thursday, Feb. 13 from 5 to 7 p.m. or Saturday, Feb. 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Learn to make knot-tie, no-sew pillows for local seniors. Use donated fabric and patterns or bring your own.

**Thursday, Feb. 13**  
**Senior Sweetheart Supper** at Sharon Hospital (50 Hospital Hill Rd., Sharon) 3:45-5:00 p.m. – buffet dinner. 5 to 5:30 p.m. – Guest speaker Sheri Harrison, MD. Dr. Harrison is a general cardiologist, board-certified in Internal Medicine and Cardiovascular disease by the American Board of Internal Medicine. For reservations: contact Rebecca Moreira at [Rebecca.Moreira@nuvancehealth.org](mailto:Rebecca.Moreira@nuvancehealth.org) or call (860)364-4237

**Friday, Feb. 14**  
**Friendship Bracelets** at NorthEast-Millerton Library (75 Main St., Millerton) 3 to 4 p.m. It isn't too late to make a last-minute Valentine present for a friend! Make bracelets with beads and/or embroidery thread. No experience necessary. All are welcome.

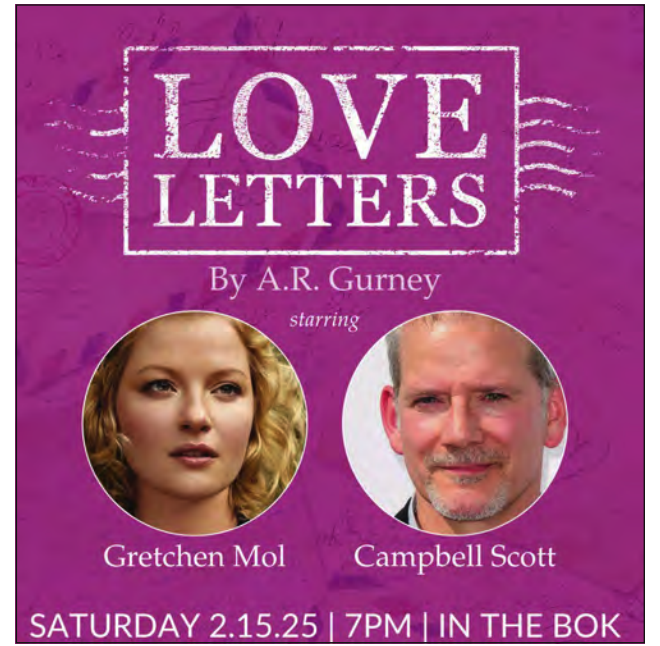
**Friday, Feb. 14**  
**Valentine's Day Screening of Classic Romantic Film, "Roman Holiday"** at The Triplex Cinema (70 Railroad St., Great Barrington) at 5 p.m. Starring Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck, this beloved romantic comedy won three Academy Awards and was shot on location in Rome. Directed by William Wyler, the film is a timeless classic. Tickets at [thetriplex.org](http://thetriplex.org).

**Friday, Feb. 14**  
**A Steamship Feast at Stissing House** (7801 S. Main St., Pine Plains) Arrive between 6:30-7 pm; dinner starts at 7. No vegetarian, vegan, or pescatarian options. Note allergies in your reservation or email [feasts@stissinghouse.com](mailto:feasts@stissinghouse.com). Enjoy snacks and drinks in the upstairs bar, followed by a long-table feast in The Barn with cocktails, punch, wine, and dessert.

Tickets are for two; email [feasts@stissinghouse.com](mailto:feasts@stissinghouse.com) for group seating requests.

**Friday, Feb. 14**  
**Valentine's Day Dinner Party at Ward's Nursery** (600 Main St., Great Barrington) After Hours, a new aged, community-centric outfit is hosting a Valentine's Dinner at Ward's Nursery. There will be a cozy, 7-course vegetable-forward feast served family-style in the greenhouse. Enjoy a cocktail hour, live music by Glori Wilder, and a vibrant winter escape! Reservations: [www.afterhoursgb.com](http://www.afterhoursgb.com)

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



**Friday, Feb. 14**  
**Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance at Coe Park Civic Center** (101 Litchfield St., Torrington) 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Located at the Coe Park Civic Center, the Recreation Department is hosting a fun night of music and food for couples or friends. A buffet style dinner from Jimmy's Store with desserts will be included in the price. Sequel, a fun jam band, will be playing music from all decades to get you in the right mood to sway your hips, clap your hands, and sing along. Reservations: (860)489-2274

**Friday, Feb. 14**  
**Jungle Love Dance Party at Stissing Center** (2950 Church St., Pine Plains) at 7 p.m. Voted Best Band & Best Party Band in the Hudson Valley, Jungle Love is more than a band—it's an experience. Fronted by award-winning singer Cher, this powerhouse group features musicians who've played with legends like The Isley Brothers, Aretha Franklin, and Ben E. King. Get ready for a high-energy journey through the best of Classic Soul, R&B, Motown, Disco, and Funk. This event is FREE.

**Saturday Feb. 15**  
**Love Letters at Sharon Playhouse** (49 Amenia Rd., Sharon) at 7 p.m. Sharon Playhouse presents a special benefit reading of Love Letters by A.R. Gurney, starring Gretchen Mol (Boardwalk Empire) and Campbell Scott (House of Cards), directed by Artistic Director Carl Andress. Experience this intimate, one-night-only event exploring love and connection. Proceeds support the Playhouse's arts and education programs. Tickets: [sharonplayhouse.org/love-letters](http://sharonplayhouse.org/love-letters)

**Saturday, Feb. 15**  
**A Midwinter's Night in the Village** at David M. Hunt Library (63 Main St., Falls Village) from 6 to 8 p.m. Enjoy an evening of homemade breads, chocolate treats, poetry, and songs celebrating love. Live music by Galactic Overtones, plus wine, beer, and non-alcoholic drinks included. [huntlibrary.org/midwinter](http://huntlibrary.org/midwinter) | 860-824-7424

- In a world that could always use more love, here's your chance to spread it—whether through music, food, laughter, or sweet treats. Enjoy!



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## TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

### FEBRUARY 13

#### Random Acts of Kindness Week

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

Feb. 9 to 15 is Random of Kindness Week! Join us at the David M. Hunt Library as we work to spread kindness the whole week long.

(All Week) Food Drive for Fishes and Loaves - Non-perishable food donations will be accepted at the library to be donated to local pantry Fishes and Loaves, who serves the Falls Village - North Canaan - Norfolk community.

(2/13 and 2/15) Fleece Pillow-Making Workshops - Join us on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. or Saturday, Feb. 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. as we make knot-tie, no-sew pillows for local seniors.

(2/14) Kindness Cards Celebration - On Feb. 14 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., make kindness cards for a friend, family member, neighbor, or anyone you think needs some extra cheer. Afterwards, enjoy some hot chocolate and treats with friends at the library. This is a free drop-in program.

#### Senior Sweetheart Supper

Sharon Hospital Cafe, Sharon, Conn.

On Thursday, Feb. 13 there will be a Senior Sweetheart Supper at Sharon Hospital Cafe. From 3:45 to 5 p.m. there will be a buffet dinner and from 5 to 5:30 pm there will be a guest speaker: Sheri Harrison, MD, Cardiology. Dr. Harrison is a general cardiologist, board-certified in Internal Medicine and Cardiovascular Disease by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

RSVP by Feb. 10. For reservations, please contact Rebecca Moreira at rebecca.moreira@nuvancehealth.com or (860) 364-4237.

#### Democracy Cup Award

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

For earning the highest voter turnout in the 2024 election, Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas will present the Democracy Cup to the

#### Last week's WotW

A	M	A	Z	E
M	O	I	S	T
M	O	T	O	R
M	O	U	T	H
M	O	N	T	H

Town of Cornwall at Town Hall Thursday, Feb. 13 at 1 p.m. Poll workers will be recognized. The public is invited to attend.

### FEBRUARY 14

#### Live Comedy

Colonial Theatre, 27 Railroad St., Canaan, Conn.

Laugh it up and help out a worthy cause when "Friends From Work: 10 Years of Comedy" presents "Live, Laugh, Love" at the Canaan Colonial Theatre Feb. 14. The evening of adult humor will be hosted by veteran home town comic Ronnie Reed who will be joined by headliner Jerrold Benford. The show will feature Ralph Anthony and opener Scott Bongiorno. An appearance by Vemilo will round out the evening. Donations will be accepted to help with Robert Pope's medical expenses. A cocktail hour (cash bar) runs from 6 to 7 p.m., and the show runs from 7 to 9 p.m. Tickets (\$40) are available online at canaancolonial.com.

#### Galentine's Day at the Library

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

Celebrate Galentine's Day at Hotchkiss Library of Sharon Feb. 14 from 5 to 7 p.m. Gather your best gals for an evening of Valentine's Day trivia, make your own friendship bracelets and bath salts bar and a free lucky door raffle. Let's celebrate friendship, love, and all things amazing — just like YOU! People without significant others often feel left out during Valentine's Day, but everyone has someone they adore. To make people feel more included, a new holiday tradition emerged, known as Galentine's Day. Registration is required for this event: hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com/event/13689370.

#### A Steamship Feast

Stissing House, 7801 S. Main St., Pine Plains, N.Y.

On Feb. 14, in addition to our usual service in the Tavern, we're hosting a feast upstairs. Sit side-by-side at long tables in our barn, eat plates of slow-cooked Steamship Round (google it), and music to sway to with dessert.

Tickets and full menu for the Feast are available here: resy.com/cities/pine-plains-ny/venues/stissing-house/events/steamship-feast-2025-02-14

To book for Valentine's for our usual fare on the 14th, book here: resy.com/cities/pine-plains-ny/venues/stissing-house

#### Jon Kopita: Read Between the Lines

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

The exhibit dates for Jon Kopita: Read Between the Lines will be from Feb. 14 to March 21. There will be a reception on Saturday, Feb. 22, 4 to 6 p.m. and an art talk on Thursday, Feb. 27, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The exhibition features Jon Kopita's framed drawings, exploring language, syntax, meaning, and identity. Includes "Untitled: Pandemic," marking the 5-year anniversary of the COVID lockdown.

Contact: (860) 824-7424 / huntlibrary.org

### FEBRUARY 15

#### Birth, Death, and Alphabets: The Enduring Legacy of Schoolgirl Needleworks Before 1850

Salisbury Association Historical Society Academy Building, Salisbury, Conn.

The Salisbury Association's Historical Society is hosting an Opening Reception on Saturday, Feb. 15 from 4 to 6 p.m. for its new exhibit, "Birth, Death, and Alphabets: The Enduring Legacy of Schoolgirl Needleworks Before 1850." The exhibit will highlight samplers stitched by girls, mostly aged 5 to 16, between 1689 and 1850. Remarkable for their inventiveness and beauty, needlework samplers are historical documents written by girls on silk and linen with needles.

#### Late Night Classics: Mulholland Drive

The Moviehouse, Millerton, N.Y.

On Saturday, Feb. 15 at 9 p.m., there will be a screening of the film Mulholland Drive at the Millerton Moviehouse. Presented in memory & celebration of the work of David Lynch.

Director/Writer: David Lynch

Cast: Naomi Watts, Laura Harring, Justin Theroux, Jeanna Bates

A dark-haired woman is left amnesiac after a car crash. She wanders the streets of Los Angeles in a daze before taking refuge in an apartment. There she is discovered by Betty, a wholesome Midwestern blonde who has come to the City of Angels seeking fame as an actress.

Together, the two attempt to solve the mystery of Rita's true identity. The story is set in a dream-like Los Angeles, spoilt neither by traffic jams nor smog.

#### Chris Hayes, The Sirens' Call

Ulster Performing Arts Center, Kingston, N.Y.

On Saturday, Feb. 15 at 8 p.m., Chris Hayes examines how attention capitalism has reshaped our society and politics.

\$47 (Includes a hardcover copy of the book)

www.ticketmaster.com/event/00006170C1675626

#### The Art of Joy Brown Exhibition

Tremaine Art Gallery, The Hotchkiss School, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn.

The Art of Joy Brown Exhibition will be on view from Feb. 15 – April 6 at the Tremaine Art Gallery.

This exhibit showcases the evolution of internationally renowned sculptor Joy Brown's work, from clay figures and wall tiles to her monumental bronze sculptures. Gallery hours are Tuesday–Saturday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m., and Sunday: noon–4 p.m. Closed Mondays. Free and open to the public.

#### A Midwinter's Night in the Village

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

The Friends of The David M. Hunt Library in Falls

Village will hold its annual winter fundraiser, A Midwinter's Night in the Village, at the library on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 6 to 8 p.m. (snow date Sunday, Feb. 16, 2 p.m.). The main feature is the library's famous 16-ft long bread board piled high with a variety of homemade baked goods ranging from sweet dessert loaves and hearty savory breads to delicious hors d'oeuvres and chocolate treats. For entertainment, a roster of local personalities will perform poems and songs focused on love with a dose of laughter thrown in for good measure. A special music performance by returning band, Galactic Overtones, will be a highlight of the evening. Wine, beer, and non-alcoholic refreshments are included in the ticket price. Tickets are \$20 (\$10 for children ages 3-17) and can be purchased by stopping by the library, visiting HUNTLIBRARY.ORG/MIDWINTER/ or by calling (860) 824-7424.

### FEBRUARY 16

#### Introduction to Self-Publishing with Natalia Zukerman

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

Join writer and book publisher Natalia Zukerman on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., for an in-depth introduction

to self-publishing. Natalia will introduce platforms, outline the steps, and show examples. Learn how self-publishing can allow you take control of the process, produce handsome bound editions, and get your books into readers' hands. To register and learn more, please visit the event page, scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/13800261

### FEBRUARY 17

#### Communicate Better

THRIVE, 96 Main St., North Canaan, Conn.

Join us at THRIVE from 7 to 8 p.m. for a one-hour workshop designed to help you communicate more effectively in your personal and professional lives. This event is facilitated by Rebecca Bloomfield, and it is open and welcoming to everyone. Rebecca employs a conversational approach toward connection and learning.

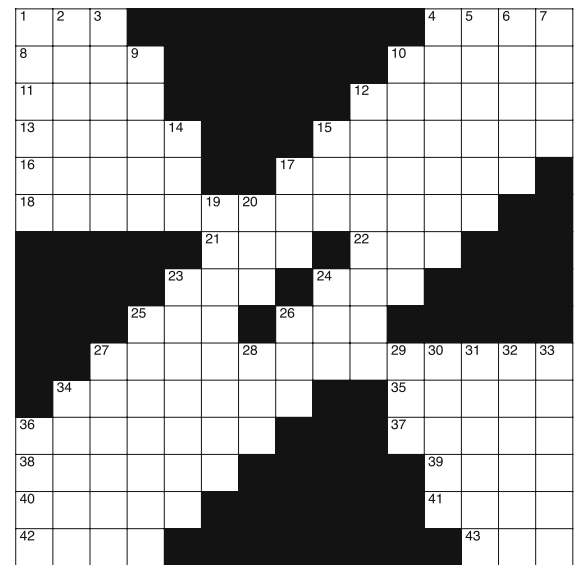
This event is free-of-charge. Pre-registration is not required. Participants may arrive as early as 6:30 pm for snacks and light refreshments.

Learn more about this event and other THRIVE offerings at aspacetothrive.org.

## Brain Teasers

#### CLUES ACROSS

- Racquet sport group (abbr.)
- Norse god of thunder
- Russian industrial city
- What's good for the
- Round-ish shape
- Baltimore MLBer
- French modernist painter
- Burned with water
- Intestinal issue
- Take the lead
- Prove oneself worthy
- None
- Tax collector
- Swiss river
- Gymnast Raisman
- Baby's dining accessory
- Canadian beer distributor
- Iconic American tourist destination
- More expansive
- Alert
- Popular boots Doc
- Showings
- Conclusion
- Share a common boundary
- Shooting sport
- Popular side dish
- Global energy firm
- Chronicles (abbr.)



- Storehouse
- Scarlet-flowered desert shrub
- A pituitary hormone
- Female sibling
- Monetary unit of Afghanistan
- Empowering
- Space station
- Disorder
- State of fuss
- Footwear for babies
- Nuclear reactor (abbr.)
- Droves
- Affirmative
- Male parent
- Utter obscenities
- Type of verse
- Unpleasant person
- One who settles down
- Founder of source-based history
- A way to snarl

#### Feb. 6 Solution

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

#### Sudoku

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

#### Feb. 6 Solution

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

Level: Intermediate

## Word of the Week

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


- Past tense of "love"
- To break into two parts
- Created from the ground up
- Sparks with tinder
- Valentine's Day sweet nothings



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# Sports

## Berkshire League Rivalry Night: Housatonic vs. Lakeview

### Bobcat boys prevail 71-60

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE — Lakeview High School boys varsity basketball defeated Housatonic Valley Regional High School 71-60 on Rivalry Night Feb. 5.

The Bobcat boys won through efficient offensive production and high-percentage shooting. Lakeview led from start to finish and beat HVRHS for the second time this season.

Fueled by a packed gymnasium in Falls Village, Housatonic began to mount a comeback in the second half. They repeatedly forced turnovers and chipped away at the deficit. Early in the fourth quarter, HVRHS trailed by just five points, but the Mountaineers ran out of clock and Lakeview won by 11 points.

The evening of high school hoops doubled as a fundraiser for breast cancer awareness. Fans dressed in pink filled the bleachers as "Shoot for a Cure" raised more than \$300.

"We haven't had a crowd like this in a long time. It's fun," said HVRHS forward Simon Markow.

Lakeview's teams contributed \$100 to the cause and the away section of the bleachers was just as lively as the home section. Students were bussed from Litchfield to Falls Village to cheer and chant.

Lakeview's lights-out shooting and rebounding dominance earned them the win. Guards John Gollow and Anthony Turturo led the team in scoring with 21 and 17 points respectively.

Housatonic spread the scoring around with 17 points for Anthony Labbadia, 15 points for Wes Allyn, 11 points for Owen Riemer and 10 points for Mason O'Niel.



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Above, Owen Riemer lines up a jump shot for HVRHS. Below, fans sport pink in support of breast cancer awareness.



After the game, Lakeview's record advanced to 8-6, putting them at fourth place in the Berkshire League standings. HVRHS moved to 5-12 and remained in fifth place in the BL boys rankings.

With the post season just around the corner, as of Feb. 6, Shepaug remained atop the BL undefeated at 17-0, followed by Thomaston at 14-3 and Nonnewaug at 13-4.

Berkshire League boys playoffs begin Feb. 18.

### Housy girls triumph 59-43

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE — Housatonic Valley Regional High School girls basketball won 59-43 against Lakeview High School on Feb. 5.

After a thrilling overtime matchup earlier in the season, HVRHS put down a decisive performance when hosting the Bobcats on Rivalry Night. Housatonic went up by double-digits in the first quarter and maintained a comfortable cushion until the end.

HVRHS won in the paint. The Mountaineers crashed the boards with Khyra McClennon and Maddie Johnson combining for 24 rebounds.

Offensively, senior Daniela Brennan could not be stopped. She finished with 22 points and facilitated scoring for her teammates through precision passing.

Lakeview's highest-scoring quarter was the fourth, during which the Bobcats maintained possession most effectively. The momentum came too late and HVRHS won by 16.

"These kinds of games are good for us. We built up a nice lead and they started shooting and clawing back at us. It was good for us to have to deal with adversity," said HVRHS Coach Jake Plitt after the win.

Brennan led HVRHS with 22 points. McClennon posted a double-double with 10 points and 14 rebounds. Tessa Dekker and Maddie Johnson both scored eight points for the Mountaineers.

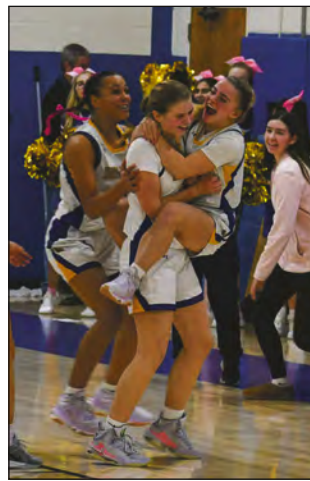
Lakeview was led in scoring by Allie Pape with 12 points, Addie Foss with nine points and Shea Higgins with eight points.

HVRHS's record advanced to 13-5 while Lakeview moved to 7-10. The teams remained at third and



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Daniela Brennan scored 22 points on Feb. 5.



The Mountaineers rejoice.



Khyra McClennon posted a double-double Feb. 5.

fourth respectively in Berkshire League standings.

As of Feb. 6, Northwestern's girls controlled the top spot in BL at 15-2, followed by Gilbert at 14-4.

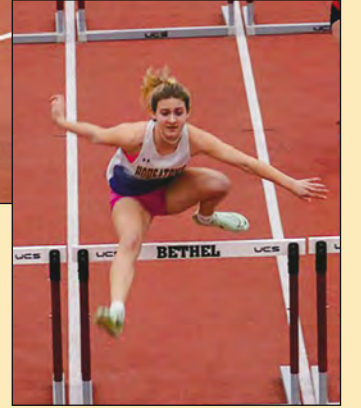
Berkshire League girls playoffs begin Feb. 19.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

### Indoor track BL champs

Housatonic Valley Regional High School was well represented at the Berkshire League indoor track championship in Bethel Feb. 8. As a unit, the girls and boys teams both finished in fourth place. Individually, several runners won first place in their disciplines. Kyle McCarron (pictured above) placed first in the 1000-meter run, the 1600-meter run and the 3200-meter run. Patrick Money placed first in the 55-meter hurdles and the long jump. Mia Dodge (pictured above) placed first in the 55-meter hurdles. The boys sprint medley relay team — Peter Austin, Silar Tripp, Patrick Money and Kyle McCarron — placed first overall.



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Lakeview High School is Region 20, which includes players that previously attended Litchfield and Wamogo High Schools.

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