

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



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

An exam room at Community Health and Wellness Center in North Canaan.

## 'Inadequate' Medicaid payments prompt legal proceedings

#### By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — The new federally qualified health center in North Canaan has treated more than 1,000 patients since opening its doors last summer to strong demand in the Northwest Corner. But operators of that facility, and others like it in Connecticut, said they are facing a "serious financial crisis" because Medicaid reimbursements have failed for decades to cover the actual costs of providing essential services.

In response to the longstanding problem, the nonprofit Commu-

nity Health Center Association of Connecticut has filed a Declaratory Ruling Request with the state Department of Social Services regarding that agency's legal obligations for setting and revising Medicaid reimbursement rates for the state's federally qualified health centers, also referred to as FQHC's.

The legal action follows more than 18 months of administrative rate requests and unsuccessful negotiations with DSS, according to a statement issued by the association on March 11, which noted:

See MEDICAID, Page A8

## Local school budgets move forward despite uncertainty surrounding federal funding

#### By Nathan Miller

U.S. Education Secretary Linda McMahon announced on Tuesday, March 11, that 50% of the department's workforce would be fired by March 21.

This workforce reduction coincides with cuts to the tune of over \$1 billion in grant funding to teacher recruitment and training organizations, the Regional Education Laboratory program, Equity Assistance Centers and grants awarded under the Comprehensive Centers Program that provide "capacity-building" training to schools nationwide.

So far, federal funding to public school districts has not been cut. But some education advocates are raising alarm bells about the cuts and how they might impact local public school districts.

Region One, the administrative body that oversees public schools in Northwest Connecticut including Cornwall, Sharon, Salisbury, Falls Village, North Canaan and Kent, received just over \$1.36 million in federal grant revenue for the 2024-'25 school year.

That represents 3.1% of the Region One budget, and funds programs like special education and healthcare for students that qualify for Medicare, Region One Business Manager Sam Herrick said.

"For students with disabilities we receive about \$780,000 a year of the \$1.36 million," Herrick said. "So a little more than half of our federal money is related to special

See BUDGETS, Page A8

### Sweet start to spring at MapleFest

#### By Ruth Epstein

SHARON — The atmosphere was steamy, yet sweet at the Sharon Audubon Center's sugarhouse Saturday, March 15, during the annual MapleFest.

Each year at this time, as the days warm up, but nights stay cold, the sap from maple trees begins to flow. And each year Sharon Audubon offers guests a look into the process of converting the sap into the sweet-tasting syrup.

As she has for several decades,

See MAPLEFEST, Page A8



Theo Adkins, 7, and his dad, Craig Adkins of Lakeville, enjoy a sampling of maple syrup during Saturday's MapleFest.

### **Proposed Sharon condo complex**

# HVRHS survey shows areas for improvement

#### By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Region One Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley reported on the recently concluded school climate survey for Housatonic Valley Regional High School at the regular Region One Board of Education meeting Monday, March 3.

The survey was administered Jan. 15 to Jan. 31 and includes three distinct groups: parents, students and staff.

Brady-Shanley said the survey is required by state law. Any action that needs to be taken will be incor-



porated into the school's improvement plan for next year.

She said 97% of staff members reported feeling physically safe at HVRHS often or always, but there was room for improvement in safety-related protocols and procedures and on training for emergencies, with 63% of staff members expressing satisfaction in those areas.

Staffers also indicated that professional development opportunities need to be more relevant.

Some 88% of parents give the school high marks for academics, but just 65% were content with the school's ability to meet their children's emotional and social

See HVRHS, Page A8

### angers neighbors, sparks debate

#### By Alec Linden

SHARON — A site visit and public hearing for a new housing development in downtown Sharon turned prickly in more ways than one as neighbors and residents showed up largely in protest of the project.

Late in the afternoon on March 12, George Johannesen, engineer with North Canaan-based Allied Engineering Associates Inc. and representative of the applicant Gold Dog LLC, led a group of about fifteen into the woods just below



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Engineer George Johannesen leads a site visit through the bramble. The homes along Hospital Hill Road in Sharon are visible in the background. the Sharon Medical Arts building parking lot.

The group bushwhacked through heavy vines and thorny bramble, following Johannesen as he pointed out a group of orange-taped stakes spread across the cedar-dotted hillside, demarcating the dimensions of the proposed condominium buildings.

As the crowd slowly lost cohesion in the thick undergrowth, some expressed exasperation — not with the painful woodland stroll, but with Gold Dog LLC's proposal.

"Homeowners not happy," said 61 Hospital Hill Road resident Andrea Weyant with a rueful, pained smile. "They should take their ideas and bring them somewhere else," she said of the developers. "And that's putting it nicely."

Silvina Leone parted from the main entourage to lead a smaller

See CONDOS, Page A8

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## Regional

### In The Journal this week

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#### **Online This Week**

#### **Mountaineer cheer team**

Cheerleading was revived at HVRHS after 20 years without a squad. More at lakevillejournal.com

#### Salisbury budget season

The Board of Finance reviewed town spending proposals at its regular meeting March 13. 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.

#### Railroad gate hits semi-truck

On the evening of March 13, Simon Gonzalez, 36, of Torrington was crossing the railroad intersection with Route 7 in North Canaan in a semi-truck when the warning lights flashed on and the gate arms dropped, striking the top of the trailer. The lights were not flashing as Gonzalez entered the intersection, and he saw no indication of an approaching train. A gate arm broke after striking the trailer, but Gonzalez stated to the responding trooper that he didn't know what to do and continued on his route. A worker for the Housatonic Railroad Co. recorded the plate number of the vehicle, and reported the incident to police, who issued Gonzalez a misdemeanor for Evading Responsibility.

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

## Kent students eligible to apply for academic scholarship

KENT — The Kent Center School Scholarship Fund is accepting applications for scholarships for students who graduated from Kent Center School and attended both 7th and 8th grades there.

Scholarships are available for undergraduate and grad-

uate studies at colleges, universities and trade schools.

Students are eligible to receive scholarships for up to five years. All materials must be submitted by May 1. There will be no exceptions. Email KCSSF.org for more information.

## COG watches legislative session with concern

#### By Alec Linden

LITCHFIELD — Northwest Hills Council of Governments is closely watching a number of bills in Hartford this year.

Harwinton First Selectman Michael Criss opened his legislative report at the March 13 meeting of the COG with a message for the assembled town leaders: "If you're planning your budgets, you might want to buckle up."

Criss, who chairs the Council of Government's Legislative Committee, claimed that many pending bills at the legislative session, which closes June 4, don't factor in the needs of small towns. He drew attention to several raised Senate and House Bills, which he said number in the thousands this session, that he found problematic.

He highlighted House Bill 6831, one of the more contentious bills of the session as particularly dangerous for the rural towns in the Northwest Corner. The bill seeks to incentivize affordable housing development by prioritizing grant funding to "transit-oriented communities," which it defines as downtown commercial districts oriented in proximity to a public-transport hub.

The bill, which is also known as "Work, Live, Ride," is strongly divided on party lines. Democratic proponents have said the bill would promote walkability and affordability in Connecticut's municipalities, addressing a dire need for housing for working families. Republican detractors have argued that the bill could make much-needed funding for municipal improvement in small, rural towns that don't qualify as "transit-oriented" harder to come by, and also could wrest zoning control from local leaders.

Criss said the bill was one of many that town officials should keep tabs on.

Council of Governments Executive Director Rob Phillips agreed that this legislative session has been especially hectic: "It's like whack-a-mole. Sometimes something pops up and you have to react in a matter of days."

"Sometimes 24 hours," Criss replied.

New grant manager COG recently hired a new grant financial manager to its staff, filling a longstanding gap in its financial planning

strategies. Amory Ryan, who previously worked as financial manager for the town of Deep River and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant, will assume the role on April 7. She will add a grant management backbone to a "decentralized" financial department, in the words of Executive Director Rob Phillips.

"We've been kind of limping along with a bookkeeper," said Phillips, clarifying that the Council's bookkeeper has done a great job but that grant management as a core function of the COG requires specialized and focused oversight. "There's just so much more we can do," he said of the group's pursuit for grants.



PHOTO PROVIDED

### Empowered assembly

In recognition of Women's History Month, celebrated throughout March, female politicians from the Northwest Corner gathered in Waterbury Wednesday, March 12. Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, pictured right, and 44 other legislators and local officials were invited to the event including Sharon Selectman Lynn Kearcher, pictured left.

### Sharon Hospital receives patient safety excellence award

SHARON — Popular healthcare search site Healthgrades awarded Sharon Hospital the "2025 Patient Safety Excellence Award."

Sharon Hospital representatives announced the achievement on Tuesday, March 11, in a press release.

"This award reflects the premiere commitment to patient safety our clinicians and staff strive for each day," Sharon Hospital President Christina Mcculloch stated in the press release. "I am proud to be a part of such a beloved community hospital that is one of the nation's best in patient-centered care."

Healthgrades conducted a study of 4,500 hospitals nationwide and found a safety gap between the best and worst hospitals in the U.S.

The annual study found that patients treated in safety excellence award recipient hospitals are less likely to experience falls in the hospital that result in a fracture, collapsed lung from a surgery around the chest, bed sores and catheter-related blood infections.

In addition to this recognition for patient safety, Sharon Hospital was recently the recipient of numerous accolades based on its exceptional performance in key service areas, including the Critical Care Five-Star Recipient for Treatment of Sepsis in 2025 and the Five-Star Recipient for Treatment of Diabetic Emergencies for 2 Years in a Row (2024-2025).

## Town leaders question Housatonic Railroad's herbicide treatment plan

### LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE SALISBURY F. Nelligan, LLC, 194 Ashley Fls Road, PO Box 776,

Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are not paid

#### By Alec Linden

KENT — At its March 12 meeting, the Conservation Commission discussed next steps regarding a recent herbicide plan submitted by the Housatonic Railroad Co., which many commission members felt to be incomplete or even defiant of legislation.

Submission of the plan was first announced at the March 5 Board of Selectmen meeting when the commission discussed the Vegetation Management Plan it had received from TEC Associates Consulting Engineers, the firm the railroad employs for its herbicide program.

Selectman Lynn Mellis Worthington noted that the plan seemed to be lacking information required by new regulations passed in July 2024 that requires much greater transparency and specificity regarding herbicide use by railroads in Connecticut.

The document then came under scrutiny by the Conservation Commission, which found similar shortcomings. The group noted the document is almost identical to plans submitted in previous years, while the new regulations call for several other auxiliary plans and much greater detail.

"I don't want to make you dizzy," said commissioner Connie Manes while flipping between the 2025 document and earlier iterations on the Zoom screen, "I just want to show you that it



PHOTO BY BRUCE BENNETT The railroad track comes close to water bodies in the Northwest Corner, as seen here at Hatch Pond.

looks pretty much the same." Other members of the commission agreed, with Commission advisor Jos Spelbos declaring that it "doesn't do anything different."

Worthington was also present at the meeting and noted that the issue was personal to her as her property contains a well close to the railroad. "I don't think they've given us what we're supposed to have," she asserted.

The 2024 legislation, which was originally posed by the Housatonic Herbicide Working Group, was meant to align Connecticut's regulations with much stricter railroad herbicide oversight in Massachusetts.

The group was formed in an attempt to work with the railroad to come up with a sustainable plant management plan but presented the issue to state government after the railroad failed to respond to any attempted communication. State Rep. Maria Horn, D-64, and State Sen. Stephen Harding, R-30, who brought the bill to the floor, maintained that the railroad has been difficult to work with.

There was speculation among some on the Conservation Commission that the railroad was continuing this pattern by seeking a loophole in the new regulations which might immunize itself from the law for another year. The commission decided the wording of the legislation needed to be reviewed with Horn and Harding, as well as Bruce Bennett, co-founder of the Housatonic Herbicide Working Group.

Bennett confirmed in a separate correspondence that the review is ongoing, as the group is "looking into some questions that we have concerning when the law/bill is going into effect."

Housatonic Railroad Co. did not reply to request for comment on its Vegetation Management Plan.

#### HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

The Salisbury Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 9:05am to act on an Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the Removal of a Chimney at 9A Sharon Road, Lakeville, CT, 06039. This Public Hearing will be held In-Person 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.

03-20-25

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF DOROTHY VERANO Late of Salisbury (25-00066)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated March 4, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is: Susan Grandpre c/o Kevin F Nelligan The Law Offices of Kevin Canaan, CT, 06018 Beth L. McGuire Chief Clerk

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF S. NORMAN REICH Late of Salisbury (25-00085)

03-20-25

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated February 28, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is: Beverly C. Reich c/o Perley Grimes, Cramer & Anderson, LLP 46 West Street, PO Box 278,

> Litchfield, CT 06759 Megan M. Foley Clerk 03-20-25

#### TAX COLLECTOR TOWN OF SALISBURY CT LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to Sec. 12-145 of the Connecticut State Statutes, the taxpayers of the Town of Salisbury are hereby notified that the fourth installment on the Grand List of October 1, 2023 is due and payable on Aprill, 2025. Payments must be received or postmarked by May 1, 2025. If said on or before May 1, 2025, interest at the rate of one and one half percent (18% per year) will be added for each month or a fraction thereof which elapses from the time when such tax becomes due and payable until the same is paid. Minimum interest charge is \$2.00.

Pursuant to Section 12-173 of the Connecticut State Statutes, unpaid Real Estate tax on the Grand List of October 1, 2023 will be LIENED on JUNE 6, 2025. Payment must be received by 12:00 p.m. on June 6, 2025 to avoid a Lien. Tax Office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9am- 4pm. Closed 12:30pm- 1:30 pm.

Taxes can be paid by mail addressed to: Tax Collector, P.O. Box 338, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068, There is a drop box in the vestibule of the Town Hall which is available 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday as well as a 24-hour drop slot at the rear of the building adjacent to the parking area. The Town is urging taxpayers to mail checks or use the option of paying by credit card or E-Check. Please see the Town website salisburyct.us for additional information. Dated at Town of Salisbury, CT this 15TH day of March 2025.

Jean F. Bell, CCMC Tax Collector Salisbury CT 06068 03-20-25 04-03-25 04-24-25

## **Our Towns**

## **HVRHS** Academic Bowl team places 4th at nationals

**By Peter Vermilyea** and Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Housatonic Valley Regional High School Academic Bowl Team placed first in Connecticut, first in New England, and fourth in the United States in the recent Knowledge Masters Open, hosted by Academic Hallmarks.

The February tournament, which included questions from all subject areas as well as pop culture, marks the highest the Mountaineer squad has ever finished in a national tournament. Housatonic's fourth place finish

**By Christine Bates** 

total of only five sales record-

month median price of Sha-

ron has been steadily fall-

ing from its historic high of

\$880,000 in August of 2024

to \$530,500 in February 2025

according to Smart MLS Info

Sparks. As of March 10, 11

single family homes were

listed on the MLS with five

over a million dollars and

one under \$300,000. Sixteen

land parcels are available and

nine seasonal furnished rent-

**January Transfers** 

-2 bedroom/1 bath home

built in 1960 on 1.93 acres

sold by Sebastian Faena to

Alexandra Gilbert and Pat-

7 Holland Road — 2 bed-

rick Parrish for \$469,000.

209 West Cornwall Road

als are listed.

Sharon's recent

real estate sales



Members of the HVRHS Academic Bowl team meet in a classroom.

qualified them for the 43rd annual National Academic Championship to be held later this spring.

Competing for HVRHS

on Feb. 24 in the online Knowledge Masters Open were seniors Daniela Brennan, Harper Howe, Sara Huber, Manasseh Matsudaira, Jassim Mohydin, and Elinor Wolgemuth, sophomores Jonas Johnson and Danny Lesh, and freshmen Katherine Money, Abigail Perotti, Karmela Quinion, Bridger Rinehart, and Owen Schnepf.

The team is coached by HVRHS Social Studies teacher Peter Vermilyea.

During her absence, she con-

tinued to receive pay checks.

Marilisa Camardi had been

filling in part time but was

away the first week of March.

To keep the office open, Ex-

ecutive Assistant Paul Mat-

tingly was appointed assis-

tant town clerk by the Board

of Selectmen at its March 3

meeting. The two will work

together until the next elec-

tion or until Jacquier returns.

of the town to have that office

The Lakeville Journal her

recent absence is due to ha-

rassment and antagonism in

Town Hall, which is taking a

frey Mirman, communi-

cated with the selectmen to

Jacquier's attorney, Jef-

open," said Whiting.

toll on her health.

"It's an essential function

In March, Jacquier told

Assistant Town Clerk

## Selectmen suspend town clerk's salary during absence

#### By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN - "If you're not coming to work, why would you get paid?"

Selectman Craig Whiting asked his fellow selectmen this pointed question during a special meeting of the Board on March 12 discussing Town Clerk Jean Jacquier, who has been absent from work for more than a month. She was not present at the meeting.

"There's been no reasoning, no explanation, no anything as to why you're not here," said Whiting.

Jacquier has worked in Town Hall since 1993 and was first elected town clerk in 2017. Conflict arose in 2023 when several complaints of misconduct were lodged against Jacquier.

First Selectman Brian Ohler filed the complaints to the Attorney General's of-

fice, which included, among

others, improper security of

the vault, posting candidate

campaign material in Town

Hall and untimely stamping

documents. The subsequent

investigation found miscon-

duct on the part of Jacquier

in each of these three areas.

the Town of North Canaan to recoup \$15,000 in legal fees

accrued during the investi-

gation. The town motioned

Jacquier filed suit against

## Reconsidering oversight of Salisbury's water, wetlands

#### By Debra A. Aleksinas

SALISBURY - Nearly five years ago an attempt by the town's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission to expand the scope of Upland Review Areas around water and wetlands from 75 feet to 200 feet revealed a deep divide, sparked by intense opposition from some property owners around Lake Wononscopomuc and the Twin Lakes in the northern edge of Salisbury.

The commission had left each of the town's four regulated, named lakes' upland review areas at the current 75 feet from the lake shore. That panel has now asked each lake association to determine if a modification of the Upland Review Area is warranted for their particular lakes.

The request acknowledges that shorelines have significantly different topographies, including lot sizes, and that review areas for each lake need not be uniform.

The Twin Lakes Association's board has settled on a 100 foot review area, representing an increase from 75 feet but scaled back from the 300 feet proposed earlier. The Lake Wononscopomuc Association remains in favor of a 200-foot

area, according to the presidents of their respective lake groups.

The inland/wetlands panel is expected to vote on the rules change on March 24. If approved, the proposal will be forwarded to the state Department of Energy and **Environmental Protection** 

some discussion since then that 300 feet would be better and match the 300-foot Lake Overlay Protection District.

"However, that is not a unanimous position," said Littauer. "So our position remains in favor of a 200-foot URA with the permitted activities outlined in the draft language."

Grant Bogle, president of the Twin Lakes Association, said his group's proposal for a 100 foot Upland Review Area has also been endorsed by representatives of the Salisbury Lakefront Homeowners Group, the primary organization that in the past opposed a broader review area.

The IWWC proposal and more association business will be discussed in a Zoom town hall the evening of April 30, Bogle said, who noted that members will also have the opportunity to express their views at public hearings.

"Given that we have looked at this issue over many years, and in conjunc-

The inland/

wetlands

panel is

expected

to vote on

the rules

change on

March 24.

tion with the ongoing watershed study being conducted by HVA, we felt bringing the Upland Review Area in line with the state recommended distance of 100 feet made sense," Bogle said. The Twin Lakes

Association board's support is contingent on the commission formalizing a proposed list of homeowner activities that would not require review, such as lawn maintenance, care for shrubs and trees and other activities associated with daily living, including gardening.

According to its March 13 newsletter, the TLA board settled on 100 feet for three main reasons: Many lots on the lakes are so small that 300 feet would encompass the entire property; state scientists have found that beyond 100 feet, landscaping and other activities likely have little or no impact on water quality or erosion and the state recommends a 100-foot review area in most cases. Also, waterfront property owners are already subject to a 300-foot overlay protection zone requiring Planning and Zoning approval for any earth-moving projects including construction and septic system replacement.

SHARON — Real estate transfers received from the Town Clerk of Sharon got off to a slow start in January and February of 2025 with a ed including two condos on Upper Main Street. These five residential properties all sold for under \$500,000. The 12

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES Two condos sold on Upper Main Street of similar size and price — \$210,000 and \$225,000.

#### **February Transfers**

- 2 bedroom/2 bath condo sold by Edward Bixler Trustee to Kurt Ludwig Heissmeyer for \$210,000.

270 Cornwall Bridge Road — 3 bedroom/2 bath split level sold by Justin M. and Jane M. Downs to Jose Gonzalez for \$465,000.

\*Town of Sharon real estate transfers recorded as sold between Jan. 1 and Feb. 28, 2025, provided by the Sharon Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS. *Compiled by Christine Bates,* Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.

4 Upper Main St., Unit 7

## ter that ruling and has not been in contact since Feb. 4.

room/1 bath home built in 1935 on 1.08 acres sold by Riley and Jennifer McJilton to Melissa Babin for \$480,000.

8 Upper Main St., Unit 14 - 2 bedroom/2 bath condo sold by Roger W. Elwood to Roger W. Elwood and Candace M. Tuthill for \$225,000.

### Falls Village selectmen establish two new town committees

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Board of Selectmen established two committees at the board's regular meeting Monday, March 10.

On a motion from Selectman Judy Jacobs, the Village Historic District Committee, which will be advisory to the Board of Selectmen, will include Tracy Wilson, Cheryl Aeschliman, Bill Beebe and Caitlin Jenkins as members, and Richard Brezine and Scott Jack as alternate. Jacobs will be an ex-officio member and liaison to the Board of Selectmen.

On a motion from First Selectman Dave Barger, the

able Housing Task Force, also advisory to the Board of Selectmen, and appointed Mary Priestman, Kathy Clark, Lara Haffner and Carmella Barger, with Barger acting as ex-officio member and liaison to the Board of Selectmen.

The selectmen also discussed making a committee of the Falls Village Grant Group but took no action.

The selectmen sent a request from the Fire Commission for \$10,000 to cover the costs of physicals to the Board of Finance.

The finance board subsequently approved the expenditure.

to strike the case, which was board established the Afford-

granted by Hon. Walter Menjivar at Torrington Superior Court on Jan. 28, 2025. Ohler said Jacquier stopped coming to work af-

request the meeting regarding her salary be open to the public as opposed to executive session. The selectmen complied.

Selectman Jesse Bunce said he has been in contact with Jacquier and he presented a letter from her to his fellow selectmen during the March 12 meeting. Ohler stated he could not verify the source of the letter, but he would forward it to the town attorney. The letter was not read into the record.

Ohler motioned to suspend Jacquier's salary until she returns to work. Whiting seconded. The motion passed 2-0 with Bunce abstaining.

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"It is incredibly valuable to be able to have access to real people who care about your business, that you can trust and depend on. Knowing that our money was safe and secure made it a big reason for taking our business to Bank of Millbrook.'

- John Stefanopoulos

At the Bank of Millbrook, we're here to help our customers achieve their goals no matter how long they've been in business. Stop by one of our branches and tell us how we can help your business grow!

### **Town Clerk's Office hours**

NORTH CANAAN — day and Thursday from 8 Town Hall has posted new a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday hours for the Town Clerk's from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Office due to staff changes. office will be closed from

are Monday from 8 a.m. to Wednesday and Thursday 6 p.m., Tuesday, Wednes- for staff lunch.

New hours of operation 1 to 2 p.m. on Tuesday,





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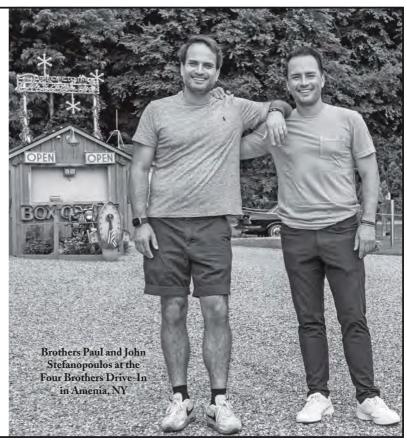
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for comment, and a public hearing is set for May 12.

"The Lake Wononscopomuc Association initiated this review four years ago when we asked the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission to extend the upland review area to 200 feet," said William Littauer, that association's president.

Littauer noted that members were concerned about tree removal above the current 75-foot upland review area. "The destruction of vegetation so close to the lake would remove barriers to the flow of nutrients into the water column," Littauer said, noting that there has been



## **Our Towns**



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Theresa Graney, right, loaded Bill Beebe's plate with corned beef and cabbage at the St. Patrick's Day lunch.

## Feasting on corned beef and cabbage

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE -About 25 people to the Senior Center on Main Streetfor a traditional St. Patrick's Day lunch Thursday, March 13.

Theresa Graney and Tina Hanlon fiddled with the Sterno canisters under the hot trays while people added suspiciously green desserts to the potluck table.

The main event, corned beef and cabbage, came from

Theresa Freund. There was so much food that people balked at piling any more on their plates, reasoning they could always make a second trip.

## New study recommends action on health of Mudge Pond

#### By Alec Linden

SHARON - A recent study found that Mudge Pond remains hydrilla-free, but it's not all good news.

Other invasive plant species in the 211-acre lake are plentiful and water quality is at risk. The study recommends prompt action on both fronts to maintain the recreational and ecological value of the lake, and the recently re-formed, and 501(c) (3) certified, Mudge Pond Association is ready to act toward that goal.

"Thank god there's nothing in the lake yet," said the Association's Chair Andrew Cahill about hydrilla, the tenuous and damaging invasive waterweed that has colonized many regional lakes, ponds and rivers. Cahill theorized that the label "pond" may keep outsider boat traffic down, limiting the spread of the plant, but emphasized



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN The town beach and an out-of-season diving board at Mudge Pond in Sharon.

that the threat of hydrilla is serious and defense against the waterweed will be a top priority as the newly-invigorated Association picks up steam.

Selectman Lynn Kearcher, who was a member of a previous iteration of the Mudge Pond Association, pointed to Salisbury as proof of hydrilla's threat.

"We see what's happening at Twin Lakes," she said. "Somehow we have to get some monitoring in place at the boat launch."

In the meantime, the report, which was completed by local ecology consultant group Northeast Aquatic Research LLC, highlights the need for action elsewhere.

Kearcher presented the study, conducted between April and December of 2024, to Sharon's Board of Selectmen at its March 11 regular meeting. She relayed that five invasive plant species had been detected, with eurasian milfoil, fanwort and curly-leaf pondweed being the most abundant. Smaller populations of water chestnut and brittle naiad were also found.

The study suggested that water chestnut be addressed swiftly, as it becomes very difficult to deal with when more established. Cahill agreed: "It's manageable now," he said, and it offers an uncontroversial first project for the Association as the weeds can be removed by hand-pulling without the use of herbicides. The other invasives would require a cocktail of herbicides administered at different times throughout the year, which is not only more complicated but proves a more controversial issue among stakeholders of the lake.

Cahill said that recruiting more members and contributors to the Association is paramount in crystallizing its mission as it responds to the recent study: "I think the more hands we get, the more people we get involved in town, the clearer it will become what our priorities are and how we want to use the Association."

While the group has yet to draft a formal mission statement, Cahill said the overarching goal of the Association will be making sure the lake "stays healthy for generations."

Water quality is another important aspect of sustained lake health, as an imbalance of nutrients can alter the ecology significantly. The report states that Mudge Pond should remain in the oligo-mesotrophic range, a designation for lakes with clear water and relatively low biological activity. Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection classifies lakes based on water clarity and the concentrations of the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus in the water column

Water clarity fluctuated but generally remained good over the study period, with a maximum of 5.7 meters — approximately 19 feet while nutrient concentrations also mostly remained within thresholds. One cause for concern, however, was an oxygen-depleted layer that formed on the bottom of the lake throughout summer, allowing nitrogen in the lake bed to leach into the water column.

The study reports that this makes Mudge Pond "an excellent candidate for aeration," a measure which Cahill said took him by surprise, and that surprise, he was learning, was part of the job. He said he knows that discussions surrounding strategies like adding bubblers to the lake are sure to ruffle some feathers, but that ultimately putting diverse minds together will be the strength of the newly formed association.

## Arts center receives IWWC approval

#### By Alec Linden

SHARON — An application for a gallery, office and retail space in Sharon has been approved by the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission after the applicant, local nonprofit Low Road Sharon, downscaled and revised its plans to account for impacts to a nearby stream.

Low Road Sharon will manage an artist's colony on renowned painter Jasper Johns' Sharon estate after his passing, a project which was received favorably by Sharon's Planning and Zoning Commission in 2017.

The new development is planned to be constructed at 1, 15 and 29 Low Rd., adjacent to the North Main Street shopping plaza. The property is owned by Low Road Sharon, but is not continuous with the painter's estate

enabled commissioners and members of the public to offer their input on issues such as erosion control, invasive species management, and noise and traffic disturbances due to construction. The IWWC decided to table the issue until its March 10 regular meeting, where it resumed the conversation.

At the meeting, Commissioner Mike Dudek expressed his desire for oversight, "specifically in relation to herbicide use" and storm water management practices relating to the project, a sentiment which several other commission members echoed.

Commissioner William Trowbridge motioned that the application be approved with conditions, opening the floor for the commission to deliberate the resolution.

The final conditions of aproval were that the planting A Feb. 10 public hearing plan replace a foreign species five years, with regular re-



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

The aging facade of the structure currently standing at 1 Low Road. Beardsley Pond Brook, the stream in question in the IWWC application, lies in a steep ravine below the driveway on the left.

with a native one, and that the applicant hire an agent to monitor all plantings, storm water runoff contingencies and general maintenance of the construction. The resolution also stipulated that the storm water drainage system specifically be monitored bi-monthly for a period of

ports to IWWC.

Dudek reiterated the importance of keeping tabs on the development: "Storm water systems and herbicide spraying will affect that stream big time."

Commission alternate Colin Malone said that "overall the plan is a significant improvement over what's there right now," referring to several old and unkempt buildings currently lying vacant on the property. More details surrounding the construction specifics will be made public once the group submits an application to the Planning and Zoning Commission, which is likely in the next several months.

## Scoville Library talk navigates changes to publishing industry

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Stephanie Koven of Lakeville talked about her career in publishing and dispensed advice for aspiring authors at the Scoville memorial Library Sunday, March 16.

Koven has worked for major publishers such as Knopf, been a literary agent, and is a specialist in international -publishing rights. She currently works for Blackstone Publishing, an independent publisher.

Asked about changes in the publishing business since she started in 1990, Koven rattled off a list she had prepared.

"When I started everyone used typewriters."

In due course the typewriters were replaced by



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN Stephanie Koven

desktop computers, and employees were trained in the use of a new communications medium, email.

She said Amazon's debut selling books online in 1995 marked an enormous change. This was followed by e-books, the Amazon Kindle in 2007, and the iPhone in 2009.

She said e-book sales have leveled off, but audio book sales are increasing.

#### Douglas Library opens new show

The Douglas Library of North Canaan will present an exhibit of paintings by artist Judith Wyer through March and April. Her work invests everyday moments, people, places, and settings with a deeper, sometimes quietly humorous significance.

In a press release, Wyer described her painting approach as "a journey with an unknown destination.

My work often begins with a photograph of a captivating image, a fleeting moment of everyday existence."

Rather than start with a fully-formed image in her mind's eye, she allows the narrative of each piece to develop itself, drawing on a wealth of cultural observation gathered by her reading, travels, and an abiding curiosity.

Other changes include new self-publishing platforms, real competition for books from television networks like Netflix, and the rise of artificial intelligence.

Koven specializes in books in translation. She said that while Americans have traditionally not been very interested in reading works by foreign writers in translation, the situation has changed. She credited Netflix in part, for offering foreign television series.

Asked for advice for writers, she said "Do it because you enjoy it."

"What do you want to be known for?" she continued. "Find the joy in it."

She cautioned: "Don't futurize it, don't think about sales." Instead, "put one word in front of another until you have a draft. See where it leads."

Asked about the stigma of self-publishing, Koven said flatly "It's gone."

She said modern self-publishing platforms are sophisticated and give the author a wide range of options in terms of design.

"It's very viable and wonderful."

The worst thing a writer can do, she added, "is to leave your manuscript in the computer."

Cahill said he looks forward to putting the heads of Sharon's lake-lovers together to find the right path forward for Mudge Pond.

### Kent Center School musical opens April 9

KENT — Students in the fifth through eighth grades at Kent Center School will present an original musical, "The Hang Up," at the school on April 9 and 10.

With a talented cast of 22 students, the curtain will rise at 7 p.m. on April 9, and 7

p.m. on April 10.

The show features wellloved popular music as well as original numbers and rap songs by the show's playwright and director, Kimberly Compton.

Enthusiasm for the show is high at KCS, and the cast has been rehearsing since January. Another five students are involved in the production as backstage crew managing props and sound.

"The Hang Up" performances at Kent Center School are free and open to the public.

Be a part of a new special feature from The Lakeville Journal & The Millerton News



Non-profit Spotlight is a special feature that is published the 2nd week of each month in both The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, with a focus on the non-profit organizations that serve our area. This provides at least six organizations the opportunity to be highlighted in a quarter page, full color ad with prime positioning.

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The Lakeville Iournal Millerton News

## **OBITUARIES**

#### **Jill Ree Grickis**

WOODBURY — Jill Ree They delighted in spending Grickis, age 78, of 31 Wood-

bury Hill, Woodbury, passed away peacefully at Waterbury Hospital on March 5, 2025, after a brief illness.

Jill was born on Dec. 20, 1946, in New Jersey to Helen Blalock Grickis and William V. Grickis, Sr., who

predeceased her. She is survived by her brother, William V. Grickis, Jr., and his wife, Ellen Denisevich Grickis of Bethlehem, and her nieces Carter Eve Grickis of Santa Monica, California, and Grayson Lillie Grickis of Jupiter, Florida.

Jill grew up in Cheshire, Connecticut graduating from Cheshire High School in 1964. She then graduated from Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in French. In 1969, she earned a Master's in teaching in French from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. Thereafter, Jill taught French briefly at a middle school in Warwick, Rhode Island. She relocated to Connecticut in the late 1970s to begin work as a customer service representative, a position which she held with distinction until taking a disability retirement in 1998.

Jill lived at her Woodbury Hill condominium for many happy years with her companion, Jim Young, formerly of Cheshire, now deceased.

time with Jill's nieces, enjoying the silken voice of Johnny Mathis,

musicals such as Chicago and Phantom, and enjoying the bountiful ofhad a great sense of humor and relwith her nieces

and gracefully suffered the many tricks they played on her.

Jill devoted much of her life to supporting various charities dedicated to helping impoverished people and orphaned animals. She was also a passionate member of the Gettysburg chapter of the Chi Omega sorority and a virtual communicant of Prince of Peace Roman Catholic Church, Woodbury. In lieu of flowers donations in Jill's memory may be offered to the ASPCA.

There are no calling hours. A funeral Mass will be celebrated for Jill on March 26, 2025, at 11 a.m. at the Church of the Nativity, 48 East Street, Bethlehem, CT, followed by interment at New North Cemetery, Woodbury, CT. There will be a celebration of life at the Painted Pony restaurant in Bethlehem after interment.

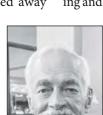
Home assisted with the ar-

To leave an online condolence please visit www. munsonloveterefuneralhome.com

### Jeffrey F. Riva

MILLBROOK — Jeffrey

on March 15, 2025, at the age of 77. Known as "Pop" to his grandchildren, Jeff leaves an indelible mark created by a lifetime of strength, courage, boldness, love, adventure and hu-



ferings of local restaurants. Jill ished time spent

Munson Lovetere Funeral rangements.

#### He is survived by his lov-F. Riva, sadly passed away ing and devoted wife, Nancy;

daughter, Jennifer, and son-in-law, Tom Mullen, and their sons, Joseph, Matthew and Tyler; son, Jeffrey, and daughter-inlaw, Maureen Riva, and their children, Katie, Jake, Luke

#### Dean Joseph Davidson

LAKEVILLE — Dean Joseph Davidson died quietly at home early on Sunday, March 9, 2025. Dean is survived by his loving partner, Linda Bushnell, his brother, Robert Davidson (wife Lynn) of Travelers Rest, South Carolina, and his sister, Carol Bartlett (husband Robert) of Old Lyme. He leaves three nephews; Jason Bartlett (wife Jackie), Michael Bartlett (wife Danielle) and Ryan Bartlett (wife Kristen) and their families.

Dean was born to the late Margaret (Peg) and Robert Davidson, at Fairview Hospital on Feb. 10, 1953. He spent his childhood in Canaan, and graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in1972. Dean was previously employed as a carpenter with Morck Builders of Falls Village, as a member of the Salisbury Town Crew, and he really enjoyed his work at Lime Rock Park in the mid 70's to mid 80's, performing any number of services. In later years, Dean was a successful self-employed carpenter.

Previously, Dean was a member of The Lakeville Hose Company. He took great pride in organizing two rodeos in Pope Field for the benefit of LHC. He was also an active supporter of The Jane Lloyd Fund and he

#### James F. Casey

FALLS VILLAGE – James his family and his family F. Casey was born April 20, 1950, in Queens,

New York. James passed peacefully in his Falls Village home Jan. 26, 2025. James was predeceased by his daughter Susan Casey. James is survived by his wife Saukuen Loh (May), his son

James D. Casey and wife Danielle, his son, Daniel J. Casey and his wife Ida and his daughter, Jennifer Casey and her husband Jonathan. He was survived by his three wonderful stepsons William Wong and his wife Kennie, Sam Wong and his wife Rarunning and in good shape. Dean was an avid and talented golfer. He loved to play. He organized the VFW Monday Night League at Hotchkiss for many years. He loved his German

could always be seen at the

annual Clam Bake, enthusi-

astically working all day to

young riders of The Lakev-

ille Pony Club and served as

District Commissioner for a

year. He was an invaluable

asset to Linda at Fairweath-

er Farm, Town Hill Farm

and Riga Meadow Farm. He

could build jumps, bale hay,

trailer horses, fix tractors

and do anything else that

was needed to keep the farm

Dean loved helping the

help make it a success.

Shepards; Codi, Blue and most recently, Bria, and they all adored him! And... though he would never admit it, he loved horses, too.

He will be deeply missed. Calling hours will be 6-8 p.m. on Friday, March 21 at The Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home, 118 Main Street in Canaan, Connecticut. A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 22 at The Salisbury Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to The Jane Lloyd Fund c/o The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

business. James was a master plumber and

> he was HVAC certified. James was an avid vegetable gardener, and he was particularly proud of his tomato plants. He loved to look out at his wife's beautiful flower gardens that surround the prop-

erty. He loved visiting the ocean and going to seafood restaurants. He liked to hike his mountain that he had carved out for him. James enjoyed fishing, both deep sea and the local lakes to catch bass. James was into music of all types, though blues was a favorite. He played guitar, harmonica, and he would try any other instrument. James was a passionate reader who owned thousands of books. There will be a celebration of life in the spring.

#### Sibyl Jane Lipton

CANAAN - Sibyl Jane children, Theresa, Delilah Bryce Lipton, age 95, passed away March 5, 2025, at Geer Village in Canaan.

Jane was born on Jan. 23, 1930, in Washington, D.C., and she was the daughter of the late James Robert Bryce and Daisy Nan Hedges.

Jane graduated from St. Margaret's High School in Tappahannock, Virginia. She attended Mt. Holyoke College and Catholic University.

Jane lived in Sharon for more than 30 years, before moving to Geer Village in 2019.

Jane is survived by a son, James, two daughters, Margaret and Katherine; five grandchildren, Robert, Leda, Ariel, Jacob, Naomi and Sophie, and three great-grand-

and Callum. She was predeceased by a brother, James Robert Bryce, Jr.

> A memorial service will be held at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Lime Rock, on Saturday, April 5, at 11:00 a.m. All other services are private.

> Donations may be made in memory of Jane Bryce Lipton to (1) Geer Foundation, at 77 South Canaan Road, Canaan, CT 06018, or through their website: www. geercares.org/donate; or (2) Trinity Episcopal Church at 484 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville, CT 06039, or through their website: www.trinitylimerock.org.

> The Kenny Funeral Home has care of the arrangements.

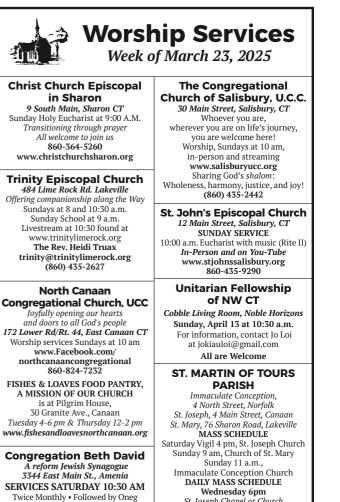
#### Victoria Beller Smith

KENT — Victoria Beller dent spirit. Predeceased by Smith of Kent, age 87, died her husband of 57 years, Har-

one year ago on March 21, 2024, due to complications from Alzheimer's disease.

Vickie was a ballet dancer, photographer, rescuer of dogs, and a fiercely indepenmon Smith, she is survived by her daughter, Gwendolyn, son-in-law

Tony, grandchildren Anya and Griffin, and beloved Jack Russell terrier named Chula.





mor. He was his own man and will be fondly remembered and deeply missed.

Jeff was born in Washington, D.C. on Aug. 17, 1947, to Betty (Shaler) and Humbert Lewis Riva. He attended Sacred Heart Grammar School in Washington, D.C. He moved with his family to Short Hill, New Jersey in 1961. He graduated from Seton Hall Prep in 1965. He then graduated from Marist College in 1969. While attending Marist, he met the love of his life, Nancy Cutten, and they were married in June 1969. Together they raised three wonderful children in Staatsburg, New York, Jennifer, Jeffrey and Brian.

For 33 years, Jeff was an educator, coach and athletic director at Our Lady of Lourdes HS (1969-74) and Millbrook Jr./Sr. HS (1974-2002). Many of his student-athletes still stay in contact with him as well as many of his students. His humor and sharp wit were unmatched and will be remembered forever and bring smiles to friends and family as they continue to honor his life by living their lives fully and with courage. "Climb, though the rocks are rugged"

Jeff was predeceased by his parents; brother, John Michael; and sisters, Betty Jane and Suzanne.

> Send obits to editor@ lakevillejournal.com

and Molly; and son, Brian, and Sarah and their son, Jack.

Jeff is also survived by his siblings, Barbara Coates and husband, John, Richard Riva and wife, Sharon, Rob Riva and wife, Nancy, Denning Riva, Mary Ann Martin and husband, Channing; brotherin-law, Ray Cutten and wife, Patricia; sister-in-law, Angela Riva; and numerous nieces and nephews, and grandnieces and grandnephews.

The family will hold a memorial service at a later time.

In lieu of flowers, Jeff's family requests that you make a memorial donation to your local SPCA, or Tunnels To Towers Foundation (www.t2t.org), or a charitable cause that you support.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park. To send an online condolence, please visit Jeff's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

chel, and Allen Wong and his wife Angela. He had fourteen grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

James grew up on Long Island, New York. He came to Litchfield County to start

## **OUR TOWNS**

#### Salisbury UCC to host public conversation on forgiveness

SALISBURY — Congregational Church of Salisbury will host a series of "Public Conversations of Consequence," creating an opportunity for substantive, caring discussion.

The first installment or the series will be held on Sunday, March 30, 4:30 to 6 p.m., and the topic will be "Forgiveness."

Four guest presenters have been invited to share their perspectives on the notion of forgiveness through the lens of their professional practices philosophy, public health, the clergy and counseling/ therapy.

Attendees are invited to listen thoughtfully, to interact with the guest presenters and to engage with their fellow attendees.

Refreshments will be served following the structured program for those who wish to continue the conversations.



CHRISTOPHER E. RYAN, SR

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JONATHAN J. RYAN

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The Lakeville United Methodist Church 31 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

**Falls Village Congregational Church** 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all !! 860-824-0194

**The Sharon United Methodist Church** 112 Upper Main Steet, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summe The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net

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

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

**Canaan United Methodist Church** 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 8:00AM - Worship Service 2nd & 4th Sunday "Open Hearts – Open Minds – Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534

canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!

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

UCC in CORNWALL

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

LGBTQ Community

#### The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall

Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom

Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome!

www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gatesl

#### St. Thomas

Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality

> **Promised Land Baptist Church**

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

#### **All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church**

313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. During Lent, Presanctified Liturgy Wednesdays at 6:30 PM and Akathist to the Virgin Mary Fridays at 6:30 PM Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 | allsaintsofamerica.us

### The Lakeville Lournal

EDITORIAL PAGE A6

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

### The power of food

cease-fire is likely in Ukraine. But ask yourself why? For three years, actually for 6 years since Russian invaded and recaptured the Crimea from Ukraine, India and all the sub-Sahara nations have been suffering food shortages. Shipping of Ukraine's vital supplies of wheat and safflower oil have been disrupted, transshipped via three or more countries, blockaded from Odessa port, and price-hiked by more than 50%. Of course this penalty for Ukraine's farmers has been horrible on top of bombs falling. But what has also happened is that people in Africa starved to death who could not afford the higher prices of life-dependent food and cooking oil.

Now, you may think safflower oil is not a big deal... but in a largely vegetarian country like India that is the world largest consumer of safflower oil, a price hike of over 150% thanks to the Russians invad-

ing your principal grower and supplier, can and quite simply does, kill people, especially those on the lowest income levels.

India and the African Union (a large voting bloc in the United Nations General Assembly) are fed up with Russia's onslaught against their food supplier. Recently, in the past year, they have been voting against Russia or at least not voting with them (abstaining) — and Russian needs their support in a myriad of matters, especially now that China had recently been showing trends of not supporting Russia either in the UN Security Council. In short, Russia's traditional supporters are waning... And Joe Biden's team worked really hard to increase that pressure. What pressure? India, for example, was buying Russian arms and planes for decades... but two years ago began to purchase or negotiate to purchase U.S. war planes instead. That's a massive blow to Russia. And the sub-Saharan countries,

#### A VIEW FROM THE EDGE PETER RIVA

traditionally using Russian mercenaries to help stabilize their government forces, have begun to work with our Africa Command in Germany. Our Africa Command helps finance troops from, for example the Uganda People's Defence Force, to keep the peace in many conflict areas. The U.S. labels this support as capacity-building programs, security assistance, military equipment sales, military education and linked-purpose hospitals - U.S. boots without U.S. feet. The Russian mercenaries, clearly under

Putin's control, are be-...this penalty for ing phased Ukraine's farmers has out. with them been horrible on top go access to of bombs falling. But industrial resources what has also hap-(ore and pened is that people in Africa starved to death who could not afford the higher pric-

chemicals). In short, Putin wants to stop fighting if he can and seem to es of life-dependent be the savior supplier food and cooking oil. of grain and

And

safflower oil to countries with whom Russia had built up multi-decade positive relationships with. He will claim he not a colonizer like Americas is, but he's lost control of his dependent nations and, what's worse, at a local politics level, Russia is seen as the reason for raised prices, lack of affordable fertilizer and staple food stuffs — despite propaganda from Moscow claiming it is all the West's fault. Safflower oil and wheat are, to India and sub-Saharan African nations as bread and milk are to you and me. Vital, staple, irreplaceable. Putin may claim he's the savior of the coming ceasefire, but in truth he's got little option. It is what the previous administration was working towards and this administration will claim credit for. But the truth can be seen in the UN General Assembly votes for the past two-plus years as Putin lost supporters at a fast pace.

## Opinion



The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. each Monday. You may email letters to publisher@ lakevillejournal. com. **Please limit** letters to 500 words. Include town and phone number. Letters are subject to condensation.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### What happened to our country?

Since the election of Donald Trump as president of the United States, we have had the release of the January 6 insurrectionists, withdrawal from the Paris Climate accord, signed actions eliminating DEI, the revocation of pathways for immigrants to legally enter the United States, often on humanitarian grounds. This

plan isn't it. Does anyone feel com-

### Concern: 150-foot cell tower for Route 22

I wonder how many people in our local area realize that there is a 150-foot cell tower proposed on the east side of Route 22 just north of the intersection with Catalano Road in Ancram. While there may be a need to improve cellphone service in our vicinity, I am concerned about the possibility of erecting a 150-foot cell tower in Ancram's Scenic Corridor Overlay Zone along Route 22. The proposed site, at a rise in the highway, would make the cell tower a featured part of the landscape for anyone driving north or south along Route 22. And it would have a very negative impact on the broad and open expanse of the Oblong Valley for residents of Ancram, Millerton, and other neighboring towns. We must determine whether there are alternative places to site the tower. Here is a portion of the Scenic Corridor Overlay Zone text from the Ancram zoning law: "The Town of Ancram, New York, recognizes that the New York State Route 22 corridor and that portion of the Harlem Valley lying within that corridor, including the Taconic State Park and its mountain ranges and Fox Hill, are some of the Town's and surrounding community's premium scenic assets. Within this corridor there exists a confluence of valuable assets for the Town and its residents including, but not limited to, environmental, recreational and scenic resources, and these scenic resources contribute significantly to the overall rural character of the town and possess attributes which the community seeks to preserve and enhance, while accommodating growth and change."

overturn local and state sanctuary laws to expedite mass deportation. It won't matter if they have a work permit, asylum or an American sponsor. Yes, we need a better immigration policy but Trump's

administration is trying to

fortable with Elon Musk's Nazi-like salute? He spent

communication tower within

the Scenic Corridor Over-

lay Zone must be limited to

100 foot. Homeland Towers

and Verizon seek to build a

very tall and obtrusive 150ft

cell tower well above the

reasonable limit set by the

town zoning. Constructing a

150-foot cell tower at this site

\$277 million supporting Trump and other Republican candidates. Musk now says he will go beyond supporting Trump to serve as his "political enforcer." When does a president need a "political enforcer like Musk except in a dictatorship? Sounds ominous to me!

Elon Musk has a long history of boosting far-right policies. He has been pushing for deregulation of business laws and encouraging antisemitism and racism. Doesn't it boggle your mind that Elon Musk is Trump's "right hand man" and is well known for his bigotry? Trumps' son-in-law, Jared Kushner, is Jewish, and his daughter, Ivanka, converted to Judaism to marry Jared. Yet King Trump has a zenophobic intolerant person as his collaborator. Trump is still a charlatan and witless, greedy, narcissistic carnival calling for Europe to be inclusive of far-right parties. Vance recently visited Dachau in Germany, and is well aware of the Holocaust atrocities yet says we shouldn't shun far-right parties. I can't imagine what our allies think of the United States. Certainly the German Chancellor made it known what he thought of Vance's speech.

America is supposed to be the beacon of light for other countries. We are supposed to stand for equality, justice, tolerance and fairness. As many times as our country has missed the mark with these issues, there was always hope and people who worked towards these goals. Now we have, barely, mediocrity, criminality, increased racism, rewriting our laws to suit the ambitions of King Trump and his minions. A good example of this is Trump's pledge to end birthright citizenship which is guaranteed by the 14th Amendment. Trumps' enormously toxic reign has already damaged our nation and will continue to do so. The next four years will be full of turmoil, misrule, and unruliness.

Peter Riva, a former resident of Amenia Union, lives in Gila, New Mexico.



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

#### Awaiting spring

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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The zoning law that covers the Scenic Corridor Overlay Zone also notes that any tele-

would be a huge intrusion upon and devaluation of the special recognized character of this area. We hope that the Ancram Zoning Board of Appeals will deny the major variance for a 150-foot cell tower. We encourage the ZBA to uphold the 100-foot cell tower limit, thus preserving the scenic value rather than damaging it.

The Oblong Valley area is home to several noteworthy and scenic hiking and recreational areas that include the Columbia Land Conservancy's Overmountain Conservation Area, the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, the Taconic State Park Rudd Pond Area, and the Taconic Ridge Trail over Brace and South Brace Mountains. Views from these well-used and treasured recreational areas should be preserved rather than diminished.

Balloon tests at 100 feet and 150 feet for this proposed cell tower are set to take place on upcoming Saturdays when the wind is predicted to be light. So far, four Saturdays have proven to be too windy to run the tests. Please do your part to protect our scenic corridor and the Oblong Valley by finding out more about this proposal, observing balloon tests to assess the visual impact of the cell tower, and informing your neighbors of this cell tower proposal. Help to preserve this valuable scenic and recreational community resource.

Jane H. Meigs Millerton, New York

barker, but Elon Musk is clever enough to use King Trump's Achilles heel, ego, for his own agenda.

Where is the enforcement of the ethics rules from our federal government in regard to King Trump's selling of a line of merchandise? His brand sells Bibles, sneakers, gold medallions, watches, guitars, Christmas ornaments etc. It seems the rules do not apply to King Trump.

Now we have J. D. Vance Sharon

I just hope our country survives.

**Gretchen Gordon** 

#### THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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## Viewpoint

#### TURNING BACK THE PAGES Norma Bosworth

125 years ago — March 1900

Falls Village was visited by a disastrous fire yesterday morning. At about a quarter of seven the Sid Reed Block was found to be a mass of flames. As the village has no means of fighting fires, all the people could do was to get out what articles they could and let the fire do its work. The block consisted of the clothing store of John Belden in the main part, with a tenement each side, occupied by Sidney Reed and A.S. Davis. By hard work most of the store stock and household goods were saved. We understand the buildings were fully insured. It was thought the depot would also burn, but it was finally saved after being pretty thoroughly scorched. It was not known what started the fire as it was under such full headway when discovered. The barns belonging to Reed were uninjured.

A family of five was last week poisoned by eating huckleberry pie in Hartford. We always suspected there was something uncanny about the Hartford pie, but we did not think it was so deadly as all this. We would not be surprised if huckleberry pie would supplant bromo seltzer and chocolate drops that have formerly been used by up to date poisoners. Moral: Beware of the meek looking but deadly huckleberry pie.

Last month a party of 16 started from West Goshen to North Dakota. Several of the party intend to take up land and raise wheat.

SHARON — Extensive improvements are being made on the place formerly owned by Mrs. Taylor. The barn is being moved over next to Mr. Eggleston's barn and we understand the hedge is to be taken away.

The trouting season opens April 1st and LaPlace the druggist is prepared for it with a large line of fishing tackle to meet all demands. Class of 1927, scholars of the first rank, general average of 90 or more.

George Rowe of Lime Rock is not able to step on his foot yet.

A book belonging to the Hartford Public Library, What the Schools Teach and Might Teach, borrowed for the use of the Education Group of the League of Women Voters, is now overdue. Will the holder kindly return as soon as possible to Mrs. J.C. Howell, Salisbury.

An 11 ½ pound son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Clark of Wells Hill last week.

John Beard, who has been spending the winter in Ore Hill, has gone south.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Fuller of Holten, Maine, on March 9th. Mrs. Fuller was formerly Miss Ellen Lasher, a teacher here, and Mr. Fuller was Principal of the Lakeville High School.

#### 50 years ago — March 1975

Area businessmen and officials are to testify Friday in opposition to an end to rail freight service on the Berkshire Line. Termination of service to Canaan alone would cost more than 100 jobs and \$1 million in personal income, one spokesman will tell federal officials. An ad hoc committee of businessmen, selectmen, planners and private and civic groups have formed the Rail Research Committee for the Berkshire Rail Line. The group will make its presentations Friday in Wethersfield before public hearings conducted by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The 1973-74 Acorn, literary and arts magazine of Housatonic Valley Regional High School, has taken first prize for overall excellence in the annual contest of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. The Acorn which judges measured against similar publications from schools across the nation, was produced under the editorships of students Heidi Schmidt and Leslie Dakin. Ellery Sinclair was the faculty advisor. hand-made wooden furniture. The new shop, "The Pioneer Spirit," is housed on the second floor of a remodeled barn behind the Londons' home. In a first-floor room, the Londons also have made a small showroom featuring many of the articles Mr. London has made.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Coleman's Wolfpit Kennels of Sharon won special mention in 'The Complete Cairn Terrier," a book recently written by John T. Marvin. The Colemans came to Sharon in 1952, when Mr. Coleman took on the job of administrator of Sharon Hospital. By then they already had a longstanding interest in and experience with cairns. Their kennel on Wolfpit Road has had outstanding success, breeding and/or owning some 33 champions, Mr. Marvin said.

Faculty-student basketball games will be played Friday evening at the Kent Center gymnasium to raise money for the 8th grade class trip. The first game, between the faculty men and the boys' team, will start at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$1 per adult and 50 cents for students, with the provision that no family will be charged more than \$2.

#### 25 years ago — March 2000

As part of an aggressive movement to cut costs, a work reduction of 41 employees was announced Wednesday at Sharon Hospital. The cuts affect all departments.

An 18-wheel dump truck carrying debris crashed into the stone bridge across Burton Brook on Route 44 in Lakeville March 14, mid-afternoon. It skidded onto the Salisbury Bank & Trust lawn, popping a tire along the way. The driver said he swerved to avoid hitting a vehicle which had darted out of Bostwick Street. There were temporary traffic delays, particularly when school was dismissed.

## The market's flash correction

The market's decline has been one of the fastest in history. The fall has been fueled by the Trump administration's economic policies. The question most investors are wrestling with is what to do about it.

Looking back on this period in a year or two, I guarantee that most investors will have trouble remembering exactly what happened. There is nothing abnormal in this decline thus far except its speed. It is a simple garden variety pullback, which occurs at least once a year if not more. It is the price of doing business for equity investors and savers with tax-deferred retirement accounts.

Given that, the decline is probably a good thing for an over-extended market on the upside. Stocks normally take the escalator up and the elevator down. In the pain game, I believe fast is better than slow when dealing with the emotional side of investing. Hopefully, the markets will bounce before too many more negative emotions surface.

I say that because emotions are your greatest enemy when investing. It would be a rare reader indeed who isn't feeling worried and stressed right now when dealing with the market. The S&P 500 Index is down more than 10%, NASDAQ —17% and the Russell 2000 —18%. Is it time to bail?

No. The time for that decision is past. A month ago, taking some off the table may have made sense. Today it doesn't. 'But what if it goes down even more?' Let it, at worst you are halfway

### Leaderless opposition

The United States is a representative democracy. Registered party members choose those whom they wish to represent them prior to an election open to all eligible to vote. So far so good.

Despite the flaws inherent in primaries such as 'playing to the base,' it's a system that elects representatives at every level pretty much fairly and efficiently. It's less good, however, at electing national leaders other than the President and has no role in elect-

#### @The Market Bill Schmick

through a 20% correction but more likely on the eve of a turnaround.

Tom Lee, the founder of FSInsight, and a frequent guest on CNBC, reminds us that since 1928 going to cash and missing the 10 best days in a year reduces returns from 8% annually to -13%.

September 2022 was the last time investors were this pessimistic, according to the American Association of Individual Investors (AAII).

At the end of February, the proportion of investors identifying as bearish reached 60.6%. Historically, when this has occurred, the average subsequent 12-month return has been 24%.

How can you resist that desire to sell? Stop looking at your accounts. Watching your portfolio daily in a down market is behavioral suicide. Don't do that.

So enough with the pep talk. Instead, the market had some good news last week for a change. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Producer Price Index (PPI) came in cooler than most expected. I say 'most' because my forecast of weaker inflation numbers proved accurate. Next month's data will show a 2.4% CPI, which will be weaker again. The following month should show a decrease as well. However, given the markets' focus on tariffs

GUEST Column Rob Norman

ternative approaches to taxes, tariffs, government efficiency, minority rights, immigration and the rest. If there was a Leader of the Opposition, and Trump's economic policies, the inflation news did not matter to investors.

I expect the unemployment rate will rise as the administration reduces the number of the 3 million federal government workers. If you combine that trend with a slowing economy that is also being engineered by President Trump and his motley crew, we will have developed a perfect storm. That will provide a gateway for the Federal Reserve Bank to begin cutting interest rates once again.

Remember the Fed has two areas of responsibility: fighting inflation and maintaining employment. Chair Jerome Powell has already stated several times that the Fed now considers employment the focus of monetary policies. The bond market is already betting on a rate cut as early as May or June, with more to follow. That should be good for the stock market, which usually begins to discount events six months out.

The latest University of Michigan consumer sentiment numbers dropped another 10% in March. Trump has now admitted his policies will cause at least a slowdown in the economy, higher unemployment, and as for inflation, who knows?

As for the overall market, it is Trump-dependent, and the president has shown that he is no friend of the stock markets. Wall Street strategists and technicians are looking for at least a dead cat bounce.

Bill Schmick is the founding partner of Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires.

I may be in the minority, but I would relish the idea of a contest involving Beshear, Buttigieg, Cooper, Cuomo, Jeffries, Newsom, Shapiro, Walz, Whitmer and others. One winner and the potential for shadow cabinet of significant quality and experience. Importantly it would allow for the development of pol-

S.J. Lee, a prominent farmer living near Irondale, met with a fatal accident on Thursday night. He started out to hunt foxes in the afternoon and did not return. Midnight came and his family became alarmed. A searching party was organized and at half past four Mr. Lee's body was found covered with snow and lying within a stone's throw of his home. From appearances it seems that he had slipped on the ice, the gun was discharged and one side of his neck was torn away, evidently causing instant death.

#### 100 years ago – March 1925

J. Cox Howell has returned to his home in Salisbury after a cruise through the Panama Canal to the Pacific Coast on board a freight steamer.

Mrs. Frink, mother of the Misses Mary and Katherine Frink of Frink Hill, recently fell and fractured her hip.

LIME ROCK — Miss St. James, our nurse, has been housed with a cold.

SALISBURY — Among the names appearing in the mid-winter honor list at Yale University, is the name of Robert B. Flint, son of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Flint, and grandson of W.P. Everts of this place, who is listed in Last week's Lakeville Journal story on the new Regional Shared Services budget noted an increase from \$2000 to \$6000 in the amount allotted "for loyal services." That line should have read "legal services."

The amphibious plane built by Frederick C. Gevalt III took to the air early last Sunday morning from the Great Barrington airport. Fred worked on the plane over a 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-year period at his parents' home in Lakeville, putting in what his mother estimates as about 5000 hours of labor. The craft was transported to Great Barrington on a 36-foot trailer before its triumphant maiden flight. Because a homebuilt plane is considered an experimental craft, Fred may fly only within a 50-mile radius of the home airport for the first 50 flight hours and may not carry any passengers for that period.

To accommodate the growing demand for custom-made early American furniture, Webster "Bud" London has opened a shop on Stonehouse Road, just off Route 41 in Sharon, making Lakeville's loss will be Millerton's gain in mid-April. That's when Harney Teas moves most of its business from its present quarters, between Lakeville and Salisbury, to the former Taconic Products building on Route 22 in Millerton. "We've run out of space and don't have room to expand," John Harney said this week, pointing to nine trailers the firm has had to rent for extra storage space at its present location.

## Status Report

LITCHFIELD Arethusa Farm's Europa cheese won the U.S. Championship Cheese Contest for the second year in a row. Arethusa Farm is the first creamery in 40 years to win two consecutive "Best In Show" awards. The cheese was chosen No. 1 among 2,400 cheeses. State Sen. Stephen Harding, R-30, commented, "We are so proud to have Arethusa Farm in Litchfield. Their commitment to quality and excellence is second to none. Congratulations to their dedicated and talented team."

ing government officials. There is one particular elected role in parliamentary democracies which, in the United States, does not formally exist at all: The party leader. We have majority and minority leaders in Congress but no overall leader. Elsewhere, things are different.

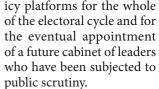
It won't have escaped anyone's attention that the resignation of Justin Trudeau triggered a contest for the Liberal Party leadership in Canada. Mark Carney won and, as the Liberals were the governing party, also became the Prime Minister and will remain so until the General Election. The same happens in the United Kingdom, for better or worse, and in many other parliamentary democracies.

The purpose of these elections is to elect a leader, not just a nominee, either of the party and the government or of the party, or parties, of opposition. In the latter case the role of the leader is to represent the opposition and to determine the 'shadow leadership' that matches the cabinet and government departments on specific areas of policy.

That provides a solution to a significant shortcoming of our system. In the United States, we lack a structure that allows the opposition to properly co-ordinate their almaybe we would.

Imagine this. On the Monday after Thanksgiving 2025 the Democratic Leadership primary could begin. For practical purposes the ballot might be restricted to ten candidates, that short list being determined by a ballot among Democratic members of the Senate, the House of Representatives and incumbent Governors.

The process will culminate following debates and town halls with a Super Tuesday like vote in every state on the same day in February 2026. The election to be decided by the aggregate popular vote among registered Democrats. The winner will be the Democratic nominee for the 2028 general election and will lead the party through the 2026 mid-terms.



This alone is worth the effort, in many countries the idea of a cabinet comprising unelected officials would be absurd, more so if, in that same country, it was deemed desirable or necessary to elect the Town Clerk and the Sheriff. Perhaps the most attractive element of this proposal is that it represents real change that can bypass the sclerosis of Congress and the courts in order to allow a real voice of thoughtful opposition to emerge in this election cycle and every cycle in the future.

*Rob Norman lives in West Cornwall.* 



Many questions have come up on the issue of home insurance coverage here in the NW Corner. For example, can your home insurance be affected if your roof is over 15 years old? The answer is yes, but the insurance company needs to give proper notice for cancellation or non-renewal, which will give you time to ask for it to reinstated or find other coverage. Upon any notice, the first step is to know your rights and a great place to start is at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's website: www.consumerfinance.gov/aboutus/newsroom/consumer-advisorytake-action-when-home-insuranceis-cancelled-or-costs-surge. Also good to know is that, as a last resort, you may qualify for homeowners insurance with CT FAIR Plan. For more information, please visit: www.ctfairplan.com/.



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ADVERTISEMENT

#### MEDICAID

#### **Continued from Page A1**

"After great effort made by the FQHC's to work with DSS and reach resolution, the offer made by DSS offers inadequate rate adjustments, failing to address the FQHCs' financial concerns, and requires them to surrender their due process rights under the law."

Joanne Borduas, who chairs the association's board of directors, said DSS's offer was for "less than reasonable costs and came with unacceptable policy stipulations that we would be made to agree to in order to get the grossly inadequate proposed rate rebasing, which would be paid over a four-year schedule."

"Our request to DSS was clear," said Borduas, who also serves as CEO of Community Health and Wellness Center of Greater Torrington which also has centers in North Canaan and Winsted.

"We want DSS to follow the Federal law and compensate us accordingly so we can continue to care for our most vulnerable populations, and we need that to happen now because our 440,000 patients, 264,000 of whom are enrolled in Medicaid across our FQHC network, need us."

Borduas noted that the decision to move forward comes after years of CHC/ ACT and health centers making "good faith efforts" to get this important process changed to comply with federal law.

She said the financial strain on the state's health centers has reached a point where vital services are at severe risk, including those under the umbrella of Community Health and Wellness Center.

"As of now we continue to operate without additional cuts or layoffs, however, it is difficult to fill vacant positions. It is difficult to recruit in this environment. We need to stay competitive with workforce wages in order to recruit providers, and that is difficult to do."

She added that "We can-

#### HVRHS

**Continued from Page A1** 



Housatonic Valley Regional High School is in Falls Village.

development needs.

Parents were happy with the school communications (92%) but only 53% felt they had "opportunities to participate in school decision-making processes relevant to my child."

A little under half (49%) of students agreed they enjoy coming to school, and 33% expressed enthusiasm for participating in class discussions.

There were also open-ended questions on the survey. Brady-Shanley summaistrators could be better, and believe there is a lack of departmental meetings.

Parents want to see more challenging coursework, dedicated support for students not going to college, guidance from coaches on collegiate athletics, and possibly a School Resource Officer for additional security.

Students want more oneon-one support and personalized feedback from teachers and staff. They ask for clear communication on assignments, deadlines and not provide raises for our staff who are extremely valuable, care about our mission and the people we serve and who work hard every day, and we cannot think of expanding services to meet community needs because there is an associated cost."

In response to Declaratory Ruling Request filed with the state Department of Social services, that agen-

#### BUDGETS

### **Continued from Page A1** education."

The remainder of the federal money funds student nutrition programs and remedial services, including funding a portion of those teachers' salaries across the district.

As of Friday, March 14, Region One was going through budget talks under the assumption that federal funding will remain in place for those programs.

"We haven't received any guidance from the State of Connecticut Department of Education or from the federal government," Herrick said. "As we all see things are just happening pretty quickly, but there has not been any information forthcoming with what's coming next."

The story is largely the same across the New York border at the Webutuck School district. Federal funding supports programs for low-income students and families, students with disabilities, and universal pre-K to the tune of about \$658,000 in the 2024-25 school year, representing a little over 2% of the revenue that Webutuck schools had available to them in this year's budget.

That money is in addition to the money in the \$27 million general fund that local voters approved last May, and Webutuck Business Administrator Robert Farrier says they factor it in to the operating budget of the district in specific ways.

"We use most of our Title funding for teacher salaries," Farrier said. Grants for universal pre-K subsidize

#### MAPLEFEST

cy's spokesperson, Christine

Stuart reported on March

13 that the department ac-

knowledges receipt of the

request and "shall be analyz-

ing and responding in due

course and in compliance

with statutes pertaining to

petitions of state agencies for

Full story online at

lakevillejournal.com

budget, which would be ob-

Connecticut Education

Association President Kate

Dias emphasized the cuts

to the federal Department

of Education workforce

and grant programs will

have uneven consequences,

mostly affecting low-income

students and students with

disabilities and schools in

vices that are all about giving

everybody the same chance of being successful," Dias

said. "When we start to look

at where these cuts are going

to hit, it's really the services

and the support network

we're building for out stu-

don't have a lot of extra wig-

gle room to accommodate

sudden cuts to funding, and

special education program

already falls short of the

established goals. Dias said

schools are supposed to be

reimbursed at 40% for special

education expenses from fed-

eral grants, but in reality that

reimbursement typically falls

the state reimbursement is

coming up, I believe, \$137

million short in special edu-

cation funds," Dias said. "And

all of those dollars, particu-

larly in special education,

are mandated dollars. Those

are bills that have to be paid.

When we talk about any net

loss in resources, it's going to

impact what we're able to do

swers and clarity from the

for children."

"Then you layer in that

in the 14-17% range.

She said school budgets

dents that struggle."

"These are the extra ser-

poorer communities.

viously a big hurdle."

a declaratory ruling."

**Continued from Page A1** 

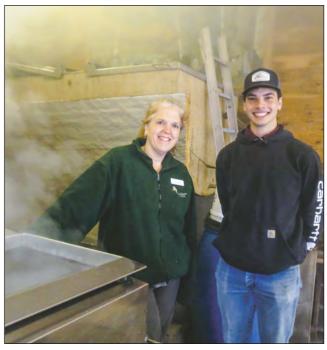


PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Wendy Miller, education program manager at Sharon Audubon Center, and intern Brandt Boscio, welcome guests to the sugarhouse during Saturday's MapleFest.

Wendy Miller, education program manager at the center, welcomes those who arrive at the sugarhouse. The visitors have already strolled down a path surrounded by maple trees to learn how they are tapped. When they get to the tiny building, where the evaporator is going full steam, Miller demonstrates the procedure and explains how sap is mainly water, containing only 3% sugar. To classify as maple syrup, it has to be 67% sugar.

The process is completed when the sap smells sweeter, is thicker and is a golden-brown bubble. She noted it has to reach a temperature of 219 degrees Fahrenheit.

Miller then displayed a hydrometer, which shows the level of sugar in the syrup and demonstrated how the product gets filtered to remove dirt and bugs. When the syrup is bottled, it needs to be between 185 and 190 degrees. Syrups, she said are graded by color.

While learning all about making maple syrup can be interesting, the best part of the tour for many comes at the end, when samples of the treat are offered. For

YOUR

Theo Adkins, 7, of Lakeville, this was the second time in a week he'd been at the sugarhouse. On Saturday he was there with his dad, Craig Adkins, and earlier in the week he'd been there on a school trip. He didn't have to be coaxed to take a second sampling for a photo.

Helping Miller this year with the program is Brandt Boscio, 17, who just graduated in January from Housatonic Valley Regional High School. He has been interested in making maple syrup since he was a freshman, when he began learning the process. "I love syrup for breakfast," he said, which was a motivator. He produced two eight-ounce bottles his first year and in his sophomore year had 30 taps, building his own evaporator. Last year he had 80 taps, creating a small tubing system for more efficiency. But, Boscio said, finding private property owners to allow their trees to be tapped became a real challenge, so he wasn't able to continue. His capstone project was about making and selling maple syrup, for which he was able to secure several grants.

#### Stay informed

PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

rized areas for improvement by the responding group.

Staff do not like the "Not Yet Proficient" grading policy because it creates problems with time management and accountability for students. Staff would like professional development to be more focused on their subject areas, believe that communication between teachers and admingrading policies, more rigor in Advanced Placement and Early College Experience classes and clear communications on assignments and tests.

In a response to a question from Region One board chair Pat Mechare, Brady-Shanley said that future meetings on how to implement improvements will include parents. preschool teacher salaries at Webutuck schools, so Farrier only has to rely on the general fund for a small portion of preschool teacher salaries and the rest comes directly from federal grants.

"If we were to lose that, that's where that impact would come," Farrier said. "That \$658,000 would have to be put back into the main federal government, schools must persist and adapt to the ongoing uncertainties.

Until there are more an-

### NEWS lakevillejournal.com



### **THE SALISBURY FORUM**

Where Ideas Have Mattered For 20 Years 2005-2025

### **RURAL HEALTH CRISIS** In the Northwest Corner



The Northwest Corner of Connecticut can be described as a "healthcare desert." There are not enough primary care providers to meet the demand, and the lack of adequate access to health care can make these towns less attractive for residents. A panel of local experts will address what can be done to make the Northwest Corner a better and healthier place to live.

#### Panelists

Nancy Heaton (moderator), CEO of Foundation for Community Health Joanne Borduas, CEO of Community Health and Wellness Center Meghan Kenny, Director of SVNA Home Assistance and Litchfield County Home Assistance Maria Horn, Connecticut State Representative Christina McCulloch, President of Sharon Hospital

#### **FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025 • 7:30 P.M.** Housatonic Valley Regional High School Falls Village, CT

Berkshire Taconic Admission is free. Please register online.

This event is co-sponsored by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Find us on 🖪 🮯

www.salisburyforum.org

#### Condos

#### Continued from Page A1

group straight down the hill to a point just behind her property at 71 Hospital Hill Road. She motioned to a stake indicating one corner of a building, sitting about ten feet from the mowed grass of her backyard, and then toward the side of her house where the entrance driveway to the complex is meant to be located. She noted it was conspicuous that Johannesen's site visit didn't mention the entrance, which she said was one of the more intrusive aspects of the plan, coming within feet of her home and necessitating the removal of a vacant home and stand of large spruce trees.

Leone explained that she already hangs curtains and blankets on the windows to block noise, light and sightlines into her home. "They're nuking the value of my property," she said bluntly.

Leone furthered her case at the public hearing that followed later in the evening at Town Hall. Reading a letter, which she said she would submit to the Planning and Zoning Commission, she explained how the pervasive ledge and gradient at the site make it a poor choice for development, "Everybody loses except Mr. Palmer," she said of Florien Palmer, the developer behind Gold Dog LLC.

Leone's husband, Pablo Cisilino, offered an emotional appeal when he took the floor: "I beg you to stop it. I beg you to reconsider."

Dobrila Waugh, whose family has owned 17 acres at the bottom of the hill for 75 years, has already seen the property face runoff damages from the large, paved areas of Sharon Hospital.

"Everyone is entitled to privacy and quiet enjoyment," Waugh said, referencing a core tenant of real estate she had learned when working in the field years ago. This project, she posited, would radically upset that right.

Not everyone in attendance was against the development, though. Donna DiMartino, who is a member of several town boards, said she understood the concerns with the development but that the town needs more housing options. "We need to have houses like duplexes where people who are not millionaires can live," she argued.

P&Z alternate Jill Drew asked whether the new condominiums — 24 units, each a duplex — would be designated affordable.

Johannesen said it is not an affordable housing development — "It's for people who can afford to buy a single-family home and work in town."

Resident Carol Flaton stated in a written comment that she is "keenly interested in a prudent path of growth for the town," and that the development seems like "exactly what Sharon needs."

After concluding public comment, P&Z decided to keep the hearing open as new information may be submitted in the coming weeks.

Community

Foundation

The public hearing will resume at the April 9 P&Z meeting.

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

**ENTERTAINMENT: MIKE COBB** 

## Race Brook Lodge: A timeless haven for music, art, and community

Tucked away on Under Mountain Road in Sheffield, Massachusetts, The Stagecoach Tavern dates back to the mid-18th century and offers fine dining in an enchanted setting. It also serves as the portal into the Race Brook Lodge, which harbors unique spaces for entertainment, lodging and wellness.

Intimate outdoor gathering areas are illuminated by strings of lights. A cluster of mid-century bungalows can be rented by guests who come to spend the weekend and attend concerts and retreats, which typically take place in the barns farther back in the woods.

This magical vision springs from the mind of David Rothstein, who purchased the property in pieces between 1990 and 2000, a continuation of his idea to create a place where like-minded people can congregate to enjoy cultural happenings in an idyllic setting.

Before acquiring the Race Brook Lodge, Rothstein, now 90, managed



#### Race Brook Lodge

tion of jazz as the first integrated music genre that ultimately paved the way for Rock 'n Roll," Rothstein said.

This history goes even deeper. Prior to the Music Inn, the buildings were known as the Berkshire Music Barn, and featured performers like Dizzy Gillespie, Louis Armstrong, Mahalia Jackson, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Dave Brubeck, Thelonious Monk and the Modern Jazz Quartet. The property also featured The Lenox School of Jazz, The Lenox Arts Center. Toad Hall Moviehouse, and The Great Riot Alley Memorial.

wall. He spent a morning and afternoon talking with Rothstein about art, performance and community in a way he'd been dreaming about for a long time.

"When I saw the poster, I asked David about it. He told me that he was one of Khan's assistants, and he actually drafted some of the buildings I'd studied. So, before I knew he had the Music Harvey said. "With their energy, they change the weather of the room. It's a participatory feeling. I loved reading the reactions online; was it a concert or a ritual? That's what we're inter-

ested in." "We have Beausoleil coming up on April 5. When they start playing, you feel transported to a hooch house in Eunice, Louisiana. They create a sense of place, and that's what really excites me," he added. There are regularly scheduled programs, like Jazz brunches every Sunday, and at times Race Brook Lodge is open to other groups who book shows like the recent "Almost Spring Weekender" a DJ'd house party produced by Edo Moore.



PHOTO BY TOM BROWN

Tess Marks as Little Sally and Jackson Olson as Officer Lockstock in the Housatonic Musical Theatre Society production of "Urinetown."

**THEATER: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN** 

## **'Urinetown' makes use of brand new HVRHS auditorium**

ast week's Housatonic Musical Theatre Society production of "Urinetown" featured strong performances and superb choreography.

The remodeled auditorium at Housatonic Valley Regional High School made a big difference as well. New seats were a welcome addition, and the increased technical capability meant that the show was flawless from a production point of view.

The difference was so noticeable that director Christiane Olson thanked the taxpayers of Region One for supporting the recent school improvements

Continued on next page



The Music Inn in Lenox, Massachusetts, the premier outdoor music venue in the Berkshires during the 1970s, which he purchased with his former wife, Nancy Fitzpatrick, whose family owned the Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge.

In its heyday from 1970 to 1979, The Music Inn featured a who's who of iconic performers of the era like Ike & Tina Turner, B.B. King, James Taylor, Muddy Waters, The Byrds, Ravi Shankar, Joan Baez, Van Morrison, Bruce Springsteen, Bob Marley, The Eagles, Lou Reed, Bonnie Raitt, Fats Domino, Bo Diddley, Jimmy Cliff, Toots & The Maytals and The Allman Brothers.

"Music Inn was the last outpost of the counterculture, which had evolved as a result of the groundbreaking evolu-

#### **Correcting Errors**

We correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning. Notice of such error must be given to us after the first run of the advertisement. As a student of modernist architect Louis Khan, Rothstein absorbed Khan's ideas of "open frame" or a space without barriers. It's a concept he used at the Music Inn that carries on at Race Brook.

Race Brook's music programmer, Alex Harvey recalls how he came to do a retreat with Qi Gong master Thomas Drodge and noticed a Louis Khan poster on the Inn, he was a superstar to me," Harvey said.

Harvey also met the current proprietor Casey Fitzpatrick — David and Nancy's son — and the two hit it off, realizing they shared a common interest in global music. Armed with a deep Rolodex, thanks to his many years as a performer and ethnomusicologist, Harvey soon began programming shows at Race Brook.

When booking, Harvey looks for artists who can offer something beyond the typical performance.

"We had Alash, who are one of the more renowned Tuvan throat singing ensembles,"

## At The Movies

Moviehouse	SHOWTIMES & TICKETS						
FRI 03/21 > THU 03/27	(518) 789-00	22 themoviehouse.net					
Disney's SNOW WHIT		March 23 @ 1PM Exhibition on Screen DAWN OF THE					
NO OTHER L	AND	IMPRESSIONISTS Paris 1874					
<b>BLACK BAG</b>		March 27 @ 7PM					
BECOMING LEDNT LiveSteve CooganDR. STRANGEL							
* MOVIE TRIVIA NIGHT: TUESDAY 3/25 @ 7:00 PM *							
	48 M	AIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY					

Continued on next page

PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Tight choreography and solid singing were on display in the Housatonic Musical Theatre Society production of "Urinetown."



We here at Robin Hood Radio are on-air and on-line keeping you informed and updated 24 hours a day on the following stations of the Robin Hood Radio Network.

#### **WHDD AM 1020**

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#### WHDD FM 97.5

Serving the Route 7 corridor from Cornwall to Kent, and the Route 22 corridor from Amenia to Pawling

#### WHDD FM 91.9

Serving Sharon, Millerton, Lakeville, Salisbury and Falls Village, and adjacent Eastern, NY

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Serving in New York - Northern and Eastern Dutchess County, Columbia County, Eastern Ulster and Windham County, and Southern Greene County

#### **WBSL FM 91.7**

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

#### LITERATURE: OLIVIA GEIGER

## **BookTok ushers in a new era of literary visibility**

echnology and social media were once a foe to the age-old quest of inspiring young adults to read. Amid the Covid-19 pandemic young women started making short 1-minute TikToks to document and share their reading experiences. A community, known as BookTok, grew roots and began to blossom.

A subgenre of literature that has emerged through this community of readers has been labelled as "weird-girl fiction." This sub-genre explores the abstract, dark and complex aspects of femininity with the utilization of symbolism, art and metaphors. An example would be "Nightbitch" by Rachel Yoder.

The story follows a young mother of a newborn boy who abandoned her career to be a stay-at-home mom. One day she notices a dark patch of hair emerging from the back of her

neck and her canines begin to sharpen. Despite her fear and visible symptoms, her husband dismisses her, as she morphs into a dog. Yoder unravels the shift of motherhood and complicated female characters through magical realism that captivates the reader.

In conversation with popular BookToker Haley, or @whathalesreading, she reflected on Yoder's ability to cast a light on women who feel caged in the constraints of conventional womanhood. Haley said Yoder's writing plays with "feeling misunderstood, conflicted, caught between role and intention - these are themes that play out in women's lives all the time that weird girl fiction is giving voice to." Weird girl" books flesh out the meaning and importance of womanhood that bring light to darkness.

Somewhere in the darkness young women are feeling seen, safe.

Literature has served many purposes, protest being one. Historically, women have been caged in narratives, expectations and laws to fulfill their role as a child bearer and wife. "Weird girl" books fight against the single purpose role of womanhood being marriage and motherhood.

In these stories, women have the power to choose. The reader may not like the character or agree or understand and it seems that is the point. A woman does not have to be digestible or agreeable to be loved or respected or admired.

It is important to note that for centuries, women writers have been pushing boundaries and breaking archaic narratives. Executive Director of the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon Gretchen Hachmeister said "these latest writers are part of a centuries-long tradition of works by women about women dealing

with their rage, desires and experiences." Think "The Bell Jar," "Frankenstein", "The Days of Abandonment" — works that follow women through imaginative narratives that carved out a new space in the literary world. That set the stage for women to be complicated, to have hate-able qualities, to be human, to be seen.

As the world gets weirder, creativity is a force for change, for escapism, for community. In uncertain times connection is a guiding light through these murky wa-

ters. While readers have banned together through TikTok to build a community, there are still brick and mortar spaces to cultivate community.

Local libraries are the cornerstone for the practice of accessible free speech and thought.

As a life-time Lakeville resident I grew up among the shelves of Scoville Memorial Library. Despite my mother's warning I took out too many books each week and could never finish them all.

In those stories I uncovered pieces of myself

in the writers' words. Not every found piece I enjoyed, but I knew someone else had experienced it and put truth to page so I did not have to feel alone.

As an adult(ish) I still go to the library. I read strange books written by women that concern my loved ones at times but have made me feel free. Free to be the woman I choose to be.

Olivia Geiger is an MFA student at Western Connecticut State University and a lifelong resident of Lakeville.

### ... 'Urinetown' Continued from previous page

project in brief remarks before the start of the matinee performance Saturday, March 15.

Katelin Lopes and Andy Delgado were powerful as the starcrossed lovers Hope **Cladwell and Bobby** Strong.

Jackson Olson got a lot of laughs with his deadpan take on Officer Lockstock, often in tandem with Tess Marks' wide-eyed Little Sally.

The entire cast hit all the right buttons, not the easiest thing to do with a show that contains multiple layers of satire.

The orchestra, led by Tom Krupa, was rock solid.

And Amber Cameron's choreography was seamless. The cast looked like they'd been



PHOTO BY TOM BROWN

Andy Delgado as Bobby (center) has a run-in with the police (Jackson Olson, left, as Officer Lockstock and Alex Wilbur, right, as Officer **Barrel**).



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

### ...Race Brook Lodge Continued from previous page



is the Dia de los Muertos weekend which has an open mic to the dead," Harvey said. "It's art as a form of medicine and healing. It's kind of like Brooklyn Academy of Music meets Esselin."

For elevated musical and wellness experiences in an idyllic Berkshire setting, Race Brook Lodge offers something for everyone. See their site for information on all that they offer: rblodge.com

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

PHOTOS BY LETY MARCOS

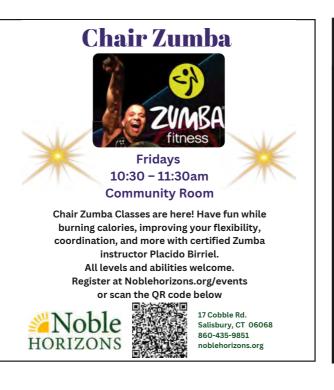
dancing together all their lives.

Hope Cladwell (Katelin Lopes) and her father Caldwell B. Cladwell (Aiden Krupa) plan and scheme in "Urinetown."



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The people led by Bobby (Andy Delgado, left) have finally had enough of being forced to pay to go in the Housatonic Musical Theatre Society production of "Urinetown."



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#### **FILM: NATALIA ZUKERMAN**

## Local filmmaker's 'Dream' comes true at The Moviehouse

irector, writer and actor Matt Bartolomeo looked out the window of The Millerton Inn, where much of his debut feature film "Dream" was shot, hoping he'd one day watch it premier at the Moviehouse. That day came on Wednesday, March 12 when the community nonprofit cinema hosted a free screening of the film, followed by a Q&A with the cast.

"Dream" takes place in a snowstorm. In the opening shot, a young man, played by Bartolomeo, awakens to find himself stranded in his car on a desolate road which moviegoers delighted in recognizing as Lake Road in Pine Plains. Seeking refuge, he stumbles upon an isolated bed and breakfast (The Millerton Inn) where he and other travelers uncover chilling secrets linked to the inn's shadowy past. Utilizing some pretty hilarious horror movie conventions and some very creative special effects, the film moves along at

a frenzied pace as more characters die...or do they? Inspired by horror thrillers of the 1970s and 1980s, "Dream" takes the viewer on a twisted journey where nothing — and no one — is quite what they seem.

Before the feature film, the audience was treated to two other shorts. The first was "Pete's Jeeps," a three-minute ode to Bartolomeo's late father's love of restoring WWII era Jeeps. Another short, made by the Q&A moderator Willis Williams, was a humorous comment on the price of eggs. The cast of the feature, all local actors, were in attendance to celebrate the premier. "Dream" received official honorary mention at New York Odyssey Film Festival. It was a heart-warming evening celebrating a local filmmaker's debut, and the Moviehouse's commitment to showcasing local talent and fostering community makes it one of the best reasons to call Millerton home.

#### **ART: LEILA HAWKEN**

## Northlight art show opens at Historical Society Gallery

ans of fine art filed into the Sharon Historical Society's gallery on Saturday, March 15, for the opening reception of student works from the Northlight Art Center in Amenia, New York.

Northlight was founded in Sharon by Pieter Lefferts in 2010 and later moved to Amenia. This is the 14th year of the annual student exhibit.

"It's an invitation for people who may never have thought that they might be included in an art exhibit," said Lefferts about the show that includes 34 works created by a dozen artists. Lefferts added that visitors will see a range of abilities and individual expression.

"I like to draw out innate expression," Lefferts said. Lefferts said there were 34 pieces as he had hung them all the day before.

Several works on display were inspired by local subjects. For example, Kathleen Kulig's "Grand Dame of the Orchard" depicts an actual old apple tree found at a friend's home.

"I've actually picked apples from that tree," Kulig said.

Artist Cathleen Halloran's acrylic on paper painting titled "Eleven Eleven" is a loving remembrance of her dog, Maddie, whose death was imminent as Halloran created the painting,



One of a dozen artists participating in the Northlight Art Center's 14th annual student exhibit is Cathleen Halloran, above, who paused for a photo by one of her several works on display. The opening reception at the **Sharon Historical** Society's Gallery on Saturday, March 15, brought out a robust group of local art fans.

the historical society, although not all works are for sale. The exhibit will be open until Friday, May 9, during historical society hours. For additional information, go to www. sharonhist.org. Coinciding with the gallery show, the Sharon Historical Society's current exhibit is worth



an expression of her subject's magnificent spirit.

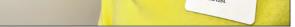
Variety is evident in artists' ages, mediums, experience and subject matter.

"It's always a pleasure to see how the artists grow every year, a fascinating variety," said Historical Society President Chris Robinson as he dished out the wine and other beverages in the reception area.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit



PHOTO PROVIDED



PHOTOS BY LEILA HAWKEN

### Kathleen Kulig with her "Grand Dame of the Orchard" painting.

a visit. Titled "Family Collections," the exhibit shows collective Sharon memories found in the artifacts left by ancestors, remembered now in part by what they left behind. Each is a clue to the town's historic past, spanning two centuries.



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Matt Bartolomeo and Ashley Kilbride in a scene from Dreams

## **TRI-CORNER CALENDAR**

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

#### MARCH 20

#### **Sharon Audubon Center** hosts Policy Potluck Event

Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road (Route 4), Sharon, Conn.

Sharon Audubon Center hosts a talk on neonicotinoid pesticides and their impact on pollinators and birds, Thursday, March 20, 6 to 8 p.m. Speakers include Louise Washer (Norwalk River Watershed Assoc.), Joan Seguin (CT Coalition for Pesticide Reform), and Robert LaFrance (Audubon CT). Attendees may bring small bites to share; refreshments provided. Info: (860) 364-0520 x115 or www. sharon.audubon.org.

#### **Reflecting Life – Art Exhibition**

D.Colabella Fine Arts Gallery, 446 Main St, Ridgefield, Conn.

On view March 20 to May 12, 2025. Opening Reception: March 20, 6 to 9 p.m.

A showcase of realist artworks by Rich Alexander and Corey Eid, capturing intricate slices of life. Visit www. dcolabellafineart.com for details.

#### MARCH 21

#### **Salisbury Forum: Rural Health Crisis in the Northwest Corner of** Connecticut

Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Falls Village, Conn

The Salisbury Forum hosts a panel on healthcare access in NW Connecticut, Friday, March 21, 7:30 p.m. at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Co-sponsored by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. Panelists include Nancy Heaton, Joanne Borduas, Meghan Kenny, and Maria Horn. This event is co-sponsored with Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. The film premieres on Amazon Prime Video on March 27.

Tickets and info: www. thetriplex.org.

#### **Saturday Morning Family** Series at The CENTER for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck

The CENTER for Performing Arts, 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck, N.Y. www. centerforperformingarts.org

Saturdays at 11 a.m. Tickets: \$10

#### **Rip Van Winkle**

Date: Saturday, March 22, 2025, 11 a.m. An interactive retelling of Washington Irving's classic tale-what happens when Rip wakes up after 20 years?

#### **Cornwall Child Center Spring Fling**

White Hart Inn, 15 Under Mountain Road, Salisbury, Conn

Join us for a Spring Fling at the White Hart Inn to benefit the Cornwall Childcare Center on March 22 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Buy your tickets in advance for \$80 (before 3/8) or \$100 thereafter and at the door. Ticket price includes a buffet dinner, 3-hour open bar (wine + beer) and music and dancing by DJ Sam Jones. We will have our annual silent auction, raffle prizes and more, with all proceeds going to benefit CCC. For more information please visit our website: cornwallchildcenter.org.

#### **Playing for Freedom:** The Journey of Afghan **Musician Zarifa Adiba**

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

Saturday, March 22 at 1 p.m., David M. Hunt Library hosts Zarifa Adiba, Afghan violist, conductor, and author of Playing for Freedom. Zarifa will share her

#### **MARCH 23**

#### 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, March 23, 4 to 5:30 p.m., for an in-depth introduction to selfpublishing. Natalia will introduce platforms, outline steps, and show examples. Learn how you can take control of the publishing process and get your book into readers' hands.

Registration is required. Visit the Events Calendar at www.scovillelibrary. org.

Event page: scovillelibrary.libcal. com/event/14177848

#### Women and Aging Series: "Muscle Matters and Menopause'

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org Sunday, March 23, 4 p.m.

Sarah Wallace of Amenia Yoga explores the importance of muscle health during menopause. Part of the Women and Aging Series. Free event, registration required.

Info & registration: hotchkisslibraryofsharon. org.

#### MARCH 25

#### Stanford Grange & **Stanford Garden Club Gardening Program**

Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville, N.Y.

Stanford Grange #808 and the Stanford Garden Club are co-sponsoring a Program by Victoria Rolfe on Straw Bale Gardening on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. The Program will begin at 7 p.m., and light refreshments will be available. All are welcome to attend and learn more about this interesting form of gardening as we welcome Spring! For more information, contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

#### **Tolkien Reading Day**

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

Tuesday, March 25 at 3:30 p.m., celebrate Tolkien Reading Day with tea, "lembas" bread, and a map-making workshop. Bring a favorite passage, dress as a character, or just enjoy the magic. All ages welcome!

#### MARCH 27

#### **Troutbeck Symposium: Students as Historians**

The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y.

Documentary screenings + Q&A with Michael Morand & Rhonan Mokriski. Films by Salisbury School, Housatonic Valley Regional High School, and Yale University explore overlooked histories and social justice. Free & open to the public. Begins at 10 a.m.

#### **Dine Out for History Adds** a Night

Millerton, N.Y.

Millerton's Dine Out for History adds an extra night at Taro's Pizzeria (18 Main St. on Thursday, March 27, 5 to 9 p.m., after bad weather affected its original date. Participating restaurants donate 10% of proceeds to the North East Historical Society.

Mention "Dine Out for History" when dining!

**CLUES ACROSS** 

5. One's superior

9. Prepped meat

11. Tighten anew

15. Animalistic

somewhere

17. Offender

21. Type of

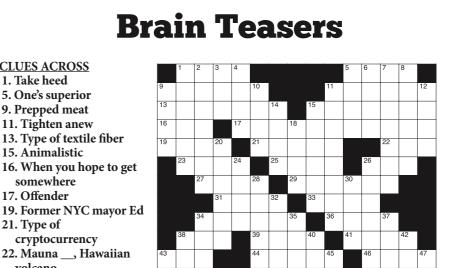
1. Take heed



PHOTO BY SUSAN FAUMAN

In her hand, a silver dagger On Saturday, March 15, artist Christy Gast of Amenia performed her piece "Silver Dagger/ Mussel Bed," a rapid-fire, cabaret-style ode to the sex lives of freshwater mussels to coincide with the closing reception of the group exhibition, "Fauna, Flora and Fur" at

## **Geary Gallery in Millerton.**



#### **MARCH 22**

#### **Triplex Cinema Presents Special Screening of** Holland

Triplex Cinema, 70 Railroad St., Great Barrington, Mass.

Holland, starring Nicole Kidman, Matthew Macfadyen, and Gael Garcia Bernal, screens at the Triplex Cinema on Saturday, March 22 at 7 p.m., followed by a Q&A with local screenwriter Andrew Sodroski.

Directed by Mimi Cave, Holland is a mystery thriller about a teacher (Kidman) who uncovers her husband's dark secret with the help of a colleague (Bernal).

story, activism, and new music. Free and open to the public.

#### All Ages - Chia Beings!

Bes, 50 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. www.shop-bes.com

Saturday, March 22, 1 to 3 p.m.

In this all ages workshop we'll use terracotta clay to fashion little critters and then texture their surfaces to hold chia seeds. The vessels will be fired and either held at store for pickup or shipped back to you and you'll get a pack of chia seeds to sprout for "fur". This workshop is for all ages and skill levels though littles (5 and under) would do best with a parent or caretaker to help!

#### Last week's WotW

А	L	L	Е	Y
С	Н	А	Ι	N
М	0	С	Н	А
М	A	R	С	Н
М	А	Т	C	Н

### Word of the Week

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

		1
		2
		3
		4
		5

#### . A background actor

- 2. To add faint color, tint
- Society" 3. 1989 film "Dead \_\_\_\_\_
- Arrange a plan; deceive
- 5. March Madness underdog win

2. Mauna 🔍 Hawa volcano

cryptocurrency

- 23. Herring-like fish 25. Popular PBS program
- 26. Congressman (abbr.)
- 27. Flightless Australian
- birds
- 29. Defrosted
- 31. Prior Yankee sensation
- Kevin 33. Nasal mucus
- 34. Some are southern
- 38. Popular beer brand
- 39. Shouts of farewell
- 44. Showed old movie
- 46. Body parts
- 48. A divisor

- 56. Judge the worth of
- something
- 57. Makes sounds while

- 1. Pages 2. Head pain 3. A loud utterance 4. Large brown seaweed 5. Hulu's chef Carmine 6. Greek mountain 7. Made final 8. Bar 9. Tai subgroup 10. What you eat

- 14. Type of berry
- 11. Teaches again
- 12. Small constellation
- ≝‴Nob HORIZONS



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49. Evergreen plant genus

51. Ribosomal ribonucleic

50. Light precipitation

55. An informal debt

instrument

**March 13 Solution** 

	S	N		P	E	S			M	
37. Furniture with open					т	1	м	Е	Ρ	F
shelves	н	1	Ρ	в	0	Ν	Е		Е	1
38. Edible part of a chicken	А	D	А	Р	т	Е	D		D	I
	н	0	L	L	А					
40. Satisfy			_		L	А	D		С	1
42. Tool used to remove			С	L	Е	Ρ	Е		н	Ŀ
		Q	U	A	R	А	Ν	т	1	
43. Icelandic poems	s	U	в	s		С	I.	А		
45. Swiss village	Ρ	1	А	s		н	А	Ρ		1
	А	Ν	Ν	Е		Е	L	1		
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acid

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			3			9		7	8 3 2 6 5 1 4 9	7
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-		_	-		<u>'</u>				7 9 8 2 1 6 5 4	3
8		7			4	3			5 2 1 8 6 3 9 7	4
	4	5							4 8 6 5 9 7 1 3 9 7 3 1 4 2 8 6	2
						Leve	el: Inter	mediate		



- 15. Cows fattened for meat 18. A way to hoof it 20. Exaggerated a role 24. About two 36. A place to construct 26. Long upholstered seat 28. What employees earn
- 41. Network of nerves
  - 43. Make a mistake

  - 52. Congressional
  - investigatory body
  - 53. Papers
  - 54. Most unnatural

  - sleeping
  - 58. Which
  - 59. Hungarian Violinist **CLUES DOWN**

30. Fiber from a coconut

35. Liquid body substances

34. Polish by rubbing

husk

32. Digits

47. Drunks

<b>•</b>	Living	Rehabilitation	







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EMPLOYMENT OPPOR-TUNITIES: Wyantenuck Country Club is seeking staff for the 2025 season. Want to work in a beautiful setting with a great team? Full and Part-Time Employment available. Positions Available; Bartenders, Dishwashers, Line Cooks, Waitstaff. Bartender position starts end of March; Dishwasher, Line Cook and Waitstaff positions available the end of April. Please email: brandon@wyantenuck.org or call 413-528-0350.

#### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTU-NITIES: Wyantenuck Country Club is a private club. Want to join our team? Full Time position available. Position Available; Head Waitstaff Position available the end of April. Please email: brandon@wyantenuck .org or call 413-528-0350.

### HELP WANTED

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**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:** Equal Housing Opportunity. All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1966 revised March 12, 1989 which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color religion, sex, handicap or familial status or national origin or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. All residential property advertised in the State of Connecticut General Statutes 46a-64c which prohibit the making, printing or publishing or causing to be made, printed or published any notice, statement or advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, physical or mental disability or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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#### Audience Development Editor

The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News seek an Audience Development Editor to expand and engage our readership across digital platforms. In this role, you will select stories for wider distribution, craft and write engaging promotions, and leverage social media and other digital channels to help inform and educate our communities and broaden our reach.

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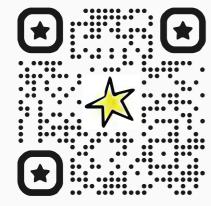
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