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

Klemens resigns; advocates for more affordable housing, civility

By Alec Linden

SALISBURY — Despite a difficult final year marked by the contentious Wake Robin Inn application, longtime Planning and Zoning Commission Chair Michael Klemens said he looks back with pride on 15 years of work to safeguard Salisbury's livability, affordability and ecological health. But he emphasized that the town's challenges are far from over as he steps down.

"Salisbury is one of the most beautiful, biologically diverse towns in the state," Klemens told The Lakeville Journal last week. Nevertheless, he added, "We have

tremendous pressures."

Klemens, who had formally announced his retirement at the Nov. 3 P&Z meeting — two years before his term was set to expire — is currently in Tucson, Arizona, where he plans to remain for at least a year.

While the past year — his 19th since joining the Commission as an alternate in 2006 — was clouded by controversial applications to expand the Wake Robin Inn, he maintained his decision to resign was primarily personal.

A move to the desert

In his resignation letter, Klemens wrote that the Aradev ap-

See KLEMENS, Page A10



PHOTO BY KELLIE EISERMANN

Fresh pine is bound into wreaths by attendees of Housatonic Valley FFA's holiday production night Monday, Nov. 24.

FFA begins wreath-making for annual holiday store

By Kellie Eisermann

FALLS VILLAGE — The Housatonic Valley FFA kicked off its annual wreath-making tradition with the first of two holiday production nights on Monday,

Nov. 24, at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

Students, alumni, families, teachers and friends gathered to help create wreaths for the FFA holiday store, which opened Saturday, Nov. 29.

Wreath-making unfolded in several steps. Pine boughs were trimmed from tree limbs on the garage floor, then passed along to teams of bunch-makers working at

See FFA, Page A10



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

From left, Lily Cowles, Brittany Sneed holding 7-week-old Elyse, and Elyse Harney Morris. Cowles and Morris served as co-chairs of the auction committee.

HVA Auction for the Environment draws a full house — and its youngest guest yet

By Debra A. Aleksinas

MORRIS — The Housatonic Valley Association's (HVA) annual Auction for the Environment returned to South Farms on Nov. 22 with a packed house, spirited bidding and a special appearance by one of the Northwest Corner's

newest residents.

Hosted once again by Emmy and Tony Award-winning actress Christine Baranski, who resides in Litchfield County, the evening was co-chaired by her daughter Lily Cowles and Salisbury realtor Elyse Harney Morris.

The benefit, which features a live and silent auction, is one of HVA's largest fundraisers of the year, sup-

See HVA, Page A10

Kent's Sip, Sparkle & Stroll draws hundreds in festive return

By Ruth Epstein

KENT — Hundreds came to drink in the spirit of the season Saturday, Nov. 29, as the Kent Chamber of Commerce and Kent Lions Club held its Sip, Sparkle & Stroll.

Main Street was aglow with lights twinkling from storefronts as participants walked from one end to the other, glasses and maps in hand, greeting those they met.

The event was back after a six-

See SIP & STROLL, Page A10



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Enjoying Kent's Sip, Sparkle and Stroll Saturday, Nov. 29, are, from left, Pattie and Alex Camillone and Harry and Mechele Palmer of Wingdale, New York.

Community gathers at Pilgrim House for annual Thanksgiving meal

By Ruth Epstein

NORTH CANAAN — The Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Pilgrim House each year provides nourishment and camaraderie for both guests and volunteers alike.

As Valerie Crane was dishing out slices of turkey along the buffet line, she noted that she's been serving for the past three years since her husband, Rich, died.

"I wanted to give back," she said.

"It's overwhelming to see the need. It's hospitality for those who are alone. It brings a spirit of happiness and thankfulness to people."

Stacey Dodge lost her mother this year, and volunteering at the dinner was a way to help heal, she said. Jeanine Coleman is a loyal server. "It's my favorite time of year," she said. "I love doing this."

Paul Ramunni, who entertains at each dinner by playing favorites on the accordion, said, "Having music gives the meal seasoning,

just like salt and pepper. Otherwise, it's bland."

For 18 years, Beverly Becker has organized the event, soliciting funds that make the meal possible. While she was hoping for 200 diners, the number was about 150 to 175, including the take-outs that were delivered around town. For those who did attend, the reviews were high.

Wyatt Stanton sat with Steve Al-

See THANKSGIVING, Page A10

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Our Towns

Trinity Lime Rock brings holiday cheer with carols, doughnuts

By Patrick L Sullivan

LIME ROCK — Parishioners gathered outside Trinity Episcopal Church on Saturday, Nov. 29 for a festive evening of tree lighting, carol singing and a chance to try handmade doughnuts.

The carolers, led by Trinity’s musical director Christine Gevert — tucked inside the church vestibule with an electric keyboard — launched into the first songs promptly at 5 p.m. Moments later, the tree lights were turned on, adding a glow to the gathering.

About 20 minutes later, with the carols and pop tunes finished and the cold settling in, the group headed inside to warm up and investigate the cider and doughnuts.

The latter were fried in bacon fat by John Lloyd, dusted lightly with confectioner’s sugar, and carried out to the hungry crowd.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Parishioners gathered Saturday, Nov. 29, to light the Christmas tree and enjoy handmade doughnuts and cider at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lime Rock.



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Santa attends Kent’s tree lighting

A crowd gathered at the Kent Town Green Friday, Nov. 28, to witness the annual lighting of the tree. Santa Claus made an appearance and attendees caroled as the tree was illuminated for the holiday season.



Scoville talk explores early Revolutionary battles

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — In a region rich with Revolutionary War history, Tom Key, a self-described “redneck engineer,” offered residents a deeper look at some of the lesser-known events of the American Revolution during a talk at the Scoville Memorial Library on Sunday, Nov. 9.

The program was part of an ongoing series tied to author Russell Shorto’s book “Revolution Song.” Copies are available at the library, and Shorto is scheduled to appear in person on March 27 with local teachers Peter Vermilyea and Rhonan Mokriski through the Salisbury Forum — a group well-known for its public discussions on history, politics and culture.

Key focused on the Revolution’s early stages in the northern colonies, outlining events that shaped the era in New England. He described the tense buildup to April 18, 1775 — the night of Paul Revere’s famous ride — noting that colonists around Boston were already stockpiling munitions while British General Thomas Gage watched from the city, “getting nervous.”

According to Key, the colonists expected a British march of roughly 1,000 soldiers toward Lexington. When the troops advanced, the colonists fired and re-

treated, setting off the skirmishes that led to the start of the war. As the British continued toward Concord, American fighters harassed them using what Key described as “guerrilla” tactics — an approach that would define New England’s early resistance.

With no reinforcements nearby, the British pulled back toward Boston. “That’s when it got vicious,” said Key. American snipers targeted the retreating troops, causing casualties and demoralizing the redcoats. Back in Boston, Key said, the Americans “tightened the noose” by constructing a redoubt or temporary fortification on Breed’s Hill — the precursor to the more widely remembered Battle of Bunker Hill. Built overnight, the fortification heightened British frustration.

“Gage sent three waves against the colonials, into coordinated fire,” Key said. “It was a killing field.”

But the tactic was effective. By the last wave, the colonials were out of ammunition and were overrun by the British.

Key then shifted to Benedict Arnold, a figure with ties throughout New England.

Arnold participated in the siege of Boston before proposing the capture of Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain. After that accomplish-



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Tom Key’s talk at Scoville Memorial Library Nov. 9 brought forgotten tales of the Revolutionary War to light.

ment, Arnold launched an ambitious attack on Quebec.

Key explained that Arnold began the expedition in September 1775 with 1,100 men, traveling up the Kennebec River in Maine before attempting a grueling march through the wilderness. The mission quickly faltered amid brutal weather and supply shortages. At one point, Key said, Arnold “saved the day” by buying a herd of cattle from a Frenchman so his troops could eat.

Reinforced by Gen. Richard Montgomery, Arnold pressed on and attacked Quebec City on Dec. 31, 1775. Montgomery was killed, Arnold was badly wounded, and the assault failed.

Arnold went on the following year to fight a series of naval actions on Lake Champlain that were ultimately unsuccessful but did delay the British advance to the south.

When asked why Arnold defected in 1780, Key said Arnold had accumulated a long list of grievances, beginning with not being paid.

His reputation had been challenged, leading him to request a court martial to clear his name. “Remember, a court martial wasn’t always a bad thing,” Key said.

Arnold also resented the personal and financial costs of leadership, was embittered by his wounds, and was grieving his wife’s death. While administering Philadelphia, Key added, “he lived it up, more like a Tory” than a committed revolutionary.

“Hurt feelings? Money? Opportunist?” Key asked. “But not a coward.”

Kent issues email scam alert

By Alec Linden

KENT — Town officials are warning residents to be on alert after a second fraudulent email impersonating the Land Use Office was reported in less than three weeks

The town clerk announced on Nov. 26 that another false message has been sent to residents in recent days, this time attempting to collect payment for an “Application Review and Approval Fee” tied to a supposed special permit application. No such fee or permit exists, according to Town Hall.

A similar scam email was reported on Nov. 10, prompting officials to notify the public that any messages requesting payments or personal information should be treated

with caution. Residents who receive a suspicious email are urged not to respond.

Anyone who receives an email from the bogus address planning-dept.townofkentct@usa.com is urged to contact the Land Use Office at landuseadmin@townofkentct.gov or call 860-927-4625 to alert Town Hall. The clerk emphasized that recipients should not respond to the message in any way — including clicking an “unsubscribe” link — as doing so may confirm their address to scammers.

Officials note that Kent uses a federally verified “.gov” domain for all official communication. Any message claiming to be from Town Hall that does not come from a .gov address should be considered fraudulent.

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Our Towns

Land protections non-negotiable, say Northwest Corner conservationists after PURA rejects Aquarion sale

By Debra A. Aleksinas

The state Public Utilities Regulatory Authority's (PURA) formal rejection on Nov. 19 of Eversource Energy's plan to sell Aquarion Water Company ended nearly a year of uncertainty over the future of Connecticut's largest private water utility, and delivered what conservation groups in the Northwest Corner are calling a critical win for watershed-land protection.

The Cornwall-based Housatonic Valley Association (HVA), which has long monitored Aquarion-owned lands along the Housatonic River watershed and its tributaries, said the decision will help ensure clean water and protect wildlife and forests for years to come.

HVA urged PURA to require any future buyer to commit to land-management partnerships with regional conservation organizations.

Tim Abbott, HVA's executive director, noted that conservation groups were not trying to block the sale outright. Instead, he said, they believed that the conservation value of the former Torrington Water Company lands owned by Aquarion in Goshen, Torrington and Norfolk had not received enough attention during the PURA hearings and warranted a higher standard of protection.

"We still want that, under the present ownership and in any future sale," said Abbott.

Likewise, the Kent-based Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC) — which manages thousands of acres of conserved forest and borders several Aquarion parcels — has stressed that watershed lands should remain under the control of owners with a proven record of stewardship.

The leaders of both conservation groups had called on state and municipal officials to move proactively toward permanent conservation agreements, regardless of who owns the land in the future.

The proposed sale would have transferred Aquarion's operations to a newly created nonprofit subsidiary, the Aquarion Water Authority (AWA), in partnership with the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA).

PURA commissioners concluded that the deal failed to demonstrate long-term public benefit, raised serious concerns about transparency and oversight, and lacked sufficient protections for both ratepayers and land-management interests.

John Moreira, executive vice president, chief financial officer and treasurer of Eversource, responded to PURA's decision.

"We prepared for alternative outcomes in relation to our petition for approval to sell Aquarion Water Company," Moreira said in a Nov. 21 statement.

"In the meantime, Aquarion remains a high-quality, well-managed utility with a strong reputation for operational excellence that stands as a valued part of the Eversource organization."

State leaders praise land protection groups

In the wake of the decision, Sen. Stephen Harding (R-30), the ranking member of the Environment Committee, and State Attorney General William Tong — both of whom had publicly urged PURA to reject the sale — praised the ruling and commended local land conservation groups for helping to block the Aquarion deal.

"This decision is a big win for our environment," Harding said in a statement. "And it has happened thanks to groups like the Goshen Land Trust, Housatonic Valley Association, Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy."

Referring to the land conservation groups, "They all spoke out. They all raised questions about the environmental impact that this sale would have. They pointed out that watershed land could be in danger," said Harding.

"They sent a clear message: protecting this land is essential to clean drinking water. This land is an essential part of the identity of our communities. This land is part of local Plans of Conservation and Development. Protecting our forests and

our drinking water must be a priority for the state."

Harding said he applauds the advocacy from local land trusts and conservation groups. "They deserve tremendous credit for this environmental victory."

In July, Save the Sound submitted written testimony recommending that PURA ensure AWA follows RWA's longstanding practice of working with conservation partners to purchase and conserve thousands of acres of privately-owned land as open space to protect watershed land and drinking water supply.

"Water companies are the second largest total owners of forested open space of the state, second only to the State of Connecticut," said Curt Johnson, who testified on behalf of Save the Sound. Johnson, a former president of the regional environmental organization, helped craft and pass state legislation to strengthen protections for water company land.

"Open space adjacent to rivers, particularly forestland, provides water quality benefits and helps purify and protect water supplies. In addition, these lands provide critical habitat to wildlife species who depend on larger contiguous forest blocks as habitat."

Attorney General's statement: consumers foremost

State Attorney General Tong praised the decision, calling the proposed deal "a costly loser for Connecticut families." In a formal state-

ment, he argued the sale would have sacrificed decades of regulatory oversight in exchange for short-term financial gain for the utility, risking sharp rate increases and weakened consumer protections.

"Eversource desperately wanted to offload Aquarion, and they concocted this maneuver to extract as much as possible by guaranteeing the new entity free rein to jack up rates," Tong said. "Eversource is free to find a new buyer, but should understand that any new attempt to end public regulatory oversight over water bills for hundreds of thousands of Connecticut families is going to be a non-starter here."

Tong and other officials had previously warned that the sale could double household water bills over the next decade, a forecast based on company-filed projections showing possible annual rate increases between 6.5% and 8.35%.

Why the sale was proposed, and why it failed

Eversource acquired Aquarion in 2017, and in early 2024 began evaluating a sale, part of a broader strategy to reduce corporate debt. In December 2024, the company and RWA unveiled the AWA proposal, which would have merged Aquarion's operations under a quasi-public nonprofit authority.

Under the agreement, decisions about water rates would shift from PURA to a board composed of representatives from the towns served, a structure critics said would weaken independent

oversight and affect the approval of rates.

Months of public hearings followed, with conservation groups, municipal leaders, consumer advocates and state officials offering testimony.

Many raised concerns not only about possible rate increases and tax-revenue losses, but also about potential future fragmentation of forested watershed lands that supply drinking water and support biodiversity.

Ultimately, PURA commissioners said the transaction failed the public-interest test.

Post-decision update: rate hikes now likely

In the days after the sale's rejection, Eversource confirmed it will seek a \$64 million rate increase for Aquarion customers in early 2026 — a move the company said is necessary to recover costs and maintain service levels now that the sale will not proceed.

While the size of the increase for individual households is not yet known, the announcement has renewed concern among municipal leaders and conservation groups in the Northwest Corner. Some worry that rising water bills could overshadow the long-term protections still needed for watershed land, now that ownership remains with Eversource.

According to the HVA, the future of high-value watershed lands is still unsettled and deserve permanent protection, regardless of what financial pressures the utility may face.

What's next

Eversource said it is reviewing PURA's decision and evaluating next steps. Although the sale is off the table for now, the company has not ruled out seeking a different buyer or reintroducing a revised proposal.

"Following a thorough review of PURA's decision, we are evaluating regulatory and legal remedies to be implemented expeditiously," Eversource said in a statement.

PURA made clear that any future bid will need far stronger commitments, including enforceable conservation guarantees, transparent oversight and consumer protection safeguards in order to be accepted.

For now, Aquarion remains under Eversource ownership, and its land holdings in the Northwest Corner remain unchanged.

Timeline

How the proposed Aquarion sale played out — including conservation action

- 2017: Eversource acquires Aquarion for \$1.675 billion.
- Early 2024: Eversource begins evaluating a sale of Aquarion amid its broader debt-reduction strategy.
- Spring/Summer 2024: Conservation groups, land trusts and local leaders begin preparing their input. NCLC and HVA start reviewing potential impacts on watershed lands in Northwest Connecticut.
- December 2024: Eversource and the Regional Water Authority announce a plan to form the Aquarion Water Authority (AWA) to take over water operations.
- Spring/Summer 2025: Public hearings begin; NCLC, HVA, Save the Sound submit written conservation testimony.
- Fall 2025: Environmental, consumer and municipal concerns mount.
- Nov. 2025: PURA rejects the sale, citing inadequate protections and unclear public benefit.

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OBITUARIES

Mary Ann Marschat

CANAAN — Lifelong resident of Canaan CT, Mary Ann Marschat, age 88, passed away on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 27, 2025. Born in New York City on July 19, 1937, Mary Ann came to live with her grandparents at about 6 months old. Canaan offered a country life and a large extended family. She became a sibling to her youngest aunts and uncles.

While educated in the local schools, her career path was set at an early age. Mary Ann learned about business riding along with her grandfather in his cattle truck. She listened to his stories and learned “the ways of business”. She prided herself on being an independent businesswoman. She maintained her farm in Canaan on her own for many years and later worked with other local farmers to keep the land and farm structures in use. She also had rental properties and at one time had a small collectible business in Sheffield, MA.

While she never married or had children, Mary Ann was a lifeline for her older aunts and uncles as they grew older. She checked in on them, shopped for them and took them to doctor’s appointments.

She had a love of nature. She loved her animals, especially her cats. She often had several whom she babied with special food and care.

She had many friends in the Canaan and Sheffield area. She had an infectious laugh. You would recognize her New York birth with the “Queensisms” in her speech. She was a fixture at the local breakfast restaurants where she would share stories and her strong opinions. Her strong views sometimes masked her warm and kind heart.

She was predeceased by her grandparents Mary Ann Weirauch Marschat and Stanley Marschat, her parents William Howard Marschat and Rose Keiser, her brothers William Howard Jr and Lawrence, her Uncles-Albert (Mildred, Mary), Stanley (Jean), and Raymond (Sylvia) and her Aunts Harriet Brewer (Pete), Gertrude Rohr (James), Audrey Beaupre (Tracy), Ruthe Martin (Donald) and several cousins June Marschat Kelly, Mary Lou Brewer, Stanley Marschat Jr., and William Rohr. She is survived by her cousins James Rohr, Irene Edison, Robert Beaupre, Barbara Martin, Chris Martin and Anne Martin. She will be missed by her friends and family. Daisy Hill Farm will never be the same.

She was a parishioner at St Martin of Tours Parish. The funeral is planned for early next week. Funeral arrangements can be found at the website for Montano-Shea Funeral Home in Winsted, www.montano-shea.com.



David Fitzgerald Morrison

SALISBURY — David Morrison, beloved husband, father, friend, uncle, and brother, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Nov. 9, 2025, at age 57. A gentle, kind, funny, and very tall man, he adored his wife Frances and his sons, Walter and Henry. He achieved much success as a real estate investment management professional and loved a good spreadsheet, but his true passions were his family and friends.

Big Dave was a proud graduate of Williams College and collected an amazing group of friends there who remained a huge part of his life. He played basketball through high school and college and loved watching his sons play sports as a (loudly) vocal fan and stats keeper. He also served as their mentor, role model, and supporter of their passions. He was always up for golfing, sailing, fly fishing,

boating and camping, even better with his boys. He excelled at planning adventures and hunting down the best of every type of cuisine.

A great dancer, he was especially talented after a barrel-aged boulevardier or a ‘Gansett. He loved telling stories full of self-deprecation and humor, which kept his friends and family in stitches. Even with all his silliness, he remained loyal and connected, generous and supportive, bringing joy to all who loved him.

Born in Greenwich, Connecticut, the youngest of 6 siblings, he is survived by his brother, Jimmy, and sisters Jane, Martha, and Ann. He spent many years in Pasadena, California and New York City; in his last year he described that he “was pinching himself” with happiness to be living in Salisbury and Boston. He will be missed in all those places.



Howard R. Baird, Sr.

SHARON — Howard R. Baird, Sr., of Sharon, Connecticut, passed away peacefully Nov. 19, 2025. He was born in Barton, Vermont, on May 3, 1939, to the late Ray and Mary Louise (Bean) Baird. Howard worked hard all of his life, from farming to Purina feed to a highway department employee in New Milford, before moving to Sharon. He then continued to work with the Sharon Highway Department until his retirement in 2001 after 27 years of service. After retirement, he worked for Up Country Services with his daughter, Melissa and son-in-law, Don.

In July of 1961, he married Anita Barney and together they raised six children. Howard enjoyed fishing and family get-togethers. His passion was his vegetable gardens. He was also a social member with the Hillsdale Fire Department in Hillsdale, New York.

Howard is survived by Anita Baird; his daughters Sharon (Steven) Hotchkiss, Wina Briggs, Melissa (Don) Hosier, Natalie (James Jr.) Conklin and Lori (Larry) Conklin; fifteen grandchil-

dren, thirty-five great grandchildren and ten great grandchildren; in addition, his brothers, Ernest (Gail) Baird, Clement (Margaret) Baird, Clinton (Amy) Baird, Carl (Brenda) Baird, sisters, Ruby Barney and Mary (Keith) Tomlinson, his nieces, nephews and many cousins.

He is predeceased by his parents; a son, Howard Russell Baird; a grandson, Dylan James Conklin; his brothers, Theodore and Rupert Baird and sister, Dorothy (Williams) Dallas.

A time to share memories and offer condolences will be from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2025, at Peck & Peck Funeral Homes, 8063 Route 22, Copake, NY. where a funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Interment will follow in Hillsdale Rural Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Sharon Fire and Rescue, PO Box 357, Sharon, CT 06069 or to AFSP OOTD Walk Berkshire County for Dylan’s Eagles. To leave a message of condolence for the family, please visit www.peckandpeck.net



Robert Anthony Cooke

CANAAN — Robert Anthony Cooke, 62, of Canaan, Connecticut, passed away suddenly on Nov. 14, 2025. Bob was born on April 22, 1963, son of the late Victor and Eleanor Cooke of Millerton, New York.

Bob graduated from Webutuck High School in 1981 and attended college at SUNY, Canton and Columbia Greene. He loved golf, traveling, walks on the beach and spending time with friends and family, especially his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Donna (Whitbeck), his son, Jordan and his wife Crystal and their three children; Madeline, Hudson and Bowen, his daughter Jala and her fiancé Ayden, brother George

and his wife Joyce, sister Margaret Gregoire, brother Thomas and his wife Cathy, brother Joe and his wife Karen, and many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, Dec. 28 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Barrington Hall (formerly Chrissy Farm), 426 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington, Massachusetts. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to the North Canaan Ambulance, 15 E. Main Street, North Canaan, CT or to the American Heart Association, online at heart.org. Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home, 118 Main Street, North Canaan, CT.



OUR TOWNS



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Bruce Bennett, left, presents a plaque to Paul Herrington for decades of service on the Ag-Ed Advisory Council at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

Ag-Ed Council discusses farming, honors Herrington

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Ag-Ed Advisory Council met Monday, Nov. 24 at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, where members heard from Bob Jacquier about what it takes to run a farm in 2025 and honored Paul Herrington for his dedicated contributions to the school’s agriculture education program.

Jacquier, of Laurelbrook Farm in North Canaan, recounted how the farm was started by his grandparents in the late 1940s on modest acreage with “eight or 10 cows.”

“They were right out of high school,” he said. The farm, still run by the Jacquier family, now has some 1,450 cows, 3,000 acres and various associated businesses, including composting, sand and gravel, and concrete.

Jacquier’s brother, Crick-et, reminded the group that their grandfather lost his leg when he was 21 years old and had to deal with the floods

of 1955, which caused widespread damage in Northwest Connecticut.

Asked how the original Jacquiers managed to get started, Bob Jacquier said “it was a simpler life, and they weren’t keeping up with the Joneses.”

Cricket Jacquier also said the farm credit system was important in his grandparents’ day and continues to play a significant role, which provided a natural segue into honoring Herrington of Farm Credit East, a customer-owned financial institution that provides loans and financial services to farmers and other agriculture-related businesses and individuals.

Herrington, who lives near Kinderhook, New York, was lauded not only for his nearly 30 years on the council but for never missing a meeting — or even being late — despite having further to drive than anyone else.

Herrington told the group, “You’ve taken a really good program and made it better.”

Patricia Kim Leslie

MILLERTON — Patricia Kim Leslie, 71, a three-year resident of Millerton, New York, formerly of Poughquag, New York, since 1980, died peacefully on Thursday, Nov. 27, 2025, surrounded by her loving family in Millerton. Mrs. Leslie retired from Beekman Elementary School on July 1, 2018 following over a twenty-year career as a teaching assistant.

Born April 5, 1954, in Mount Kisco, New York, she was the daughter of the late Raymond and Patricia (Dwyer) Newman. She was a graduate of Pleasantville High School and received her associate degree from Westchester Community College. On Oct. 18, 1975 she married William F. Leslie. Bill and Pat celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 18, 2025. Bill survives at home in Millerton. Pat was an avid reader and enjoyed crafting, knitting, gardening, traveling to Rhode Island and Martha’s Vineyard on vacations and spending time with her beloved grandchildren. She will be dearly missed by

her loving family and many dear friends.

In addition to her husband Bill, Pat is survived by three children, Christopher Leslie and his wife Emma Sampedro of Millerton, Meghan Bathrick and her husband Andrew of Pine Plains, New York and her son, Justin Leslie of Millerton; six grandchildren, Isabela, Alex, Isaac, Brooke, Lukas and Tucker; her sister, Kip Newman of Poughquag and several nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be held on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. Funeral services and burial at Irondale Cemetery will be private. Pastor William Mayhew will officiate. Memorial contributions may be made to the North East-Millerton Library, P.O. Box 786, Millerton, NY 12546.

To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Pat’s memory, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com



Worship Services Week of December 7, 2025	
Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org	The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442
Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627	St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org
North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232	Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, December 14 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome
FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org	ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078
Congregation Beth David A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org	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 Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net	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 Gates!
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	St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality
The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net	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
The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building	Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 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!
All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us	
Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org	
Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-5138	

Send obituaries to obituaries@lakevillejournal.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No-excuse absentee could solve election law flaw

Your article in the Nov. 25 edition “Litchfield County Registrars Call for Changes to Early Voting” highlights a flaw with Connecticut’s current voting laws—one that the state legislature could easily fix. As the article reports, registrars are justly complaining about the cost of staffing the polls for 14 days, a requirement mandated by laws passed in 2024. Those laws were enacted with the noble goal of giving voters better access to the ballot box but many of Connecticut’s municipalities are small, and the cost of keeping polls open for many days ahead of Election Day is onerous for them.

The problem could be easily remedied if the legislature would pass legislation enabling no-excuse absentee ballots—a practice allowed by the vast majority of states, red and blue alike. In effect, no-excuse absentee voting is “early voting from home,” allowing every voter to cast a ballot from the convenience of home without having to present an excuse such as being out of town or physically unable to get to the polls in

person. No-excuse absentee voting is simply absentee voting for everyone—a benefit for all voters, especially working people, seniors, anyone with family care responsibilities, and those who are disabled. It has been shown to increase turnout, particularly among younger voters and other groups that often suffer from low participation. When implemented with best practices honed by other states over many election cycles, it is also safe and secure.

You might be thinking that Connecticut passed a no-excuse absentee ballot law last year. Not quite. Last year, voters approved a ballot initiative amending the state constitution to permit the legislature to pass laws enabling no-excuse absentee ballots. Unfortunately, the legislature failed in its session earlier this year to enact any such legislation. Legislators will return to Hartford for the new session in February. Let’s urge our state representatives to finish the job.

Lee Greenhouse
Salisbury

‘Thank you’ from The Corner Food Pantry

The Corner Food Pantry Board wishes to express a hearty thank you to the community for its outstanding support these past couple of weeks.

Alec Linden’s timely article in the Nov. 6 issue of The Lakeville Journal entitled, Food Banks Brace for Surge Despite Partial SNAP Funding helped promote awareness of the need.

During our annual Thanksgiving distribution over the Nov. 21-22 week-

end, the pantry served a record 235 families/1,107 individuals, representing an increase of 20% from last year.

The support of our wonderful donors, volunteers, local farms and LaBonne’s Markets help make it possible to provide nutritious food to our neighbors in need.

Amanda Halle
Co-President
The Corner Pantry Board
of Directors
Lakeville

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago — December 1900

Henry Brazee on Saturday trapped a woodchuck. He says he has beaten this record once when several years ago he captured a woodchuck in January.

100 years ago — December 1925

The post office was moved Monday to its new quarters in the Roberts building. The office has been completely equipped with new furnishings and up-to-date things. The boxes are all the new combination pattern, keys being done away with entirely.

About two inches of snow fell on Tuesday but it soon melted and by Wednesday afternoon it was practically gone. This was the first snow fall of any consequence this season.

Desirable Home for Sale -- Bargain at \$5,500.00. Reasonable payments; William Jefferson place 1½ miles from Sharon Station.

50 years ago — December 1975

With the agreement of the first selectmen in Sharon, Salisbury and Canaan, a total of 75 miles of town roads have been marked

with middle traffic lines, but the painted double solid lines come as a surprise to the three town officials. The selectmen told the Journal this week that they never saw a map delineating the type of lines the roads in their towns would receive.

FALLS VILLAGE — First Selectman David Domeier has received a letter-petition signed by 27 Falls Village residents urging him to improve the appearance of the town’s center.

Topp Hill Annie 4106 of Hedgerows Farm, West Cornwall, was named grand champion at the National Angus Show in Kansas City last month.

The Schaghticoke Indian Reservation is one of the places of special interest in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut. Set aside in 1742 for the exclusive use of Indians, the reserve originally covered 1500 acres. Reduced now to 400 acres, it extends a mile and a half along the west bank of the Housatonic River north from Bull’s Bridge and west to the New York state line. The tribe appears to have lived peaceably with the colonials. It had the right to hunt on anyone’s property and to cut the year’s growth from

trees. The Indians pounded the young branches flat and used them to make baskets.

25 years ago — December 2000

Take 70 pounds of confectioners’ sugar, 60 pounds of gingerbread, 10 pounds of gumdrops and a long list of other sweets and one can picture a cascade of cavities. But for Mark Waldron it’s an artist’s palette. The head chef at Sharon Hospital has once again his gingerbread Holiday Christmas that stands on display in the facility’s lobby.

CANAAN — Local do-it-yourselfers know they can now get more than supplies at C.A. Lindell True Value Hardware and Lumber. Advice is always plentiful and free. For some, a trip to the hardware store is a much-anticipated part of a Saturday. But others will now be pleased to know they can make a “virtual visit,” shopping and seeking advice, without changing out of their pajamas. Lindell’s new web site is open for business 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

These items were taken from The Lakeville Journal archives at Salisbury’s Scoville Memorial Library, keeping the original wording intact as possible.



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Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com Include name, town and phone number. Keep letters to 500 words or less.

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

Conference of Parties 30: anything new?

OCCASIONAL OBSERVER
MAC GORDON

first COP not attended by the US in its 30 year history.

Although President Trump and several of his subordinates not only did not attend but made a point of denigrating COP 30, a number of American politicians, business leaders and other officials did attend including former Senator and US climate representative John Kerry, California’s Gov. Gavin Newsom, a number of mayors, and former US Vice President Al Gore who argued that “Trump is shooting the US in both feet, really hobbling the US ability to compete in the leading economic sector of the 21st century”. Both Kerry and Gore reassured people from the rest of the world that the US would be returning to its former self when a Democratic administration was returned to office. Gov. Newsom gave attendees a feeling that he might be the next American leader.

Unlike his immediate predecessor, Jair Bolsonaro who considered the Amazon rainforest a resource to be exploited as aggressively as possible, the current president of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, commonly referred to as Lula, has taken a more measured approach to development in the

Amazon forest. He has permitted some agriculture and has assented to exploration for oil and gas deposits but not (not yet at least) drilling. He has allowed a limited amount of commercial farming and lumbering. But President Lula is quite environmentally aware and wants to be remembered for helping to save the Amazon. His proposed \$35 billion anti-deforestation initiative, the Tropical Forests Forever fund is a modest step in the right direction but as yet has few confirmed subscribers, the largest of which is Norway and had received pledges of only \$5 billion by the end of the conference.

Currently less than one third of the earth’s land surface is covered by forest. A few centuries ago, two thirds of the earth was forested. We are continuing to lose forest worldwide at a shocking rate: one and a half acres are lost every second with more than 2400 trees cut down every minute! The largest cause of deforestation, roughly 3/4, is agriculture: livestock grazing, plantations for palm oil, coffee, rubber and other popular crops. Lumber growing, mining, urban growth and now forest wildfires are increasing.

Forests are beneficial to all other life on earth in many ways. All live vegetation, but especially trees, take in and store carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases while emitting oxygen. Over 70% of all our plant and animal spe-

cies live in the forest. Forests stabilize the ground, greatly reducing erosion and filtering rainfall to give us potable water.

Despite being the principal focus of environmental concern, (global warming is still more talked about than acted upon), 2024 was the warmest year in recorded history with the previous ten years being the ten warmest ever. Last year global temperature exceeded for the first time the upper annual limit deemed manageable by the Paris Agreement.

The conference’s focus on the Amazon helped direct attention to the needs of the indigenous peoples of the region and elsewhere. In this matter, what is good for native peoples is generally good for the environment as well. Most of the destruction of the rainforest has been done by “Europeans”, often illegally without the cooperation of indigenous peoples. The stronger the legal, political and environmental rules and standards, the better the chance of saving the Amazon and the rest of the planet.

COP 30 has brought forth countless financial deals and many possible public benefit agreements. But the most significant change may be the greatly increased intention of most of the “partiers” to do much more to take care of their forests. Let’s hope.

Architect and landscape designer Mac Gordon lives in Lakeville.

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VIEWPOINT

Venezuela’s oil wealth is a tempting target

Fifteen thousand U.S. Troops mass on land and sea. Facing them, the beleaguered president of a nation 11 times smaller than the U.S. Will we invade and why? “I don’t rule out anything,” answers the president of the United States.

A near naval blockade surrounds tiny Venezuela. President Trump has accused his counterpart, Venezuela’s Nicolas Maduro, of leading the Cartel de Los Soles, a designated foreign terrorist organization. Maduro denies it, claiming Trump is simply using that pretext to effect regime change. But before you start lambasting Donald Trump for going off the deep end, consider the following.

We are witnessing Gunboat Diplomacy, a tried-and-true American tactic that dates back several centuries. For example, one of the first things a Paris Island Marine recruit like me memorizes in boot camp is the Marine Corps Hymn. It starts with “From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli; We fight our country’s battles...” Want to know where that comes from?

In June 1815, the U.S. Navy, still in its infancy, blockaded the nations along the North African Coastline, bombarding Tripoli until they signed a treaty promising not to attack American trade ships. The capture of Mexico City was next in 1847. A couple of decades later, in 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry’s naval expedition steamed into Japan’s ports. He was hellbent on asserting U.S. interests and trade by force, if necessary, against the Japanese, which had a long-standing policy of isolation.

The following year, we participated in similar exercises in China along the Yangtze River. Skip a few years, and then again, an invasion of Panama in 1903. I could go on, but the point is that America has exercised a lot of foreign policy over the years by using the threat or the use of force, most often through the U.S. Navy and the Marines on board.

In my last column, I outlined some of our history with Venezuela and its current economic, political, and military relationship with both China and Russia. I wrote that our domestic energy production is peaking. Trump’s “Drill, Baby, Drill” policy involves a significant expansion of lease sales to drill for oil off the coasts of Alaska, California, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Lease sales do not guar-

THE RETIRED INVESTOR BILL SCHMICK

antee buyers will drill. To do so requires a higher oil price than we have now, and the president wants energy prices to fall further. Given that conundrum and America’s need to procure additional energy reserves, Venezuela’s 303 billion barrels of proven reserves are a tempting target.

The problem is that Venezuela, under President Nicolas Maduro, is no friend of the U.S. After years of U.S.-imposed sanctions, Venezuela’s economy continues to decline, with the only hard money the country earns coming from its role as a transit country for drug smuggling.

Despite having the world’s largest oil reserves, Venezuela’s oil production has been declining for years, from 3.2 million barrels per day in 2000 to roughly 800,000 barrels per day in 2025. The decline is attributed to years of underinvestment and mismanagement, limited access to capital, and little to no maintenance. Maduro, and before him Chavez, drove the industry into bankruptcy. They expropriated foreign oil companies, drove investors and technology away, and engineered an almost complete collapse of infrastructure and refineries.

To turn around Venezuela’s oil industry would require \$20 billion per year over 2 to 3 years. Once completed, it would require 4-5 years to yield additional production, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. At that point, the country could sustain an additional 1 million barrels per day.

Another challenge is in the complexion of Venezuela’s oil. The Orinoco heavy oil is the largest accumulation of heavy and ultra-heavy crude in the world. About 77% of the country’s oil reserves are in that region. This oil requires specialized refineries to process this high-density fuel.

Extracting this material is difficult and involves high greenhouse gas emissions, making it one of the more carbon-intensive oil sources in the world. Believe me, I have been there. It’s a complex extraction process in a remote, treacherous jungle environment that requires substantial energy and water and generates significant

waste.

There are about 125 operational oil refineries located primarily along the Gulf Coast, in Texas, Louisiana, California, and the Midwest, that already process a significant amount of heavy oil. The supply of heavy crude has been shrinking, however, due to prolonged OPEC supply cuts and sanctions on Venezuela, Iran, and Russia. A lifting of sanctions on Venezuela would be a welcome development for refineries struggling to find cheap supplies.

Trump’s gunboat policy might succeed in ousting the present government through the threat of force or an actual invasion. That would be dangerous but doable. A ready replacement, Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Corina Machado, who is widely popular in her country, would quickly embrace the U.S. and, presumably, an oil-friendly policy along with it.

A harder sell is convincing Maduro to step down and/or abandon his allies, and to embrace the U.S. once again after years of bad blood. It could happen, but it is unlikely. And even if that were to happen, the road ahead would require years of effort and money. The United States would have a hard row to hoe to secure this Latin American country’s energy wealth without Machado or someone like her in office.

Many critics of the president and administration believe that Trump’s Venezuela invasion tactics are a domestically motivated diversionary tactic. If so, the tactic has yet to play out. Clearly, in the short term, Donald Trump’s focus is on becoming the peace president. His reputation as a consummate deal maker is currently fully occupied with accomplishing peace between Russia and Ukraine, while holding together a fragile agreement between Israel and Hamas.

It also appears the president is changing his justification for regime change from fentanyl smuggling (which was a mirage in the first place) to ejecting Russia, Iran, and China from the western hemisphere. To some, Venezuela may be a bridge too far for now, but I wouldn’t put anything past this guy in the months ahead.

Bill Schmick is a founding partner of Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires. Bill’s forecasts and opinions are purely his own and do not necessarily represent the views of Onota Partners, Inc.

OUR TOWNS



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Rie McCarthy’s ceramics caught the eye of Keavey Bedell at Salisbury Handmade.

Salisbury Handmade draws shoppers to White Hart Inn

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The curious and the driven bustled into the White Hart Saturday, Nov. 29 for the first of two Salisbury Handmade events. Vendors offered a wide range of handmade products that the average holiday shopper is not going to find at a chain store.

Most of the people there were in the curious camp. Keavey Bedell looked casually at Rie McCarthy’s ceramics, and then more closely at a Jizo statue (a small representation of the Buddha). Bedell decided on the larger of the two Jizos.

McCarthy’s wares start around \$25 for small bowls suitable for condiments to \$35 for minimalist tea cups to larger items like serving bowls. She makes them in her studio in Mt. Washington, Massachusetts, and while she will not be at the second event on Dec. 13, her goods are available in Great Barrington at the Railroad St. Collective at 25 Railroad St. or at RIESMceramics.com.

Ambling around the corner, a reporter found Marilyn Davis of Amesville and her assortment of four-color prints of local scenes such as Lake Wonoscopomuc and Twin Lakes, all nicely framed and eminently affordable at \$30 and up.

Davis’ work is available online Etsy under the name “FavoritePlacesArt,” or email mollyhardy2@gmail.com.

Continuing the circuit, the reporter, who was in the “driven” camp and looking for consumable gifts for his mother who does not want any more permanent “stuff,” came across Ani Jenkins of Falls Village, with assorted skin care items and herbal teas, all hand made.

The teas did the trick. After sampling the two on offer, the decision was made to go with the Peace Blend, consisting of chamomile, tulsi, and sitka rose (\$16). It’s



This custom bowl by Shaari Horowitz was available at Salisbury Handmade Saturday, Nov. 29, at the White Hart Inn.

loose tea — Jenkins is adamantly anti-tea bag — and she had a couple of mason jar infusers for sale as well.

Jenkins either grows or collects these ingredients, sometimes from Alaska, where she and her husband have a summer cabin. She said she has had many interesting conversations with Transportation Safety Administration officials while bringing back Alaskan herbs. See www.umbotanicals.com for more information.

Shaari Horowitz, a veteran of the Salisbury Handmade scene, had her usual array of truly spectacular wooden bowls, decorated in such a way that actually using them as bowls seems unlikely, like putting the Mona Lisa on a couple of sawhorses as an impromptu picnic table.

No such ambiguity exists with Horowitz’ selection of interesting earrings, starting at \$45. Horowitz will be on hand on Dec. 13.

As will Karin Gerstel of Undermountain Weavers. This year the weavers feature rugs and blankets made from Sam’s Wool (Sam Waterston

is the Sam involved) starting at \$150, plus wool beanies that are perfect for winter (\$38).

Salisbury Handmade was established about 18 years ago when a number of local artisans banded together after the closing of Creative Hands, a local craft consignment store.

The group began to organize local shows to showcase local artists and their handmade items under several names, including Renegade Artisans Group, Salisbury Artisans Group and Salisbury Handmade.

Salisbury Handmade promotes four shows per year. The one-day spring show happens outdoors on the White Hart lawn in mid-May. The two-day autumn show, also on the lawn, occurs during the Salisbury Fall Festiva, and two one-day holiday shows are hosted inside the Inn.

Salisbury Handmade shares proceeds from the shows with local non-profits. The group also thanks the White Hart for hosting the shows.



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Season turns

Do you have a family member or friend in the military who would be interested in the news from home?

Remember

The Lakeville Journal Company offers free online subscriptions to our website, lakevillejournal.com for active duty military personnel from the Tri-state region. For more information or to set up a subscription, contact Sandra Lang at circulation@lakevillejournal.com or 860-435-9873, ext. 301.

With thanks to those who serve.



Realtor® at Large

This month, Litchfield Design Magazine has a wonderful article on a local family that builds homes from the ground up. Meet Lee and Sharisse Steiner, who have formed a family business with their sons named Ground Breakers Building and Excavation. As the name implies, Lee will aid in the understanding of your parcel of land and will help in the design and construction of the new home. Having had the pleasure of seeing one of their new homes in Kent, I was very pleased at the high level of care and quality that went into the build out. To access the article, please see: litchfieldmagazine.com/onouradar/ground-breakers-ct/ and to visit their website, please go to: groundbreakersct.com/.



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ADVERTISEMENT

Falls Village talk warns of online risks for teens

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Maintaining online safety for young people in northwest Connecticut requires an understanding of the dangers of being online and the willingness to plan ahead for when – not if – a bad situation arises.

That was the message from Project Sage’s Linda Ciano, who spoke at the David M. Hunt Library Thursday evening, Nov. 20, in Falls Village, part of an ongoing effort to educate families about online safety across the Northwest Corner.

The talk drew parents and educators from several Region One towns – communities where many residents rely heavily on digital communication to stay connected.

Ciano said cyberbullying can occur on any online device and in any format – social media, text message, etc. This distinguishes cyberbullying from its real-life counterpart.. “Cyberbullying follows the victim into the home.”

Over half of children between the ages of 14 and 17 report some experience with cyberbullying, and it is about evenly split between girls and boys.

Victims can become an-

tisocial, develop substance abuse problems, and express suicidal ideation.

And while young people grow up and move past any bullying in real life, cyberbullying is what Ciano calls a “repetitive harm.”

“It’s up there forever.”

Online predators

Victims of cyberbullying usually know their attackers. However, this is not the case for those children who are lured into compromising situations by online predators.

Ciano showed a slide showing a plain white van, puppies and candy.

She explained that these are the images associated with predators, and that children are taught from an early age to be wary of the man in the white van with the puppies etc.

“But the internet brings strangers into the home all the time.”

Even in small Northwest Corner towns, where families often assume they know their neighbors, online spaces create risks that feel far removed from semi-rural life.

Online predators and groomers often follow a script, and gradually increase the level of intimacy with their victims.

Ciano said that teenagers don’t think of online strang-



Hunt Library director Meg Sher, left, and Linda Ciaro of Project SAGE before delivering a presentation on online safety for youth.

ers the same way they think of the “man in the van.”

Often youngsters will be gradually convinced to send their new online “friends” nude photos or videos.

The predator then threatens to make the images public unless the victim sends more, or demands money to not post them.

The advent of artificial intelligence makes all of this more complicated, because AI can create a convincing nude image of someone with nothing but a photo of someone’s face.

Ciano said the key to dealing with these online threats is to recognize the likelihood that something bad will occur, and to be ready for it.

Online safety

Everyone should practice basic online safety, including setting everything to “private,” turning off location tools, and only following people they know in real life on social media.

Beyond that, Ciano said a good practice is to advise young people not to send nude photos of themselves to anybody.

“If the person in the photo is underage then it is child

pornography,” she said flatly, adding that anyone who sends it along or has it downloaded on a device is going to be in big trouble if it is discovered.

Parents and children can create a family agreement on how to proceed in the event of a cyber “accident.”

To manage the situation, Ciano recommends the following actions for children:

- 1) Stop responding. Some predators will give up and seek easier prey.
 - 2) Preserve evidence. Ciano said the urge is to delete everything, but it is important to preserve records of

Cornwall Park and Rec hosts forum on future of Foote Fields

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Residents gathered at the Cornwall Library on Thursday, Nov. 13, to offer ideas for renovating Foote Fields, a public park on Route 4 that will soon regain space currently occupied by the Little Guild.

Foote Fields, located on Furnace Brook Road, includes two soccer fields, a baseball field, a pavilion, a pickleball court, a parking area and storage shed.

For more than a year, the Little Guild has used a small area near the road as a temporary hub while its main facility has been under construction. With the animal shelter planning to vacate the site in winter 2026, town officials are looking ahead to how the property can be improved once the fields are

fully available again.

Park and Recreation chair Michelle Shipp opened the forum with general information. She said getting approvals to install a permanent septic tank for bathrooms “is unlikely” and there are restrictions in place for adding buildings to the land. “There is a port-a-potty there,” she noted.

Shipp said an area near the pickleball court was leveled by the Little Guild and the location would be ideal for a dedicated basketball court. She said people have also suggested a playground, walking/running path, a foot bridge connecting Foote Fields to Jewell Street and additional parking.

Residents in attendance proposed more ideas, which included modifying the baseball field to Little League dimensions, putting a fence

around the pickleball court, adding a pool, ice rink, skate park, climbing wall, swings, wi-fi and community gardens.

Barbecue stations were suggested, but Shipp noted there is no trash collection presently.

Cynthia Foote was in attendance. Her family donated the property to the town. She suggested better signage. “I want to see ‘Foote Fields’ somewhere,” she said.

Shipp said the next step is to organize the suggestions into a plan and present it to the Board of Selectman. She also asked those willing to support the effort to indicate how they can help, be it their time, money or skills.

“It’s a beautiful spot and it has so much potential,” said Shipp, who can be reached at park.recreation@cornwallct.gov.

‘American Stories’ art exhibit opens

By Robin Roraback

CORNWALL — At the opening of Wendell Minor’s show at the Cornwall Library on Nov. 22, Stephanie Plunkett, chief curator of the Norman Rockwell Museum, introduced Minor as “an award-winning illustrator of over 50 years,” noting that he topped off his achievements by being inducted into the Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame in 2023.

Minor explained, “For an illustrator, that’s like winning an Academy Award.”

The show, American Stories, curated by Plunkett, features a mix of work from Minor’s more than 2,000 book covers and 65 children’s books.

Minor described his beginnings in Aurora, Illinois, where his father was a factory worker. “He didn’t put much stock in me drawing. I didn’t listen to him.”

To finance his dream, Minor sold his car and went to Florida to study at the Ringling School of Art and Design, where he majored in



Wendell Minor

illustration.

After graduating, he was recruited by Hallmark Cards. “My first work was fuzzy bunnies,” said Minor.

In 1968, he moved to New York City, where he worked for designer Paul Bacon for two years. Bacon was instrumental in his success.

“Before I knew it, I had enough work to keep me busy. I didn’t look up from my drawing board until now.”

At 83, Minor says, “Now I am back to painting for myself. I feel liberated.”

He spoke about working

on Reaching for the Moon with astronaut Buzz Aldrin. Minor had written to Aldrin suggesting the idea of a children’s book. When they met, “I had to pinch myself. I was sitting having lunch with Buzz Aldrin!” Aldrin became a friend.

He also developed friendships while working with David McCullough and Jean Craighead George. He recalled going to Alaska with George and riding a dog sled. “It was like a Jack London adventure.”

In 1991, Minor and his wife, Florence, who died last year, moved to Washington, Conn. They collaborated on several books together, including Smitten with Kittens.

Reflecting on his life, Minor mused, “Funny how things come together. When you make a decision you have no idea where it will take you.” He added, “I’ve had an interesting life. I am very thankful.”

American Stories will be on display through Jan. 11 at the Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St. in Cornwall.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF CANAAN/
FALLS VILLAGE

NEW OFFICE HOURS:
Monday 9am-Noon &
Thursday 8am-11am.

Pursuant to Sec. 12-145 of the Connecticut statutes, the Tax Collector, Town of Canaan gives notice that she will be ready to receive Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes and the 2nd installment of Real Estate & Personal Property taxes due January 1, 2026 at the Canaan Town Hall, PO Box 47, 108 Main St., Falls Village, CT 06031.

Payments must be received or postmarked by February 2, 2026 to avoid interest.

All taxes remaining unpaid after February 2, 2026 will be charged interest from January 1, 2026 at the rate of 1.5% for each month from the due date of the delinquent tax to the date of payment, with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00. Sec. 12-146

Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer of their responsibility for the payment of taxes or delinquent charges. Sec. 12-30

Rebecca Juchert-Derungs,
CCMC
12-04-25
01-22-26

Notice of Decision
Town of Salisbury
Zoning Board of Appeals

Notice is hereby given that the following application was denied by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on November 25, 2025:

Application #2025-0299 for request for variance to maximum building coverage in the LA Zone on the basis of reduction in nonconforming impervious surface. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor’s Map 46 as Lot 04 and is known as 26 Ethan Allen Street, Lakeville, Connecticut. The owners of the property are Lowell Goss and Kristen Culp.

Any aggrieved person may appeal this decision to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §8-8.

Salisbury Zoning
Board of Appeals
Lee Greenhouse,
Secretary
12-04-25

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
SHIRLEY W. PEROTTI
Late of Sharon
AKA Shirley Perotti
(25-00439)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 18, 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 fiduciaries are:
Sarah P. Medeiros
and John F. Perotti
c/o Linda M Patz
Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP
7 Church Street, P.O. Box 101
Canaan, CT 06018
Megan M. Foley
Clerk
12-04-25

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
ESTELLE M. GORDON
Late of Sharon
AKA ESTELLE
GORDON
(25-00436)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 20, 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:
Catherine Woolston
c/o Michael Peter Citrin

the encounters using screenshots, external drives, and printing out hard copies.

3) Call in your team – the group of trusted adults that the children and parents identified in their safety plan.

The adults need to:
1) Believe the child.
2) Validate the child’s experience and show empathy
3) Provide support
4) Report the predatory activity to the appropriate authorities.

Ciano said the federal Take It Down Act went into effect in May.

The legislation makes it a federal crime to distribute intimate images of people without their permission — including authentic images and images created by artificial intelligence.

The law also establishes a process for filing a request to remove images within 48 hours, and creates a national standard and mechanism where none existed.

Ciano said that Project SAGE is now in its fourth year of talking to Region One students in grades 6 through 12 about online safety.

She said today’s seniors are far more aware of online safety issues than their counterparts from four years ago, and she expects this to continue to improve.

“This is a seven year conversation.”

Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP
7 Church Street, PO Box 101
Canaan, CT 06018

Megan M. Foley
Clerk
12-04-25

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
ELIZABETH SHULTZ
Late of North Canaan
AKA Julila Elizabeth
Shultz
(25-00430)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 20, 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:
Paul F. Pfeiffer
c/o Brian McCormick
Ebersol, McCormick & Reis, LLC, 9 Mason Street, PO Box 598, Torrington, CT 06790

Megan M. Foley
Clerk
12-04-25

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
GERALD S. SCOFIELD
Late of West Cornwall
(25-00228)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 20, 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:
Linda Scofield
c/o Andrea, Doyle Asman
Litwin Asman, PC, 1047 Bantam Rd., P.O. Box 698, Bantam, CT 06750

Megan M. Foley
Clerk
12-04-25

Sports

GNH blanks St. Paul 34-0 in Turkey Bowl

By Riley Klein

BRISTOL — The Gilbert/Northwestern/Housatonic co-op football team ended the season with a 34-0 shutout victory over St. Paul Catholic High School Wednesday, Nov. 26.

It was GNH's fourth consecutive Turkey Bowl win against St. Paul and the final game for 19 GNH seniors.

The Yellowjacket defense played lights out, holding St. Paul's offense to 73 total yards and forcing three turnovers. Owen Riemer and Tyler Roberts each caught an interception and Jacob Robles recovered a fumble.

QB Trevor Campbell threw for three touchdowns: one to Wes Allyn, one to Cole Linnen and one to Esten Ryan. GNH scored twice on the ground with rushing touchdowns from Linnen and Riemer.

The game concluded with some confusion. A late run by Linnen ended when he was tackled near the end zone. The ball was spotted at the one-yard line and GNH took a knee to end the fourth quarter with the scoreboard reading 28-0. After the game, Linnen's run was reassessed as a touchdown, and the final score was adjusted to 34-0.

Coach Scott Salius was thankful that his team went out on a high note in 2025. "We're one of the few teams in the state that will finish with a win." He commented on the "chippiness" of this year's Thanksgiving match-up. "We have started a true rivalry."

GNH won four of the last five games and ended with a record of 5-5. St. Paul concluded the season with a record of 2-8.

"Battling back from 1-4, huge turnaround. I couldn't be happier," said Allyn, GNH captain, after the win. "Out of the four years I've been playing, undefeated on Thanksgiving. No one will ever take that away from me."

Looking back on his final varsity season, Nick Crodelle said he will remember "practice, complaining about practice, and getting ready for the games. Game day was a lot of fun."

Roberts said he will miss "making memories with the guys, all my friends, all the jokes we've had and everything."

Hunter Conklin said ending on a win "feels great" and appreciated his time on the field with his teammates. "There's no one else I'd rather do it with."

"I'm so thankful to have these guys in my life," said Riemer. "It's emotional."



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Above, Tyler Roberts, No. 9, comes up with a big interception for GNH in the fourth quarter against St. Paul Wednesday, Nov. 26.



Above, Wes Allyn breaks away from the St. Paul defense for a TD. Below, GNH's Carson Riva rips down St. Paul's Max Kozikowski.



Above, Esten Ryan completes a reception touchdown for GNH. Below, the Housatonic Valley Regional High School seniors gather.



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PINE PLAINS STANFORDVILLE

George T. Whalen IV
Senior Vice President

KLEMENS

Continued from Page A1

plications, which pertained to the proposed Wake Robin expansion, had “unleashed, from certain individuals within our community, a level of vitriol and bigotry that was, in my experience, unprecedented.”

While the unpleasantness had expedited his move, he said that he had long been considering a life change to account for health issues and housing difficulties he’d been experiencing in Salisbury.

“At this point in my life, I had to do what was best for my well-being,” he said. He noted that the humid, often chilly climate of the Litchfield Hills has aggravated various joint issues, which have been compounded by chronic Lyme Disease he’s had since the 1970s. Plus, as a herpetologist — a biologist of reptiles and amphibians — Klemens said the move brings him closer to a “whole new professional circle” of wildlife and plant experts.

Additionally, the desert lets him pursue his long-time passion for succulents, an interest he developed while working in Tanzania as a MacArthur Fellowship-funded research fellow with the American Museum of Natural History, where he has been associated since 1979. His work there, done in partnership with government officials and the University of Dar es Salaam, aimed to broaden biodiversity studies in East Africa beyond “the animals that tourists came to

see,” he said.

Zoning as balance

That same holistic outlook carries into his philosophy of zoning, in which no one element of town planning should be weighed without being balanced with other important considerations.

Klemens said that across his career, which includes positions with the Wildlife Conservation Society, The Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Adirondack Wild, Scenic Hudson, the Connecticut Siting Council and his own private green development consulting practice, among other roles, his approach to land use has “always been about balancing human needs with a healthy environment.”

Among those needs is diversified and affordable housing, which, although a major focus of Klemens’s while on the Commission, was ultimately one of the contributing factors to his leaving town.

“Salisbury is not the Salisbury that I knew 20 years ago,” he said, referring to affordability. “It’s very, very difficult to find reasonably priced housing.”

He pointed to the “Poland Report,” a 2010 study by planner Donald Poland, which concluded that Salisbury’s land-use pressures more closely resembled those of “very wealthy towns in southwestern Connecticut” than of a typical rural northwest community. “And

the real estate has only gotten much more valuable in the 20 years I was serving on the Commission,” he added.

“I think basically we have to really think about a community that is welcoming as a place for many different types of people,” Klemens said, emphasizing that beyond strictly “affordable” designated options, a diversified market should account for multi-generational housing and residences for seniors, too.

Tenure highlights

While the continued housing struggle in town was a factor that contributed to his departure, Klemens maintained that some of his high points on the Commission were breakthroughs in bringing more affordable options to town.

The addition of two housing overlay districts in downtown Salisbury and Lakeville to the town’s zoning regulations in 2019 was a breakthrough, Klemens said. He is also proud of his Commission’s close and productive cooperation with the Salisbury Affordable Housing Commission since its inception in 2010.

The newly updated Plan of Conservation and Development, which was adopted late last year after painstaking development and editing by P&Z and the Land Use Office, further encodes the town’s commitment to housing affordability, Klemens added.

Overall, though, Klemens

expressed that his legacy is best defined by his role in building the “special development of an independent land use office” that is staffed by “two very, very skilled individuals,” referring to Land Use Director Abby Conroy and Land Use Technical Specialist Miles Todaro. But the volume of work required of them is comparable to that of a larger town with 4-5 employees in the land use office, said Klemens: “They need more assistance.”

An appeal to courtesy, participation

As a final note, Klemens advocated for civility and public participation as Salisbury continues its march into the future.

“I think people should be kind,” he said. “Think twice before going after the Board of Selectmen, the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Wetlands Commission. All these people work very hard. They may not be perfect, but they’re taking on responsibilities that a lot of people just don’t want to do.”

He encouraged younger people who may be put off by drama and controversies to view public service as an opportunity to make a positive change: “Despite all the nastiness and the battles, at the end of the day it’s an incredibly satisfying thing to try and make where you live a better place.”

A new panel of executives will be voted in during P&Z’s Dec. 10 meeting.

FFA

Continued from Page A1

tables in the FFA garage. The tied bundles were handed off to the final assemblers, who crafted the finished wreaths.

Organizers say the production nights give students and advisors a jump-start

on preparing for the holiday store while filling the FFA shop with “light, laughter and teamwork.”

The second production night was scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 3, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Ag Ed wing.

HVA

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Christine Baranski, auction chair, enjoyed a light moment with Tim Abbott, executive director of the Cornwall-based Housatonic Valley Association, at the Nov. 22 Auction for the Environment.

porting land and water conservation efforts across the tri-state Housatonic watershed.

But this year, Harney Morris had a co-chair of a different sort — her 7-week-old granddaughter, Elyse, who made her unofficial debut at the event. The newborn attended tucked snugly into a swaddling carrier worn by her mother, Brittany Sneed, who arrived with proud father Tanner. The Sneed family resides in Lakeville.

“This is her first auction,” said Brittany, who noted that baby Elyse is the namesake of both her great-grandmother, Salisbury real estate maven Elyse Harney, as well as her grandmother. And that’s not all. “She is the fourth generation,” the proud mom explained.

Lively bidding and local star power

The live auction, once again featuring auctioneer Sherry Truhlar, brought both laughter and vigorous paddles in the air as guests competed for a series of celebrity-connected experiences.

One of the most sought-after items was a VIP experience with comedian, writer, television host, and actor Seth Meyers, another Litchfield County resident. The package drew fast-paced bidding, with guests cheering each escalation.

Also up for grabs were a Willamette Valley winery retreat; a pre-show, behind-the-scenes tour with Chris Hayes; a night on the town with Baranski; a lake house evening with Christine and Lily; a curated getaway to Chattanooga’s historic Southside; a long weekend in Chatham’s Old Village; four nights in

Venice; and a long weekend at Stratton Mountain.

Included in the live auction was a dinner party for four couples at the winner’s home, with Warren General Store’s John Favreau doing the cooking.

The silent auction featured a treasure trove of items, get-aways and services generously donated by local businesses, residents and supporters of the environment. Among donors were The Travelers Championship, Foxwoods, YardScape Landscape Professionals, Litchfield Paddle, Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust, Merryall Center, The Silo, Lily & Vine Floral Design, plus a plethora of theatrical and musical venues, vineyards, inns and eateries.

An evening of community and support

Organizers said the turnout reflected both enthusiasm for the cause and the strong community spirit that has long sustained the association’s work.

“Amid ongoing climate concerns, we have an opportunity to act now and protect this beautiful place so many people love, and HVA’s auction is a fun and meaningful way to help,” said Baranski, who also is an HVA director and has been chairing the auction for more than a decade.

As baby Elyse slept contentedly throughout the event, the bids kept rising, and HVA closed the evening once again with a strong show of support for the region’s forests, rivers and wildlife corridors.

The Housatonic Valley Association expects to release fundraising totals in the coming days.

SIP & STROLL

Continued from Page A1

year hiatus, and the response was huge. According to organizers, 470 tickets were purchased in advance, with many signing up on site. Attendance was capped at 600.

The money raised goes toward funding the chamber’s activities. The Lions Club’s share was 15% of the proceeds.

The nippy weather didn’t deter enthusiasm. The foursome of Pattie and Alex Camillone and Mechele and Harry Palmer, all from



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Sipping and strolling past sparkles Saturday, Nov. 29.

Wingdale, N.Y., were full of smiles as they exited 45 on Main with their glass-

es. “We were upset when it was canceled,” said Pattie Camillone. “We’re so glad it’s back.”

Volunteer Vicky O’Hara of Union Savings Bank greeted those outside 45 on Main, offering instructions along with sweet treats. “People appear to be very happy,” she said.

At the registration center on the Kent Green, a host of familiar faces were in place to welcome guests. Dave Stoneback was tasked with checking drivers’ licenses, noting that everyone was very cooperative. Others secured bracelets on wrists, verified registrations and distributed the brightly colored plastic cups embedded with champagne flutes.

As Brittany Shelton of Guilford chose her glass,

she said the trip was well worth it. “It’s beautiful here — a quintessential New England town — and this event is something different.” She shared that she and a group of friends celebrated her 30th birthday at the stroll back in 2017.

Patty Vreeland of Carmel, N.Y., attended eight or nine years ago, and this time brought her daughter, Jacqueline Vreeland. They are fans of “Gilmore Girls” and enjoy this type of activity. “Who doesn’t love drinking and shopping?” said Jacqueline Vreeland. Her mother said they started out with espresso martinis at the Fife’n Drum restaurant before heading out on the stroll.

Lyn Stirnweiss, the chamber’s administrative director and one of the main organizers along with Gary Kidd and Darlene Brady, said the stroll stopped after six years due to COVID, and it has taken some time to bring it back. Interest was strong, as shown by the 38 shops that signed up to participate.

Stirnweiss praised the many sponsors who helped make the stroll possible. Follow other Chamber of Commerce events at KentCt.com.

THANKSGIVING

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Jeanine Coleman, left, has been a loyal server at the Community Thanksgiving Dinner for many years.

lyn, and while they had talked to one another in passing, the dinner provided an opportunity for an in-depth conversation and a chance to get to know each other better. “We talked about vehicles and families,” related Allyn.

Chris Mafale came from Southington to join the festivities. With his plate heaped to the brim, he said, “You’ve got to be happy with a meal and people like this.”

In the kitchen, Becker was talking to Karl Hester, who prepared the dinner that included 21 turkeys, 200 pounds of peeled vegetables and dozens of rolls, among all the other fixings. “It’s a way to give back to the community,” said Hester, who is the chef at Gedney Farm in New Marlborough, Massachusetts.

Becker said she has co-

ordinated the meal all these years with the help of some of the local churches. Her impetus came from reading a Bible verse that called for feeding others.

In a recent presentation to the Norfolk Congregational Church, Becker reflected on how the dinner has evolved over the years.

“I was trying to reach out to people in hardship. Over the years it has grown into so much more. I realized that there is more than just the original hardship that I intended; there is loneliness, there are people who can’t cook for whatever reason; those that have no family to share with. We feed families. People come and meet friends for dinner. We still have the hardship families, but they blend in so that you can’t really tell that they are there.”

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2005-2025

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TOO FEW

Wider access to contraception and greater labor force participation have led to declining birth rates around the world. What are the global implications of this demographic shift?

Dr. Dean Spears
& Dr. Michael Geruso
Co-authors Dr. Dean Spears and Dr. Michael Geruso will speak about their recent book *After the Spike: Population, Progress, and the Case for People*. Both Spears and Geruso are economists, demographers, and associate professors at the University of Texas at Austin.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025 • 7:00 P.M.
Housatonic Valley Regional High School
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www.salisburyforum.org

COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

BOOKS: JENNIFER ALMQUIST

‘Les Flashes d’Anne’: friendship, fire and photographs

Anne Day is a photographer who lives in Salisbury. In November 2025, a small book titled “Les Flashes d’Anne: Friendship Among the Ashes with Hervé Guibert,” written by Day and edited by Jordan Weitzman, was published by Magic Hour Press.

The book features photographs salvaged from the fire that destroyed her home in 2013. A chronicle of loss, this collection of stories and charred images quietly reveals the story of her close friendship with Hervé Guibert (1955-1991), the French journalist, writer and photographer, and the adventures they shared on assignments for French daily newspaper Le Monde. The book’s title refers to an epymous article Guibert wrote about Day.

On Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m., at the White Hart Inn in Salisbury, Day and Weitzman will share their memories in a conversation moderated by noted designer Matthew Patrick Smyth. The event is organized by Oblong Books and the Scoville Library.

Fresh home from her exhibition and book signing in Paris, Day sat in her Salisbury aerie high above the distant hills, her daughter’s black cat on her lap. She told the story of “Les Flashes d’Anne,” and the kismet that spurred its evolution.

In 2024, after learning that Day had worked with Guibert in New York and Paris, Weitzman — the author of numerous books about Guibert — saw her salvaged images, sought her out and announced, “We must do a book together.”



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Weitzman writes in the book’s prologue, “This book is the dream-like, uncanny result of that serendipitous encounter with a remarkable woman.”

During the 1980s, Day was a working photographer living on Fifth Avenue. A friend, the editor of Le Monde, asked whether Guibert, on his maiden voyage to New York, could stay with her. “I remember it was a cold night when Hervé showed up at my door,” she said. “His flight had just gotten in from Paris and he had this big box of Guerlain perfume. It was wrapped in beautiful pink paper. Within four minutes, we were friends.”

Thus began a whirlwind collaboration that took them from Manhattan, where they interviewed André Kertész, to Paris where they dined with Henri Cartier-Bres-

son and Duane Michals, and on to interviews with Isabelle Huppert, Gina Lollobrigida, designer Madeleine Castaing, Orson Welles and other luminaries of that time.

Day never saw Guibert after 1983. “Hervé got AIDS in the late ’80s and was quite militant. He now has a following of young people,” Day said wistfully. During his final days, Guibert wrote five books based on his existential journey.

Day recalled the devastating house fire in which her family tragically lost their friend Maria Paz Reyes and their dog. Day survived by jumping from the second story. A lifetime of images, negatives and slides were lost or damaged. “To lose pictures is like losing friends. Everything was piled into metal file cabinets in my studio. All my negatives

Photographer Anne Day and cover of “Les Flashes d’Anne”

and slides were packed in tight. The fire started at the farthest point from there as possible. It was the only thing that wasn’t destroyed — every other single thing was gone. Nothing left. It was raining, so my friend Christopher covered everything with a tarp. The fabulous part of this story is how much help I had from my town, which gave me the empty firehouse to lay out everything to dry. Friends came from near and far to help. Some days I had ten volunteers, and it went on for a month, which gave me something to move forward with. It was so tragic and awful.”

A veteran photojournalist, portrait, wedding, and architectural photographer, Day created images for five books featuring the architecture of the Library of Congress, the U.S. Capitol, and the New York Public Library. She covered events in Cuba, Haiti and South Africa, where she took an iconic image of Nelson Mandela emerging from his prison cell. Her commissioned images of four Presidential Inaugura-

Continued on next page

PERFORMANCE:
RICHARD FEINER
AND ANNETTE STOVER

Nurit Koppel brings one-woman show to Stissing Center

In 1983, writer and performer Nurit Koppel met comedian Richard Lewis in a bodega on Eighth Avenue in New York City, and they became instant best friends. The story of their extraordinary bond, the love affair that blossomed from it, and the winding roads their lives took are the basis of “Apologies Necessary,” the deeply personal and sharply funny one-woman show that Koppel will perform in an intimate staged reading at Stissing Center for Arts and Culture in Pine Plains on Dec. 14.

The show humorously reflects on friendship, fame and forgiveness, and recalls a memorable encounter

with Lewis’ best friend — yes, that Larry David — who pops up to offer his signature commentary on everything from babies on planes to cookie brands and sports obsessions.

Koppel has good friends in the Pine Plains area and she calls the opportunity to present the piece at the Stissing Center a gift to her and her artistic process, which she shares with her son, Gideon McCarty, who serves as her director and dramaturg.

“He is the one person I listen to,” said Koppel. She credited



PHOTO PROVIDED

Writer and performer
Nurit Koppel

him with helping her shape, in her own words, “real events from her life with Lewis.” For Mother’s Day this year, McCarty gave her the time to further develop the material and Koppel worked uninterrupted for 12 hours to hone and bring the piece to its current form. She plays 11 characters, not through impersonation but by presenting their authentic voices.

Koppel is clear that writing this piece was the right way for her to respond to Lewis’ passing in 2024, and that theatre is the right way to share it with others. “I wanted to have artistic control over the development process,” she said, and to bring to life her romantic relationship with Lewis, their experiences in New York City comedy clubs, and their neurotic New York friends. She also is open to opportunities to expand further on

Continued on B3

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Painting and Acoustics
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Bobby and Kellyn are a very special couple with a calling to create, teach, and build community through artistic expression. During this unique event, Kellyn will teach us to paint a poinsettia on a wooden canvas while Bobby will serenade us with his acoustic guitar! Join us for this creative class that you will never forget. Beginners are welcome, no experience necessary. There is no fee for this class and supplies will be provided, but registration is required! To register, go to noblehorizons.org/events-activities or scan QR code below.

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noblehorizons.org

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...‘Les Flashs d’Anne’

Continued from previous page



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Self-portrait, New York City, 1981
by Anne Day

tions are featured in the Smithsonian. Her work has appeared in Newsweek, Time, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Fortune, Paris Match and Vogue. She was the editor of Compass at the Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News.

Currently, she enjoys shooting digital photographs of nature. “I am interested in migration,

large groups of birds and insects. I’ve been to New Mexico to photograph monarchs, Nebraska to photograph Sandhill cranes, and Ireland to photograph a murmuration of starlings.”

Day summed up her life: “Things just happened to me.”

Tickets to the event at The White Hart Inn on Dec. 11 are available at oblongbooks.com



Orson Welles, top, and Hervé Guibert and André Kertész by Anne Day
by Anne Day

The trouble in the sugar maples



The Ungardener
Dee Salomon

and phosphate, known as phosphonate. He has found that it works well on beech trees, too, but he does not claim it is a cure. Rather, it bolsters trees’ natural defense mechanisms and their ability to deal with fungal infection. This product is available only to commercial entities, so homeowners need an arborist for its application.

Chris does not use any fertilizers on trees aside from compost. He is concerned about the long-term effects and unintended consequences of chemicals — even mineral supplements — that can leach into the water supply. He is “okay” with trees dying, and he’s “not doing nothing”; instead of applying chemicals, he is planting other species. His approach encourages a diversity of native plants so he can see what thrives in this new environment.

“Understanding disease pressures in plants is difficult. We often isolate an individual maple tree and see what happens. It’s different in the woods or for a stand of trees — here we have a system. If you manipulate one, you have consequences for the others. We think there are things to be done; we just don’t know what.” What we do know: fungi are quickly adapting to a warming climate, and changes in precipitation patterns may also favor fungal spread to trees.

As with humans, plants require minerals for healthy functioning. Humans can eat nutritious food or take supplements for overall health or to improve immunity; plants rely on the soil. There seem to be at least two reasons why plants are not getting what they need. One is



PHOTO BY DEE SALOMON

A stand of trees in the woods.

that necessary nutrients have been depleted from the soil. Research suggests this may result from the recent Asian jumping worm infestation. The worms voraciously ingest soil — and the minerals that would otherwise be available to plants. In doing so, they turn the topsoil into a porous texture best described as coffee grounds. Rain can more easily wash through soil in this state, carrying away nutrients trees and other plants rely on.

A second reason is that trees may no longer be able to access needed minerals. This can happen if naturally acidic soil becomes alkaline or vice versa. Plants thrive at certain pH levels; a shift can inhibit nutrient absorption. We are seeing soil chemistry change in our woodlands as invasive plants proliferate. A 2003 study examined forest soils and mycorrhizal fungi associated with sugar maples and found that “a profound change in the mycorrhizal system will be one component

of the potential ecosystem effects of invasion of new forest habitat by nonnative earthworms.” Mycorrhizae are the underground fungal threads that help trees share and trade nutrients. The study found that Asian jumping worms are breaking up the mycorrhizal network that helps sugar maples share and trade nutrients. (See theungardener.com for full citations of this and other studies.)

Can trees wait for science to help them? Should we experiment with possible solutions without understanding the full consequences, even if doing so might save trees? What actions do we take in the face of continuing species decline? It’s a subject we are obliged to explore here in the Northwest Corner, where so much of our experience relies on the view-enhancing, shade-giving, wind-breaking, habitat-restoring tree population.

Dee Salomon ‘ungardens’ in Litchfield County.

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The Orvis Guide hip pack as seen on the Orvis website.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Tangled gift guide

What do you get the angler that has everything?

You start by realizing there is always something the angler does not have.

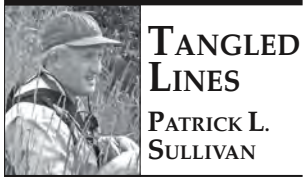
Such as a hip pack instead of a vest. After years of lugging around too much stuff in a vest, my back hurt, so I switched to a hip pack from Orvis, which I promptly overstuffed. But getting the weight off my shoulders helped some with the back pain. The pack in question is the Orvis Guide model at \$179. The “PRO” version is waterproof, a little bigger and \$100 more expensive.

I use a lanyard for tippet, clippers and clamp. There are any number of lanyards on the market. I use one from The Fly Shack at \$14.95. I actually use two of these, one set up for trout and one for bass.

For tippet and leaders, I use Bozeman Flyworks. The 55 yard tippet spools in nylon and fluorocarbon start at \$5 and have more material than the standard 30 yard spools from bigger outfits. The fluorocarbon is nice and stiff, even at thinner diameters, which I like for droppers. The nylon and fluorocarbon leaders come in packs of five in standard lengths and diameters, starting at \$9.50, which is significantly less expensive than the above-mentioned bigger outfits. I change and rebuild leaders constantly, so these savings add up over the course of a season.

For those of you who don’t tie flies, you can pick up the basics inexpensively at The Fly Shack and Big Y Fly Company. For wet flies I recommend Ligas Discount Flies in Boulder, Colorado. Their soft hackle wets work better than anyone else’s, why I don’t know. Plus Wally will call to confirm your order and there’s a good chance you’ll wind up yakking with him for a while, which is both entertaining and instructional.

Also check out Brent Auger’s flies at Dragon-tail Tenkara. The Utah Killer Bug (12 for \$15) and the War Bird flymph (\$24 for 12) are very effective flies, especially in a tight-line nymphing rig. What you should



TANGLED LINES
PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

also do is drop in at the fly shop wherever you are and buy some flies made by local tyers, and buy something else for the good of the house. Or, if you’re shopping for someone, get a gift certificate, bearing in mind that fly fishing is hideously expensive and \$50 barely flips the meter. Around here that means UpCountry Sportfishing in Pine Meadow, and you can get a gift certificate online.

Books: Pocketguide to Eastern Streams by Thomas Ames is in a new edition (\$29.95). This sturdy paperback is loaded with info and photos of the bugs we love, including a few I never heard of and I’ve been around some.

John Gierach died earlier this year, and he was so good at writing about this sport it makes me want to bail out completely and take up macrame instead. Any of his titles would make a good present for your grumpy winterized housebound angler, but I am partial to “Trout Bum” and “Standing in a River Waving a Stick.”

And I still think Taylor Streit’s “Instinctive Fly Fishing” (\$14.95) is the single best general introduction to the sport. There is something for every angler, from the newbie to the crusty and certifiable (me) in this slender volume.

These books are in print and while Amazon is certainly handy, I urge you to get them through one of our independent bookstores if possible. UpCountry has a good book selection as well.

FILM: GRAHAM CORRIGAN

Family and fabrication: a daughter’s eye on her architect mother’s life

When “Ada: My Mother the Architect” arrives at the Millerton Moviehouse this weekend, it may not immediately seem like your typical holiday fare. But looks can be deceiving. As the title suggests, director Yael Melamede has made her mother’s extraordinary architectural achievements the subject of a documentary. Ada Karmi Melamade is a mother of three, a central figure of Israel’s contemporary Bauhaus design, and a trailblazer for women who has reached dizzying professional heights over the course of a long and storied career.

What the title leaves unsaid, however, is the difficult personal choices the architect had to make along the path to success. Motherhood couldn’t always take priority — and while all’s well that ends well in this stirring portrait of family and fabrication, that underlying tension elevates what might have otherwise become a study in monotonous adulation.

The buildings are the



PHOTO PROVIDED

Director Yael Melamede and her mother Ada Karmi Melamade in ‘Ada: My Mother the Architect.’

easy part: Ada’s creations are unequivocally beautiful, and her daughter is up to the challenge of capturing their essence on film. Using a combination of unique perspective, time-lapse sequences and archival material, we’re treated to a symphony of light.

“I think that with one beam of light that falls right, it can change everything,” Melamade

says, and we see her buildings — Jerusalem’s Supreme Court building and the Ben Gurion Airport among them — bloom and glow in some of the most breathtaking sequences.

But the film’s heart lies in the sometimes strained relationship between mother and daughter. “How [did] you love me for so many years?” Ada asks her daughter during one interview. “I wasn’t with you.” It’s a cutting message that has special

resonance during the holiday season: Where are the lines between work and life, and how do we know when they need to be redrawn?

“Ada: My Mother the Architect” will screen at the Moviehouse in Millerton on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. A Q&A with director Yael Melamede will follow the film. Tickets at themoviehouse.net.

Graham Corrigan is a writer and musician from Philadelphia currently living in Lakeville.

...Nurit Koppel

Continued from B1

the material, perhaps in film or TV, as she still has a lot to say.

Koppel hopes primarily that people will be entertained by the world of the play. “I’m a pie-in-the-face kind of person and I want the play to give everyone a good laugh.” Considering her cast of characters, “Apologies Necessary” promises to offer plenty of laughs —plus much more.

“Apologies Necessary” continues Stissing Center’s tradition to serve as a platform for new works of theater, providing playwrights with the opportunity to showcase their work and hone

their craft,” said Patrick Trettenero, executive director of the Stissing Center. “We are excited to have Nurit present this reading of her new work in progress.”

Running time: approx. 90 minutes. Sunday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m., Downstairs at Stissing Center. Tickets are available at thestissingcenter.org or 518-771-3339.

Richard Feiner and Annette Stover have worked and taught in the arts, communications, and philanthropy in Berlin, Paris, Tokyo, and New York. Passionate supporters of the arts, they live in Salisbury and Greenwich Village.

At The Movies

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WICKED: FOR GOOD	December 7 @ 1PM Exhibition on Screen CARAVAGGIO	
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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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DECEMBER 4

Wet Felting Workshop: Make Your Own Bag with Artist Amelia McIsaac

Mad Rose Gallery, 3 Main St., Millerton, N.Y.
Dec. 4 & 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. all supplies included. Come join Amelia for a workshop where you'll learn the art of traditional felting. Learn the history and techniques of turning wool fleece into a useful and durable fabric and make a bag to give or keep! Register: www.madrosegallery.com/madroseworkshops

Sock Monkey Workshop for Adults

The Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. norfolklibrary.org
Create a joyful handmade gift just in time for the holidays. Join Hilary VanWright by the fireside at the Norfolk Library from 5 to 7 p.m. as she teaches the art of creating a sock monkey and shares the history of an iconic stuffed animal that emerged on the scene in 1932 thanks to Rockford Red Heel Socks. Registratrion required. Please visit www.norfolklibrary.org or call front desk circulation 860-542-5075 ext. 2 to register.

DECEMBER 5

First Friday Music

Congregational Church of Salisbury, 30 Main St., Salisbury, Conn.
First Friday Music returns to the Congregational Church of Salisbury Friday, Dec. 5, at 12 p.m. This month's program is a piano trio, with pianist David Baranowski, Suzanne Wagor, violin, and Jakob Nordlinger, cello. They will perform Beethoven's "Trio in E flat, Op.1, No. 1" and Mozart's "Trio in B flat, FV 502." Free to the public.

"Newsies Jr."

Housatonic Valley Regional High School, 246 Warren Turnpike, Falls Village, Conn.
Salisbury Central School students in grades 4–8 present Newsies Jr., inspired by the 1899 New York City newsboy strike. Performances: Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.; Dec. 6 at 2 and 5 p.m. Suggested donation: \$10 at the door. Bake sale and 50/50 raffle support the SOAR Educational Enrichment/ Salisbury Central School Theater Fund. A family-friendly event.

ADVERTISE IN COMPASS

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"This Is What Art Is" Exhibit: Appreciating the Joy and Dedication of Creating Art

The Gallery of Dreams, 156 Gay St., Sharon, Conn.
Show runs Dec. 5 to 21. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Exhibition of more than 18 local artists and craftspeople featuring painting, sculpture, ceramics, woodworking and artisan crafts.

Classic Films at the Library

The Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. norfolklibrary.org
There's nothing like viewing a classic film on the Library's big screen. At 7 p.m. film historian Robert Dance will introduce Touch of Evil, written and directed by Orson Welles. On Thursday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m., come watch a classic holiday film. Registration is always appreciated. To register, please visit www.norfolklibrary.org or call front desk circulation 860-542-5075 ext. 2.

Holiday Market, hosted by Noble Horizons Auxiliary

Community Room at Noble Horizons, 17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, Conn.
Dec. 5 & 6 Noble Horizons Auxiliary's hugely popular Holiday Market, a 2-day festive event and fundraiser, returns on Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6 in the Community Room at Noble Horizons from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Sale items will include baked goods, hand-made knits, jewelry, jams and jellies, hand-made decorations, greenery and centerpieces, raffle baskets, holiday décor, wall art, and more.

DECEMBER 6

Twelve Moons Coffee House

The Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. thecenteronmain.org
Dec. 6 from 6 to 9 p.m.
Twelve Moons Coffee House hosts live music, poetry, and storytelling on the first Saturday of each month. Doors open at 6 p.m., open mic begins at 6:30 p.m., and featured artists perform from 8 to 9 p.m. Guests may bring their own dinner and beverages or enjoy light refreshments.

This month features George Mallas and Louise Coombe.

Winter in Salisbury

Salisbury, Conn.
In addition to the Salisbury Stroll from 12 to 4 p.m., and the White Hart Party (The White Hart Inn, 15 Undermountain Road, Salisbury) from 5 to 7 p.m., there will also be a Holiday Baroque music concert at Congregational Church of Salisbury (30 Main St., Salisbury) from 4 to 5 p.m. Salisbury Housing Trust will also host an open house at 26 Undermountain Road from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. showcasing the newest home and answering questions regarding how to apply and criteria for buying a Housing Trust home.

Santa Claus, Cookie Contest and Tree Lighting

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org
Dec. 6, 2 to 4 p.m.

Enjoy a holiday craft with Santa, mail your letter to the North Pole and don't forget to vote for your favorite cookie in our Holiday Cookie Contest! Followed by the Tree Lighting on the Green.

Bach Christmas Concerts

Saint James Place, Great Barrington, Mass. and Trinity Church, Lakeville, Conn.
Crescendo presents Bach's Christmas Cantata "Sweet Comfort," his Mass in G Minor, and festive 16th-century motets. Sat., Dec. 6, 4 p.m., Saint James Place, Great Barrington; Sun., Dec. 7, 4 p.m., Trinity Church, Lakeville. Tickets \$15–\$80 at crescendomusic.org.

BOOKS & BLING! Fabulous Friends of the Library Sale

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Browse the pop-up jewelry boutique and book sale for second-hand finds curated by The Friends of the Scoville Library. Find great gifts! Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or Sunday, Dec. 7, 1 to 4 p.m. scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/15725753

Last week's WotW				
T	A	S	T	Y
A	P	P	L	Y
R	E	A	D	Y
C	R	A	Z	Y
G	R	A	V	Y

Holiday Sale and Pop-up Market

325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn.
Stop by Sharon Audubon on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to browse the Nature Store and additional items from local merchants and artisans, one day only! Sip mulled cider, nibble a treat, help decorate our tree, go home with found treasures and unique gifts.

Holiday Trivia Night

Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.
Get ready to sleigh the season at Holiday Trivia Night at Stissing Center! Hosted by the always-entertaining Alec Sisco, this festive evening will test your knowledge of holiday pop culture from classic TV specials and iconic movies to quirky holiday traditions. Space is limited, so get your tickets early. Tickets: ci.ovationtix.com/36784/production/1245583?performanceId=11665407

12x12 Benefit Art Sale

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
Dec. 6, 5 to 7 p.m., The Hunt Library hosts its annual 12x12 benefit sale (on view through Jan. 9) featuring more than 60 artists. All works are 12x12 inches and \$150 each.

The Hotchkiss Orchestra & Right Brain Logic

Katherine M. Elfers Hall, Esther Eastman Music Center, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn.
7 p.m. Free admission. An evening of orchestral and jazz performances featuring original works by Michael Musillami and music by Sibelius, Tchaikovsky, and Vieuxtemps. Celebrating 20 years of concerts in Elfers Hall.

11th Annual Cake Auction

13 Village Green, Norfolk, Conn.
Saturday, Dec. 6, 5:30 p.m. The 11th Annual Cake Auction is the perfect way to kick off the holiday season. Norfolk's top bakers will showcase an array of beautiful confections just in time for holiday entertaining. Proceeds go to support the Norfolk Historical Society & Museum.

DECEMBER 7

Shifting Meridian

The Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. norfolklibrary.org
Shifting Meridian, a solo exhibition of new works by Connecticut-based abstract painter and mixed media artist Heather Neilson, will be on display at the Norfolk Library for the month of December. Please join us at a reception for the artist on Sunday, Dec. 7, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Guinea Pigs & Gratitude

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Join Marjorie Borreda of Le Petit Ranch to meet guinea pigs up close and learn about the kindness and gratitude that are part of their way of life. An all-ages, inter-generational program. Registration requested at scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/15621566

DECEMBER 10

Norfolk Library Cookbook Group

The Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. norfolklibrary.org
For our gathering on Dec. 10 at 6 p.m., we will focus on cookbook author Dorie Greenspan. She is best known for her baking, but also has books on cooking savorys, such as Everyday Dorie. Led by avid cookbook collector Barry Webber, the Cookbook Group meets monthly with each meeting focused on a different cookbook or regional cuisine. Participants check out a copy of the chosen cookbook and bring a favorite dish. To register for this program, please visit www.norfolklibrary.org or call front desk circulation 860-542-5075 ext. 2.

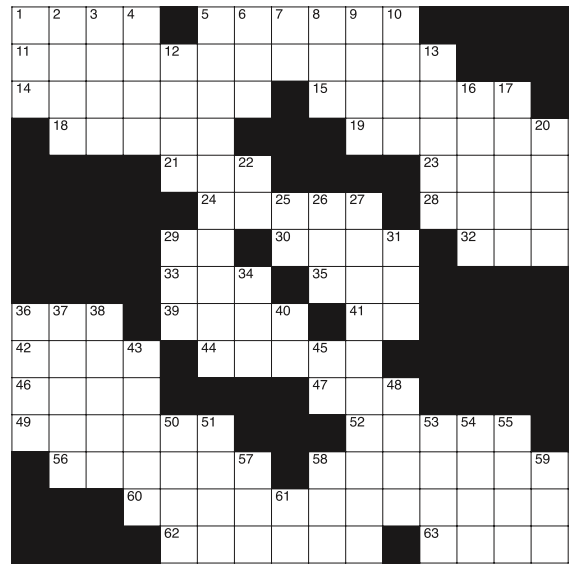
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Dough made from corn flour
- 5. Rise
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. A low wall
- 15. Kidnap
- 18. A cup golfers want to win
- 19. Outgoing
- 21. "Partner" to flow
- 23. Former Michigan coach Brady
- 24. Proverb
- 28. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 29. Helps a body recover
- 30. Baseball Cy Young winner
- 32. Very fast airplane
- 33. Offensive baseball stat
- 35. Body of water
- 36. Record of one's heartbeat
- 39. Signs a contract
- 41. Atomic #24
- 42. Bind securely
- 44. French Jesuit theologian
- 46. Fragrant brown balsam
- 47. Post office box
- 49. Sells tickets at inflated prices
- 52. Places to hang coats
- 56. Jewish salutation
- 58. Yellow fruits
- 60. Poorly educated
- 62. Microorganism
- 63. Talk show host Barrymore

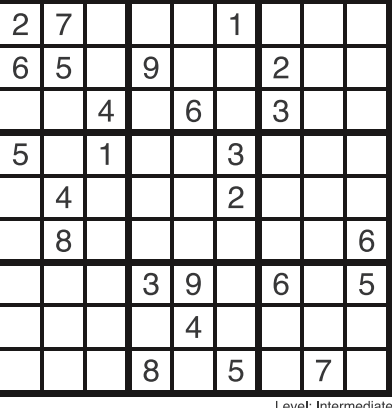
CLUES DOWN

- 1. A way to plan
- 2. Three-banded armadillo
- 3. Mobile
- 4. Romanian city
- 5. Making sour
- 6. Take a seat
- 7. "The Golden State"
- 8. When you hope to arrive
- 9. Pointed ends of pens
- 10. Extinct flightless bird
- 12. Sharp-pointed dueling sword
- 13. Nape of neck
- 16. Problems (Spanish slang)



- 17. Narrow carpet
- 20. To avoid the risk of
- 22. Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)
- 25. Equally
- 26. Traditional cars still need it
- 27. Eligible voters
- 29. Greek alphabet letter
- 31. Body part
- 34. Referee-declared outcome
- 36. Means to moving money
- 37. Popular footwear brand
- 38. Cockatoo
- 40. NFL's big game
- 43. Botswana currencies
- 45. News-reporting organization
- 48. Batman villain
- 50. Urgent request

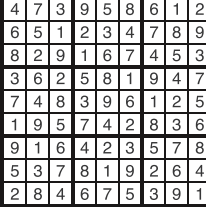
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ART: ROBIN RORABACK

Art lovers turn out for colorful new group exhibit

The Souterrain Gallery in West Cornwall bustled with art lovers and artists on Nov. 28 for the opening of “Moon Zappa and Friends: A Multifaceted Exhibit.” Moon Unit Zappa warmly greeted guests, mingling with visitors as they enjoyed refreshments and settled in to take in the exhibit. In addition to showcasing work by several

artists — including Zappa herself — the event doubled as a book signing, with copies of her memoir Earth to Moon available. Guests could also purchase blind gift boxes — holiday “mystery gifts” selected and wrapped by Zappa. The show was curated by Zappa. When asked how she chose the artists she said, “I chose people that make my heart sing.” And also, “I wanted all

ages to see it and enjoy it. I wanted kids to enjoy it too. Zappa channels her zest for life with colorful and playful creatures set in their own stylistic world. One of her paintings features a wolf eel. “They are so unattractive, I thought I’d showcase them.” That aesthetic play is also apparent in her installation of fabric-wrapped bricks. Among the featured

artists is Kimmah Dennis, an artist-in-residence at the Silver Arts Project in New York City, who contributed several large-scale mixed-media paintings. “I’m a material fanatic,” she explained. One painting was on the back of an old mirror on which she painted and scratched her images, as well as using canvas, paints, and bleach on some work to create textures, color, and patterns. A world traveler, she also puts different cultures into her work. Diva Zappa, sister of Moon, displayed ethereal photographs. Aris Moore exhibited magical and intriguing creatures. Jett Ul-

ysses had small images of flowers and fruit on black backgrounds. Melissa Sorrel offered mysterious depths of detail in her work. Paintings by Eileen Olivieri and Helen Midge Matessi Baudouin completed the works, making for an interesting mix. Rowan Fields, who came to browse, said, “This show is really cool,” pointing to a constellation of five circular canvases by Dennis. The show runs through Dec. 31 at the Souterrain Gallery (below the Wish House), at 413 Sharon Goshen Turnpike, West Cornwall. Hours are Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO
Moon Zappa at the Nov. 28 opening of "Moon Zappa and Friends: A Multifaceted Exhibit" at the Souterrain Gallery.

Angels, shepherds needed for Christmas Pageant Dec. 20

The annual Community Christmas Pageant will be held at Cornwall's United Church of Christ on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Children, teens and young adults interested in being an angel should contact Katie Freygang at 860-488-0204 or Chris Gyorsok at clgyorsok@

gmail.com. Shepherds are also needed. Snow date Dec. 21. Rehearsal will take place on Friday, Dec. 19, at 5:30 p.m.

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