



# The Lakeville Journal

Small Business Spotlight, Page A8

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



PHOTO PROVIDED

## Elevating holiday spirit

Principal Leanne Maguire added a bit of seasonal excitement to the morning drop-off Thursday, Dec. 18, at Cornwall Consolidated School. Dressed as an elf, Maguire was lifted above the school's front entrance to greet arriving students. The tree bucket was provided by Gervais & Sons Inc.

## Sharon Hospital drops NDP as ambulance provider

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON — Northern Dutchess Paramedics will cease operating in northwest Connecticut at the start of the new year, a move that emergency responders and first selectmen say would replace decades of advanced ambulance coverage with a more limited service arrangement.

Emergency officials say the change would shift the region from a staffed, on-call advanced life support service to a plan centered on

a single paramedic covering multiple rural towns, raising concerns about delayed response times and gaps in care during simultaneous emergencies.

The decision became known on Dec. 11 when communities were informed that NDP's service would end as of Jan. 1, according to Andrea Downs, president of the Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department and an employee of NDP.

Founded in 1994 and based in Rhinebeck, New York, NDP has provided advanced and basic life

Nuvance/Northwell plans to operate its own paramedic service.

support ambulance services to communities in Dutchess and Columbia counties in New York, as well as parts of Litchfield County, for nearly three decades.

How the change came about was outlined by Al Tortorella of Sharon, also an employee of NDP.

See AMBULANCE, Page A12

## McEver nixes subdivision plan; riverfront property now slated to be conserved for public use

By Ruth Epstein

NORTH CANAAN — The plan for a 20-lot subdivision off Honey Hill Road has been dropped and instead, the land, owned by H. Bruce McEver, could become a large public nature preserve.

The announcement came at the

Dec. 15 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, when Catherine Rawson, executive director of the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy, came before the board to request a required letter of approval allowing the conservancy to seek state grants for the purchase. She emphasized that significant work remains, including extensive surveys, before a deal is completed and the deed is transferred.

Should all proceed as planned, a transfer of this nature generally takes 24 to 36 months to close, she said. Once finalized, the land must be opened to the public within six

months.

Funding decisions from the state — particularly through the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition program administered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection — are expected in mid-2026. Additional funding will also be sought through the federal Highlands Conservation Act, as well as from private donations.

Rawson said the conservancy, which is based in Kent, had been in discussion with McEver and is delighted to partner with him to

See HONEY HILL, Page A12

## Northwest Corner municipalities weigh salt usage as snow returns

By Christian Murray and Alec Linden

Snow returned to the Northwest Corner earlier this month, sending town highway and public works crews back into their annual cycle of plowing, sanding and salting — work that keeps roads passable but strains municipal budgets, equipment and the surrounding environment.

Connecticut lies within the so-called "Salt Belt," where sodium chloride remains the primary defense against icy roads, even as officials weigh its financial and environmental costs.

In North Canaan, First Selectman Jesse Bunce said road salt is one of the town's largest winter operating expenses, and reducing reliance on straight salt could bring both fiscal and environmental benefits. The town currently applies straight salt during most storms,



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Fresh snowfall covers North Goshen Road after the Dec. 13-14 storm, one of many winter weather events that require towns to decide how and where to apply road salt.

but Bunce said he would like to shift toward blending salt with sand more often.

Bunce said the cost difference between the two materials is stark, estimating sand at roughly \$20 per cubic yard compared to about \$120 per cubic yard for salt. He said even partial blending could yield meaningful savings over the course of

a winter while also reducing the volume of salt entering roadside soils and waterways.

He said he and his highway crew have discussed experimenting with different blends to determine what works best under local conditions.

The town has also explored alternatives such as limestone in the past — an idea periodically raised because North Canaan has limestone quarries — though Bunce emphasized that no decisions have been made and further evaluation is needed.

Beyond costs, Bunce said straight salt accelerates corrosion on trucks and equipment and contributes to environmental stress along roadways. Salt-laden runoff, he said, can damage roadside trees, creating additional maintenance costs when trees decline or die. Reducing salt use, he said, could help protect vegetation while extending the lifespan of municipal vehicles.

"Salt is tougher on our roadsides, our trees, things of that nature, which are another big operat-

See ROADS, Page A12



PHOTOS BY DEBRA ALEKSINAS

Keri LaBella of Worcester, Mass., visited the donkeys at Trinity Retreat Center in early December during a women's retreat.

## Six donkeys carry a message of hope this Christmas

By Debra A. Aleksinas

CORNWALL — On a quiet patch of farmland where West Cornwall's forested hills roll down toward the Housatonic River, six donkeys lift their heads at the sound of approaching footsteps. Their long ears twitch. Their breaths

plume in the frigid air.

The soft brays that greet visitors to Trinity Retreat Center have become part of the landscape here — a warm, familiar sound that carries across the snow-covered fields as December settles in.

See DONKEYS, Page A12



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Our Towns

Chore Service lends helping hand to Northwest Corner residents

By Matthew Kreta

SHARON — The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon hosted a presentation on Sunday, Dec. 14, highlighting Chore Service, a local assistance program that provides essential non-medical support to older adults who wish to remain independent in their homes.

The presentation was the first in a four-part series at the library titled Women & Aging. Chore Service was represented by Executive Director Jane MacLaren and Program Coordinator Kristen Orr.

Chore Service was founded in 1992 by Ella Clark, a Sharon social worker, and served 22 families for a total of 1,396 service hours in its first year. Today, Chore Service employs about 50 workers who provide a total of over 8,700 service hours to more than 250 clients across 13 towns in northwest Con-



PHOTO BY MATTHEW KRETA

Program Coordinator Kristen Orr explains how Chore Service helps Litchfield County residents with household tasks.

necticut.

While Chore Service is funded by grants, fundraisers and donations, it also operates on a sliding scale payment based on household income. The scale helps offset costs for low-income or tightly budgeted households, and no client is turned away

due to inability to pay.

Chore Service is not reserved for low-income households alone. “We can help everyone,” MacLaren said.

Chore Service offers a wide range of services but does not provide medical care. Caregivers assist with

everyday household tasks such as laundry, housecleaning, meal preparation and yard work, as well as less tangible but equally important needs, including companionship.

Assignments may be one-time visits or ongoing commitments, with no minimum number of hours required. The organization operates under a “no job too small” philosophy.

According to a recent client survey conducted by the organization, 90% of clients reported an improved quality of life. Orr elaborated that the organization attempts to pair its employees and clients together not only based on what tasks are needed in a given household, but also personality.

Chore Service employees are background checked and vetted, and clients can request a change in caregiver for any reason as needed.

To learn more about Chore Service visit [www.choreservice.org](http://www.choreservice.org).

The next talk hosted at Hotchkiss Library in the Women & Aging series will be “The Power of Writing” with Sharon Charde, on Sunday Jan. 18, 2026.

Commission plans affordable-rental conversion of rundown building

By Alec Linden

LAKEVILLE — The Salisbury Affordable Housing Commission approved a funding request at its Dec. 18 meeting to renovate a recently purchased 19th-century building on Bostwick Street, despite concerns from several members that the structure may be too dilapidated to repair cost-effectively.

The application from the Salisbury Housing Committee, the town organization responsible for affordable rental properties, requested \$200,000 to assist in the repair of the 3-unit property it recently purchased at 37 Bostwick St.

The funds, if approved by the Board of Selectmen, will match \$200,000 already secured by the SHC to a working funding pool of \$400,000 for the project.

According to Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity Director Jocelyn Ayer, who assisted SHC President Peter Halle in presenting the plans, the historic structure has seen better days: “It was built in 1850, and it looks like it.”

The building contains three units in varying states of disrepair, one of which is currently occupied. Another unit, long vacant and most recently inhabited by raccoons, Ayer said, will require extensive renovation to be brought back to a habitable condition.

Still, those familiar with the building said the work will be worth the expense and that the structure is salvageable. “It’s not rotten to the core,” said Halle, while SAHC commissioner Pat Hackett, who is an engineer

with extensive knowledge of building projects in town, said that he thinks the structure is sound.

Commissioners Mary Oppenheimer and Vivian Garfein both questioned whether it’s worth renovating. Both were concerned about unforeseen costs that might arise on top of the immediately apparent issues, which already pose a significant expense.

Ayer said \$400,000 would not cover the entire price tag of the renovation, but it would enable the essential work to get done while the Committee seeks the additional funding to complete the renovations.

Halle said that if that sum was secured, “there is a path” to financing the entire project, which would put residents in the units far more quickly than building a new development from scratch.

Commissioner Abeth Slotnick, who’s an architect, noted the townspeople had expressed interest in upgrading existing structures to be used as affordable rental options, and that this situation was a “good example of where that can work.”

Lee Sullivan, another commissioner, agreed that neighbors will appreciate the upkeep of an old house: “Keeping an historic 1850 building that is part of the existing neighborhood is really important to people.”

The SAHC ultimately voted to move forward with a request for funding.

Slotnick said a contractor is ready to begin the top priority fixes as soon as the funding is guaranteed, which still has to be formally passed by the selectmen.

Ski jumpers share with SCS what it’s like to soar

By Riley Klein

SALISBURY — Representatives of Salisbury Winter Sports Association gave a presentation at Salisbury Central School Wednesday, Dec. 17.

Former U.S. Olympic coach Larry Stone explained the fundamentals of the unique sport of ski jumping and its long history in Salisbury, where he learned to jump.

“When I was growing up here there were actually eight ski jumps just in this town in addition to the three down at Satre Hill,” he said.

He noted that this winter will be the 100th year of Jumpfest at Satre Hill, named for the Satre brothers who moved from Norway in the 1920s. “They brought their sport with them and the first ski jump was actually when one of the Satres skied off of a barn roof in the center of Salisbury to show people how to do it.”

Mentioning the upcoming Winter Olympics in Cortina/Milan, Italy, Stone spoke of legendary Salisbury ski jumper Roy Sherwood who competed at Cortina in the 1956 Olympics.

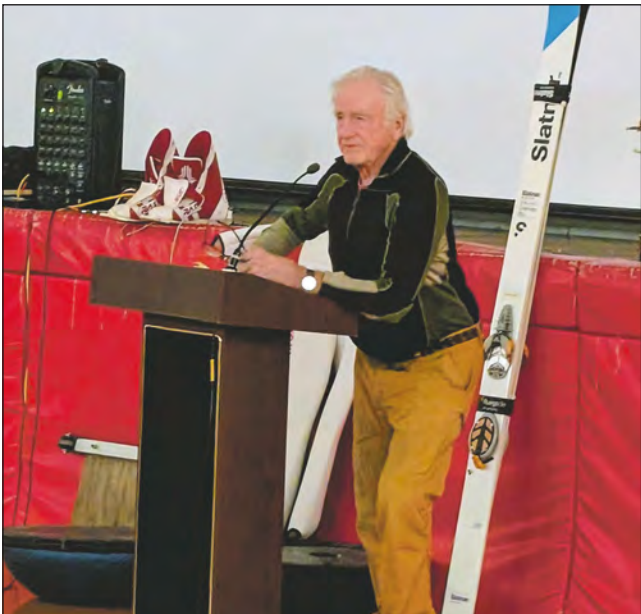


PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Former U.S. Olympic ski jumping coach Larry Stone, of Salisbury, addresses the assembly on Dec. 17.

Students at SCS saw videos of ski jumpers training and competing. Stone invited up students who had jumped at Satre Hill and 14 stepped forward.

One student was Aerin Sheil, who was asked what it feels like to jump: “It kind of feels like you’re flying. It’s a really good feeling.”

Gus Tripler, another student, said, “It’s like you’re suspended in the air and can see everything.” He said his

record distance of 18 meters was set in Vermont.

The student remarks gave way to closing comments that emphasized the school’s partnership with the Salisbury Winter Sports Association.

“Our partnership with SWSA is one of the most incredible things about Salisbury Central School,” Assistant Principal John Conklin said. He encouraged the students to attend Jumpfest Feb. 6 to 8.

School lunch prices set to rise at certain Region One schools

By Christian Murray

FALLS VILLAGE — School lunch prices will increase at select schools in the Region One School District beginning Jan. 5, 2026, following a deficit in the district’s food service account and rising food costs tied to federal meal compliance requirements.

District officials announced the changes in a letter to families dated Monday, Dec. 15, signed by Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley and Business Manager Samuel J. Herrick.

Under the new pricing, lunches at Lee H. Kellogg School and Cornwall Consolidated School will increase by 25 cents to \$3.75, while lunches at Housatonic Valley Regional High School will rise by 50 cents to \$4.00.

According to the district,

the food service program depends on revenue from lunch sales as well as federal reimbursement. Increased food costs and compliance requirements contributed to the shortfall during the 2024–2025 fiscal year.

School lunch prices at these three schools have remained unchanged since the 2019–2020 school year, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the years that followed, the district used COVID-19 relief funds to allow students

to receive lunches at no cost.

The lunch price increase applies only to these three District No. 1 schools, as Housatonic Valley Regional High School oversees the food service programs at Lee H. Kellogg School and Cornwall Consolidated School. Other schools in the district operate independent food service programs and are not impacted.

Families who may qualify for free or reduced-price lunch can apply online.

**Finding Fritz**

Salisbury Recreation’s “Where is Fritz Contest” was won by Jacqueline Rice, left. This was the second year of the town-wide event that involved searching Salisbury businesses to find Fritz the elf. Participants followed daily clues sent out on Instagram and submitted a photo when they found Fritz. Each submission was an entry into the raffle for the holiday gift basket that was ultimately won by Rice. This year’s gift basket had games, holiday treats and gift cards. Recreation Director Lisa McAuliffe, right, gave a special thanks to the following local businesses for providing the gift cards: Deano’s Pizza, Grassland, On the Run Coffee Shop and Sweet Williams Coffee Shop & Bakery.



PHOTO PROVIDED

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Our Towns

Citizen scientists look skyward for Audubon’s 126th annual Christmas Bird Count

By Alec Linden

SHARON — Birdwatching and holiday cheer went hand in hand during the Trixie Strauss Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, Dec. 14, as hobbyists and professionals alike braved the chill to turn their sights skyward and join the world’s longest-running citizen science effort.

The Christmas Bird Count is a national initiative from the Audubon Society, a globally-renowned bird protection nonprofit, that sees tens of thousands of volunteers across the country joining up with their local Audubon chapters every December and January to count birds.

This wintry avian census, which is now in its 126th year, is very effective at amassing bird quantity and species diversity data, especially in colder climates where seasonal populations of birds are highly variable.

These datasets, Audubon has upheld, provide vital snapshots of population health and trends, which



Volunteers scan snowy treetops during the Trixie Strauss Christmas Bird Count in Sharon. Teams identified more than 11,400 birds across 66 species.

then informs conservation strategy.

Sharon Audubon helped to host the Trixie Strauss count, the formal name of the regional count that covers an area centering on The Hotchkiss School, with staff members aiding 24 volunteers spread out over eight teams that each surveyed a unique 15 mile loop.

According to the total tally, the volunteers had identified over 11,400 birds spanning 66 species, just one less than

last year’s total of 67 species.

While the number is similar, Bethany Sheffer, volunteer coordinator and naturalist at Sharon Audubon, said the species that are present are subject to change based on a number of factors.

The early freeze of lakes and ponds in the Northwest Corner meant that there were fewer species that prefer open

water tallied this December, Sheffer explained. Belted kingfishers, for example, were entirely absent from the count.

The data also found no northern mockingbirds or gray catbirds. Several groups noticed an abundance of the dark-eyed junco, though Sheffer noted that the reasons for these changes from previ-

ous years are as of yet unclear.

However murky the causes, Sheffer said the accumulation of such data lays the groundwork for identifying important species trends. Citizen science observations have shown, for example, that the range of the northern cardinal is expanding and that Cooper’s hawks are increasingly overwintering in New England forests to prey on songbirds drawn to feeders when snow covers the ground.

Sheffer noted, though, that it’s not all about the data. “The history of the Christmas Bird Count is really moving,” she said, explaining that its origins lie in a Victorian tradition of a Christmas “hunt,” where groups would scour the hillsides and treetops to kill, not count.

Since ornithologist Frank M. Chapman declared the first count in 1900 as a direct opposition to the hunt, the

tradition has stuck.

Sheffer said it’s a valuable example of how humans’ relationship to the natural world can be reframed.

“It’s important for us now more than ever to be serving birds” as stewards, she said, noting that many species face threats due to climate change and habitat degradation and loss.

And another plus, Sheffer said, is the spirit of community, bringing people of all experience levels with birds together for what she described as a truly joyous day: “It’s become an event that brings people together in a really moving way.”

The Trixie Strauss count is just one of 20 in Connecticut. Several, including one just over the border in Pawling, New York, have yet to occur.

For a list of each upcoming count, and who to contact with inquiries, visit [ctbirding.org/cbc-2025-2026/](http://ctbirding.org/cbc-2025-2026/).

Children’s theater enrollment begins in Falls Village

FALLS VILLAGE — The Falls Village Children’s Theater spring 2026 production is “Mary Poppins Jr.”

Registration opens Saturday, Dec. 20 at 10 a.m. for Lee H. Kellogg students only and general registration starts Monday Dec. 22 at 10 a.m.

The FVCT welcomes children in grades 1-8. Children can participate in two ways, acting (30 maximum) or tech squad (10 maximum).

The Tech Squad will be in charge of building the sets, running lights, and other production tasks needed. It’s an opportunity for kids who want to be a part of the show

while being off-stage.

Auditions for actors start Jan. 10, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Actors meet on Fridays 3:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tech Squad meets Sundays 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. starting Feb. 8.

Both actors and Tech Squad need to attend every day of Tech Week, which is the week leading up to the performance.

The performances are Friday March 27, at 6 p.m., Saturday March 28, at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

For more details see [www.thecenteronmain.org](http://www.thecenteronmain.org).

Cornwall receives three bids for new fire trucks

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Three manufacturers entered proposals to build new fire trucks for the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department, and all of them are within the town’s budget.

In an effort to replace two outdated trucks, CVFD created specification sheets for a custom mini pumper and rescue pumper.

Immediately following the Wednesday, Dec. 17, 11 a.m. deadline to bid, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway opened the packages at Town Hall. He read the quotes provided by each bidder aloud to a crowd of 14 attendees that included CVFD members, the other two selectmen and representatives from two of the manufacturers.

Greenwoods Emergency Vehicles, based in North Attleboro, Massachusetts, came in at \$438,957 for the mini pumper and \$861,451 for the rescue pumper. A \$50,000 discount would be applied if the town bought both vehicles through Greenwoods, and an additional \$50,000 could be taken off for a pre-paid purchase. The estimated delivery was 15 months.

New England Fire Equipment & Apparatus, based in North Haven, Connecticut, came in at \$426,568 for the mini pumper and \$828,268.33 for the rescue pumper. There was no estimated delivery date.

Bulldog Fire Apparatus, of Woodville, Massachusetts, came in at \$448,223 for the mini pumper and \$1,099,291 for the rescue pumper. The



First Selectman Gordon Ridgway opens the bid packages for new fire trucks Wednesday, Dec. 17.

estimated delivery for the rescue pumper was 28 to 32 months. The mini pumper delivery date was not disclosed.

The town has two months to review the details of each proposal and come to a decision. “Seems pretty competitive,” said Ridgway.

CVFD President Dick

Sears was enthused by the outcome. He confirmed all three bids were within the expenditure limit, which includes CVFD reserves, town truck funds and donations to the fundraising campaign that was on track to reach its goal of raising \$600,000 by the end of the year. Visit [cornwallfire.org](http://cornwallfire.org) to donate.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that a caucus of all enrolled Republican electors of the Town of Sharon, Connecticut, will be held on Thursday, January 8th, at the Hotchkiss Library, 10 Upper Main Street, in the Hayes Meeting Room, at 6:00 pm to endorse candidates for the Republican Town Committee.

12-25-25

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application #2025-0306 by owner Dana Rohn for a detached accessory apartment on a single family residential lot at 100 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Map 39, Lot 16 per Section 208 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 5:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The application, agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at [www.salisburyct.us/agendas/](http://www.salisburyct.us/agendas/). The application materials will be listed at [www.salisburyct.us/planning-zoning-meeting-documents/](http://www.salisburyct.us/planning-zoning-meeting-documents/). Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548,

Salisbury, CT or via email to [landuse@salisburyct.us](mailto:landuse@salisburyct.us). Paper copies of the agenda, meeting instructions, and application materials may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM at the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury CT. Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission Robert Riva, Secretary 12-25-25 01-01-26

**NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS**  
To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of: Norfolk, Connecticut

Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on:

January 8, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., at The Norfolk Town Hall, Maple Avenue, Norfolk, CT to endorse candidates for the Democratic Town Committee and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus. Dated at Norfolk, Connecticut, on the December 25, 2025.

Democratic Town Committee of Norfolk, CT  
June Peterson  
Walter Godlewski  
Co-Chairpersons  
12-25-25

**NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS**  
To enrolled members

of the Democratic Party of Salisbury, Connecticut. Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party & State election laws, you are hereby notified that a Caucus will be held on January 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., at the Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main St., Salisbury, Connecticut, to elect members of the Salisbury Democratic Town Committee and other business as may be proper to come before said Caucus. Dated at Salisbury, Connecticut January 1, 2026.

Salisbury Democratic Town Committee  
Albert Ginouves,  
Chairperson  
12-25-25

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF ALLEN I. YOUNG Late of Sharon (25-00485)**

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated December 9, 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:  
Nathanial Young  
c/o Michael Downes Lynch  
Law Office of Michael D. Lynch, 106 Upper Main

Street, P.O. Box 1776, Sharon, CT 06069  
Ridgley Straka  
c/o Michael Downes Lynch

Law Office of Michael D. Lynch, 106 Upper Main Street, P.O. Box 1776, Sharon, CT 06069

Lindley K. Young  
c/o Michael Downes Lynch

Law Office of Michael D. Lynch, 106 Upper Main Street, P.O. Box 1776, Sharon, CT 06069

Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
12-25-25

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF CONSTANCE COHRT Late of Sharon (25-00492)**

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated December 9, 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:  
Amy Rechman  
c/o Michael Downes Lynch

Law Office of Michael D. Lynch, 106 Upper Main Street, P.O. Box 1776, Sharon, CT 06069

Megan M. Foley

Clerk  
12-25-25

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF BONNIE H. SHELDON Late of East Canaan AKA Bonnie Lynn Sheldon (25-00494)**

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated December 9, 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:  
Barry Hunter  
c/o Linda M Patz  
Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP  
7 Church Street, P.O. Box 101  
Canaan, CT 06018

Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
12-25-25

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF GEORGETTE S. INGELLIS Late of Sharon (25-00441)**

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated December 9, 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:  
John P. Ingellis  
c/o Mark Ziogas  
Mark Ziogas Attorney at Law  
88 Valley Street, P.O. Box 1197

Bristol, CT 06011  
Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
12-25-25

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF JOHN WILLIAM RESTALL Late of Virginia AKA John W. Restall (25-00391)**

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated December 11, 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:  
Karl D. Restall  
c/o Henry James Stedronsky

Stedronsky & Meter, LLC  
62 West Street, P.O. Box 1529

Litchfield, CT 06759  
Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
12-25-25



# OBITUARIES

## Kevin John Huber

SALISBURY — Kevin John Huber, 50, of Salisbury, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Dec. 9, 2025. He was the beloved husband of Celina (Gonzalez) Huber and a devoted father to Timothy and Sara Huber. Kevin was born on Oct. 2, 1975, the son of Kevin George Huber and Peggy (Wernig) Kern.



He grew up in Blue Point, New York, where his love of sports started as soon as he could walk. He was a graduate of St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School in West Islip, New York. He attended the University of Bridgeport, where he was a four-year starter on the baseball team and forged friendships that would shape his future in the game. Following graduation, Kevin played professionally with the Zurich Lions of the Swiss Professional Baseball League before beginning a distinguished coaching career.

Kevin's professional life was defined by his commitment to education, mentorship, and athletics. In 2001, Kevin founded the Connecticut Blue Jays, one of the state's original AAU Baseball programs. For more than two decades, Kevin, with his business partner and close friend Patrick Hall, operated a highly successful baseball program that impacted hundreds of young athletes, including several who went on to play in Major League Baseball organizations.

Kevin's coaching career spanned multiple levels, including positions as an Assistant Baseball Coach at the University of New Haven and Fairfield University. He ended his time in college coaching at Yale University, where he spent seven years on staff. Upon the birth of his children, he served for eight years as a Physical Education teacher at St. Theresa School in Trumbull, Connecticut, and at Our Lady of Fatima School in Wilton, Connecticut, where he inspired young students with his energy, humor, and emphasis on teamwork and personal growth.

In 2016, Kevin was named Head Baseball Coach at Salisbury School, where he proudly carried on a storied prep-school tradition.

Under his leadership, the Crimson Knights captured Western New England Prep Baseball League Championships in 2018, 2022, 2023, and 2024, compiling an outstanding record of 113–33 over eight seasons. From 2023-2025, he spent the summers as Head Coach of the South Shore Clippers in the Hamptons Collegiate Baseball League, further demonstrating his dedication to developing players and fostering a love of the game at the collegiate level.

In addition to baseball, Kevin was a dedicated member of Salisbury School's Athletic Department, serving as Assistant Athletic Director, Assistant Basketball Coach and Head Cross Country Coach. His influence extended well beyond the diamond, as he was known for demanding excellence, fostering discipline, and building character in student-athletes across multiple sports. Kevin will be remembered for his exceptional baseball mind, his passion for mentoring young people, his humor, and the genuine relationships he built with players, colleagues, and friends throughout the New England athletic community.

Survivors, in addition to his wife and parents, include his son, Timothy Huber, and his daughter, Sara Huber of Salisbury; his brother, Brian Huber and his wife, Stacy, of Monroe; his sister, Nancy Tommasino and her husband, Matt, of Bayport, New York; nieces and nephews, Derek and Evan Huber and Grace and Lucas Tommasino; as well as many other family members, close friends, former players, and fellow coaches whose lives he profoundly touched.

A Celebration of Life memorial gathering will be held on Jan. 11, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Flood Athletic Center at Salisbury School, 251 Canaan Road, Salisbury, Connecticut.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the American Heart Association heart.org/donate in Kevin's name (heart.org/donate).

To offer an online condolence, please visit ryanfhct.com

## Robert Allen Weber

SALISBURY — Bob Weber, age 84, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Dec. 14, 2025, in his favorite chair in the home he built and loved in Salisbury. He was married to Jeanette Weber for 57 years.



Robert Allen Weber was born March 1, 1941, in New York City, the son of the late Harold and Theresa Zeidler Weber.

Bob graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School and City College where he majored in Industrial Engineering.

An outstanding athlete, he played lacrosse and ran track, primarily on a record-setting mile relay team. For many years, going on long runs after work was his stress-reducer.

Bob served in the U.S. Marine Corps and attended the Harvard Business School Management Program. He was employed by Bulova Watch Company for 43 years as an Industrial Engineer and rose to Vice President. Since his retirement in 2007, he served as a consultant to Bulova on environmental sites until his death.

Bob and Jeanette were married on May 4, 1968. Their son, Eric, was born in 1970 and twin daughters, Laura and Christine, followed in 1972. Having three babies in two years was indeed a “fun but challenging experience” for two parents who were only children. Bob and Jeanette moved from New York City to Glen Rock, New Jersey in 1970 where they raised their family, made many friends, and became involved in the community.

After searching for a weekend home for several years, Jeanette urged Bob to follow his dream of designing and building a house. His specifications were: a gravel road, an open meadow setting, and a western view of the mountains. And they found such a site north of Salisbury. The house was completed in 1998, and they were weekenders until becoming full-time residents in 2014. Why Salisbury? When the children were young, the family often traveled from New Jersey to Vermont, driving through Salisbury and stopping at the White Hart Inn where Elyse Harney had a general store with penny candy. There the children got to select candy for the rest of the drive. Each time, Bob would say: “I would love to

live in Salisbury some day...”

Bob had a wide range of interests: landscaping and gardening, sports, cooking and grilling, U.S. history, music, dinner parties, travel, cars, NY Times, good wines, long walks with his dog – and most of all, spending time with his family and friends. He attended all the children's soccer games, wrestling matches, and other events. He served on the Glen Rock Sports Association, was treasurer of the Salisbury Congregational Church, and grilled hundreds of hot dogs for the Salisbury Fall Festival for many years.

He had long-time close friendships from his single days in New York City, his many years at Bulova, and raising his family in New Jersey.

He and Jeanette enjoyed wonderful trips together throughout the United States, the Caribbean, Europe, Scandinavia, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. Some trips were by themselves and others with family or close friends. Bob was usually the designated driver and learned to negotiate roundabouts, drive on the left, wait for herds of sheep, end up in very narrow lanes, discover too late the sign indicating “pedestrians only,” and numerous other funny memories.

Bob was a devoted husband to Jeanette. He was a beloved father to his children. Having lost his own father at age 7, Bob always tried to be the father that he never had. And he so enjoyed each grandchild as he or she joined the family.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanette; son Eric and wife Kristie of Brooklyn; daughter Laura and husband Timmy of El Cerrito, California; Christine and husband Scott of Cromwell, Connecticut; and seven grandchildren ranging in age from 22 to 1: Madison, Belle, Cooper, Ryan, Skyler, Theo, and Ethan. He was Robert, Bob, Dad, Papa, Weber, or Webs to those who knew him, loved him, and will miss him so very much.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service, PO Box 582, Salisbury, CT 06068.

A celebration of Bob's life will be held in Salisbury in Spring 2026.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

## John Gregory Stallings

SHARON — John Gregory (Gregg) Stallings, 67, of Sharon, passed away Dec. 2, 2025, at his home.



John was born Dec. 25, 1957, in St. Louis, Missouri, and was preceded in death by his father Dr. Hugh A. Stallings, mother, Mary John Stallings McCormick and a brother Jeffrey Stallings.

He attended Reitz Memorial High School in Evansville, Indiana as well as the University of Miami. He graduated from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. While at Alabama, Gregg was both a cheerleader and President of Sigma Chi. He attained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing and Advertising.

Gregg married John H. Broomfield in 2006 and they have maintained a residence in Sharon for 19 years.

Gregg started his formal career as a sales manager at Whittle Communications. Afterward, he started his own company, The Design Crew in Washington, DC.

After a role as a Business Development Manager at

the Image Bank in Los Angeles, he rose to the position of Director of the Americas, Corbis Corporation in Seattle, Washington, a privately held company owned by Bill Gates. He was named Top Manager for two consecutive years. He presently owned the Found Art Co. + Gregory Marks Estate Sales in Sharon.

Gregg came from a large family and is survived by his sisters Amy (Dan Glover), Darcy (Mike Winslow), Lesly (Pete Wagner), Betsy McAtee and brother Todd (Susan), stepfather Russell McCormick, as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Gregg was a warm caring, and generous man with an extensive and varied circle of friends. He will be missed greatly including by his beloved Weimaraner, Bill.

A local Celebration of Life in his honor is planned for late spring.

Contributions in Gregg's memory can be made to the American Diabetes Association (ADA).

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

 <h3>Worship Services</h3> <p>Weeks of December 28, 2025 &amp; January 4, 2026</p>	
<b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b> 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. <i>Transitioning through prayer</i> All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org	<b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b> 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442
<b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> 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	<b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b> 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 YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org
<b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b> <i>Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people</i> 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232 FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org	<b>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT</b> Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, January 11 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome
<b>Congregation Beth David</b> A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Ameniam 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	<b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b> Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078
<b>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</b> 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net	<b>UCC in CORNWALL</b> Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community
<b>Falls Village Congregational Church</b> 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194	<b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b> Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates!
<b>The Sharon United Methodist Church</b> 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net	<b>St. Thomas Episcopal Church</b> 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality
<b>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</b> 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Ameniam, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building	<b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b> 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org
<b>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church</b> 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340   allsaintsofamerica.us	<b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b> 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 canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!
<b>Sharon Congregational</b> 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org	
<b>Millerton United Methodist Church</b> 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	

# REGIONAL

## Goshen real estate sales in November

By Christine Bates

GOSHEN — The sale of buildable lots in Goshen continues to be a significant part of the town's overall real estate activity, accounting for three of the nine transfers in November.

Despite only one property selling for more than \$500,000, 12-month median single family residential prices have stayed above \$600,000 since July of 2024, reaching \$642,400 in November.

In mid-December there were 12 homes listed for sale, with three that are not yet built, and eight parcels of land.

### Transactions

Ashley Drive, Woodridge Lake Lot 272 — 0.88 acres sold by Jay P Davis and Janice L. Kish to Mark J. Appelbaum for \$185,000.

11 Belshyre Court — 3 bedroom/1.5 bath home built in Woodridge Lake sold by Mary Rickevicius to Vernon and Kristin Leblanc for \$250,000.

East Street North — 5.07 acres sold by Saba J. Dwyer to James Elliott Brown and Kamille L. Brown for \$250,000.

101 North Street — 3 bedroom/1.5 bath home built in 1963 sold by Lindsey K. McCarthy and Donald K. Pardon to Nicholas and Bronwyn McCarthy Sears for

\$380,000.

183 Torrington Road — 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home on 3.01 acres sold by Cazador Trust to Drin Gyuk and Erika Hernandez Lomas for \$700,000.

33B North Street, Orchard Hill — 1 bedroom/1 bath condo sold by Neil Reising to John and Danielle Miller for \$225,000.

Deer Run Lane, Lot 1 — 2.08-acre residential lot sold by Peter J. Bujnowski to JJ Rear LLC for \$178,500.

823 North Street — 3 bedroom/3 bath brick ranch on 6.93 acres sold by Arthur C. Herman to Eric and Marybeth Pirro for \$430,000.

100 Bartholomew Hill

Road — 3 bedroom/2bath home on 2 acres sold by Leah Reid Trustee, William J. Korner Revocable Trust to Travis and Jailyne Cunningham for \$400,000.

\* Town of Goshen real estate transfers recorded as sold between Nov. 1, and Nov. 30, 2025, provided by Goshen Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS. Note that recorded transfers frequently lag closed sales by a number of days. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.



## EDITORIAL To our readers

This year showed, once again, how essential The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News are to our communities. Throughout 2025, we heard from readers who told us our reporting helped them better understand the issues facing their towns. Local organizations shared that attendance at their events increased following coverage in our papers or features in our newsletter. Advertisers reported an increase in business after readers saw an ad or a story about them.

Our core mission remains unchanged — to deliver trusted local news. National policy shifts created significant uncertainty this year, and we focused on explaining their local consequences: from immigration enforcement and school funding to the loss of federal support for healthcare, the arts, and food access in our rural communities. But even amid heavier topics, there was much to celebrate – Sharon Playhouse’s launch of a program for emerging theater artists; community fundraisers for Project SAGE, the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, and the North East Community Center; and countless examples of neighbors stepping up to meet needs.

### Transitions

This year was also one of important transitions in our newsroom. With John Coston’s retirement, we welcomed Christian Murray as Executive Editor. At The Millerton News, Nathan Miller became Managing Editor, and Aly Morrissey joined as a reporter. Along with a team of correspondents, they are reinvigorating coverage across eastern Dutchess County. With strong editorial teams in place across both papers, we are positioned for an ambitious reporting agenda in 2026.

### Education initiatives

We remain committed to building the next generation of editors, reporters and readers. This year we launched a journalism curriculum and student newspaper — HVRHS Today — at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, giving students professional guidance and a platform for their voices. Our competitive summer intern program continued to draw talented young journalists, and we established a new partnership with Marist University to broaden future opportunities. None of this would have been possible without the support of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, the 21st Century Fund, the William and Mary Greve Foundation, along with generous private donors.

We look forward to the continued growth of our education program.

### Sustainability

Like many community newspapers, we continue to navigate financial and operational challenges. With the help of national, local, and regional foundations — including the Foundation for Community Health, the MacArthur, Tow, and Barr foundations, and new grants from the DJ McManus and Anne and Rollin Bates foundations — we’ve been able to stabilize operations and invest in our newsroom. Combined with community support, this funding sustains essential reporting and helps us build the capacity we need for the future.

### Community Engagement

This spring we held the first Millerton Street Fair, modeled on our annual Salisbury Street Fair, convening nonprofits and community groups for a day of connection and shared purpose. And in November, we presented the Estabrook Community Leadership Award to Bunny Williams, recognizing her extraordinary contributions and bringing together supporters and neighbors in celebration of community leadership.

Looking ahead to 2026, our focus is on strengthening our reporting, deepening community engagement, and building a sustainable local news organization. None of this work is possible without you — our readers, subscribers, advertisers, donors and partners.

Thank you for your trust and support. It’s a privilege to serve our communities.

James H. Clark  
CEO/Publisher

## Reach out to us

Please don’t hesitate to contact me directly with questions, comments, concerns at 860-435-9873 x401 or jamesc@lakevillejournal.com.

**News:** Reach Executive Editor Christian Murray at christianm@lakevillejournal.com, Lakeville Journal Managing Editor Riley Klein at rileyk@lakevillejournal.com and Millerton News Managing Editor Nathan Miller at nathanm@millertonnews.com.

**Letters to the Editor** may be emailed to publisher@lakevillejournal.com or submitted via our websites.

**Obituaries** may be submitted to obituaries@lakevillejournal.com or via our websites.

**Advertising** inquiries can be directed to Roxanne Lee, roxanne@lakevillejournal.com, or Mary Wilbur, maryw@lakevillejournal.com. And for classified line ads, Lyndee Stalter at classified@lakevillejournal.com.

**Legal Notices** can be sent to Michelle Eisenman at legals@lakevillejournal.com.

**Subscription** questions including new subscriptions, renewals and address changes can be sent to circulation@lakevillejournal.com.

## Opinion



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

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*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.*

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

### 125 years ago — December 1900

Chicken thieves have been at work. They recently visited Mrs. Pratt’s hennerly and took nearly all of her fowls. It is supposed to be the same parties who raided her chicken house last year. A good dose of buckshot would be appropriate medicine for the thief.

The Cutlery Handle Co. is doing an increasing business. A larger force is now employed than for a long time past.

A singular and fortunate accident occurred on the Harlem Monday evening to the milk train; eight cars loaded with milk were tumbled into the stream at Tanner’s Bridge near Wassaic. Engine passed over bridge safely and caboose was not derailed. — No one was hurt. The wreckage has made transferring at that point necessary until Wed. when trains are again running through.

On Wednesday afternoon while Mrs. Mary Knight and Mrs. Robert Knight were going down stairs, in some manner they both fell. Mrs. Mary Knight was underneath and suffered a dislocation of the right shoulder and some severe bruises about the face. Mrs. Robert Knight escaped unhurt except for the shock of falling. The many friends of our elderly and much respected townswomen will be gratified to learn that she is now as comfortable as possible and trust that no serious results will

follow the accident.

Beats the Dickens about that South African war don’t it.

We may not have seen the wireless telegraphy but we have frequently seen matchless safes and horseless chestnuts.

### 100 years ago — December 1925

Miss Elizabeth Warner of Gilbert School, Winsted, is spending the vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Warner.

George Belcher Jr. has entered the employ of the Oxy-Crystine Corp.

The children of the white school trimmed Christmas trees, and gave them to the older residents of the village.

The young people have been rehearsing Christmas carols, which they will sing to all the sick, shut-ins and old people on Christmas eve. This is a custom established several years ago.

Mr. E.C. Mercer, the prominent lay evangelist, is home to spend a few days with his family and to get a short rest, after a very busy season. He expects to resume his work after January 1st. During his work which has embraced the entire country, Mr. Mercer has addressed more than five million people.

Mrs. Mary Dunn is at Wm. Tellerday’s on Brinton Hill.

John Stanton has taken a position at the local Western Union office to study telegraphy.

The sharp change in the weather on Tuesday night gave things a more wintry and Christmassy aspect and incidentally made a little bigger hole in the precious coal pile. The cold snap also froze over what is known as the muck hole and provided skating for the youngsters.

The Lakeville Journal wishes all its readers and friends a very merry Christmas with lots of joy, turkey, fixings, ‘n everything.

### 50 years ago — December 1975

Making up for lost time, Storm Dan insured good skiing and a white Christmas by clobbering the Tri-State area with more than 12 inches of snow over the weekend. Kids, sportsmen and resort operators were delighted. More cold was predicted.

The proposal to open the Falls Village landfill area to Salisbury and Sharon died Friday night. First Selectman David Domeier said that a preliminary study undertaken by Eugene Wright had proved the idea to be unfeasible. Domeier said that Wright’s figures showed that at least 60 per cent of the MacMillan farm (purchased two years ago by the

town for its own landfill needs) is classified as wetlands. This would not leave enough land to support an additional landfill operation on the farm.

A turnaround for large vehicles has been constructed at the end of Dublin Road, to facilitate access to that road. The narrow width of the road has made it difficult for town trucks to plow the road, and school buses have been making their last stop about six tenths of a mile from the dead end.

### 25 years ago — December 2000

SHARON — Area residents vehemently objected to a proposed Sprint PCS telecommunications tower at a public hearing of the Planning and Zoning Commission held Dec. 13 at Town Hall. Zoning specialist Thomas Flynn, an employee of the Florida-based tower building firm SBA, attended the hearing to share what he considered glad tidings with commissioners and members of the public. A red trial balloon was flown by SBA on the weekend of Nov. 30 at the proposed site on Route 7 and, said Mr. Flynn, “the good news is that it was less visible than even I had anticipated.”

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

## THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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### Mission Statement

LJM Media, Inc. Publishers of

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

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## VIEWPOINT

### Markets enter the last leg of a good year

Friday was the end of the final full week of trading for the year. The next two holiday-shortened weeks will top off a good year for stocks. Will Santa show up for the finale?

The much-vaunted Santa Claus Rally is supposed to begin this coming week and carry us through to the New Year. Does it really matter? For the most part, if you had stayed invested through 2025’s ups and downs, you should be pretty happy now. Especially so if you had followed my advice and bought some precious metals and mining stocks.

Of course, I won’t turn my nose up at an extra percent or two into January if Mr. Claus does visit. Now that the president has made the day before and after Christmas a federal holiday, the normally skeleton staffs and anemic volume of this period will be that much lower. That means traders can push stocks up and down to suit their whims while booking additional profits from day trading chasers.

As you know, I did not join the Wall Street crowd predicting what the markets would do this year. It is, in my opinion, a useless exercise that strategists rarely, if ever, get right. The average forecast was for a 7-10% gain, and we doubled that.

I will be writing about the coming year in time, but let’s stick with what is happening so far in December for right now. There has been a deluge of economic data this week. It feels like a tsunami after weeks of a data desert during the government shutdown. The non-farm payroll report for November rose by 64,000 after falling by 105,000 in October. The unemployment rate ticked up to 4.6%, the highest level since September 2021.

#### @ THE MARKET BILL SCHMICK

The payroll report is signaling that the labor market is weakening. The Fed would call it “normalizing.” Retail sales were okay if you subtract out autos and gasoline. Both the services and manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Indexes were still in the 51.8% and 52.9% ranges, signaling expansion.

However, it is hard to take these numbers at face value because the shutdown had certainly jiggled the data, missed some crucial inputs, and may be subject to partisan doctoring. No surprise, given that the Bureau of Labor Statistic’s head was fired by the president and the BLS still lacks a suitable replacement. Remember to subtract 60,000 jobs from every job report; that is the number of jobs the Fed believes are overstated in any given month. So the real number was a gain of 4,000 jobs.

On Thursday and Friday, we also received our first inflation numbers. The Consumer Price Index for November rose 2.7%, less than most expected (present company excluded). Readers may recall I have been predicting weaker inflation numbers and expect more of the same when the December CPI is announced next month.

The president’s mid-week speech to the nation was largely ignored by the markets. Rather than paying down the deficit with the tariff money he is collecting from consumers and corporations, President Trump is using some of it to reward those he needs in the upcoming mid-term elections.

In this era of expanding

state capitalism, the president followed up last week’s \$12 billion bailout fund for farmers with \$2.5 billion in “warrior dividend” paychecks to 1.45 million military service members. His list of beneficiaries of tariff money seems to be getting longer. In addition to paying off the farmers and now, the military, he has proposed redirecting tariff money to voter dividend checks, tax cuts, paying down the national debt, enhanced childcare benefits, a possible end to the income tax, and a victory fund for Ukraine.

I warned investors to expect volatility in December, and thus far, I have been correct. There were exceptions. While AI and tech were getting slaughtered, cannabis stocks had some eye-popping gains. Thanks to another executive order: this time to ease marijuana classifications. Back in September 2023, my column “Rescheduling cannabis could boost profits for U.S. marijuana companies” discussed how rescheduling marijuana from a Schedule 1 drug to a Schedule 3 designation could boost grass sellers’ bottom line from 20 to 30 percent per annum.

But do not confuse a reclassification with making marijuana legal under federal law. It is also completely different from the SAFE Banking Act, which would allow banks to provide financial services to the industry.

During the Biden presidency, the on-again, off-again prospects of rescheduling left industry stocks for dead, with short sellers having established huge positions.

*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. (OPI).*

## OUR TOWNS

### HVRHS releases honor roll for first quarter of 2025-26

FALLS VILLAGE — Principal Ian Strever announces the first quarter marking period Honor Roll at Housatonic Valley Regional High School for the 2025-26 school year.

#### Highest Honor Roll Grade 9

Katelyn Holst-Grubbe (North Canaan), Meriel Hughes (Salisbury), Noell Laurry (Kent), Keely Malone (Sharon), April Puerto (Salisbury), Solomon Schmidt (Salisbury), Alastair Schnepf (Wassaic), Olivia Simonds (North Canaan), Marisol Vaughn (Kent), Emery Wisell (Kent).

#### Grade 10

Mia Belter (Salisbury), Louise Faveau (Salisbury), Addison Green (Kent), Aryanna Horton (Salisbury), Eliana Lang (Salisbury), Lily McCabe (Salisbury), Alison McCarron (Kent), Katherine Money (Kent), Mira Norbet (Sharon), Abigail Perotti (North Canaan), Owen Schnepf (Wassaic), Schuyler Thompson (Falls Village), Federico Vargas Tobon (Salisbury).

#### Grade 11

John DeDonato (Salisbury), Natasha Dennis (North Canaan), Adelyn Diorio (North Canaan), Sydney Howe (North Canaan), Daniel Lesch (Cornwall), Finian Malone (Sharon), Meadow Moerschell (Kent), Ishaan Tantri (Salisbury).

#### Grade 12

Lily Beurket (Cornwall), Ryder Conte (Falls Village), Shanaya Duprey (North Canaan), Evelyn Flores-Hernandez (North Canaan), Madelyn Johnson (North Canaan), Alexa Meach (North Canaan), Ibbby Sadeh (Falls Village), Alex Woodworth (Salisbury).

#### High Honor roll Grade 9

Anna Ayer (Salisbury), Cody Bodwell (Cornwall), Lainey Diorio (North Canaan), Emma Duffy (Sharon), Carter Finney (North Canaan), Elden Grace (Salisbury), Joanna Haratyk (Torrington), Ava Humes (North Canaan), Tyler LaPlante (North Canaan), Sawyer Margerelli (Salisbury), Lola Miller (Falls Village), Grace O’Brocki (Salisbury), August Olson (Falls Village), Elexis Petkovich (North Canaan), Donald Polk (Cornwall),

Justin Sorell (North Canaan), Gia Torzilli (Gaylordsville), Scarlett Visconti (North Canaan), Jaxon Vissokis (Salisbury).

#### Grade 10

Krystin Ackerman (North Canaan), Paige Beeman (North Canaan), Max Bochnovich (Salisbury), Nico Bochnovich (Salisbury), Logan Bronson (Cornwall), Lucius Bryant (Cornwall), Zaira Celso-Cristobal (Sharon), Winter Cheney (Cornwall), Tess Churchill (Salisbury), Niki Clark (Salisbury), Caitlin Devino (North Canaan), Luca Floridis (Salisbury), Samuel Garcia Pulido (North Canaan), Beatrice Gifford (Kent), Angel Gonzalez (Salisbury), Kartel Henry (North Canaan), Paul Losh (Falls Village), Wyatt Merwin (Salisbury), Logan Miller (Falls Village), Sadie Morales Chapell (Salisbury), Nova Pratt (North Canaan), Karmela Quinion (North Canaan), Vilija Salazar (Kent), Juliette Trabucco (Kent), Payton Wagner (North Canaan), Olivia Whitney (North Canaan).

#### Grade 11

Adelaide Almeida (Salisbury), Hayden Bachman (Falls Village), Byron Bell (Cornwall), Sophia Camphouse (Sharon), Olivia Claydon (North Canaan), Georgie Clayton (Salisbury), Sophia DeDominicis Fitzpatrick (Sharon), Christian DeDonato (Salisbury), Layla DiDomenico (Kent), Carmela Egan (Salisbury), Kellie Eisermann (Salisbury), Levi Elliott (Millerton), Lydia Fleming (North Canaan), Guadalupe Flores-Hernandez (North Canaan), Grace Graney (Falls Village), Alexa Hoadley (Kent), Jonas Johnson (North Canaan), Aiden Krupa (Torrington), McKenzie Lidstone (Salisbury), Francisco Mendoza Ratzan (North Canaan), Daniel Moran (Norfolk), Jackson Olson (Falls Village), Logan Padel-li (North Canaan), Gustavo Portillo (North Canaan), Darwin Wolfe (Falls Village), Nathan Zani (Ashley Falls), Ivy Zheng (North Canaan).

#### Grade 12

Hayden Bell (Cornwall), Genesis Bravo Guilcashina (North Canaan), Olivia Brooks (Salisbury), Victoria Brooks (Salisbury), Mia DiRocco (Cornwall), Anthony Foley (North Canaan), Anna Gillette (Salisbury), Julissa Gonzalez (Cornwall), Kier-

ra Greene (North Canaan), Adam Hock (Kent), Sara Ireland (Salisbury), Hannah Johnson (North Canaan), Riley Mahaffey (Amenia), Simon Markow (Cornwall), Madeline Mechare (Falls Village), Madison Melino (Austerlitz), Daphne Paine (North Canaan), Celeste Trabucco (Kent), Silas Tripp (Falls Village), Ayden Wheeler (Amenia).

#### Honor Roll Grade 9

Jonathan Bindley (Cornwall), Cullen Bonis (Kent), Phoebe Conklin (Salisbury), Connor Crane (North Canaan), Isabella Curtis (Norfolk), Jessica Davis (North Canaan), Ciri Dean (North Canaan), Lyla Diorio (North Canaan), Patrick Hafner (Falls Village), Ryan Hinman (North Canaan), Harrison Morey (North Canaan), Jenaveeve Wagner (North Canaan).

#### Grade 10

Lyla Banffy (Kent), Jackson Brammer (Sharon), Peyton Bushnell (Falls Village), Alisa Christiansen Madsen (North Canaan), Lillian Hurley (North Canaan), Chase Kading (Millerton), Ayden Lemmy (Falls Village), McKenzie Lotz (Ashley Falls), Christopher Piscitello (North Canaan), Camila Sanchez Guerrero (Cornwall), Henry Skuza (Millbrook), Giovanni Solorzano-Lemus (North Canaan), Nathan Young (Cornwall).

#### Grade 11

Bennett Wyatt Bayer (Salisbury), Sofia Bindley (Cornwall), Selena Black (Cornwall), Karen Chavez-Sanchez (Salisbury), Riley Heady (Sharon), Carson Riva (North Canaan), Ryan Segalla (Salisbury), Alanna Tatro (North Canaan), Juan Xeché Coche (North Canaan).

#### Grade 12

Peter Austin (Kent), Katherine Crane (North Canaan), Richard Crane (North Canaan), Nicholas Crodelle (Sharon), Mollie Ford (Falls Village), Nicolas Gonzalez (Salisbury), Maureen Graney (Falls Village), Taylor Green (Kent), Marc Hafner (Falls Village), Chloe Hill (Salisbury), Abram Kirshner (Kent), Logan Labshere (North Canaan), Eric Lopez Espinosa (Salisbury), Owen Riemer (North Canaan), Ava Segalla (Salisbury), Cole Simonds (North Canaan).

### Nonprofits receive boost through NCCF’s year-end grants

TORRINGTON — The Northwest CT Community Foundation has awarded \$116,000 in Year-End Critical Needs Grants to nonprofit organizations serving residents across the Northwest Corner.

Grants will help ensure more individuals and families have access to food, warm clothing, emergency assistance, and shelter throughout the winter. The following organizations and programs received support:

Canaan Child Care Center  
Caring For Bethlehem  
Catholic Charities  
Chore Service  
Church of Christ Congregational (Norfolk Food Pantry)  
Church of Christ Congregational (Norfolk Minister’s Discretionary Fund)  
City of Torrington, Litchfield Hills  
Northwest Elderly Nutrition Program  
City of Torrington, Sullivan Senior Center  
Community Health & Wellness Center of Greater Torrington  
Community Kitchen of Torrington  
EdAdvance (Family Resource Center Vogel Wetmore)  
EdAdvance (STEPS)  
EdAdvance (McKinney-Vento)  
EdAdvance (Parents as Teachers)  
FISH of Northwestern Connecticut  
Friendly Hands Food Bank  
The Gilbert School  
Goshen Community Care  
Goshen Good Neighbor Fund  
Hands of Grace  
Harbor House of Litchfield County  
Helping Hands Chore Service  
Housatonic Child Care Center

Maria Seymour Brooker Memorial  
McCall Behavioral Health Network  
Northwest Connecticut YMCA  
Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church  
Possum Queen Foundation  
Prime Time House  
Project SAGE  
Riverton Theatre  
Salvation Army, Torrington  
Salvation Army, Winsted Service Unit  
Sharon Day Care Center  
St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church  
Susan B. Anthony Project  
Torrington Youth Service Bureau  
Town of Colebrook  
Town of Falls Village, Fuel Fund  
Town of Falls Village, Senior Center  
Town of Norfolk  
Town of Warren  
Town of Washington  
United Church of Christ in Cornwall, Congregational  
Winchester Center Congregational Church  
Winchester Public Schools  
Winchester Youth Service Bureau  
Winsted Area Child Care Center  
Workman Memorial AME Zion Church

The Year-End Critical Needs grant round is made possible by Northwest CT Community Foundation Draper Foundation Fund, Marion Wm. & Alice Edwards Fund, Douglas and Janet Roberts Fund, The Making Cents Fund, Estelle A. and David A. MacKenzie Fund, and Tracy Family Fund, and with the support of generous anonymous donors and Oratory of the Little Way.

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Community Land Trusts are non profit organizations whose mission is to help create affordable housing throughout Connecticut. They face the different challenges of accomplishing this in both rural and urban communities. One of their goals is to separate land ownership from building ownership to keep homes affordable long-term. A good example for this would be the Salisbury Housing Trust (www.salisburycthousing.org/about-salisbury-housing-trust). On January 14th at 6:30pm a webinar will be held to explore the different models of Community Land Trusts across the state and how this might help support affordable housing in our diverse communities. To join this webinar, please register at: bit.ly/CLTsofConnecticut.



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Our Towns



PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO  
About 40 people gathered on the lawn of the White Hart Inn on Sunday, Dec. 14, to mark the anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

Salisbury holds vigil for victims of gun violence

By Robin Roraback

SALISBURY — Despite frigid temperatures, about 40 people gathered Dec. 14 on the snowy lawn outside the White Hart Inn for an evening vigil honoring the 20 children and six educators killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School, as well as victims of gun violence nationwide and around the world.

Organizers Lee and Sophia deBoer said that while this year marked the 13th anniversary of the 2012 massacre, it was the 14th vigil the community has held.

Sophia deBoer said the annual gathering is driven by both remembrance and personal experience.

In May 2009, while her daughter was finishing her senior year at Wesleyan University, a fatal shooting occurred on campus. The event, she said, reinforced her belief in the importance of public remembrance and collective reflection.

As the vigil began at 5 p.m., Sophia deBoer invited attendees to widen their focus beyond a single tragedy.

“As we take time to remember those at Sandy Hook, take time to remember all the mass shootings,” she said.

State Rep. Maria Horn spoke about the enduring impact of Sandy Hook, noting that recent mass shootings — including incidents at Brown University and in Bondi Beach, Australia — demonstrate the continued global scope of gun violence.

“The freshmen at Brown were the same age the Sandy Hook children would be now,” Horn said.

Horn noted that she has seen a shift in Hartford toward gun-safety measures, which she described as “a sign of hope.”

John Nelson of the Salisbury Congregational Church read from Amanda Gorman’s poem “Hymn for the Hurtling,” offering words that spoke to collective grief.

Musicians Ed Thorney and Greg Reiss followed with acoustic performances of two songs from the 1960s — “Get Together,” by Chet Powers, and Stephen Stills’ “For What It’s Worth.”

The selections, they noted, continue to resonate in the context of modern social unrest and violence.

The names of the Sandy Hook children and educators were then read aloud. After each name, a bell tolled.

Louise Brown shared the story of her son, Elliot, 41, who lived in New Orleans

and was shot and killed when he answered a knock at his door. Brown recalled words spoken by her daughter-in-law at his funeral: “I was lucky to have him. Most important in life is love. Nothing else matters.”

The vigil concluded with John Carter, retired priest at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Salisbury, leading attendees in a rendition of “Amazing Grace.”

As the gathering ended, church bells rang 26 times — once for each child and educator killed at Sandy Hook — closing the vigil in solemn remembrance.

Falls Village selectmen discuss Sand Road

By Ruth Epstein

FALLS VILLAGE — The Board of Selectmen at its Dec. 17 meeting heard concerns about the condition of Sand Road.

First Selectman David Barger reported a resident came before the board to talk about the road that is often used as feeder between Salisbury and Canaan.

“The person said there is not proper maintenance of that road and it is often the scene of accidents,” Barger said in a phone interview. “There is a problem with the canopy of trees that hang over it, making it hard to keep clear, but there is also the problem of speeding, which is terrible.”

As a former state trooper, he said he is familiar with the problem of drivers going too fast on that road, describing one case in which he had to charge someone for traveling way above the speed limit.

Barger said the town can-

not reconfigure the roadway at this time, but officials and road crew members will keep an extra eye on it as a short-term solution.

In other business, Barger said the selectmen plan to call a town meeting sometime next month. Residents will be asked to take the remaining funds, which total \$48,200, from the non-recurring capital fund to allow for Allied Engineering to perform engineering studies on the proposed salt shed. Money for construction has already been secured through a STEAP grant, which the town received in the amount of \$625,000.

“We’re looking at critical infrastructure projects and this is one component,” he said.

At that town meeting, there will also be a vote to take \$2,000 from the town’s discretionary fund to pay Cardinal Engineering for work on repair of the Cobble Road bridge.

Moving company eyes Cornwall location

By Patrick L. Sullivan

CORNWALL — At the Dec. 9 meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission, the commission had a pre-application discussion with Karl Saliter, owner of Karl on Wheels, who plans to operate his moving business at 26 Kent Road South, which is an existing retail space.

Saliter said he will use the existing retail section of the building as a mixed retail space and office, and the rear of the building for

temporary storage during moving operations.

There will be no external “personal” storage proposed for the property.

The commission decided that Saliter should go ahead with a site plan application under the regulations for “retail stores and trades.”

P&Z also set a public hearing on a proposed text amendment on dimensional requirements for properties in the West Cornwall General Business (GB) zone. It will be held Jan. 13, 2026, at 7 p.m. at the Cornwall Library.

Lane Street warehouse conversion raises zoning concerns in Kent

By Alec Linden

KENT — A proposal to convert an old warehouse into a residence on Lane Street in downtown Kent has become more complicated than anticipated, as the Planning and Zoning Commission considers potential unintended consequences of the plan, including a proposed amendment to Village Residential zoning regulations.

During a special meeting Wednesday, Dec. 10, attorney Jay Klein of Carmody, Torrance, Sandak and Hennessey presented the proposal on behalf of John and Diane Degnan, who have lived at 13 Lane St. since 2022.

The Degnans are seeking to convert an industrial structure at the rear of their property, currently used for storage, into their primary residence, while keeping a four-unit building at the front of the lot available as affordable rental housing.

What appears to be a straightforward proposal has been complicated by a murky zoning history and regulatory constraints tied to the property’s designation.

Neighbors, however, say the review process has dragged on unnecessarily and are urging the commission to move forward with a project they believe would benefit the street.

“Is it normal for zoning to go this far?” asked Lane Street neighbor Lili Mason during the public comment period at the Dec. 10 meet-



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN  
John and Diane Degnan plan to convert the warehouse in the background into their primary residence, while leaving the four-unit building in the foreground available for long-term rentals.

ing. “This is all ridiculous as far as I’m concerned.”

Mason’s frustrations were echoed by other testifiers, who voiced unified support for the Degnans’ project and praised the couple’s character: “[They’ve] changed the neighborhood for the better,” said Ed Raftery.

“Don’t penalize people who are trying to make improvements,” said Tamara Potter, another Lane Street resident, who recalled overpowering shellac fumes drifting through the neighborhood when the warehouse was used to store pleasure boats.

According to Land Use Office records, the structure has previously housed an auto body repair shop, an aquarium store, a mail-order book business, sign production and a skin care mail-order operation, among other uses.

“A commercial building on this street just doesn’t fit,” Potter emphasized, alluding to the fact that the conversion of the warehouse to a residence would essentially

designed for a particular project can have unintended effects elsewhere in town: “One of the things that [residents] need to understand is that a regulation is written not for a specific piece of property but for a complete zone. And it’s written not for any particular person, but it’s written for the future as well.”

Ziska offered a similar warning: “Once regulations are changed, things happen. Things happen that nobody can expect.”

He expressed doubts about several aspects of the applicant’s proposal, though indicated general support for the concept and suggested there might be a simpler and safer way forward.

Klein said the Degnans’ goal is to improve the property “utilizing existing site resources” while bringing the entire parcel into zoning compliance.

Ziska noted that the four-unit building at the front of the lot was never formally approved by a zoning officer — an issue that will need to be resolved if the units are to be used as affordable rentals.

Chalder and several commissioners recommended that the applicant work with Kent Affordable Housing in coming up with a plan for the units, which Klein said would be priced between \$950 and \$1,800.

Klein, Chalder and Ziska ultimately agreed to meet later in the month to come up with a path forward agreeable to both the Degnans and the town. The hearing was left open, and will continue at P&Z’s next regular meeting on Jan. 8.

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HONEY HILL

Continued from Page A1

leave what she described as an extraordinary legacy. She expressed gratitude to him for making this decision.

“I’m a conservationist at heart,” McEver said, talking about his love of the environment since childhood.

He said his initial motivation for seeking to develop the property was to help address the housing shortage in North Canaan, but construction costs were far lower when the idea first arose. In today’s market, he said, selling the lots would be difficult, making the shift away from development largely an economic decision.

McEver spoke of how beautiful the property is, with its hundreds of trees, and how he’s worked to remove invasives there. He said he is pleased to be working with the land trust on the project.

The land sits off Honey Hill Road and the conservancy plans to purchase approximately 245 acres, which borders over a mile of the Housatonic River and a portion of the Blackberry River.

The property offers an extensive core forest, high biodiversity and intact wildlife habitat, which Rawson said “ranks it among the most ecologically valuable and climate-resilient landscape in the region. I’m delighted. It’s one of the most important conservation pieces in Northwest Connecticut in the organization’s history. We’re so pleased to partner with Bruce for the benefit of the community for generations to come.”

The conservancy envisions creating miles of hiking trails on the land, some of which could be handicap accessible. Public access to the river has yet to be determined.

Rawson said as part of the broader vision, the conservancy is exploring the possibility of installing a pedestrian footbridge over the river, which would result in the potential linking of lands on both sides, “strengthening regional trail networks and enhancing connectivity between the communities of North Canaan and Salisbury.”

Tim Abbott, executive director of the Housatonic Valley Association, said the cost to acquire the property

is \$2.25 million.

Abbott has been deeply involved in the project. At the time the subdivision application was first heard in October 2023, he was chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission and conservation director of HVA. He was vocal about his opposition to the plan and HVA became an intervenor in the proceedings.

Always recusing himself during discussions of the subdivision, in November 2024, he resigned from the commission following pressure from proponents of the plan who were also advocating for a text amendment to the regulations regarding road lengths on dead-end streets and number of lots allowed on such streets. When the commission did not act on the text amendment request, the applicant withdrew the application and submitted a new one containing 33 lots, but later withdrew and went back to the original 20 lots after the amendment was approved.

Abbott echoed Rawson’s words of delight with the outcome. “All along, HVA wanted a real conservation project,” he said, adding a network of conservation organizations really “kept their eye on the ball. We’re very happy; it’s a huge win for everyone.”

Abbott noted the four conditions imposed on the application’s approval never progressed. These included a deed restriction protecting a 300-foot buffer extending inward from the edge of the river, a revegetation and erosion-control plan along 20 feet of the river, an endangered species survey and an archeological survey.

“The conservation of the McEver lands in North Canaan represents a rare opportunity to safeguard a landscape of exceptional importance while creating a lasting public benefit—protecting land, water, wildlife habitat and recreational access for generations to come,” said Rawson.

Founded in 1965, the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy is the state’s largest land trust, protecting 14,200 acres in Litchfield and northern Fairfield counties.

sun a road gets,” Barger said. Narrow roads with heavy tree canopy tend to retain ice longer, requiring more salt, while more open roads that receive sunlight thaw faster and require less treatment.

Many towns use sand–salt mixtures on back roads to improve traction, while applying straight salt in village centers.

Local geography also shapes winter maintenance. Even modest elevation differences can affect temperatures enough to determine where ice forms first. Norfolk, at roughly 1,200 feet, sits 400 to 500 feet higher than river-valley towns like North Canaan and often ices up sooner and holds snow longer.

With large areas to cover, Northwest Corner towns often require hours to complete plowing and salting routes. Sharon, for example, maintains 83 miles of roads divided into seven plow routes, each taking about four hours during storms.

For the current fiscal year, Salisbury budgeted \$172,000 for salt and sand, Sharon \$188,000, Kent \$140,000, Cornwall \$61,000 and Falls Village \$42,000. North Canaan budgeted \$46,000 for sand and salt, down from the previous two years.

AMBULANCE

Continued from Page A1

Tortorella said every Connecticut municipality is required to have an advanced life support provider. For the past 28 years, Sharon Hospital has fulfilled that requirement by signing an annual hospital-sponsored agreement with NDP. In recent years, the agreement was signed by Dr. Ronald Santos, head of the hospital’s emergency department, under whose medical license NDP operates.

When NDP recently approached Santos to renew the agreement, he said he could not sign it, a decision that took the organization by surprise, Tortorella said.

Area towns operate volunteer ambulance squads that provide basic life support. NDP supplements those crews by delivering advanced medical care, administering medications and conducting inter-facility transports.

Sharon Hospital, which is part of Nuvance Health, merged earlier this year with Northwell Health.

Downs and Tortorella said they understand that the hospital system plans to replace NDP with its own paramedic service.

Under the proposed arrangement, a single paramedic would cover the Sharon Hospital catchment area, starting each shift in New Milford before traveling to Sharon. If needed, the paramedic would be assisted by a paid EMT provided by Nuvance.

Tortorella sharply criticized the model. “It’s a system designed to fail,” he said. “This is a huge issue.”

Downs echoed those concerns, noting that the paramedic’s 12-hour shift would include significant travel time between locations. “I’m very concerned about the health and well-being of residents in the Northwest Corner,” she said. “We don’t want any reduction in services for patients in the region. I can’t understand the rationale of taking services away. Northwell wants to maintain a model of corporate health care, but they can’t put a face to the people and culture we’ve established here. We’re talking life and death.”

Downs emphasized that the decision does not involve layoffs at NDP, which was recently acquired by Empress.

She said there is ample demand for paramedic services in New York state and that employees’ jobs are secure. The concern, she said, is for the safety of families, friends and neighbors in Northwest Connecticut.

In an interview, Sharon Hospital President and CEO Christina McCulloch and Andrea Rynn, assistant vice president for community, government and public relations at Northwell Health, addressed the decision to discontinue the hospital-sponsored agreement with NDP.

“Recently, concerns were brought to our attention about compliance and [a lack of] communications,” they said. “This information left us unsettled and unable to be a sponsoring hospital at this time.”

They acknowledged that the timing of the transition was far from ideal. “Despite the tight timing, we are actively developing a coverage plan in concert with local first responders and area leaders. This is a process that is just beginning and we are confident it will strengthen over time.”

McCulloch and Rynn said the hospital and health system remain committed to maintaining service continuity and working with community partners to enhance emergency medical services across the region.

The pair have met with representatives of area ambulance squads and on Friday held a session with the region’s first selectmen.

Gordon Ridgway, first selectman of Cornwall, said people are feeling rushed by the move. They are concerned that services will be lessened, not enhanced. “This is the most important thing in town; picking up people in the middle of the night and providing immediate care. It has to be done well.”

Falls Village First Selectman David Barger said the meeting was productive and answered some questions, but left others unresolved.

Barger said he plans to host a meeting in January at the town’s emergency services center, inviting ambulance providers, first selectmen and hospital representatives to continue the discussion.

DONKEYS

Continued from Page A1

The 55-acre spiritual retreat and conference center offers space for rest, reflection and prayer.

For Trinity’s staff, volunteers and the thousands who pass through the retreat center each year, these rescued donkeys have become far more than barn residents guarding the center’s flock of 32 chickens from predators.

They are companions, teachers and symbols of resilience. And at Christmas-time, they serve as a living reminder of the season’s most enduring themes: humility, hope and the beauty of second chances.

“The donkeys have an incredible intuition,” said Jason Coppola, director of the retreat center. “They can feel a person’s energy and when they sense people are in need, they tend to gravitate towards them.”

The donkeys, which today live peacefully in West Cornwall, did not begin their lives in such calm surroundings. Their histories, while varied, share a somber thread: all were rescued from kill pens, the last stop for animals before being shipped for slaughter overseas. Donkeys, especially, are at risk because their hides are used to produce a gelatin-based traditional medicine.

Eight years ago, Trinity’s leadership learned that a group of donkeys had been saved from these conditions

and were in immediate need of placement. What began as a simple sheltering effort quickly grew into something deeper.

“They arrived frightened, confused and unsure of people,” Joseph Rose, the center’s former co-director who rescued the donkeys, said in an interview conducted shortly after their arrival.

“They had good reason. But one of the most beautiful things has been watching them learn to trust again.”

Some donkeys were severely underweight, including two that were later found to be pregnant. Others arrived with untreated injuries or chronic hoof problems. With patience, veterinary care and daily interaction from staff and volunteers, the animals gradually emerged from their fear.

As the donkeys healed, their presence began to shape the experience of the people who come to the retreat center seeking rest and reflection.

“A lot of our retreatants are generally here to help process through things and try new things,” said Laura Alexander, the retreat center’s facilities and farm manager who has tended to the donkeys since shortly after their arrival.

Today, each donkey — Marge, Lisa, Maggie, Fern, Francine and Buster — has a distinct personality. The

gentle one that prefers long quiet walks, the inquisitive one that nudges visitors for scratches, the matriarch that keeps watch over the herd, the youngster that still bounds with playful energy.

On a recent weekday in early November, Keri LaBella of Worcester, Massachusetts, and about two dozen others on a women’s retreat visited the donkeys during early afternoon feeding time as part of the farm tour. As daylight dwindled, she made a solo return,

While stroking the ear of a donkey that had leaned in toward her, LaBella noted that in an era when holiday celebrations can feel rushed and commercialized, this quiet ritual, still, earthy and unadorned, offers something rare: presence. “It’s difficult not to feel something soften inside you.”

She said she feels connected to the donkeys “because they are a lot like me. You really can’t make them do something they don’t think is safe. They’re smart, curious and they love a challenge. And I just love the story of their rescue.”

Visitors of all ages, wheth-

er on retreat or neighbors in Cornwall, are invited to join daily donkey care sessions like brushing, walking, offering hay and fresh water and learning the animals’ rescue stories.

“One guest spent all day with the donkeys,” helping with feeding and brushing the animals’ coats, recalled Coppola, who lives on the property a stone’s throw from the barn.

Children visiting from the city, he explained, are so enamored by the experience that many of them return as volunteers.

“It’s wonderful to see the long-lasting impression they have interacting with the donkeys,” said Coppola of the visitors.

For children, meeting the donkeys is often a highlight of their stay.

For adults, the effect can be surprisingly emotional. Some visitors have shared that time with the donkeys helped them through grief, burnout or difficult transitions.

At Trinity, these moments are not separate from the spiritual experience — they are part of it.

ROADS

Continued from Page A1

ing cost,” Bunce said. “When these trees die on the roadside, we have to deal with them.”

Bunce, who owns and operates an excavation business, said equipment exposed to straight salt wears out significantly faster than machines spreading sand-and-salt mixtures, driving up maintenance and replacement costs for towns.

When it comes to storms, North Canaan’s road crew handles them on a case-by-case basis, sometimes pre-treating roads ahead of storms and other times plowing several times before applying material. Certain roads pose particular challenges because of steep grades, making traction a key concern.

Falls Village First Selectman Dave Barger said his town follows a similarly adaptive approach, with the Department of Public Works applying sand and salt based on real-time conditions rather than a fixed formula. Road design and the surrounding landscape, he said, play a significant role.

“There are a lot of factors that play into how much product you put down — whether it keeps snowing, whether temperatures go up or down, and how much


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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle



‘Swallow Tail Kite’ by Rex Brasher

PHOTO PROVIDED

MUSIC: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

## Between feathers and strings: Christopher Hoffman’s solo cello journey through the world of Rex Brasher

When cellist, composer and filmmaker Christopher Hoffman moved into the former home of Rex Brasher in Amenia in August 2023, he didn’t arrive with a plan to make an album about the painter and ornithologist who once lived there. But once he began to learn about the home’s former inhabitant — about his attention to land, to birds, to work done slowly and with devotion — he started to compose. “Rex,” Hoffman’s solo cello album (releases Jan. 16, 2026) is not a portrait of Brasher so much as an echo of a person, a place and a way of seeing the world.

Brasher (pronounced “brazier”) was born in Brooklyn in 1869, the son of a stockbroker whose passion for birds left a lifelong mark. After his father’s death, Brasher vowed to paint every bird in North America, and to do it from life. He eventually created more than 1,200 works, depicting birds with a precision and intimacy that bordered on obsession. Working largely outside the art world, Brasher lived on 116 wooded acres he called Chickadee Valley, where he painted, wrote and published his monumental 12-volume “Birds and Trees of North America.”

Founded in 2008 to preserve Brasher’s legacy and promote bird and habitat conservation through art, the Rex Brasher Association became an early point of connection for Hoffman, who composed and performed an original piece at the 2023 Rex Brasher Symposium just months



PHOTO BY KENNETH JIMENEZ

**Cellist Christopher Hoffman wrote and recorded his 13-track, solo record ‘Rex’ while living in the former home of Rex Brasher in Amenia, the self-taught painter who created 1,200+ watercolors of North American birds.**

after moving into Brasher’s former home. After many years in Brooklyn, Hoffman and his family had been looking for a change when they were shown the 116-acre property by association board member and architect Matthew Schnepf, who shared the history of the land and of Brasher himself.

“We’re the first renters outside of Rex’s family,” Hoffman said, explaining that the house is rented as part of an agreement to maintain the estate. Upon moving in, Hoffman dug deeper, purchasing the two-volume set of “Birds and Trees of North America” and immersing himself in Brasher’s world. Around

the same time, and at the encouragement of composer, saxophonist and flutist Henry Threadgill, Hoffman debuted his first solo project at Tomeka Reid’s Chicago Jazz String Summit, planting the seed for the 13-track album that he then composed, recorded, mixed and mastered in Brasher’s home. The RBA (Rex Brasher Association) was equally supportive of the finished work, granting Hoffman permission to use Brasher’s artwork for the album, including the swallow-tailed kite painting that appears on the vinyl packaging. “You open up the record and the whole painting is right there,” said Hoff-

man.

Though birds are central to the record’s spirit, Hoffman deliberately avoided literal birdsongs. Instead, the cello is layered into dense soundscapes that suggest rather than illustrate. “There are tracks with tons of layered stuff where I guess you could hear bird sounds if you wanted to,” he said. Brasher’s refusal to accept approximation — destroying paintings when feathers didn’t look right — mirrored Hoffman’s own instincts as a musician. Tracks were built, discarded, rebuilt. Nothing stayed unless it felt true.

For Hoffman, “Rex” became a kind of reckoning. Though Hoffman has begun noticing birds with new intensity, using the Merlin bird app to identify some 30 species on the grounds, he says

*Continued on next page*



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

**Soft opening of the Zen Den for friends and family.**

**BUSINESS:  
JENNIFER ALMQUIST**

## Zen Den Center opens in Winsted

A holistic healing center, the Zen Den, has opened at 58 Main St. in Winsted. Described as a revolutionary clinical wellness center, it offers classes and individual, couples, and family therapy focused on trauma and wellness. Its intention is to bring high-end holistic healing practices to the masses. As the founders say, “Make it reasonable, doable, and achievable.”

The space is warm, soothing, sunny and inviting. At a soft opening for family and friends on Dec. 5, the mood was mellow and joyous. Each arrival was greeted with a hug as children twirled around the room. Soft coral walls, small Buddhas, sage for burning, a central gong, green plants, pastel sound bells and soft music create a sense of

calm. The center even has a healing dog! Founders Britt Rovi, an LPC, and Thuan Nguyen are old friends who most recently worked together at Mountainside Treatment Center in Canaan. They bring extensive experience as therapeutic healers and as survivors of their own journeys from adversity to wellness.

“We believe healing happens in community — where you can feel connected, seen and loved,” they said. “So please help us spread the word about this cool, soulful, and uplifting new space — a hip, spiritual hangout for those who crave purpose, meaning and connection.”

The new clinical wellness membership center combines holistic treatments such as yoga, reiki,

*Continued on next page*



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# COMPASS

## ...GB spots *Continued from previous page*

the room with quirky paintings, a hemlock sapling adorned with string lights, rat-themed T-shirts and the taxi-dermized head of an antelope wearing an evergreen garland as a necklace. Memorabilia is all around – Pendergist has a background in selling antique clothes, including at a former brick and mortar on Railroad Street.

Amid the mayhem, there is a carefully-wrought logic to the space. Guests freely move from seats at the pounded steel bar to a comfortable lounge, where games and wine literature await, or simply peruse the walls as one might in a gallery. A massive communal table dominating the center of the room is highly modular in its function, hosting large parties of wine drinkers or pumpkin carving contests alike. Several window tables and high-tops offer couples seeking a quieter drink the opportunity to do so with some privacy.

Like everything else, the menu is eclectic and changeable. A core

selection of Pendergist’s favorite bottles remain while others rotate, though no bottle is safe from being swapped out. In addition to the main lineup, special bottles are also on offer until they run out. On a recent Thursday, a chilled and unchilled red, both Austrian, graced the specials menu, joined by another red, this one Georgian, as well as a Portuguese orange and a white gleaned from the faraway lands of Maine.

A short, rotating list of craft beers, alongside cheaper standards (\$4-\$5), are also available, as well as non-alcoholic options such as Mexican coke and espresso. Simple but enticing bar snacks — including olives, a goat cheese plate and “Spanish skewers” of anchovy, olives and pepper — are also available for those who like a snack with their Syrah.

For those who want to bring the experience home, small souvenirs and knickknacks, including Christmas cards, are available for sale at the bar. A Syrah, and snack and a sticker it is, then.



The bright interior of ilse is simple and elegant.



ilse’s sleek coffee packaging and merch lineup is eye-catching beneath the register.



Paintings and palm fronds are just two of many types of idiosyncratic decor that fills the room at Half Rats.



The comfortable lounge area, where games and wine-related literature are available for those who have exhausted their conversation quotas.



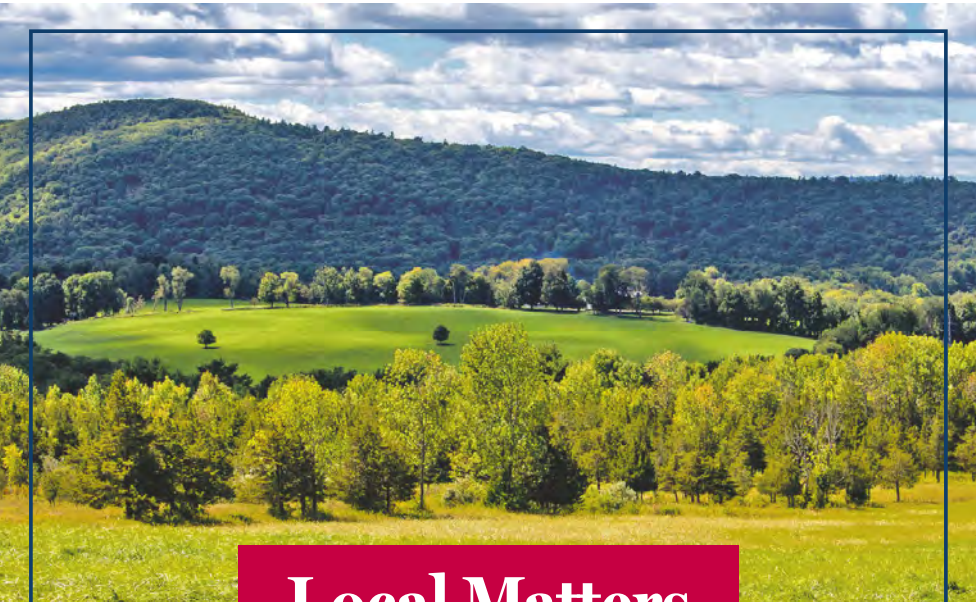
The dining room at Belsen House & Mews in Litchfield.

## Afternoon tea at Belden

Since its debut on Dec. 1, afternoon tea is served Sunday through Thursday at Belsen House & Mews in Litchfield from 2 to 4 p.m. The beautiful new hotel — the latest delight from Dutchfield, the team that owns Troutbeck in Amenia — invites both guests and visitors to indulge in a relaxing tea experience in a warm and welcoming setting. The tea selection features a variety of premium blends from local tea purveyor In Pursuit of Tea, including Wood Dragon Oolong, Darjeeling,

Lapsang Souchong and White Peony. Known for sourcing the finest single origin leaves directly from farmers, In Pursuit of Tea ensures the highest quality and purity in every cup. The tea service is complemented by a generous assortment of savory and sweet treats, including traditional tea sandwiches (such as cucumber, boiled egg, and curried chicken) and freshly baked scones served with clotted cream and jam. For reservations, visit: beldenhouse.com

— Natalia Zukerman



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COMPASS

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

DECEMBER 27

New Year’s Recital:

Élisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre

Saint James Place, 352 Main St., Great Barrington, Mass. and Trinity Church, Lakeville, Conn.

A New Year’s solo program featuring works by Jacquet de La Guerre, performed by Edson Scheid and Christine Gevert. Sat., Dec. 27, 4 p.m., Saint James Place, 352 Main Street Great Barrington; Sun., Dec. 28, 4 p.m., Trinity Church, Lakeville. Tickets \$15–\$80 at crescendomusic.org.

DECEMBER 30

Hidden Treasures  
Storytelling Tour  
Featuring our  
Revolutionary Founders

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

On Tuesday, Dec. 30, 5 to 6:30 p.m., join Scoville Library staff and friends for some holiday-magic time travel! Hear thrilling tales from our Revolutionary founders, explore the library’s towers, climb secret staircases, and discover hidden treasure chambers. All ages welcome. Registration is required at scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/13599821.

DECEMBER 31

NEW YEAR RETREAT  
AT TROUTBECK -  
Sophisticated Shifts:  
Embrace and Manifest  
2026

Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Rd., Amenia, N.Y.

Dec. 31 to Jan. 1

As the year draws to a close, step into a sanctuary of renewal and reflection with Troutbeck. The two-day experience begins with an elegant dinner on New Year’s Eve following by a mesmerizing fire ceremony that encourages participants to release the past through the gentle art of journaling. On January 1, the journey continues with a morning practice blending mindfulness, movement, and intention, beginning with a serene meditation and flowing into heartfelt intention-setting and vision-crafting for a vibrant 2026. The retreat concludes with each guest choosing either a refreshing walk or a revitalizing cold plunge followed by an infra-red or traditional sauna. More info at troutbeck.com

ONGOING

“This Is What Art Is”

Exhibit: Appreciating  
the Joy and Dedication  
of Creating Art

The Gallery of Dreams, 156 Gay St., Sharon, Conn.  
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.

Mindfulness Series with  
Miranda Lee

The Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. norfolklibrary.org

Learn how to use Mindfulness tools in your daily life as Miranda Lee holds her weekly classes on Saturdays from 9:15 to 10 a.m. through the winter. Sponsored by the Library, this course is offered via Zoom. Anyone can join at any time. Please visit the Norfolk Library website www.norfolklibrary.org to register for the Zoom link or call front desk circulation 860-542-5075 ext. 2.

6th Annual Old  
Fashioned Christmas  
Exhibit

The Great Barrington Historical Society 817 South Main St., Great Barrington, Mass.

This six room exhibit takes the visitor on a tour of the history of Christmas beginning with the traditions of Europe and Colonial America. The evolution of Saint Nicholas and the important role the American Civil War played in the development of the holiday will also be highlighted.

Next, the visitor travels through time to understand how Christmas changed in the Victorian age, the roaring 20’s, the depression 30’s, the war years 40’s and the happy days 50’s. The tour concludes in the modern era exhibit where a large train and Christmas village is featured. A gift area is also available featuring unique gift ideas. Through Jan. 4. Special group tours at different times can be arranged by emailing info@gbhistory.org for information. Admission is free.

Wendell Minor: American  
Stories

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org  
Nov. 22 (through Jan. 11)

The Cornwall Library presents an exhibition of book jackets, original watercolors, and drawings by award-winning illustrator Wendell Minor, curated by Stephanie Plunkett of the Norman Rockwell Museum. The show highlights Minor’s work with authors including David McCullough, Jean Craighead George, Pat Conroy, and Larry McMurtry, along with art from his children’s books.

Wish You Were Here  
Exhibition at The  
Hotchkiss School’s  
Tremaine Art Gallery

Tremaine Art Gallery, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn.  
Nov. 15 through Jan. 25

A collaborative exhibition featuring works by Fern Apfel and Colleen McGuire, Wish You Were Here explores themes of place, memory, light, and loss through still life and landscape painting. Curated by Joan Baldwin.

Art is Freedom Exhibit

Gallery of Dreams, 156 Gay St., Sharon, Conn.  
Opening day Fri. Nov. 7 (through Sun. Dec. 28)

Hours Friday to Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

An exhibition of 18 local artists featuring painting, photography, sculpture, ceramics and artisan crafts.

Art Show

Birdie and Hall, 12 Cornwall Road, Warren, Conn.  
Oil and canvas painter Steven Miller’s new exhibit opens at Birdie and Hall runs through Jan. 10.

EBB & FLOW

Mad Rose Gallery, 5916 N Elm Ave., Millerton, N.Y.  
Featured Glass Artists: Eric Hilton, Lisa Sacco, Natalie Tyler, Steven Weinberg

Exhibitions Run: Sept. 20 to Dec. 31

Last week’s WotW				
B	U	L	L	Y
G	L	A	S	S
S	L	E	E	P
S	L	I	C	E
S	L	I	D	E

Word of the Week

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


1. A seat for one; recliner
2. Talk, say something
3. Beauty parlor
4. Nordic warmer, hot room
5. Jolly gift-giver

Focus on Sharon:  
Documenting Through  
Photography

Sharon Historical Society & Museum, 18 Main St, Sharon, Conn. sharonhist.org

There is a new photo exhibition highlighting Sharon’s history from the 1890s to today at the Sharon Historical Society & Museum. Features rare and newly digitized images. Exhibit runs through December 31.

Monthly Book Sale

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

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

First Saturday of every month

New and used books, cds, dvds, coffee table books, antique books, cookbooks, audiobooks, fiction, history and more are all for sale. The book sale happens on the first Saturday of every month. The proceeds of the sale benefit the library.

LGBTQIA+ Game Night

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

The David M. Hunt Library will partner with Out in the Corner to host a LGBTQIA+ game night. Bring your own game, play one of the games provided, or just come to hang out. This program will be held monthly on

the first Thursday of the month. Out in the Corner is an LGBTQIA+ coalition based in Litchfield County with a mission to provide a safe and inclusive space for the LGBTQIA+ community.

Lunch and Learn at  
Hotchkiss Library of  
Sharon

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

Join us on the second and fourth Fridays of every month for a nutritious lunch and a variety of activities including movies, chair yoga, Qigong, crafts, Scrabble, cards, and more! The program runs through September 2025, with activities changing each session. Pre-registration required; limited to 12 participants per session.

For more info, call (860) 364-5041 or visit hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org.

Old School: Visions of  
Local History and  
Personal Pasts

Sharon Historical Society and Museum, 18 Main St., Sharon, Conn.

Visit the Sharon Historical Society and Museum to see an exhibition by The Beard Collective (Theo Coulombe & Katro Storm), which explores how personal and local histories blend into a creative dialogue.

**Holley Knife Exhibit**  
Academy Building, 24 Main St. Salisbury, Conn.  
The Holley Manufacturing Company, located on Holley Street in Lakeville, was one of the early producers of pocketknives in the country at a time when everyone needed and carried one. A display featuring the craftsmanship of the company, hosted the Salisbury Association’s Historical Society, is now on view.

Twelve Moons Coffee  
House

The Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn.

Twelve Moons Coffee House builds community through live music, poetry readings and storytelling on the 1st Saturday of each month. Doors open at 6 p.m. with open mic performances beginning at 6:30 p.m. Featured Professional Artists play from 8 to 9 p.m. Guests are welcome to bring their own dinner and beverage or enjoy the venue’s light refreshments.

Address your calendar entry to editor@lakevillejournal.com by Friday at noon.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Light cavalry
5. Coconut palms
10. Rounded knob
14. Central Japan city
15. Sandwiches
16. Shape produced by a curve
17. Ancient region in modern-day Syria
18. French modernist painter
19. Grandmother
20. Mammary gland of cattle
22. Rocky peak
23. Secret plan
24. Songs to one’s lover
27. More (Spanish)
30. Father
31. Chinese principle underlying the universe
32. Ballplayer’s accessory
35. Together
37. A person’s brother or sister
38. Evil spirit
39. Monetary units
40. Partner to cheese
41. About Sun
42. Group of like-minded people
43. After B
44. Seaside room
45. Recipe measurement
46. Partly digested food
47. Flat-faced dog
48. People of southern Africa
49. Salts
52. Beard lichens
55. Sanders is one
56. Fencing sword
60. Ethnic group of Albania
61. Metric weight unit
63. Italian seaport
64. Longtime late night host
65. Extremely angry
66. Miami mascot
67. Mid-month day
68. Marked for omission
69. Body part

CLUES DOWN

1. Two-toed sloth
2. Fat from a pig’s abdomen
3. Romanian city
4. Specifies
5. Rounded, glaciated valley
6. Spoke
7. Collection of sacred books
8. Extravagantly theatrical
9. Very fast airplane
10. Forearm bones
11. Ancient kingdom

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25				26					
27	28	29		30				31			32	33	34	
35			36				37			38				
39						40				41				
42					43				44					
45				46				47			48			
			49				50			51				
52	53	54			55				56		57	58	59	
60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

12. Legitimate: \_\_ fide
13. Semitransparent gemstone
21. Counsels
23. Head honcho
25. Cool!
26. Touch lightly
27. Extract money via taxation
28. Dyes
29. Cloying sweetness
32. Sodas
33. Coastal village in Guam
34. Chemical ring
36. The bill in a restaurant
37. Car mechanics group
38. One-time presidential candidate Dole
40. Health care for the aged
41. Wise persons
43. Passage with access at one end
44. Make a wound
46. America’s spies
47. Roof of the mouth
49. Plants of the lily family

50. Pinkish-red color
51. Vaccine developer
52. Mottled citrus fruit
53. A place to store garden tools
54. Rare goose native to Hawaii
57. Popular Hollywood pig
58. Musician Clapton
59. A move exposing one to danger
61. Historic Spanish soldier
62. CNN’s founder

December 18 Solution

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

December 18 Solution

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



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Sports

Housatonic falls to Nonnenwaug 52-42 in varsity season opener

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE — Berkshire League basketball returned to Housatonic Valley Regional High School Tuesday, Dec. 16.

Nonnewaug High School's girls varsity team beat Housatonic 52-42 in the first game of the regular season.

The atmosphere was intense in Ed Tyburski Gym with frequent fouls, traps and steals on the court. Fans of both sides heightened the energy for the return of varsity basketball.

HVRHS started with a lead in the first quarter. The score balanced out by half-time and then Nonnewaug caught fire with 20 points in the third quarter. Despite a strong effort by HVRHS in the last quarter, the Chiefs held on to win.

Housatonic's Victoria Brooks scored a game-high 17 points and Olivia Brooks scored 14. Carmela Egan scored 8 points with 14 rebounds, 5 steals and 4 assists. Maddy Johnson had 10 rebounds, 4 steals, 2 assists and 2 points, and Aubrey Funk



scored 1 point.

Nonnewaug was led by Gemma Hedrei with 13 points. Chloe Whipple and Jayda Gladding each scored 11 points. Sarah Nichols scored 9, Bryce Gilbert scored 5, Gia Savarese scored 2 and Jazlyn Delprincipe scored 1.



Above, Maddy Johnson drives. Upper right, Hayden Bachman prepares for a free throw. Right, Carmela Egan shoots a layup.



HVRHS's Victoria Brooks navigates traffic on her way to the hoop. She scored a game-high 17 points against Nonnewaug Tuesday, Dec. 16.

PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Connecticut crowns six football state champions

By Riley Klein

In December's deep freeze, football players showed their grit in state playoff tournaments.

Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference named six state champions in football. The divisions are based on school size: Class LL included schools with enrollment greater than 786; Class L was 613 to 785; Class MM was 508 to 612; Class M was 405 to 507; Class SS was 337 to 404; and Class S was fewer than 336.

Eight teams qualified for each tournament and all championship games were played on Saturday, Dec. 13.

Class LL was won by Greenwich High School for the second straight year. Greenwich beat Southington High School 45-6 to win

the tournament. Jack Kelly rushed in three touchdowns for the Cardinals and caught a fourth.

Class L was won by New Canaan High School, which completed an undefeated season. New Canaan beat Cheshire High School 34-13 for the school's fourth-straight state title. In the regular season, New Canaan defeated Greenwich 14-7.

Class MM was won by Windsor High School, which defeated Bunnell High School 23-13. Windsor quarterback A.J. Robinson threw for 140 yards with a passing touchdown and two rushing touchdowns.

Class M was won in the final minute by Berlin High School 20-15 over Brookfield High School. The thriller came down to the wire. Brookfield went ahead with a

late touchdown. Then on the kickoff that followed, Berlin's Eli Rice ran it 80-yards to the house to take the lead with 33 seconds remaining and secure the state trophy.

Class SS was won by Daniel Hand High School, marking its 15th state title in school history. Hand defeated reigning champion Killingly High School 37-13. Killingly was previously on a 25-game win streak that stretched over two seasons.

Class S was won by Sheehan High School, defeating Northwest Catholic High School 21-7. Running back Joshua Durant ran for 215 yards and three touchdowns in the win for Sheehan, which was the first state title since 2019 for the school.

Details and photos from each championship game can be found at [ciac.fpsports.org](http://ciac.fpsports.org)



Berlin High School's football team rejoices after a last-minute win in the Class M championship game Saturday, Dec. 13.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CIAC / JADA MIRABELLE

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