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

Severe flu season puts pressure on hospitals, schools, care facilities

By Debra A. Aleksinas

A severe and fast-moving flu season is straining health care systems on both sides of the state line, with Connecticut and New York reporting “very high” levels of respiratory illness activity.

Hospitals, schools and clinics are seeing a surge in influenza cases — a trend now being felt acutely across the Northwest Corner.

“The statistics suggest it’s the worst flu season in 30 years,” said Dr. Mark Marshall, an internist at Sharon Hospital.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, respiratory illness activity is currently classified as “very high” in both Connecticut and New

York. Emergency department visits for influenza in Connecticut are very high and increasing, the agency reported, while COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity remain at low levels but are also trending upward.

Health officials say the holiday season created prime conditions for the virus to spread, as people gathered indoors in close quarters and traveled, increasing exposure and transmission.

Dr. Sarah Humphreys, chief medical officer at Community Health and Wellness Center in North Canaan, said influenza has dominated patient visits since the holidays.

See FLU, Page A10



Ed Sheehy and Tom Taylor of Copake, New York, and Karen and Wendy Erickson of Sheffield, Massachusetts, traveled to Salisbury on Saturday to voice their anger with the Trump administration.

Demonstrators in Salisbury call for justice, accountability

By Alec Linden

SALISBURY — Impassioned residents of the Northwest Corner and adjacent regions in Massachusetts and New York took to the Memorial Green Saturday morning, Jan. 10, to protest the recent killing of Minneapolis resident Renee Nicole Good at the hands of a federal immigration agent.

Good, a 37-year-old mother of three, was shot at close range by an officer with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, commonly known as ICE, on Wednesday, Jan. 7. She and her wife were participating in a protest opposing the agency’s presence in a Minneapolis neighborhood at the time of the shooting.

The incident sparked protests

and vigils nationwide, both in remembrance of Good and in opposition to what demonstrators described as a broader pattern of government overreach.

In Hartford on Thursday evening, Jan. 8, two vehicles that authorities believe were operated by ICE officers drove through a crowd

See PROTEST, Page A10



The Norfolk Pub, the town’s only restaurant and bar, will close at the end of the month, prompting concern among residents about the future of the Royal Arcanum building.

Norfolk Pub to close as uncertainty surrounds Royal Arcanum’s future

By Alec Linden

NORFOLK — The Norfolk Pub, the town’s only restaurant and bar, will close at the end of the month after 17 years in business, as uncertainty continues to surround the future of the Royal Arcanum, the hulking downtown building that housed the longtime institution.

On Wednesday, Jan. 7, the

restaurant posted a notice on its doorway advising patrons that only cash will be accepted as “we prepare to close at month’s end.” The news has renewed speculation about what’s next for the Royal Arcanum, a Norfolk landmark that sold Sept. 8, 2025, for \$1.4 million to American Folk & Heritage LLC, an entity associated with the prominent New York fashion brand Bode.

The building is considered a

See NORFOLK PUB, Page A10

Northern Dutchess Paramedics remains in service in Connecticut

By Ruth Epstein

FALLS VILLAGE — Paramedic coverage in the Northwest Corner is continuing despite concerns raised last month after Sharon Hospital announced it would not renew its long-standing sponsorship agreement with Northern Dutchess Paramedics.

Northern Dutchess Paramedics (NDP), which has provided advanced life support services in the region for decades, is still responding to calls and will now operate alongside a hospital-based paramedic service being developed by Sharon Hospital, officials said at a public meeting Monday, Jan. 5, at the Falls Village Emergency Services Center.

“We haven’t missed a beat; we’re still taking calls,” said Andrea Downs, president of the Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department and an employee of NDP, speaking



Area ambulance squad members, along with several first selectmen, attend a Jan. 5 meeting on emergency service providers hosted by Nuvance/Northwell.

at the meeting, which was attended by ambulance squad members, first selectmen and representatives of Sharon Hospital.

Sharon Hospital announced Dec. 11 that it would not renew its annual agreement with NDP, ending a 28-year relationship and initially stating that service would

cease Jan. 1. Hospital President and CEO Christina McCulloch said the decision was based on compliance concerns tied to the hospital’s role as sponsor.

“Being a sponsor is a big deal,” McCulloch said. “Our concerns

See NDP, Page A10



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Online This Week

Doctors partner with towns for healthy living

Medical experts at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital offered to work with towns to develop Community Health Improvement Plans.

More at lakevillejournal.com

POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

There were no new reports logged for the Region One towns prior to the deadline for this issue of The Lakeville Journal.

Adult education at HVRHS

FALLS VILLAGE — Community members are invited to register for free English as a Second Language (ESL) and General Educational Development (GED) preparation classes through the EdAdvance adult education program.

In-person new-student registration will take place Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 6 p.m., with classes beginning Monday, Jan. 26, at 6 p.m., at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Room 136, 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village.

Salisbury Central School kindergarten registration opens in February

SALISBURY — Salisbury Central School kindergarten pre-registration for the 2026-27 school year is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 23, and Tuesday, Feb. 24.

In response to new state legislation, Public Act 23-208, Section 1, children must turn 5 before Sept. 1 to be eligible to enroll in kindergarten. Children that turn 5 between Sept. 1 to Dec. 31 will be eligible to enroll in the early-kindergarten program.

Call Pat in the school office at 860-435-9871 to schedule an appointment.

Art show raising funds for new church furnace

An art show to raise money for a much-needed new furnace for the North Canaan Congregational Church will be held from Jan. 13 to 26 at the Five Points Gallery, 15 Water St. in Torrington. The show features 200 paintings by Armand O. DeGrandis, who spent his retirement painting people, landscapes and still lifes. Organizers said they hope people will come and make some purchases ‘to keep our church open and warm for years to come.’ The works were donated by Herman Parent.



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN



PHOTO BY JILL DREW

Swearing in Sharon’s town clerk

After 36 years in the office, former Town Clerk Linda Amerighi, right, swore in her successor Bianca DelTufo during a brief ceremony on Monday, Jan. 5. A graduate of Sharon Center School and Housatonic Valley Regional High School, DelTufo assumes the role after a varied career in insurance, law offices and the fashion industry, among other positions.

Jumpfest’s Human Dogsled Race open for registration

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA) is looking for a few good men and women to participate in the annual Human Dogsled Race Friday evening, Feb. 6.

Teams of six (five pulling and one riding) using sleds of their own design, compete for trophies and cash prizes in men’s, women’s and mixed categories as well as a people’s choice award for best costumes/sled.

Prospective teams can email Brian at info@jumpfest.org to get rules, the link to the online registration site and other info.

Northeast Building construction begins 11 years after fire

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Northeast Building & Home broke ground on its new retail store on Route 4 Monday, Jan. 12.

The ceremony took place on the 11th anniversary of a fire that destroyed the old lumberyard facility at the same location in Cornwall Bridge. Representatives of the construction supply company were joined by community members, customers and government officials.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, who volunteers at

Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department, recalled the devastating blaze in 2015 and said the glow of the flames was visible from his home about five miles away.

“Twenty fire departments responded,” Ridgway said, on what was described as an icy January night. “It’s a wonderful day to see a phoenix rise from the ashes.”

Rick Kearns, branch director at Northeast, described the last 11 years as “a long, hard road” of overcoming obstacles, primarily related to the insurance company. He said the fire was so intense that the cause could not be determined, but it was likely electrical.

“I’m very fortunate that we had a group of loyal customers that were willing to come back and support us because without them, none of this would have ever happened.”

Connecticut Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz praised the determination of the compa-



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

At the groundbreaking ceremony Jan. 12, representatives of Northeast Building & Home were joined by Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, middle left, and Cornwall First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, far right.

ny to rebuild. “Your business just epitomizes tenacity and resilience in the face of challenge.”

She spoke of regional real estate activity, both new construction and renovation work, that has spiked in the Northwest Corner following the pandemic. “Your business is critical to that continued rebuilding,” she said. “This whole part of the state relies on you.”

Kearns said construction of the 17,000-square-foot facility located at 44 Kent Road South (Route 4) is likely to take about a year with the grand opening expected in late 2026 or early 2027.

The business, which has been operating out of the hardware store up the road at 26 Kent Road S., will remain open during construction. Northeast also has a location in Bridgeport.

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Here’s what your neighbors are saying about why they value The Lakeville Journal

“At its core, *The Lakeville Journal* is a public good that benefits everyone. It keeps people connected, helps neighbors look out for one another, and highlights local solutions.”

LIBBY PANZER, SALISBURY

“I look forward to Thursdays and the new edition of *The Lakeville Journal* every week! I enjoy reading about our towns, what’s happening at our local schools, real estate transactions and especially the opinion pages. The police blotter is also informative. I look forward to solving the word of the week puzzle and try my hand at the crossword. I am both entertained and informed each week. The Lakeville Journal is a treasure for me and our community.”

REGINA HURLBURT, CORNWALL

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PETER HALLE, FALLS VILLAGE

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Our Towns

DEEP visits Mudge Pond to discuss hydrilla prevention

By Alec Linden

SHARON — The Board of Selectmen met Thursday, Jan. 8, with representatives of the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to discuss the threat posed by the invasive aquatic plant hydrilla to Mudge Pond, where the species has not yet been detected.

Joining the selectmen for the hourlong Zoom meeting were DEEP fisheries director Peter Aarrestad; boating division director Peter Francis; environmental analyst Wendy Flynn; boat launch supervisor Yolanda Cooley; and fisheries biologist Matthew Goclawski. The discussion focused on what steps the town can take — and what assistance the state can provide — to keep the pond hydrilla-free.

The central message from DEEP, according to First Selectman Casey Flanagan, was that the town would need to take the lead on any prevention or remediation efforts.

“It’s going to be on us to deal with it if and when it gets in there,” Flanagan said following the meeting.

DEEP officials indicated that while the agency can provide technical expertise and guidance, it cannot fully fund or lead remediation efforts once the plant becomes established in a new water body.

Native to Asia, hydrilla is a large, fast-growing and highly aggressive aquatic plant that was first discov-



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Local advocates regard the state-run boat launch at Mudge Pond as a hydrilla risk.

ered in the Connecticut River in 2016. Left unmanaged, it can form monocultures that crowd out native plants and disrupt aquatic ecosystems, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The tenacious weed was discovered in East Twin Lake in 2023, triggering an expensive, years-long multi-organization containment effort that began showing promising results in 2025.

According to 2024 data collected by environmental consultant Northeast Aquatic Research, Mudge Pond remains hydrilla free, though the group found sizeable populations of five other invasive plants: fanwort, Eurasian milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, brittle naiad and water chestnut.

Selectman Lynn Kearcher, who has been involved in lake advocacy for decades, told DEEP officials that Northeast Aquatic Research is currently compiling an updated report using more recent data.

Much of the meeting focused on education as a primary defense against the spread of invasive aquatic plants. DEEP maintains seasonal education staff who visit boat launches statewide to instruct recreational users in the “clean, drain and dry” protocol designed to prevent the transport of plant fragments between water bodies.

Francis, director of the boating division, said education staff visited the Mudge Pond launch 10 times during the 2025 summer season.

Still, Kearcher voiced concern about what she saw as a largely unmonitored pathway for the plant to exploit. “We have a state launch to deal with and we cannot control who comes and goes,” she said.

Wendy Flynn highlighted an initiative called the Invasive Investigator Program where volunteers are trained by DEEP experts in invasive species identification and boat cleaning practice before monitoring launch sites and

educating boaters.

Kearcher expressed interest in this program as a means to increase vigilance at the launch, which she sees as crucial in keeping hydrilla out of the lake.

Aarrestad, the fisheries department director, said that lake communities with the most “cutting edge” invasive species management programs are using herbicides prophylactically – initiating herbicide applications before hydrilla is even located so that if the plant is found, the lengthy permitting process that accompanies any aquatic herbicide use has already been completed. This enables a community to mount a “rapid response,” Aarrestad said.

Herbicides continue to play a large role in Twin Lakes’ management of the waterweed, though Kearcher noted that residents around the nearby and similarly sized Lake Wononscopomuc in Lakeville had resisted herbicide use, which could indicate how herbicides may be received by the Sharon public.

The Selectmen and DEEP agreed to remain in touch about the issue, and to potentially work together on developing signage at the launch to inform boaters about the hydrilla threat.

“The onus is going to be on us,” reflected Flanagan after the meeting.

“I just think there has to be much more aggressive action,” opined Kearcher.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Bryan Monge Orellana and Janneth Maribel Panjon Gualpa, of Amenia, are the parents of Ethan Nicolas Monge Panjon, Sharon Hospital’s first baby of 2026.

First babies of 2026

SHARON — Sharon Hospital welcomed its first births of the year on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

At 12:53 a.m., Ethan Nicolas Monge Panjon was born to Janneth Maribel Panjon Gualpa and Bryan Monge Orellana of Amenia. He weighed 5 pounds, 10 ounces and measured 20.25 inches long.

Later that morning, twins were born to Belinde and Erick Garcia of New Milford. Gabriella Garcia arrived at 8:17 a.m., weighing 5 pounds, 14 ounces and measuring 19 inches.

One minute later, at 8:18 a.m., Isabella Garcia was born weighing 5 pounds, 8 ounces and measuring 18.5 inches.



Belinde and Erick Garcia, of New Milford, are the parents of twins Gabriella and Isabella, who were the second and third babies born in Sharon Hospital in 2026. Their older siblings, Matthew, 6, and Melanie, 3, are pictured.

Salisbury selectmen begin new year with substantial agenda

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Board of Selectmen welcomed the town’s new resident trooper, Ryan Cooper, at the regular selectmen’s meeting Monday, Jan. 6.

Cooper briefly outlined his career, saying he has worked out of Troop B in North Canaan for the past five years, primarily covering North Canaan and Salisbury, often on the night shift.

Selectman Kitty Kiefer raised concerns about speeding, an issue she said is particularly important to her.

“I like to get speeders,” Cooper responded.

First Selectman Curtis Rand then reviewed a range of upcoming town issues and projects.

He said the revaluation is complete and the results will be ready by the end of the month.

Rand said many property owners will see a sharp rise in their assessments, as much as 30%.

“Remember, the last reval was before COVID.”

He said that an increased assessment does not automatically mean an increase in property taxes. “We don’t increase budgets because there is more value” to the town’s Grand List.

Rand said budget season is now underway, with de-

partment heads beginning to submit spending requests.

He also outlined the town’s plans to address the condition of approximately 12 small bridges — defined as under 20 feet in length — and to explore ways to fund maintenance without costs reaching as much as \$500,000 per bridge.

Rand noted that the Amesville Bridge, spanning the Housatonic River between Salisbury’s Amesville section and Falls Village, has finally received state Department of Transportation approval, 12 years after the new bridge was installed.

On waste disposal, Rand said that a grant will allow the Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station to start a “pay as you throw” program. He said such a program could start as early as July, or in January 2027.

Rand also mentioned the ongoing effort among Northwest Hills Council of Government towns to take over the Torrington Transfer Station. Salisbury would need voter approval at town meeting to join the proposed regional authority.

On affordable housing,

Rand said that new homes have gone up at sites on Grove and Perry streets, and the “Holley Block” development on Route 44 and Holley Street in Lakeville — currently Bicentennial Park — will start construction this spring.

Rand said the town has landlords who provide affordable rental units and do not get any credit for it, a situation he would like to address. “They should at least be getting a baseball hat,” he said with a laugh.

On traffic safety and sidewalks, Rand said the Salisbury School is working on a plan to build a pedestrian tunnel under Route 44 between the main campus and the athletic fields. (There is a flashing beacon and crossing guard there now.) If approved, the town would be responsible for owning and maintaining the tunnel.

Kiefer asked about speed cameras. Rand said that only Washington, Conn., uses them at the moment among NHCOC towns and that he has heard there are glitches in the system. Installing speed cameras, which issue automatic tickets, would require

a town ordinance.

“I don’t think anyone is against the concept of a mechanical way of lowering speed.”

Rand said the new sidewalk project along Sharon Road (Route 41) from The Hotchkiss School to Lakeville is proceeding.

At Community Field in Lakeville, the tennis courts will be relocated to the current softball field. The courts are on Aquarion water company land and inhibit access to water company infrastructure. The softball field will move to roughly where the tennis courts are now.

The town will also be looking at improving bicycle routes from Community Field to the Grove and on East Railroad Street in Salisbury village, near the site of the Dresser Woods affordable housing development.

The town has a bid package ready to move the old railroad station on Ethan Allen Street in Lakeville back about 18 feet. The existing configuration has created safety issues for motorists and restaurant patrons, and trucks have repeatedly struck the building.

INVITATION TO BID:

Sharon Housing Trust Single-Family Residence

160 Silver Lake Shore Rd Sharon, CT 06069

DESCRIPTION:

The Sharon Housing Trust, an organization dedicated to increasing the availability of affordable housing in Sharon, CT, is soliciting bids to construct a new single-family residence at 160 Silver Lake Shore Rd. The scope of work includes:

- Demolition of an existing cottage
- Construction of the new building
- Drilling a well and connecting to existing septic tank
- Installation of a gravel driveway and parking area
- Grading the site for drainage

The proposed house is an approximately 1,350 square-foot, 2-story stick-framed structure with truss roof and poured concrete crawl-space foundation. The house site is a pre-existing, nonconforming lot in the RR zone, but building in the existing footprint will be allowed; the lot is located in the Wetlands Upland Review area.

Budget is an important consideration for this project. The attached scope of work describes materials and systems that

SITE VISITS: January 12-19, 2026

QUESTIONS DUE: January 19, 2026

BID DUE: February 13, 2026

ANTICIPATED START DATE: April 1, 2026

ITB CONTACT: Christine Gray, AIA christine@cgarch.com

have been selected to keep construction straightforward and cost-effective, and to avoid delays during construction.

We are hoping to begin construction by April 1, 2026, with an estimated completion date of December 31, 2026. We are accepting bids that are fixed price, with limited allowance for time and materials. Information on the full scope of work is available. We look forward to reviewing your proposal.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF PATRICIA MEDVECKY Late of Salisbury (25-00491)

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

The fiduciary is: Hope Mongeau c/o Stephen K Gellman Shipman & Goodwin, LLP One Constitution Plaza Hartford, CT 06013 Megan M. Foley Clerk 01-15-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF LAURA S. WRIGHT Late of Salisbury (25-00498)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated December 23, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to

promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is: Alison W. Le c/o Linda M Patz Drury, Patz & Citrin LLP 7 Church Street, P.O. Box 101, Canaan, CT 06018 Megan M. Foley Clerk 01-15-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF PATRICIA A. REDMOND Late of Salisbury (25-00502)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated December 30, 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: Rebecca A. Sherwood c/o Ellen C Marino Ellen C Marino 596 Main Street Winsted, CT 06098 Megan M. Foley Clerk 01-15-26

Correction

In the conservation article published Jan. 8, a quote from Lisa Pastore was added in error. Pastore did not comment on the 300-acre preservation at Tom’s Hill, and she was incorrectly identified in the article.

OBITUARIES

Edward Ashton Nickerson

LAKEVILLE — Edward Ashton “Nick” Nickerson died on Jan. 1, 2026, in Sharon, Connecticut. The cause of death was congestive heart failure following a heart attack. He was 100.

Nick was born July 1, 1925, in Wilmington, Delaware, the son of a DuPont Company executive, Elgin Nickerson, and his wife, Margaret Pattison Nickerson. He spent most of his boyhood in Fairfield, Connecticut, and Newburgh, New York.

He grew up with his older sister, Roma, and attended the local public elementary schools. Because Nick suffered from asthma, his parents sent him to boarding schools in the mountains in his teenage years. For one year, he had the unusual experience of going to a boys’ school at Mohonk Mountain House, a grand hotel on a mountain lake in New Paltz, New York. The owners, the Smiley family, taught classes and housed the boys in the hotel rooms. In the afternoons, the boys would swim, hike, ski, skate, or work around the property. He loved the school and talked about it for the rest of his life.

Nick went on to graduate from Northwood School in Lake Placid, New York, near the site of the 1932 Winter Olympics. He was on the ski team and ski jumped (the latter of which left him with nightmares!).

In 1943, Nick joined the 10th Mountain Division—the first American ski troops—and fought in the Apennine Mountains of Italy in 1945. He was awarded the Silver Star for, in the words of the Army, “gallant conduct under fire” and “disregard for his own safety to save the lives of his comrades.”

After the war, he attended Dartmouth College, where he wrote for the student paper, helped edit the literary magazine, and graduated with an English degree in 1949. He landed a job as a reporter for the Rutland Daily Herald in Vermont, then was hired by the Associated Press wire service. While assigned to the AP’s Baltimore bureau, he met Liselotte “Bee” Davis, a college student and native of Baltimore. After her graduation, they married on Sept. 16, 1955, and moved to New York City when he was transferred to AP’s headquarters there.

After spending the 1950s in journalism, he switched to teaching. He said that the first time he set foot in a classroom, he knew he was in the right place. In the 1960s, he taught English at three boarding schools. He became chair of the English department at the Emma Willard School in Troy, New York, a girls’ school that his mother

and many other family members attended.

In the mid-1960s, Nick became interested in teaching at the university level and earned a Ph.D. in English at the State University of New York in Albany. He combined his English teaching and newspaper reporting to become the first director of the University of Delaware’s journalism program, which was part of the English department. He led the journalism program for 21 years, teaching everything from basic reporting to radio writing. He also taught English and American literature classes, including a popular detective fiction class.

He retired as a university professor in 1991. He and Bee moved to Lakeville in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut. He taught extension classes on literature through the Taconic Learning Center, joined book clubs, sang with the HousaTonics men’s barbershop group, swam (including across Lake Wononscopomuc), and cross-country skied for years. He endowed a lecture fund at the University of Delaware to bring reporters to speak on campus.

He and Bee lived on Belgo Road in Lakeville. After nearly 52 years of marriage, she died of cancer in 2007. He moved to the Noble Horizons retirement community, where he was a friendly fixture for years.

He celebrated Christmas with his family in 2025 then, days later, entered Sharon Hospital with pneumonia that led to a heart attack and congestive heart failure. On New Year’s Day 2026, at age 100 years, six months, he died as his daughter read him a poem by John Keats, “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer.”

Nick loved chatting up strangers, savoring a good meal with wine, reading, playing chess, learning new things, skiing, traveling, concertgoing, wordplay, spending time with friends and family, and almost anything Italian. Days before his death, he asked his son to take him out to his favorite restaurant—the Woodland in Lakeville—for dinner.

Survivors include his daughter, Louisa, of Bethesda, Maryland, and her partner, David Shelton; his son, Matthew, daughter-in-law, Elizabeth, and grandchildren, John and Julia, all of Chicago; a niece, Anne Hockmeyer Brown; a nephew, Brian Hockmeyer, and Brian’s wife, Ann. Nick’s sister, Roma Nickerson Hockmeyer, died in 1981.

A memorial service will be held at the Congregational Church of Salisbury, Connecticut, on Saturday, Feb. 14, at noon. A reception will follow.

Steven Michael Willette

SHARON — Steven Michael “Bird” Willette, 76, of Silver Lake Shores, passed away on Dec. 25, 2025, at Vassar Brother Medical Center, with his family at his side.

Steve was born in New York City to Dorman Willette and Ann (Sabol) Willette.

He grew up in the Hell’s Kitchen neighborhood of Manhattan, New York, where he fell in love with doowop, a cappella, and all things

music.

As a teen he spent summers in Sharon, where he and his family built a cabin near Mudge Pond; he relocated here permanently in the early 90s to raise his children amid the strong community and natural beauty.

Steve was a vocalist, a genuine classic car lover, and a silversmith; he operated a jewelry business with his wife for a number of years, after which he worked as a bus

Richard Paddock, beloved Salisbury historian, dies at 78

TACONIC — Richard Paddock, a longtime Salisbury resident whose deep curiosity and generosity of spirit helped preserve and share the town’s history, died last week. He was 78.

Paddock was widely known as a gifted storyteller and local historian, equally comfortable leading bus tours, researching railroads or patiently helping others navigate new technology. His passion for learning — and for passing that knowledge along — made him a central figure in the Salisbury Association’s Historical Society and other preservation efforts throughout the Northwest Corner.

“He was an incredible storyteller,” said Salisbury Association Executive Assistant and Historian Lou Bucceri, who co-chaired the association’s historical society with Paddock. He remembered the bus tour of Twin Lakes that Paddock led that was so popular a second one had to be scheduled. He also was instrumental, along with Bill Morrill, in obtaining a Revolutionary War cannon for the association.

The Twin Lakes neighborhood was central to Paddock’s life, where he spent summers as a young boy. His family’s ties to the area stretched back generations. His grandfather, Charles Paddock, lost his wife and three of his four children during the influenza epidemic of 1917, leaving him to raise an 8-year-old son — Paddock’s father.

Charles Paddock later found work as a chauffeur for the family of Herbert Scoville Jr., who maintained a mansion in Taconic. Scoville, a trained scientist, spent years working for the CIA before serving with the Arms Control and

Disarmament Agency, and became a tireless advocate for nuclear disarmament in the latter part of his life.

In a 2016 interview with Jean McMillen, who recorded more than 400 oral histories of Salisbury residents, Paddock reflected on the Scoville family’s generosity, noting that several longtime employees — including his grandfather — were granted an acre of land after 25 years of service.

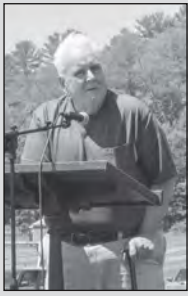
“You hear a lot of stories about brutality between the householder and the employees. That is just not the way it was here with the Scoville family. I have done some research. I know several of the current generation of the Scoville family. I got interested in the family and they played a big role in my grandfather’s life and my father’s life and certainly I live now on that piece of land that they gave my grandfather, so they steered my life as well,” Paddock said.

Peter Wick, a longtime friend of Paddock, said their relationship began when they were both young boys — Paddock visiting his grandfather in Twin Lakes and Wick visiting his own family in the area. Both of their grandfathers worked for wealthy residents in Taconic.

Wick, now of Granby, called his friend “an inspiration. He was definitely one of my best friends. I think I need to ask Dick something and then realize he’s not there. He was so smart, especially when it came to technology.”

Paddock’s family lived winters in East Hartford

and he graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of



Technology with a degree in electrical engineering. He spent his career at IBM, where he developed a deep interest in computers and became highly proficient in the field.

McMillen, who became close with Paddock and his wife, Fran, said he was so very helpful in teaching her how to use computers for her oral histories.

“He was so knowledgeable and gifted; he never made me feel dumb. He always showed kindness and generosity,” McMillen said.

She added that Paddock had wide-ranging interests, including history and railroads.

Paddock’s passion for history led him to become active in the Salisbury Association’s Historical Society, and, later, the Friends of Beckley Furnace. The East Canaan furnace produced iron ore back in the 1800s, bringing a flourishing industry to the Northwest Corner. In his oral history, Paddock explained the members decided to help the state make some use of the furnace, which it had purchased in 1945. Spearheaded by the late Ed Kirby and Fred Hall, the committee was able to get some money to stabilize the structure.

“They wanted to turn it into a real asset in the park system,” he told McMillen. “Times have not changed much; the state of Connecticut had the inclination but not the resources to really operate that. We formed a non-profit and a bunch of us old gray-haired guys take care of that site.”

For many years, Paddock and several others spent Saturday mornings at the site, interpreting its history for visitors and often surprising them by explaining that railroad car wheels were made from iron produced at the furnace.

“Think about the time frame between 1830 and 1900,” he said in the oral history. “Westward expansion is being carried out on top of wheels made in Connecticut. Certainly not exclusively, but the best wheels that went the farthest were made here in northwest Connecticut. This silly little town had a lot of impact on the development of the country.”

Christian Allyn joined the group as a young docent, working alongside the older volunteers on those Saturday mornings. He recalls many fond memories from that time, including a surprise visit from former First Lady Laura Bush in 2014 and selling iron ingot paperweights to visitors.

Allyn said he learned a great deal from the men “who would dive deep into both the business and personality sides of the iron industry. Those lessons were foundational in establishing my life in the Northwest hills.”

Railroads were another of Paddock’s passions. He was particularly interested in the long-gone Central New England line since, as a child, he discovered tracks that crossed a causeway at Twin Lakes. As he did with every subject of interest, he did extensive research on local trains and would present programs on the topic.

Bucceri echoed the sentiments of many: “If you didn’t know Dick, I’m sorry. I miss him so much.”

— Ruth Epstein

Richard Charles Paddock

IBM in 1969. His career at IBM spanned 31 years and involved everything from supercomputers to single chip microcomputers.

He formally retired from IBM in 2000 but stayed on at IBM as a contract employee for the IBM Executive Briefing Center in Poughkeepsie, New York. His work at the briefing center ended in July 2002 and he finally had time to pursue other interests. Those interests included the iron industry of the Northwest Corner and the Central New England Railroad which passed through Taconic from 1871 until 1965.

Dick joined the Friends of Beckley Furnace in 2003 where he helped develop educational programs with

the late Ed Kirby and designed and produced interpretive signs to explain the site to visitors, spending most summer Saturdays as a docent at the site. He also joined the Historical Society branch of the Salisbury Association where he assisted in the preparation of numerous books, the oral history and interpretive signs for the Salisbury area. He also served several terms as a Trustee for the Association. Other activities included teaching courses for the Taconic Learning Center and The Bard Lifetime Learning Center and being a frequent speaker in the area on various topics such as the railroads, the iron industry and the industrial heritage of the area.



He leaves behind his wife and best friend, Frances Paddock of Taconic, two stepchildren; David Rosell of Greenville, New York, his son, Sterling of Tivoli, New York; Alicia Rosell of Dalton, Georgia, her daughters, Mary Rosell and Paula Gordon, also of Dalton, and his very large family of in-laws and many friends.

There will be no funeral services at this time. Ryan Funeral Home, 255 Main St., Lakeville, is in care of arrangements.

If you would like to remember Dick, please contribute to Friends of Beckley Furnace, P.O. Box 383, East Canaan, CT 06024, or the Salisbury Association (<https://salisburyassociation.org/ways-to-support/donate/>)

To offer an online condolence, please visit ryanfhct.com

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For more obituaries, see Page A5

OBITUARIES

Sarah M. Polhemus

SALISBURY — Sarah M. Polhemus, died peacefully on Dec. 23, 2025, at Noble Horizons in Salisbury, Connecticut where she had been a resident for the past four years. Born in Torrington, she was the daughter of A.H. “Hank” Mitchell and Orpha Brown Robinson. She lived in Stamford until 1941, at which time her family relocated to Salisbury, where she lived most of the balance of her life.

“Squeak” (A childhood nickname that stayed with her throughout her life) spent her youth in Salisbury until she left for boarding school at The Northfield School For Girls (Now Northfield Mount Herman School). After graduation, she followed in her mother’s footsteps to Connecticut College. Upon graduation, she headed to New York City where she worked and lived for a number of years, before moving to Wilton, where she started her family. But Salisbury was always home. In 1974, she returned to Salisbury with her family and began working for her family real estate firm, Robinson Polhemus Real Estate. She worked alongside her mother and sister Louise (“Petie”), eventually partnering with her sister to form Robinson-Polhemus Real Estate. Here she remained for the next three decades, until she retired in 2007.

After retirement, she embarked on her “second career” with various board roles. She served on the board of The Corner Food Pantry and Taconic Learning Center, served as clerk of the Congregational Church for several years and even served as the Salisbury Town Treasurer from 2013-2015.

An outdoors and sports person, she loved her time on the tennis and platform tennis courts, participating in many local tournaments over the years. But her first love was golf – Playing and competing with her course partner and sister Petie and her large circle of golfing friends. In fact, in 1980, she

beat her sister Petie just one time in the Sharon Country Club Women’s Golf Championship (Petie won the championship several times and flanked her before and after, but 1980 was “Squeak’s year”!). She continued at Sharon for many years, before calling the Hotchkiss course her home course in later years.

Always wearing a smile and always seeing the positive in everything, she was able to laugh at even the most unsettling situations and never let the negative stuff get her down. A loving, and loved, member of the Salisbury community, she was a family person, first and foremost and her “family” extended to countless people she touched in the community. She was a wealth of knowledge and true storehouse of time as it related to Salisbury and loved sharing funny stories about the old days in our quiet little corner. Some stories were actually hard to believe – by today’s standards – like sledding as a child all the way from the Erickson Farm up on Bunker Hill to Main Street Salisbury, right on the road! but, they were true nonetheless. She loved her home of Salisbury and the many good friends and family with whom she shared her native turf over the decades.

She was predeceased by her brother, Donald L. Mitchell and sisters, Ann R. Noble and Ann M. Van Deusen. She is survived by her sister, Louise W. Robinson of Salisbury, her daughter Sarah Bartle (Tom) and granddaughters, Sandy and Nicki Bartle, all of Wilmington, North Carolina. She is also survived by her son, Freddy Polhemus, of Lakeville, and granddaughters, Emily Polhemus (Conor) of Columbia Falls, Montana, and Katherine Polhemus (Jacob) of Rutland, Vermont.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial contribution to The Noble Horizons General Fund.

Thomas Phillip Brod

SHARON — Thomas was born in London, England, May 1, 1945. His parents had left Germany in 1938 and arrived in England by way of Prague. Thomas grew up in London and followed his father into the Brod Gallery, specializing in Dutch 17th century paintings and drawings. When he was eighteen, his father sent him to the United States for the first time. His assignment was to travel the country visiting collectors and museums. This would be his first trip, but many would follow.

Thomas loved art, music, travel, skiing, woodworking, and everything that went up in the air (he was a private pilot and also enjoyed flying radio control model airplanes). But there was nothing he loved more than his family. His four children, Alex, Jonathan, Julian and Amelia, their spouses, and his grandchildren. Thomas

had Parkinson’s disease for 36 years, which progressively hindered many of his usual activities. But time spent with his family, children, grandchildren and his wife, Brenda, always brought him joy and increased energy. He always had a wry and surprising sense of humor, and laugh lines at the corners of his eyes, or a raised eyebrow, when someone made a joke.

Thomas, Brenda and family lived in Sharon for part of each year, beginning in 1983. In 2018, Thomas and Brenda moved permanently to Sharon. Thomas felt a strong kinship to this area from his first visit. It is where he, and his family, spent many of the happiest moments of their lives. We are glad that his last years were spent here.

Thomas died at home in the early hours of New Year’s day after enjoying a New Year’s dinner with his family

CANAAN — George E. Wentworth, 83, of South Deerfield, passed away peacefully on Jan. 3, surrounded by his three beloved nieces.

Born on Nov. 21, 1942, in Northampton, Massachusetts to Howard Wentworth and Velma B. McDowell, he was the oldest of their three children and a graduate of Amherst Regional High School Class of 1962.

George was a gentle kind-hearted dairy farmer who lived a simple peaceful life valuing his family, his heritage and traditions.

George was born into the Wentworth Family Farm located on Stanley Street in Amherst. He enjoyed a childhood surrounded by generations of dairy farmers. He

Theodore Ned Drumm

SHARON — Theodore Ned Drumm passed away peacefully on Jan. 1, 2026 after a long battle with heart failure.

Ted Drumm was born Nov. 26, 1932 in Sharon to the late Julia and Ned Drumm. He lived all his life in Sharon.

Ted was a loving father and husband. He was a member of the First Church of Christ Congregational and the Taghannuck Grange No. 100 for more than 50 years. He served on the board of Deacons and was the first moderator of the church. He also served on the Sharon Board of Finance. He ran

Jill Scott

SALISBURY — Jill Scott passed away peacefully on Jan. 2, after 93 years of a wide-ranging and well-travelled life.

She was born in Essex, England in 1932. She attended a girls’ boarding school, then went on to complete a year of college. Unfortunately, the need to educate two younger brothers and the Second World War (during which she was evacuated to Oxford) interrupted her studies.

She briefly worked assorted jobs in the London area and attended her brother’s sporting events at the King’s School, Canterbury. It was at King’s that she met and married her husband Neil, a teacher. She was soon hired by King’s as a “house matron,” essentially taking on the household management and “mothering duties” for a large dormitory of teenage boys.

Prior to starting a family, she and Neil went on a motorcycle camping trip to Scotland. Later, summers were spent camping with her growing family in nearby European countries.

Jill and Neil needed new horizons, so they moved with their three children to Quebec, Canada for a year, then down to the Hotchkiss School in Connecticut in 1970. Jill immediately became engaged in supporting all the activities of her family, and, once the children were old enough to be home alone, she started working part-time for the Lakeville Journal as a copy editor. Always a supporter of Hotchkiss, Jill frequently worked in the Hotchkiss School store.

A teaching exchange year in New Zealand provided additional adventure in 1986-1987, and Jill thoroughly enjoyed traveling throughout those islands with Neil and with visiting friends.

Upon Neil’s retirement in 1993 Jill continued her family support work, taking special joy in spending any time possible with each of

was active in local 4-H clubs and enjoyed reminiscing about his memories of traveling around the country with his 4-H friends. A favorite tale of his was when he traveled to Waterloo, Iowa to represent his local 4-H club and the Future Farmers of America as a judge at the National Dairy Cattle Congress in 1962.

George and his parents continued their farming legacy in 1964 when they started the Canaan Valley Farm in East Canaan, Connecticut. There they continued milking and breeding registered Ayrshire cattle until 1986 when they returned to Massachusetts to be closer to family.



West families of Hadley.

Some of George’s favorite pass times were driving through the farms and backroads of Western Massachusetts, grabbing a hot black coffee and his annual trip to the Canadian Dairy sale. He could be found visiting family and friends, often delivering fresh vegetables from his garden, and always sharing memories through his cherished family photos. George rarely missed a Hadley Young Men’s Club dinner or the opportunity to celebrate an ARHS class reunion.

He was loving cared for by his nieces and nephews Amy and Shane Stout, Jeff and Mimi Wentworth, Emily and Scott Ewell, and Sarah and George Emery.

George was immensely proud of his great nieces and

nephews, Wyatt Bourbeau and Captain Trent Bourbeau, USMC; Savannah and Peyton Emery; Sydney and Reese Ewell; Jake and Tyler Moynihan. He could often be found at their sporting events, school activities, and family celebrations.

George was predeceased by his parents, his sister, Carol Jenks and his niece Stephanie Wentworth. He is survived by brother Arthur Wentworth (Linda), brother-in-law Duane Jenks and partner Kathy LaPointe, and extended family.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, at Kostanski Funeral Home, 1 Kostanski Square, Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376. A calling hour will begin at 10 a.m. until the time of the service at 11 a.m. Burial will take place at Elm Grove Cemetery, 524 Turners Falls Road, Montague immediately following.

Memorial contributions in George’s honor can be made to the Massachusetts Ayrshire Breeders Association in care of Marilyn Donovan, Club Treasurer, PO Box 133, Chesterfield, MA 01012.

For condolences, please visit www.kostanskifuneralhome.com

 <h2>Worship Services</h2> <p>Week of January 18, 2026</p>	
Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org	The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442
Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627	St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org
North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232 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	Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, February 8 at 10:30 a.m. SCIENCE and RELIGION: Is there a connection? For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome
Congregation Beth David A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org	ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078
The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net	UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community
Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194	The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates!
The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net	St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality
The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building	Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org
All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us	Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 8:00AM - Worship Service 2nd & 4th Sunday "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!

For more obituaries, see Page A4

Send obituaries to obituaries@lakevillejournal.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks from North Canaan postmaster

As we turn the page on the holidays, I want to thank our customers in North Canaan for the patience, kindness, and support you showed our local Postal Service team during the busiest mailing and shipping season of the year.

Our carriers, clerks, and plant teams worked hard to keep mail and packages moving for families, small businesses, and neighbors who rely on us. Behind every delivery is a local employee who lives here, shops here, and cares about getting it right.

Now that the holiday rush is behind us, our focus is simple: steady, dependable service every day — along with continued improvements that help us handle today’s mix of letters and packages more efficiently.

If you had a great experience with your local Post Office this season, I hope you’ll share it with our team. And if we missed the mark, please let us know so we can keep improving at usps.com.

John F. Lyon
Postmaster
Canaan, CT Post Office
North Canaan

On delegate elections, party challengers

By the time you read this letter the Salisbury Democratic Town Committee will have elected members for the next two years. That happened on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at a duly noticed caucus open to all registered Democrats in the town.

We are proud to welcome a remarkable eighteen-year-old, Kip Carter, as a new member though I must point out that his letter-to-the-editor in last week’s Lakeville Journal reflected his own views on the 2026 elections and did not speak for the Salisbury DTC. It also contained an error that confused involved local political party members.

There will not be any elections of delegates to state conventions during the week of Jan. 17 as Kip stated. Delegate elections for the conventions that take place in May will happen in March. Any registered Democrat can be a delegate to conventions so if you are interested in being one contact me through the SDTC website and sign up for our informative monthly newsletter. salisburydemocrats.com

Kip is correct that our U.S. Congressional 5th and 30th State Senate Districts tend purple rather than Blue or Red. But Congresswoman Jahana Hayes has been elected four times and consider-

ing how much money was spent to defeat her in 2024 by the national Republican Party and dark-money sources, I’d say her margin of victory was remarkable.

Across the country incumbents are facing primary challengers in a healthy sign of democracy at work. Connecticut is no exception. The two announced Democratic challengers to Jahana have raised zero money and zero endorsements as far as I can tell. In fact, I find almost zero about them, no record of public service, and neither has a website or Facebook page devoted to their candidacy.

The two declared Republicans do have a social media presence, but they are, to be kind, unimpressive. So I don’t see that Jahana Hayes is “facing heavy winds” any more than in the past.

But Mr. Carter is correct that Northwest Corner Democratic Town Committees and Democrats at large will be working hard in what is possibly the most important election cycle in my 55 years of voting. In these bizarre and disturbing times it is comforting to have accomplished incumbent candidates like Jahana Hayes in Congress and Maria Horn in the state legislature.

Albert Ginouves
Lakeville

Is the EPA Protecting Us?

It is hard to believe but the EPA, or Environmental Protection Agency, is considering approval of several new pesticides containing forever chemicals, dismissing concerns about human health and the environmental impacts. They have already approved two new pesticides, known to have PFAS, forever chemicals, or fluorinated compounds. The pesticides cyclobutirfluram and isocycloseram have been approved for use on vegetables such as lettuce, broccoli and potatoes.

PFAS have been linked to several kinds of cancer, birth defects and damage to the liver and immune system. It is estimated 2.5 million pounds of pesticides containing forever chemicals are sprayed on California cropland annually. Young families already reeling from high food prices buy the fresh produce they can afford for their children assuming the EPA is protecting them from these dangerous chemicals. They are not.

States such as Maine and Minnesota have moved to

ban the pesticides. Only one herbicide containing PFAS, diflufenican, is approved for use in the European Union. Pesticide products containing diflufenican are banned by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency.

With high concentrations of these pesticides in our food and water it certainly explains the huge reduction in numbers of our pollinating insects. Without these pollinators, including bees and butterflies, we would not have many fruits and vegetables. What will these pesticides do to the rate of cancer already rising in this country?

It is quite alarming that a dozen PFAS chemicals have been detected in the Everglades, which is Florida’s more important freshwater source for drinking water.

The EPA should not be exposing us to dangerous new pesticides; it should be protecting the environment and our health from exposure to more chemicals in our food and water.

Lizbeth Piel
Sharon

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.

A difficult year for the environment

OCCASIONAL OBSERVER
MAC GORDON

tion also sided with Russia, Saudi Arabia and Iran to block part of a U.N. report about the state of the planet because it called for phasing out fossil fuels and the use of plastics.

Trump’s dislike of clean energy became clear soon after his inauguration when he signed an executive order banning both new solar and new wind power installations on federal property. His executive order to stop work on five large off shore wind farms along the Atlantic coast, two of which were nearly complete and would power close to two million homes puts the wind energy industry in dire financial straits imperilling investments and more than 10,000 jobs. Currently wind turbines provide nearly a third of US electricity. Each of the governors of the five states with the threatened wind farms are Democrats. Clean energy investments for the year have declined by more than \$32 billion in 2025. It seems likely that Trump’s moves against the wind farms were largely vindictive; many billion dollars of unfinished power plant construction seem much too valuable to abandon.

While the Biden administration was beginning to put significant federal money into rebuilding rail service, Trump has been opposed and pulled support from a number of major rail projects already approved including the North River project featuring a new desperately needed rail tunnel under the Hudson River to help facilitate improved

rail traffic along the entire east coast.

On December 16, the Trump administration announced plans to dismantle the leading US atmospheric science center. Constructed in 1960 and housed in an I. M. Pei designed structure in Boulder, Colorado, the National Center for Atmospheric Research had become world famous for its research activities.

Russell Vought, the head of the Office of Management and Budget (and previously the main author of the Federalist Society’s Project 2025) had condemned the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) calling it “one of the largest sources of climate alarmism in the country.” A wide range of federal officials and scientists, not just from NCAR, have lobbied to save the Center and keep it intact but the Trump administration seems intent on dismantling it, sending the more mundane weather aspects of the center to the National Weather Service and disposing of more research-oriented functions.

No cabinet department has been as involved in undoing the efforts of previous administrations in protecting the environment as the Environmental Protection Agency. During the past year dozens of rules and regulations regarding air and water pollution have been dropped or eased. Promised new controls over “forever chemicals”

(PFAS) have been postponed or dropped. Fossil fuel exhaust controls have been severely weakened. In October the EPA removed protections for millions of acres of wetlands and streams. In July the EPA revoked the “Endangerment Finding” that said that greenhouse gas emissions posed a threat to public health, the underlying justification for the pollution control regulations that followed; what will happen now?

Subsidies for solar collectors and electric vehicles have been drastically cut. At the same time, the administration has actively promoted fossil fuel including massive sales of oil and gas abroad and issuing enormous leases on land and sea for oil and gas drilling. The Trump administration’s recent seizure of the Venezuelan petroleum reserves leaves the U.S. with the largest reserve of what turns out to be probably the world’s dirtiest, most polluting oil. At the same time they spent significant sums to recondition coal burning power plants otherwise at the edge of retirement.

Is there anything we can do to improve this troubling situation we are finding ourselves in? Perhaps the most significant action individuals can take would be to become better informed about environmental issues and vote accordingly.

Architect and landscape designer Mac Gordon lives in Lakeville.

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cornwall Fire Trucks campaign exceeds goal

The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department is pleased to announce that its New Fire Trucks Campaign exceeded its \$600,000 goal at the close of 2025. This generosity will ensure the purchase of two of the very finest firefighting and emergency vehicles available for our first responders.

The success of this effort

is a testimony to the community spirit displayed by hundreds of Cornwall individuals, organizations and businesses who generously donated. CVFD officers and members wish to thank everyone who supported the campaign.

Richard Sears, CVFD
President
Cornwall Bridge

For more letters, see Page A7.

Viewpoint

Camels at the eye of the needle

‘And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.’ – Matthew 19:24

The world woefully reels from an unexpectedly viscous blow as the United States truncated humanitarian funding established by a myriad of laws set by Congress, solely in Congress’s authority. Marauding cyber bandidos, initially led by an unelected, garish swash-buckler steeped in billions of government contracts, have bulldozed agencies and laws spilling forth private personal data, ceasing life sustaining research and services, terminating employment not in their jurisdiction. Charity, equity, legal are in 2025 the newly minted nasty words of the rising bashers of today’s federal government, following a presidential creed “He who saves his Country does not violate any Law” - Donald J. Trump.

It is predicted that since closing this year, 600,000 for-

OPEN SPACE
KATHY HERALD-MARLOWE

mer recipients of U.S.A.I.D services worldwide – the majority children – have died from malnutrition and infection as food and medicines were withheld, often stored in regional warehouses – accessible yet unutilized.

Christian, Jewish, Islam, Hindi, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism- all formal religions agree charity, reaching out to others, helping others, is a key precept of religious living. Many Christian sects suggest a worshipper tithe at 10% or “in keeping with income” (1 Corinthians 16:2). According to Forbes’s annual publication of the richest US persons in 2025, 70% of the 400 richest Americans donated less than 5% to charity (charity, not to include political donations). The generosity of this cadre is dropping annually.

The richest of the rich,

Elon Musk, Larry Ellison, Peter Thiel, have Forbes philanthropy scores of 1 on the 5 point scale indicating their total lifetime donations to be 1 % or less of their wealth (a 5 rating on the Forbes scale is gifting 20% or more of one’s wealth). Though only half way up the prestigious list of 400, Trump has doubled his wealth since taking office, moving in 11 months from 319 of 400 to 201, his personal increase of wealth over \$3 billion. Trump’s philanthropic score remained at 1; in 2018, the Trump Foundation was closed for fraud.

Oddly, much of the rhetoric of the Trump second administration (with 12 billionaire appointees) is laden with references to Christian values, beliefs, behaviors. VP Vance and Paypal cofounder Peter Thiel, who bought Vance’s Ohio Senate race with a \$15 million donation, rarely demonstrate recognizable deeds or words modelling Christianity. They with gusto have liberalized political spending that the Supreme Court made law in 2010,

Citizens United vs the FEC decision.

Though seemingly in an age of high religious fever, faceless, nameless ICE storm troopers stalk and invade schools, churches, apartments, homes, shopping malls exhibiting rough to ruthless behaviors – they can, they have been striped clean of accountability markers and are often personally encouraged by Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem to be brutal. In opposition, led most rigorously by Catholic Cardinals and Bishops, religious leaders of all sects first sought Congressional disapproval of the Big Beautiful Bill in June, then recently sent letters to the White House condemning immigration deportation – behaviors and brutality. No impact.

Has the heart gone out of this nation, has regard and respect been smothered by not the elite but the outlandishly rich. Here is to 2026 – a new year, perhaps with renewed humanity.

Kathy Herald-Marlowe lives in Sharon.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Klemens explains departure from PZC

I read The Lakeville Journal’s account of the Wake Robin Inn (ARADEV) land use controversy in last week’s paper. The Journal has done a valuable public service in reporting on this controversial land-use matter in great detail. I feel it necessary to clarify my resignation late last year from the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC). The officers of the Commission are elected annually by their peers. I made it known that I did not wish to be re-elected for a 16th term as Chair. While the public sees the meetings of the Commission, each hour of public hearing requires many hours of preparation by the Chair and the Land Use Office. As a volunteer elected official, the amount of work generated by many (more than ten) ARADEV public hearings was difficult enough, it was made personally untenable for the reasons Mr. Linden stated.

The second, separate and distinct issue, was that I was half way through my four-year elected term of office. My original intent was to remain on the PZC, just not as Chair, however I was unable to maintain my residency beyond the end of December 2025. For health reasons, I had been searching for several years for a permanent one-level living situation in Salisbury, renting to maintain my residency. I was unsuccessful in purchasing several modest ranch houses. One on Lakeview Avenue preferred to sell to a married couple, another on Woodland Circle was lost, despite mine being the highest, no-contingency cash offer. After these two failures, I purchased a building lot on Red Mountain Road, only to find that the costs of pre-fabricated construction rose so quickly, it was beyond my ability to complete that project. That two-acre lot with improvements and approved permitting is currently for sale.

In closing, it was not the ARADEV application per se that resulted in my resigning from the PZC. It was, despite Herculean efforts, my inability to purchase single-level housing in Salisbury. Apart from creating affordable housing, Salisbury needs to create housing options for seniors who wish to stay in the community, but cannot because of market forces and the dearth of single-level housing options. For Salisbury to remain a viable community it needs to provide housing options for demographic and socio-economic groups that are fast being squeezed out of our community. The Affordable Housing Commission, Salisbury Housing Trust, and Salisbury Housing Committee need everyone’s support. The Selectmen need encouragement to codify options to increase fiscal support of these efforts, as outlined in the 2024 Plan of Conservation and Development. On a happier personal note, I have subsequently found the housing I needed, just not in Salisbury.

Michael W. Klemens
Tucson, AZ

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Michael W. Klemens
Tucson, AZ

TURNING BACK THE PAGES
NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago — January 1901

SHARON — Edward St. John has had quite a siege of pneumonia, but is convalescing. Dr. Moore of Millerton attended him.

It is obvious that some change for the better is needed in the matter of a public school building. Our teachers and methods are up to date and our books good, but better quarters for the pupils are an imperative necessity. Parents should study the matter and take some action.

While working on a barn in Cornwall, Andrew Brazee fell from the roof, and died instantly, on Monday last. The funeral was held Thursday afternoon in the Congregational Church, Rev. E.O. Dyer officiating. Sympathy is extended the widow and nine children during this their deep sorrow. Mr. Brazee was a faithful worker, had numerous friends, and was a most kind and loving husband and father.

LIME ROCK — Philip Devoe, brother of Mrs. Chas. Goux, is very sick with pneumonia. He is at the Goux home in Hoppertown.

SHARON — Miss Jennie Miller of Hillsdale is the guest of her brother, Robert Miller.

It is said the C.N.E. road will get their ice at Twin Lakes this year.

Frank Smith sprained his right wrist while skating on Monday evening.

Owing to greatly increased freight traffic the C.N.E. has added another through freight daily.

The knife factory was closed Wednesday and Friday on account of the death and funeral of Gen. W.B. Rudd. All other business places in town were also closed.

Owing to the illness of Miss Almira Cleaveland there has been no school at the Primary department this week.

After Christmas vacation the Lakeville High School

was to open Monday morning at the usual hour, but the chill of the room and smoke from new fires made it so uncomfortable that the teacher thought best to postpone until 10 o’clock. Here is another call for a new school house, different heat and modern improvements to encourage the teachers and scholars in their work.

100 years ago — January 1926

The Daniel Boone Pioneers of Taconic took an educational trip to Waterbury, a few of the parents accompanied them. All enjoyed the trip.

Daniel Curtis has installed a new radio. Mr. Harry Gordon has installed a radio in his home.

LIME ROCK — James Wilkinson died last Tuesday of pneumonia. The same day his brother, Charles Wilkin- son, was taken with the same disease and is very ill. Mrs. Alice Murphy, a sister, is also ill with pneumonia.

The new snow sheds erected at various windy places in the town by the state highway department have not yet received a tryout, but they are there ready for a test and there is still plenty of time for them to prove their worth.

LIME ROCK — The men have commenced cutting ice.

A change of time goes into effect on the New Haven road next Sunday. There is no change in the train schedules on this end of the C.N.E. but all trains from Simsbury to Hartford are withdrawn, and the traffic will be taken care of by motor vehicles.

25 years ago — January 2001

Work on the Farnam Road bridge began this week. Salisbury First Selectman Val Bernardoni said the road, which is closed this week, will reopen with one lane next week.

KENT — The Board of Education and Region 1 Superintendent John O’Brien were formally notified Jan. 4 that Kent Center School Principal Edward Epstein intends to retire June 20,

2002. Mr. Epstein (husband of Lakeville Journal Editor Ruth Epstein) is the longest serving principal in Region 1, having started his 25-year tenure in September 1977.

CANAAN — Subway has reopened for business and the response from local residents has been nothing but positive, new owner Gina Beligni said. She and her partner Joe Musco took over the defunct franchise on Church Street in November. The shop, part of a Bridgeport-based franchise famous for its foot-long sandwiches, reopened Dec. 13 with Ms. Beligni at the helm.

FALLS VILLAGE — A prize-winning local horse died recently after breaking his leg. Kate’s Ben, owned by Lost Island Farm riding instructor Catherine (Kate) Coons, died Jan. 1, 2001. He was a 14-year-old Thoroughbred chestnut gelding with four white socks and a star on his forehead. A retired racehorse from Charleston, W. Va., he won numerous prizes in local and national competitions after he joined forces with Ms. Coons in 1991, when she was 13 years old. Ben started out as Ms. Coons’ 4-H project with the Sheffield Whinnies. He was also her Pony Club horse. Together they entered local, state, regional shows, includ-

ing Pony Club competitions in Lakeville, Lexington, Va. and Kentucky in the category of show jumping. In their 10 years together, Ms. Coons and Ben collected over 700 silk ribbons, many of which hang in the barn at Lost Island Farm.

CANAAN — About 40 shoppers and employees at the Stop and Shop supermarket were evacuated after smoke began to fill the store Jan. 4. Canaan Fire Company fire chief Charlie Perotti reported that one of the store’s furnaces malfunctioned. A Stop and Shop service technician had finished working on the furnace about an hour before, he reported. “We fired it up again and the smoke was pouring out of it,” Mr. Perotti said. He said the building still has the original furnace used by the former Leader’s discount department store. The smoke was cleared by fire department members and heat was provided by another furnace in the building.

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

WE’D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

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Status Report

SHARON — At the end of 2025, the Sharon Land Trust’s national accreditation was renewed. This recognition is awarded to fewer than 500 land trusts nationwide. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission’s decision confirms that the organization meets national standards for excellence, and that the land it protects will remain safeguarded in perpetuity. SLT protects more than 4,770 acres of open space, forests and farmland in Sharon.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Winter whispers

Realtor® at Large

For a review of the Litchfield County real estate market in 2025, I would recommend visiting www.williampitt.com/market-watch/. There you will find analyses of the last four quarters and how the numbers compare year over year. Basically, '25 was a strong year in closings despite continued low inventory. Values of property across the board increased as interest rates for mortgages have become more favorable. With regards to affordability, we still have a long road ahead to balance out our communities with modestly priced homes. For more information on this issue, please see: www.jchs.harvard.edu/blog/lower-interest-rates-fail-offset-effects-high-home-prices.

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November real estate sales in Kent

Region One expects slight enrollment growth in several towns, but overall decline

By Christine Bates

KENT — Kent recorded three property transfers in November, all within the Kent Hills complex at 80 Main Street North.

No land parcels, commercial properties or single-family homes changed hands during the month.

Despite the slower pace, the 12-month median sale price for single-family homes for the period ending Nov. 30 increased to \$570,000.

Residential inventory has remained stable for the past two years at fewer than five months of supply, with 30 closed sales recorded over the last 12 months.

At the end of December, seven single-family homes were listed for sale in Kent. None were priced below the median sale price of \$570,000, and five carried asking prices above \$1 million.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Three units at 80 North Main Street, Kent Hills, were transferred in November ranging in price per square foot from \$229 to \$366.

Transactions

80 Main Street North — Unit 10 — 2 bedroom/1 bath condo of 1,201 square feet built in 1980 sold by Susanne P. Edgerly to Nancy Macklin for \$440,000.

80 Main Street North — Unit B4UA1 — 2 bedroom/2 bath condo with 1,225 square feet built in 1975 sold by David K. Sturges to David R. Cashiner and Christopher D. Jordan for \$280,000.

80 Main Street North — Unit 6 — 3 bedroom/2 bath condo with 1,502 square feet built in 1980 sold by Julia S. Samartini Trustee for Julia S. Samartini Trust to Susan Forbes Markowitz for \$545,000.

** Town of Kent real estate transfers recorded as sold between Nov.1 and Nov. 30, 2025, provided by Kent Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Property details from CT Vision tax cards. Current market listings and market data from Smart MLS. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.*

Salisbury considers consultants for zoning regulation review

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Land Use Director Abby Conroy made the case for additional staff and for outside consultants to the Planning and Zoning Commission at the commission's Jan. 7 meeting.

Conroy said the job of rewriting and cleaning up the town's zoning regulations is best understood in two phases.

Phase One is cleaning up administrative issues in the regulations (what Conroy referred to as "the basics").

The second phase would be larger subjects such as overlay zones, impervious surfaces and agritourism.

Conroy said she and

former P&Z chair Michael Klemens had done a lot of work on the first phase. She suggested hiring Klemens as a consultant, reasoning that he is already familiar with the town and the regulations.

Commissioner Danella Schiffer objected to this. She said that given the controversy around Klemens and the Wake Robin Inn application, she thought hiring Klemens would undermine the commission's credibility with the public.

Vice chair Allen Cockerline said his understanding was that the town's code of ethics prohibits anyone who resigns from a commission or board from working as a consultant for that commis-

sion or board for one year after resigning.

Conroy also said that a new staffer to handle secretarial tasks for the land use and building offices would allow her and her colleague Miles Todaro to concentrate on regulation rewrites.

Conroy said that retaining a consultant for environmental reviews and planning, with the cost borne by applicants, would also be a big help. The town already does this for engineering consulting, she noted.

The commissioners made no decisions on how to proceed, but P&Z chair Cathy Shyer said she will speak with First Selectman Curtis Rand about how to move forward.

Docuseries continues in Falls Village

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Eric Veden's 37th installment of videos about Falls Village starts with Bunny Williams, a nationally recognized interior designer and author who has long made her home in the Northwest Corner, reflecting on her early love of the countryside.

As a young professional making her way in New York City, Williams said, "It bothered me that I had no place to garden."

It took two years, but she finally found the right house in Falls Village. The property was being run as a rooming house and needed work.

"But I knew when I turned in the driveway that it was going to be my home," she said.

Williams, who owns 100 Main in Falls Village, talked about her philosophy of interior design. She tries not to do the same things, and it has worked out, especially in her home.

"It would be hard to repeat a room here because I use so many unique objects," she said. "A room should open up to you over a period of time."

Artist Ann Kraus, who also appears in the film, spoke at the David M. Hunt Library about her recent show, "I Collect Clouds." She began by saying, "I don't actually collect clouds."

"Where would I store them?"

Kraus said she was always interested in painting, something she picked up from her mother, who also told her not to rely on art to make a living.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Bunny Williams appears in the latest installment of the Falls Village video series by Eric Veden.

So as she carved out a career in finance in New York City, she kept painting and studying.

She said she is attracted to clouds because in Manhattan, it is difficult to see clouds in the canyons formed by skyscrapers.

She also noted that she worked in the human resources department at the New York Times.

"You'll notice there are no people in my paintings. Read into that what you will."

John Holland reminisced about his more than 50 years in Falls Village and his career as a carpenter, which began with a partner named Chamberlain, giving rise to the business name Holland and Chamberlain.

After about a decade, the two added a third partner, Albert Ginouves. "Since his name was Al, we changed it to Holland Chamberlain et al.," Holland said.

Holland said over his career he and his partners were fortunate to work for "a great mix" of clients.

"Teachers, librarians, Wall Street tycoons, film people."

They also emphasized energy efficiency "as much as the clients would allow."

Collage artist Ingrid Freidenbergs revealed her dramatic story. Born in Latvia, her family fled the country toward the end of World War II. "Stalin was coming."

They wound up in the British zone of occupied Germany, and after a lengthy wait in a refugee camp, wound up in Rockville Center, New York.

That involved a crossing in the USS General Taylor, where the conditions were cramped.

"That was not my favorite 10 days."

Buzz Wismar reflected on the changes he has seen on Music Mountain Road, at the property his grandparents bought 100 years ago, in 1925.

"The largest change is the demise of dairy farms," he said.

As a boy he remembers dairy farms, but even by 1925 it was difficult for a farmer to make a living.

The family that built his home in 1909 were farmers, but they also cut railroad ties to make ends meet.

Wismar noted that while one can still see the contrast between cultivated and wild land in Falls Village, much of the land once devoted to agriculture has been reclaimed by Nature as forest.

The Falls Village videos are available for borrowing or purchase at the David M. Hunt Library. Veden has a YouTube channel, "Eric Veden."

Sharon OKs funds to fix River Road

By Alec Linden

SHARON — During a brief town meeting on Thursday, Jan. 8, attended by 12 people, \$1.7 million was approved to be allocated from

the town's Undesignated Fund toward a remediation project on River Road.

The project is intended to fix storm damage that has reduced traffic down to a single lane.

Of the total dollar amount, \$1 million is set to be reimbursed by a Small Towns Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant, which was awarded to the town last year.



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Our Towns

New nonprofit seeks to preserve Silver Lake legacy

By Alec Linden

SHARON — Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center, a long-running Christian summer camp and conference center in Sharon, is slated to close after its final summer this year.

All may not be lost, however, according to leaders of the newly formed Friends of Silver Lake, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving the mission and community of the camp beyond its planned closure.

The grassroots group was established by former “conferees” (campers) Andrew Wicks and Brian Lapis the morning after a November announcement by the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, which cited declining enrollment and financial challenges in its decision to end camp operations following the 2026 season.

The SNEUCC, as it is commonly known, assumed ownership and management of the Low Road camp after the state conferences of the Protestant denomination combined to form one regional body in 2020.

Speaking to The Lakeville Journal in mid-December, Wicks, who co-chairs Friends of Silver Lake with Lapis, said that upon receiving the closure announcement he felt



PHOTO FROM FRIENDS OF SILVER LAKE

Friends of Silver Lake co-chairs Andrew Wicks and Brian Lapis outlined the mission of the newly formed nonprofit to roughly 40 attendees on Dec. 28.

that the “intangibles” of the Silver Lake experience “deserved to be preserved.”

To do that, he said, the alumni body needed to come together. “To have a voice of collective power around making those choices, we need to have some organization that networks all these people that, over the last 70 years, have called Silver Lake home and had life-changing and transformative experiences.”

Lapis, who was also present on the call, echoed that Friends of Silver Lake is dedicated to preserving that legacy and mobilizing it toward a continuation of the camp’s mission. “That’s where we’re starting from — to say that in 2027 we want to continue to provide these transformational outdoor ministry experiences for young people in southern New England.”

Wicks currently serves as the minister of the First Church of Christ in Woodbridge, Connecticut, and has a long history with Silver Lake, beginning with church youth group retreats in middle school. He later joined as a conferee, then spent six summers as a staff member, seven years on the camp’s board of directors, and also served on the board of the Connecticut Conference of the UCC before it was enveloped into the SNEUCC.

He also held a brief stint as interim executive director of Silver Lake and, for the past

15 years, has volunteered for a summer “Olympics”-style sports event for high schoolers at the camp.

Lapis, who is older than Wicks and now works as a television weather anchor in Springfield, Massachusetts, has been similarly intertwined with the camp since first visiting as a conferee in 1982.

He grew up in an eastern Connecticut UCC congregation and worked for five summers as a staff member, later joining the board of directors for several years. He has volunteered off and on since the 1980s and sent his children, now in their 20s, to Silver Lake as well.

By mid-December, the group had garnered more than 400 members and assembled a 13-person board ranging from a recent staff member to a camper who attended the first session in 1957.

Intergenerational connection is important to Friends of Silver Lake’s mission, Wicks said: “We were really intentional about a diverse cross section of the Silver Lake community — by age, by geography, by professional experience.”

Lapis emphasized that Friends of Silver Lake is not intended to be exclusively an alumni organization. “This is an organization that hopes to capture and leverage the love of Silver Lake from all people who have been exposed to it, either directly or tangentially.”

The Silver Lake that continues may not be the same as the one that existed in the past, the two chairs cautioned.

“There are a lot of ways that we can preserve what happened at Silver Lake,” Wicks said, noting that the SNEUCC, which still owns the Low Road camp, has

said it is open to passing the property along to “mission-aligned partners.”

“We think we can be those partners that step up,” Wicks said, adding that such an opportunity depends on many uncertain variables, including funding. As a result, Friends of Silver Lake is also strategizing how to advance the camp’s mission outside of Sharon if necessary.

During the nonprofit’s first in-person meeting on Dec. 28 at the Congregational Church in South Glastonbury, Connecticut, Wicks and Lapis outlined the situation to the roughly 40 members in attendance. “Everybody in the room had emotional and historical ties to the property on Low Road, so that’s ideally where people would want this program to continue,” Lapis reported during a follow-up call. “But I think people are cognizant of the fact that that may not happen.”

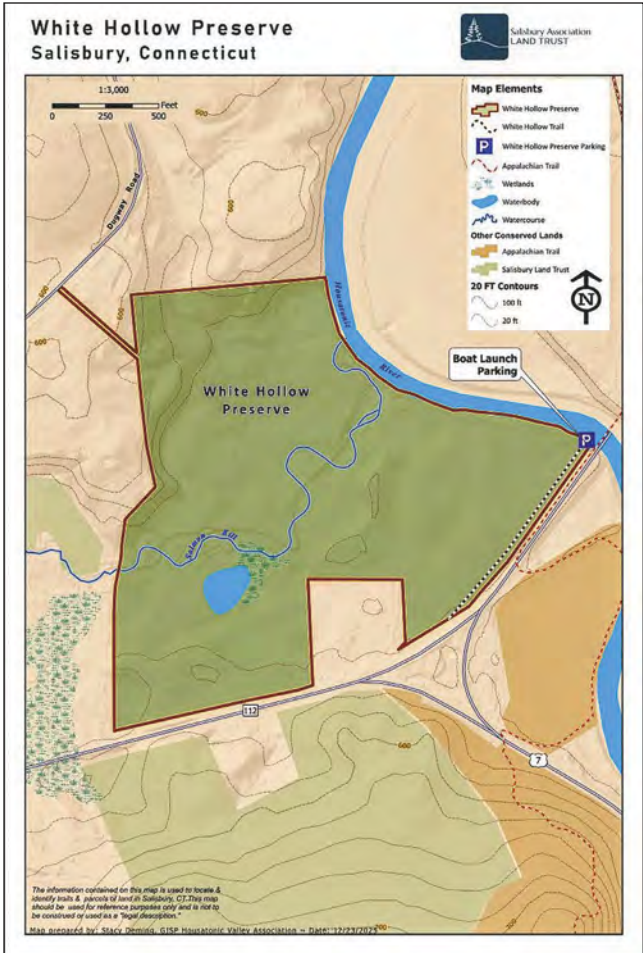
Former campers were upset by the possibility, but were nevertheless motivated by the Friends of Silver Lake mission.

Kristin Vineyard, 60, of East Haven, Connecticut, who began attending the camp as a conferee in the 1970s, said she cried when she heard that the camp would close. “It felt like there was a death in the family,” she said in a follow-up interview. When she learned of Friends of Silver Lake, though, she said she felt motivated: “I was in instantly.”

While she would prefer to see the programming continue on Low Road, she noted that the ethos of Silver Lake is not confined to one location. “Can it take place somewhere else? I think it can.”

Others agreed. The prospect of losing the Sharon campground “really is kind of heartbreaking,” said Katherine Hughes, 39. Hughes, a native of Norwich, Connecticut, now living in Le-dyard, has attended, staffed, and volunteered at the camp since the late 1990s. She said seeing the diverse and passionate crowd at the meeting was heartening despite the difficult news.

“The whole notion of Silver Lake is that it isn’t a physical place,” she said in a phone interview after the meeting. “The community has been built physically on site but can be translated to other places.”



MAP PROVIDED

The Salmon Kill runs through White Hollow Preserve, now owned by the Salisbury Association Land Trust.

Salisbury adds 63-acre preservation

SALISBURY — In mid-December, the Salisbury Association Land Trust completed the purchase of 63 acres at the corner of Route 112 and Route 7.

The property was acquired from John Kuhns, fulfilling his wish to preserve the land from future development.

The site has been named the White Hollow Preserve.

The Salmon Kill runs through the center of the property, and joins the Housatonic River there.

The existing boat launch next to the bridge over the Housatonic on Route 7 will remain open to the public.

Cornwall prepares roadmap for upcoming budget season

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Cornwall officials are beginning the annual, months-long process of developing the town’s municipal and education budgets, with a series of meetings scheduled throughout the winter and spring.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, Jan. 6, town officials outlined key dates for the upcoming budget season.

There are three main components to Cornwall’s annual budget: municipal spending, Region One education and Cornwall Consolidated

School education. All planning meetings will be held virtually unless otherwise indicated.

On Thursday, Feb. 5, the Board of Finance will hold a special meeting with Region One Business Manager Sam Herrick to receive information on the town’s assessment for regional education costs in fiscal year 2026-27.

On Thursday, Feb. 19, the BOF will present its proposed budget for 2026-27.

On Thursday, March 5, Cornwall Consolidated School’s Board of Education will present its proposed budget.

A budget workshop will be held Thursday, March 19.

The public hearing for the 2026-27 town spending plans is scheduled for Friday, April 17, and 7:30 p.m. in CCS.

The town meeting to vote on the budget will take place Friday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m. in CCS. The BOF will meet immediately after to set the mill rate.

Agendas for each meeting will be posted in advance.

North Canaan voters approve tax ordinance, truck, budget transfer

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — Residents voted in favor of three agenda items at a town meeting Monday, Jan. 5.

A tax collector ordinance was approved with six appendix items. Five of the items were policy updates to bring the town in line with Connecticut General Statutes. The sixth item was to implement a \$1 administrative fee to be added to the tax applied to delinquent motor vehicle

accounts.

A supplemental appropriation of \$41,088.28 was accepted to balance the 2025-26 budget, particularly to cover costs for the interim tax collector.

The purchase of a new town truck was approved. The Ford F-600 with an all-season body and centralized hydraulic system will cost \$177,505.55.

All agenda items were passed unanimously by the residents in attendance.



PHOTO PROVIDED

CVFD reaches fundraising goal for new fire trucks

The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department announced in early January that it has completed its \$600,000 fundraising campaign to purchase new fire apparatus. CVFD President Dick Sears, above, said more than 300 individuals, organizations and businesses contributed to the effort. The funds will be used to replace two aging trucks — each approximately 25 years old — with a new rescue pumper and a mini pumper.

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PROTEST

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Demonstrators lined Route 44 on the Memorial Green in Salisbury on the morning of Jan. 10 to protest the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

that had gathered in memory of Good. Connecticut Public Radio reported that at least one person had been struck by the vehicles and that police are investigating potential charges.

In Salisbury, the protest unfolded calmly but with a palpable sense of urgency. Just before noon, roughly 160 demonstrators lined Route 44, holding signs and cheering as passing motorists honked their horns.

Organizer Sophia deBoer stood alongside her husband, Lee deBoer, and fellow activists Kathy Voldstad and Amy Lake to greet demonstrators as they arrived. Along with Al Ginouves, the group has organized weekly protests against the Trump administration since April 2025’s nationwide “Hands Off” movement.

“It’s time that people stood

up to this lawless administration,” Sophia deBoer said as the crowd waved their signs. Local immigrants’ rights advocate John Carter echoed that sentiment. “I need to put my body where my soul is,” he said.

Attendees cited a range of emotions for turning out, from anger and fear to cautious optimism

Joan Gardiner said it was “outrage and fear” that brought her to the protest, while Christine Clare said, “Being out here today, this makes me hopeful.”

Calls for justice dominated many of the messages displayed on protesters’ signs. Asked what motivated him to attend, Salisbury resident Louis Tomaino pointed to the words on his sign: “We all saw Renee Good murdered. And we all saw murder excused.”

NDP

Continued from Page A1

were big enough that we couldn’t sign. It was a difficult decision.” She said the hospital had discussed the issues with NDP representatives and cited unmet state requirements. Without a sponsoring hospital, NDP could not operate in Connecticut. That issue was resolved when NDP finalized an agreement with Stamford Hospital, allowing it to continue providing services in the Northwest Corner.

At the same time, Sharon Hospital is establishing a hospital-based paramedic service through Nuvance/Northwell, owner of the hospital. Under the current model, the service consists of a single paramedic, who begins the day at New Milford Hospital before traveling to Sharon, prompting concerns from some volunteer ambulance crews about response times while that paramedic is in transit.

Addressing those concerns, hospital officials said while the new paramedic service covers a wide area, so too does NDP, which is based out of Rhinebeck. Some volunteer ambulance crews also said their concerns relate to the transition to two providers, with Sharon Hospital’s service still being built out and not yet fully stationed in Sharon.

Falls Village First Selectman David Barger asked whether more than one paramedic service could operate in the region.

“There could be more than one,” McCulloch said.

Matt Cassavechia, director of emergency services for Sharon Hospital, said Litchfield County Dispatch, which handles all ambulance and fire dispatching for the region, will call whichever paramedic service is available at the time of an emergency.

He acknowledged that the current arrangement could be improved and said the hospital hopes to expand on-site paramedic coverage in Sharon. Doing so would require state approval through

a need-for-service application, which Cassavechia said would benefit from letters of support from the community and area first selectmen.

Several volunteer ambulance representatives expressed concern about how changes could affect basic life support services and volunteer operations. Cassavechia said the hospital does not intend to replace volunteer squads.

“We’re not snapping up patients,” he said. “That’s not what we do. We are deliberate and purposeful. We have zero intent of putting volunteers out of business.”

Questions were also raised about possible delays in transferring patients from Sharon Hospital to other facilities. McCulloch said the hospital has been experiencing high emergency room and inpatient volumes but has not seen unusual wait times.

Michelle Hansen of the Falls Village ambulance squad cited a recent case involving a cancer patient who needed to be transported to Yale New Haven Hospital and was reportedly told by Nuvance that there would be an upfront cost of \$2,000. NDP ultimately completed the transport.

“That is certainly not our practice,” said Thomas Horkan, Sharon Hospital’s EMS coordinator. “As soon as we were made aware, we took corrective action. It was human error. I listened to the tape. It was unfortunate.”

State Rep. Maria Horn, D-64, attended the meeting to assess how the changes might affect patient care and costs. Cassavechia said billing practices vary among ambulance providers and that clearer rules of engagement would need to be established with local squads.

After the discussion, Sharon First Selectman Casey Flanagan said the outcome appeared reassuring.

“It seems we’re going to have bonus coverage,” he said. “So, I’m OK with this.”

FLU

Continued from Page A1

“We’re seeing a ton of influenza. People are coming in with body aches, fever, congestion and gastrointestinal issues,” Humphreys said.

She noted that clinicians are also seeing many infected children, particularly those connected to boarding schools. One private school in the region, she said, shut down prior to winter break after reporting more than 100 flu cases. “At boarding schools it spreads like wildfire.”

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) confirmed the state’s first influenza-related death of the 2025-26 season on Oct. 25. The death involved a Hartford County resident between the ages of 80 and 89, underscoring the heightened risk influenza poses to older adults and those with chronic health conditions.

Worst flu season in decades

At Sharon Hospital, emergency department physicians are reporting a sharp increase in influenza cases, with more patients requiring hospitalizations than in a typical winter.

Between Dec. 1 through Dec. 9, “Our emergency de-

partment saw 100 patients who tested positive for influenza A,” said Marshall. Of those patients, he said, 11 required hospitalization.

The Sharon Hospital physician said clinicians have seen an uptick in flu cases since the COVID-19 pandemic eased, which he attributed in part to people becoming less vigilant about preventive measures such as staying home when sick, masking when appropriate and hand hygiene.

He also noted that a mutated strain of influenza A, H3N2 subclade K, which is associated with more severe illness, particularly among older adults and individuals with preexisting health issues, is contributing to higher hospitalization rates.

Primary care clinics report heavy flu volume

The North Canaan Community Health and Wellness Center has been inundated with flu-infected children in recent weeks, and officials advise families to isolate sick children from older adults and others most at risk for serious illness.

The facility’s chief medical officer emphasized that clinicians continue to recom-

mend the seasonal flu vaccine, despite misinformation suggesting this year’s vaccine is ineffective because it was distributed before the emergence of the H2N3 strain.

“The flu vaccine will decrease the severity of the illness. Unfortunately, it has not stopped spreading,” said Humphreys, who also advised people to protect themselves by wearing a mask in waiting rooms or while moving through health care facilities where the virus may be airborne.

Absenteeism on the rise at schools

Public and private schools across the region have also been affected by this year’s brutal flu season, particularly in the weeks leading up to the holiday break.

At Housatonic Valley Regional High School, school nurse Jackie Nichols said tracking flu cases is difficult because illnesses are self-reported.

On Dec. 19, the last day before winter break “about 12 percent of the high school’s population, 39 students, were absent,” Nichols noted. Teachers, too, caught the flu, with about 36 staff members falling ill prior to the break.

A similar pattern was reported across Region One elementary schools, according to Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley.

However, once students returned to class after break, flu cases declined. “As of Jan. 7, absences temporarily dropped to 15 students, a decline Brady-Shanley attributed to reduced crowding after the holiday.

“When you don’t have 200 to 300 kids in the same space, you lessen the transmission,” though the superintendent cautioned numbers could rise again.

“I wouldn’t be shocked if in the next couple of weeks to 10 days, between COVID, RSV and flu, that the numbers go up.”

Both HVRHS starting guards on the boys basketball team missed the rivalry game at Lakeview High School on Jan. 9 due to the flu (see sports on Page B5).

Brady-Shanley stressed the importance of keeping children home when sick until they are fever-free, and reinforced basic hygiene.

“If you can get kids to wash their hands three to four times per day, they are less likely to get sick.”

NORFOLK PUB

Continued from Page A1

historic landmark as part of the Norfolk Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Royal Arcanum, a large Arts and Crafts-style brick building, was built in 1904 by architect Alfredo Taylor as a home for the Norfolk Fire Department and several other town groups.

Today, it houses the bookstore Les Renards & Co.; audiovisual consulting firm Boyce Nemec Designs, which has occupied a ground-floor office since the 1970s; Ruthann Olsson Interior Arts and Design; and the Pub. One of the commercial tenants, who requested anonymity, said their lease runs through Dec. 31, 2026.

The building also has contained additional office space and several residential apartments.

According to a source close to the building, none of the residences were occupied at the time of the sale in September.

Norfolk Hub, a local nonprofit that sold the building, originally acquired it in 2021 for \$950,000 with assistance from a gift from the William and Mary Greve Foundation.

In an Oct. 4 announcement, the group said that \$300,000 of the September sale proceeds had been allocated to the Foundation for

Norfolk Living, a local affordable housing nonprofit, to support future housing projects.

An additional \$500,000 was directed toward supporting the proposed firehouse project, according to Norfolk Hub.

The building’s new owners — comprised of clothing designer Emily Adams Bode Aujla, her husband, Aaron Aujla, an interior designer, and his brother Dev Aujla, CEO of Bode — have yet to announce plans for the Royal Arcanum, leaving many in town to speculate about what will occupy the vast structure.

Residents have been particularly concerned about the loss of the village’s only restaurant and bar, which has operated in the same location for decades under various names and owners.

Larry Hannafin and Sally Carr, both lifelong Norfolk residents whose families have been in town for generations, organized a petition in late December protesting the closure. “The pub is far more than a business,” the petition reads. “It is a vital gathering place, an economic anchor, a significant employer and a cornerstone of our town’s character.”

During an interview in late December with The

Lakeville Journal, Hannafin and Carr expressed dismay at what they described as the loss of critical community infrastructure. “To live in a town that you can’t take a friend to supper with!” Carr exclaimed with exasperation.

“When I grew up there were five restaurants and five grocery stores,” Carr added.

Hannafin said he sent the signed petitions — which he last counted at 295 — to American Folk & Heritage on Wednesday. As of Friday, he said he had not received a response.

Dev Aujla said in a late December email to The Lakeville Journal that the closure followed a “conversation” the owners had with Norfolk Pub owner Heidi Forler. He did not elaborate and has not responded to follow-up requests for clarification. Forler declined to comment.

Norfolk Public Information Officer Jon Barbagallo said in late December that the town fire marshal was not involved, responding to circulating rumors that suggested otherwise. “This is strictly between the owners of the new building and the proprietors of the restaurant.”

Despite the imminent closure, the bar is maintaining its lively programming, with its popular trivia night re-

turning on Wednesday, Jan. 14, followed by live music the following night.

Still, residents have begun mourning the loss of the town’s only watering hole and evening eatery, while looking anxiously toward the future.

A regular patron sitting at the bar Thursday evening praised the restaurant’s communal atmosphere. “Everyone knows everyone — it’s so great.” She described the closure as “tragic.”

First Selectman Henry Tirrell said Friday that the establishment has been a fixture his entire life and that he even spent the evening of his wedding day there. “It’s a sad thing to see it going away,” he said. “I certainly hope something can be restored there.”

Meanwhile, Lindsey Prevuznak, who has worked as a bartender at the Pub for a decade, announced the closure in a Facebook post Wednesday. Speaking with The Lakeville Journal on Friday, she reflected on the deep ties the establishment has with the community, describing its loss as “a heart break for entire community whose lives we enriched and touched.”

“I’m deeply grateful and humbled to have shared moments with such remarkable people.”

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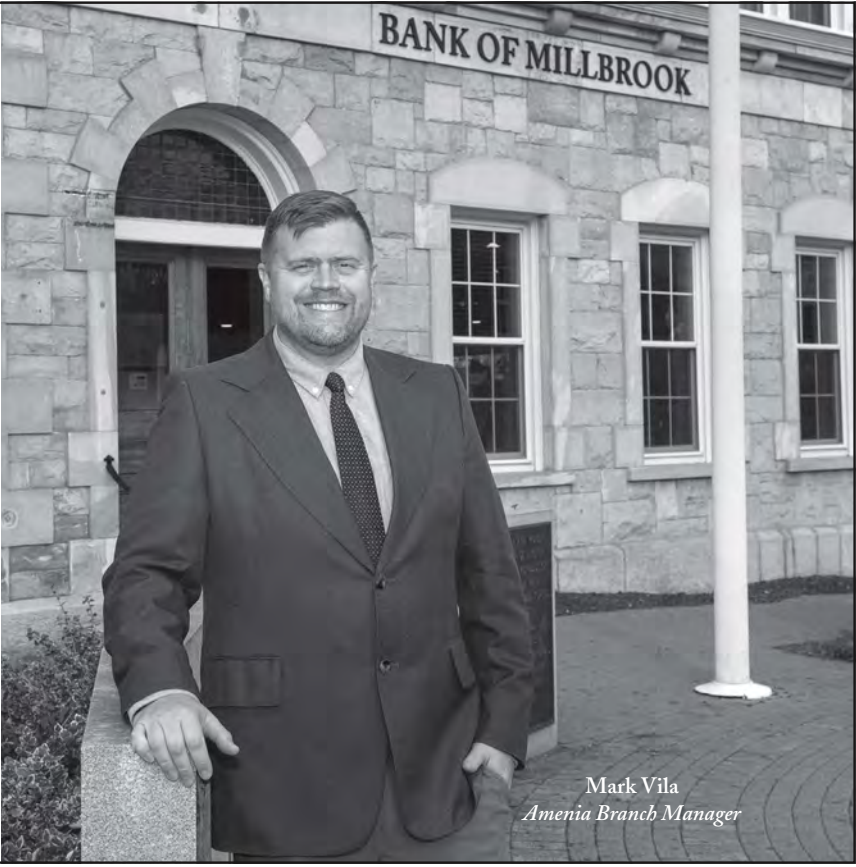
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Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

FILM: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

‘Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire’ at The Moviehouse

“I’m not a great activist,” said filmmaker Oren Rudavsky, humbly. “I do my work in my own quiet way, and I hope that it speaks to people.”

Rudavsky’s film “Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire,” screens at The Moviehouse in Millerton on Saturday, Jan. 18, followed by a post-film conversation with Rudavsky and moderator Ileene Smith.

Rudavsky, who lives in New York City and has a home in Lakeville, has been screening films at The Moviehouse for nearly three decades. “I was the first independent filmmaker to show a film there back in 1997 or ‘98,” he recalled, with “A Life Apart: Hasidism in America.” “I think I’ve shown four or five films there over the years.”

Best known for his searing 1958 memoir, “Night,” Elie Wiesel forever altered how the Holocaust would be written about and remembered. A teenage survivor of Auschwitz and Buchenwald, the Romanian-born author became an international spokesperson for memory, conscience and moral responsibility. Yet Rudavsky’s documentary looks beyond Wiesel’s public role, revealing a man who was, in the director’s words, “intensely private and profoundly public.”

Rudavsky’s connection to Wiesel is also personal. “I grew up in Boston,” he said, “and Elie started teaching there in ’77 or ’78, and my mother took a class with him.” His father was a Reform rabbi, and the family’s shelves were filled with Jewish books, including Wiesel’s, such as “Night,” “Jews of Silence,” and the volume that would later lend its name to the film: “Souls on Fire.”

“His mystical storytelling is where he’s at his best,” Rudavsky said of the book. “So eloquent and beautiful — you could pick up any page and be transported into this other world, this other realm. ‘Night’ does that too, in a horrifying way, but it achieves that same sort of consciousness change.”

Wiesel, who died in 2016 at the age of 87, would go on to establish what is now the Elie Wiesel Center for



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Filmmaker Oren Rudavsky

Jewish Studies at Boston University, an institution devoted to ethical inquiry, dialogue and human rights, principles that shaped both his teaching and his writing.

“One of the things that is most striking to me in living with Elie Wiesel’s work for the past four years,” said Rudavsky, “is how civilized, cultured, eloquent, soft-spoken and gentle a person he was, how loving in general a person he was.” That gentleness and quiet insistence on civility becomes one of the film’s most moving revelations.

The documentary does not present Wiesel as a saint or a monument. It lingers instead on the human questions. “How do you overcome trauma?” Rudavsky asked. “How do you live with it? Do you ever overcome it? I don’t think Elie did overcome it, but I think he learned to live with it and learned to enjoy life — sleeplessly perhaps — but he enjoyed the world.”

To evoke the inner life

of memory, the film incorporates hand-painted animation by Joel Orloff, inspired in part by the illustrator Mark Podwal, who collaborated with Wiesel on several projects. “A few of the animations are inspired by his brilliant work,” Rudavsky said. “Everything else is from Joel Orloff’s imagination.”

The technique they employed in the film was influenced by South African artist William Kentridge, whose charcoal drawings evolve through erasure and reworking. “We wanted to evoke memory through the animation,” Rudavsky explained. “Joel painted on glass, smudged it, poured water onto it.” The result is a haunting, fluid visual language, neither literal nor ornamental.

“At first, I wasn’t sure I was going to use animation,” Rudavsky explained. “But when I read portions of Elie’s autobiography, he intersperses these dreams about his family, his father, and I thought, ‘This just cries out for anima-



tion.” The effect is striking: a fusion of conscious and subconscious, past and present.

Marion Wiesel, Elie’s wife, translator, and closest collaborator, passed away in February of last year. She was able to see the film at a screening at Lincoln Center. “She said to me, ‘I love the film, but it caused me pain because it made me fall in love with Elie all over again,’” Rudavsky recalled. “Which was heartbreaking — but for a filmmaker, what more can you really ask for?”

Marion, he added, was a remarkable figure in her own right, deeply involved in civil rights activism. A member of the NAACP in the 1950s, she encouraged Elie to look beyond the Jewish world he mostly traveled in and toward a broader global perspective.

That outward gaze was central to Wiesel’s public life. The film revisits moments when he spoke directly to political power, including his famous confrontation with President Ronald Reagan over a planned visit to a cemetery in Bitburg, Germany, where SS members were buried. “Elie lost the

Continued on next page



PHOTO BY ELENA SPELLMAN

Marietta Whittlesey

COMMUNITY:
ELENA SPELLMAN

Marietta Whittlesey on writing, psychology and reinvention

When writer and therapist Marietta Whittlesey moved to Salisbury in 1979, she had already published two nonfiction books and assumed she would eventually become a fiction writer like her mother, whose screenplays and short stories were widely published in the 1940s.

“But one day, after struggling to freelance magazine articles and propose new books, it occurred to me that I might not be the next Edith Wharton who could support myself as a fiction writer, and there were a lot of things I wanted to do in life, all of which cost money.” Those things included resuming competitive horseback riding.

Over time, through a career that has spanned writing, emergency medical service and clinical

psychology, Whittlesey has built a psychotherapy practice in the Northwest Corner focused on evidence-based treatment for trauma, chronic pain and performance anxiety. Drawing on specialized training in EMDR, a trauma-focused therapy, and clinical hypnosis, she works with clients whose symptoms have often not responded to traditional talk therapy.

Whittlesey grew up in New York City and attended Chapin, an all-girls school widely regarded as one of the best in the country. “I hated it — 12 years of total lack of agency left a mark — but I got a great classical education. Recently, I visited for the first time in more than 30 years and found a delightfully changed school — one I wish I could

Continued on page B2

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FILM: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Schlock and awful: Rothrock

While back, the Bad Cinema desk was investigating two movies, “Martial Law” and the imaginatively-titled “Martial Law II: Undercover,” both starring a shortish, incredibly fit and rather cheerful-looking woman: Cynthia Rothrock.

Looking into it a bit more, we found that Rothrock has over 80 movie credits and has been a martial arts superstar for decades. So why isn’t she a household name?

Because she’s not named Bruce Lee or Jackie Chan.

It’s an outrage, and we’re gonna do something about it.

In “Martial Law” (1990), Rothrock and Chad McQueen (Steve’s son) are cops and David Carradine is the evil kung fu-practicing international car thief. We’re talking fun with pizza, the most annoying snitch in cinema history, and a compelling visual discourse on the inadvisability of stealing cars at night from a well-lit dealership located on a busy highway. No gratuitous nekkidity, which really isn’t a problem here, as nobody wants to see any of these people nekkid.

Chad is replaced by Jeff Wincott for the sequel, “Martial Law II: Undercover” (1991). This is much rougher stuff, not least because it has a “sex scene” involving Billy Drago. A kung fu villain runs an expanding underworld empire from the kind of bar you can’t get into without a double-breasted suit and a ponytail. There are large, grunting lackeys, a bit of gratuitous nekkidity, and Rothrock delivering swift justice while clad head to toe in teal.

...‘Soul on Fire’ *Continued from previous page*

battle but won the war,” Rudavsky said. “Because how he spoke up was much more lasting than whatever Reagan did.” He adds that what mattered most was the tone: “It was a civil dialogue. A gentle dialogue.”

Moderating the post-screening discussion will be Ileene Smith, editor at large for Farrar, Straus and Giroux and editorial director of Jewish Lives, the prize-winning biography series published by Yale University Press. Smith worked closely with both Elie and Marion Wiesel on many books, including the new translation of “Night.” In 1986, she accompanied the Wiesels to Oslo when Elie received the Nobel Peace Prize. Her husband, Howard Sobel, served for many years on the board

of the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity.

Wiesel believed that memory was not passive; it was a moral act. Asked about the moral obligation to bear witness, Rudavsky said, “It’s an endless moral obligation. And we all take on what we can, which is always too little.”

And what would Rudavsky ask Wiesel now if he were still here to bear witness?

“People ask, post-Oct. 7, what would Elie have said? And I can’t speak for him but I know he would have spoken up from where he comes from. Some would have disagreed with him. But in the U.S. today, when immigrants are being shipped off to places unknown, when people trying to defend them are facing violence, even

death, we all need to try to do whatever little bit there is to do.”

Even within disagreement, Wiesel believed in dialogue. Rudavsky, speaking about his relationship with Wiesel’s son, Elisha, said: “We have different political perspectives, but we’re united in saying we’ll keep talking, we’ll keep working together. It’s such a divisive time where people don’t talk to each other — they yell at each other and kill each other. That’s something Elie Wiesel certainly would have spoken up about.”

Because for Wiesel, bearing witness was not only about preserving the past. It was about refusing indifference in the present.

For tickets, visit: themoviehouse.net



PHOTOS PROVIDED
Cynthia Rothrock and Steve McQueen's son saunter purposefully in "Martial Law."

“Yes, Madam” (1985) is Rothrock’s debut, as Carrie Morris, a Scotland Yard inspector in Hong Kong to help Inspector Ng (Michelle Yeoh) do something about a piece of errant microfilm. There is an exceptionally unconvincing dubbing of a British accent for Rothrock, who strongly resembles American Olympian Mary Lou Retton — except Retton didn’t do kung fu. The movie makes no sense, which is OK because it’s short. Plus, Rothrock delivers her trademark scorpion kick to some hapless goon’s forehead, which is worth the price of admission.

“City Cops” (1989): Here our heroine is FBI agent “Inspector Cindy,” who comes to Hong Kong to fight crime in warehouses, alleys, office buildings and airports. Featuring the spectacular Receptionist’s Desk Roll. We also get a comical cop

duo, a martinet police superintendent, and an extended opening riff on gender that would be impossible to make today.

“Undefeatable” (1993) was directed by Godfrey Ho, the Jess Franco of the East, and despite Ho’s Hacko di Tutti Hacki status, this movie actually has a story and makes sense. Rothrock plays Kristi, who participates in illegal fights to earn enough money to get her sister through med school. Meanwhile, Anna dumps her psycho husband, Stingray, who fights on the same underground circuit as Kristi — but he’s a lunatic and has a mullet.

Anyhoo, there is a lot of plot involving a couple of cops and Kristi’s dorky gang, and none of it matters because at the end Kristi and the cop subdue Stingray in extremely gory, horrible and entertaining fashion. And then everybody goes to college.



Rothrock and Michelle Yeoh in "Yes, Madam," featuring the scorpion kick.



Rothrock fights crime after rolling around a receptionist's desk in "City Cops."

“Black Creek” (2025): Rothrock produced, co-wrote and starred in this crowdfunded Western, in which she plays a tough woman who rides into town to find her family has been destroyed by the local bad guy, played by

the late Richard Norton. You could make a 15-minute reel of Rothrock and Norton kicking each other over the years, so this is a fitting coda. (Norton died in March 2025.) It seems Rothrock spent most of the bud-

get on sets, lighting and costumes, figuring the writing would only get in the way of the story. So it’s heavy on the fighting, and anyone who thinks kung fu and Westerns don’t mix deserves a scorpion kick to the noggin.

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ART: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

From the tide pool to the stars: Peter Gerakaris’ ‘Oculus Serenade’

Opening Jan. 17 at the Cornwall Library, Peter Gerakaris’ show “Oculus Serenade” takes its cue from a favorite John Steinbeck line of the artist’s: “It is advisable to look from the tide pool to the stars and then back to the tide pool again.” That oscillation between the intimate and the infinite animates Gerakaris’ vivid tondo (round) paintings, works on paper and mosaic forms, each a kind of luminous portal into the interconnectedness of life.

Gerakaris describes his compositions as “merging microscopic and macroscopic perspectives” by layering endangered botanicals, exotic birds, aquatic life and topographical forms into kaleidoscopic, reverberating worlds. Drawing on his firsthand experiences trekking through semitropical jungles, diving coral reefs and hiking along the Housatonic, Gerakaris composes images that



PHOTO PROVIDED

Artist Peter Gerakaris in his studio in Cornwall.

feel both transportive and deeply rooted in observation. A musician as well as a visual artist, he describes his use of color as vibrational — each work humming with what curator Simon Watson has likened to “visual jazz.” At the heart of the exhibition is a four-foot-diameter hand-painted “Orchid Oculus Tondo,” surrounded by four hand-embellished prints

and a shimmering cut-glass mosaic. The central painting conjures a dreamlike cosmos where endangered St. Lucian parrots glide through oversized tropical orchids and foliage. Built through a “call-and-response process” that allows drips, spills and chance encounters to remain visible, the work is alive with motion and improvisation. In the depths of winter, “Oculus

Serenade” offers a kind of visual warmth, a reminder of the beauty, fragility and music of the natural world. “Oculus Serenade: Artwork by Peter D. Gerakaris” runs Jan. 17 through Feb. 28 at the Cornwall Library. An artist’s reception will be held Saturday, Jan. 17, from 4 to 6 p.m. Registration is requested at cornwalllibrary.org/events/.



‘Orchid Oculus Tondo’
by Peter Gerakaris

...Marietta Whittlesey

Continued from page B1

attend right now,” she laughed. She studied psychology as an undergraduate at New York University, where she worked in the lab of Dr. Jay Weiss, a MacArthur Fellowship recipient at Rockefeller University and later at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. After moving to Salisbury, Whittlesey joined the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance as an EMT and found work writing radio and television spots at the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington. That led to a 30-year freelance career writing continuing medical education programs for physicians, often ghostwriting first drafts of journal articles. “I learned a lot of medicine that way and learned how to speak and write like a doctor, which is essential.” At the same time, she continued to write and co-author nonfiction books. “But after a couple of decades, the 80-hour workweeks and the insane pressure got to me.” She enrolled in a master’s program in psychology at Capella University, one of the first accredited online universities. “This worked perfectly for me because I could continue to earn a living as a writer during the day.” After graduating with a Master of Science in clinical psychology, she

decided not to pursue a doctorate. “I am a good autodidact, and I decided I’d rather learn clinical techniques like EMDR and hypnotherapy than do another round of stats and write a dissertation.” EMDR, or Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, is a form of psychotherapy most commonly used to help people process and heal from trauma and other distressing life experiences. After completing a 3,000-hour internship at the former Community Mental Health Affiliates in Lakeville, she opened a private practice in Lakeville. She now works from an office near Sharon Hospital, where she has a general psychotherapy practice. She has a particular interest in treating disorders of appearance, ranging from body dysmorphic disorder to alopecia areata and severe scarring. Whittlesey is certified by the EMDR International Association in eye movement desensitization and reprocessing. The therapy follows a specific protocol using bilateral stimulation — through eye movements, pulsars or audio — to help process traumatic memories associated with PTSD. “So many people have never heard of EMDR, yet it is such a powerful clinical tool — not just



PHOTO BY ELENA SPELLMAN

Marietta Whittlesey

for treating trauma, for which it was originally employed, but now with protocols for eating disorders, phobias, anxiety and many other issues. It is considered one of the top evidence-based

treatments for trauma by the World Health Organization, the American Psychiatric Association and the Department of Veterans Affairs.” Whittlesey treats many clients with chron-

ic pain, often stemming from medically unexplained symptoms. Unlike traditional talk therapy — which has an important place, she said — EMDR can sometimes help patients feel significantly better even after a single session. Rarely are more than six to 10 sessions needed to process traumas such as car accidents, violence or childhood neglect that can lead to a diagnosis of complex PTSD. “Clinical hypnosis is also very helpful in treating chronic pain, as well as anxiety and addictions. I like to teach people self-hypnosis to use on their own. It has been an extremely useful tool for me throughout my life as a writer with deadlines and as a rider facing a jump course.” Whittlesey has also launched a performance

coaching business, Partners in Performance, where she helps clients overcome performance anxiety. Recent clients have included a golfer with “the yips,” a rider recovering from a bad fall, a teacher accepting an award and a woman studying for a dental hygienist exam. Asked about future plans, Whittlesey’s eyes lit up as she described upcoming training in Deep Brain Reorienting, a new treatment with some similarities to EMDR. Whittlesey has a profile on Psychology Today and can be reached at 860-397-5296 or mwlp-cllc@gmail.com. Elena Spellman is a recent Northwest Corner transplant. She is a Russian native and grew up in the Midwest. In addition to writing, she teaches ESL and Russian.

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JAN 16-FEB 15

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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

JANUARY 15

Monotype Printing Workshop

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

2 to 4 p.m.

The David M. Hunt Library will host a Monotype Printing Workshop with Gail O'Donnell & Rika Laser.

Participants will experiment with a variety of materials and printmaking techniques to create unique prints on paper by hand and using a small etching press. All levels welcome! This workshop is limited to 10 participants. Please register here: forms.gle/VFEq4fJWrf9EJb36

Genre Fiction Book Club

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

Come join us on Thursday, Jan. 15, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., if you enjoy reading and discussing fantasy / romantasy / romance / mystery / thrillers / YA / sci-fi. This new book club offers a chance to enjoy conversations, snacks, and book recommendations. This month's book is HEARTWOOD by Amity Gaige. Registration is appreciated. Learn more at www.scovillelibrary.org/event/genre-fiction-book-club-384

JANUARY 16

Opening Reception for the Salisbury Association Exhibit SWSA's First 100 Years

Academy Building, Main St., Salisbury, Conn.

Exhibit hours Tuesdays-Saturdays (Jan. 17- Feb 5) 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with extended hours during Jumpfest posted on Salisburyassociation.org.

Poetry Workshop with Sally Van Doren

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

Write poetry with us on Friday, Jan. 16, 2 to 4 p.m. Sally Van Doren's workshop is an immersive experience of writing, reading, and listening. An inspiring poem and well-chosen prompts set the stage to unlock the imagination and generate unexpected new work. No previous poetry-writing experience is required. Registration is required. Please use this link: www.scovillelibrary.org/event/poetry-workshop-sally-van-doren-385

JANUARY 17

Saturday Story Hour

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

Join Miss Anna for stories about hibernation, a fun craft and a snack at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17. All ages welcome.

Free Chocolate Tasting

Tricorner FEED Market, 56 S. Center St., Millerton, N.Y.

Come and try a FREE tasting of Millerton's own Mudgetown Chocolate at 1 p.m. at TriCorner FEED Market. Featuring new varieties of origin craft chocolate.

Oculus Serenade

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org

An exhibition of tondo paintings, works on paper and mosaic art by Peter D. Gerakaris, opens at the Cornwall Library with an artist reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Registration for the reception is requested at cornwalllibrary.org/events.

Things that Go Bump in the Night

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

The David M. Hunt Library will host Ginny Apple on Saturday, Jan. 17 at 1 p.m. for "Things that Go Bump in the Night". When the sun sets and night is upon us, all sorts of critters emerge from their hiding places and begin to forage, hunt—even play! This program is free and open to the public.

Lakeville Journal Executive Editor Christian Murray in Conversation with Publisher James Clark

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

Join Christian Murray and James Clark for a dialogue about local journalism and coverage of our community's news and issues. Ask questions, suggest stories, and stay on for refreshments and a chance to meet and greet after the program. Sunday, Jan. 17, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Registration is required. Please use this link www.scovillelibrary.org/event/meet-new-lakeville-journal-executive-editor-christian-murray-411

JANUARY 18

Meet the Director: Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire

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

1 p.m.

A screening of Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire followed by a post-screening discussion and Q&A with director Oren Rudavsky, in conversation with Ileene Smith.

Drawing from Wiesel's landmark 1958 memoir Night, the documentary explores his profound philosophical inner life and the lasting impact of his work on how the Holocaust has been written about. Tickets: http://r3jf2.vu/1

Dine Out for History

Various locations

Jan. 18 to March 23, 2026

Seven Millerton restaurants will host Dine Out for History evenings benefiting the North East Historical Society, with 10% of proceeds donated on designated nights. Participating restaurants include The Millerton Inn (Jan. 18), Taro's (Jan. 29), Willa (Feb. 12), Oakhurst Diner (Feb. 22), Pasture Kitchen (March 5), Golden Wok (March 15, takeout only) and Round III (March 23). Diners are encouraged to mention Dine Out for History when ordering.

JANUARY 22

Ski Jumping in the Northeast with Author Ariel Picton Kobayashi

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

At 6 p.m., the David M. Hunt Library will host a virtual program with Ariel Picton Kobayashi author of "Ski Jumping in the Northeast: Small Towns and Big Dreams." Join author and coach Ariel Picton Kobayashi as she examines ski jumping's fascinating identity as both a small-town tradition and thrilling sport. Register for the program here: http://r3jf2.vu/2

Owls of the Hudson Valley

Online.

With more than 400 acres of varied habitat, Innisfree in Millbrook provides refuge for an impressive diversity of wildlife, including as many as five species of owls that may visit, hunt, roost, or nest on the property throughout the year.

From 1 to 2:30 p.m., join local scientist, natural historian, and writer-photographer Dr. Loren Merrill for a fascinating exploration of the owls that call the Hudson Valley home and learn about the remarkable adaptations that make these mysterious

Last week's WotW

A	N	V	I	L
T	A	L	L	Y
L	E	A	S	T
S	T	A	L	E
S	L	A	T	E

nighttime hunters so captivating. Online only. Register: www.innisfreegarden.org/events/owls-2026

Genealogy Workshop: Trace Salisbury's Roots to the Revolution

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

Thursdays, Jan. 22 & 29

On two Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., learn the basics of genealogy in

this fun, two-part, hands-on, exploratory workshop with genealogist Jane Sellery. Use online ancestry tools and accessible public information to uncover past lives and create a profile for a real Salisbury resident who lived during the Revolutionary War era.

Registration is required. Please use this link:

www.scovillelibrary.org/event/genealogy-workshop-trace-salisburys-roots-revolution-403

JANUARY 23

Black Comedy

Ghent Playhouse, 6 Town Hall Place, Ghent, N.Y.

Jan. 23 to 25 and Jan. 30 to Feb. 1

The Ghent Playhouse opens the new year with Peter Shaffer's fast-paced farce "Black Comedy," directed by Ed Dignum

("Lend Me a Tenor"). Set in swinging 1960s London, the play follows a young sculptor whose scheme to impress a collector and future in-laws unravels during a sudden blackout, triggering a night of slapstick chaos.

Times: Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m.

Tickets: GhentPlayhouse.org

Lunch and Learn

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

Lunch and Learn at Hotchkiss Library of Sharon returns from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23, with "Winter Wellness with Dr. Elizabeth Wing, ND." Learn naturopathic strategies to boost your immunity and stay well in the season of colds and flu. Registration is required hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com.

Happy Hour Piano Series: Christopher Casey

American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn.

5 to 7 p.m., \$8

Jazz pianist and composer Christopher Casey performs as part of AMP's Happy Hour Piano Series, featuring live music and libations in a distinctive art space. Tickets may be reserved in advance at americanmuralproject.org/piano-series.

JANUARY 24

Teen Art Workshop: Game On!

American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn.

10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Suggested donation \$10

Artist and educator Gerald Moore leads an interactive workshop using 3D acrylic shapes to build worlds, characters and storylines through collaborative play. Open to teens of all skill levels. Advance registration recommended at americanmuralproject.org/teen-art-workshops.

JANUARY 25

Village Gardeners Book Club

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

The David M. Hunt Library and the Village Gardeners will partner to offer a book club at the library. All meetings will take place on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. On Jan. 25 the group will be discussing "Seed to Dust" by Marc Hamer. On March 8 the book will be "The Red Garden" by Alice Hoffman. On April 12 the group will discuss "Soil: The Story of A Black Mother's Garden" by Camille Dungy. Books for each discussion will be available to check out at the library. This program is free and open to the public.

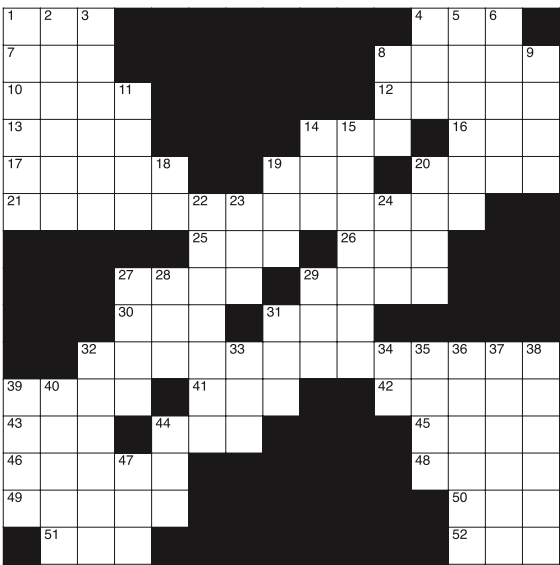
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Former CIA
- Language
- Constrictor snake
- Demand
- Rich man
- Short-tailed marten
- Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- Superconducting super collider
- International group of countries within the Americas
- Sacred state for Muslims
- Shock therapy
- Engrave
- Localities
- Paddle
- Periodical
- Dishonestly gained money
- Gain possession of
- Actor DiCaprio
- High schoolers' test
- Mr. October
- Sign of healing
- One's grandmother
- Entrap
- One who simultaneously buys and sells
- ___ Francisco
- Web-based data provider of marine life
- Type of snake
- Dark mark or stain
- Member of the Salli
- Former measure of length
- CNN's founder
- Witness

CLUES DOWN

- Acquire
- Console
- Hunting expedition
- Pie ___ mode
- Simple shoes for peasants
- Eurasian shrub
- Reciprocal of a sine



- Work together in harmony
- Grenade
- File extension
- Minute pores in a plant
- Medal of Honor
- Make a mistake
- Advance slowly, as if by inches
- Sandwich meat
- An awkward stupid person
- Strong tree
- Commoner
- Electroencephalograph
- ___ Mahal
- Congressman
- Disorderly crowd
- 007's creator Fleming
- Atomic #55

- Part of a door
- Short-tail martens
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Cuddle
- Gang in "The Outsiders"
- Of Croatia
- Body cavity
- Get free of

January 8 Solution

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

January 8 Solution

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



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Sports

Lakeview hosts Housatonic for rivalry night

By Riley Klein

LITCHFIELD — Housatonic Valley Regional High School's girls and boys basketball teams traveled to Lakeview High School Friday, Jan. 9, for back-to-back rivalry games.

Both games were competitive and the score differential was within one possession into the second half. Ultimately, Lakeview won the boys game 65-48 and the girls game 49-35.

The cheerleaders, prep band and roaring student sections made for a lively atmosphere with high energy. HVRHS fans dressed in a "Men in Black" theme, save for one supporter in a fox-fur Mountaineer cap.

The boys game was played first. HVRHS was missing its starting guards Owen Riemer and Nick Crodelle, who were both out with the flu.

Lakeview opened up a lead early and was up by seven points at halftime. HVRHS caught wind in the third quarter and narrowed the gap, bringing the score to 43-41. Lakeview regained

control in the fourth quarter to win 65-48.

Lakeview's leading scorers were Jack Gollow with 29 points, Quinn Coffey with 20 points and Max Guma with 14 points. For HVRHS, Anthony Foley scored 14 points, Anthony Labbadia scored 13, Tyler Roberts scored 10, Simon Markow scored nine and Wyatt Bayer scored two.

The girls game followed. The score went back and forth in the first half with HVRHS leading by one-point at the break. Lakeview caught fire in the third quarter and opened up an 11-point lead. The Bobcats held on to win 49-35.

Lakeview's leading scorers were Allie Pape with 20 points, Christina Barone with 17 points and Eleanor Turturo with six points. For HVRHS, Olivia Brooks scored 12 points, Carmela Egan scored 10, Victoria Brooks scored seven, Maddy Johnson scored four and Aubrey Funk scored two. Egan had a double-double with 14 rebounds.

The snack bar sold more than 100 slices of pizza.



Above, Olivia Brooks plays point guard for Housatonic in the game against Lakeview Friday, Jan. 9. Below, the HVRHS student section came dressed in a "Men in Black" theme and held custom signs.



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN
Above, Aubrey Funk passes. Below, Wyatt Bayer dribbles.



Kent School ice hockey falls to Loomis Chaffee 7-4

By Lans Christensen

KENT — Loomis Chaffee School boys ice hockey defeated Kent School 7-4 Saturday, Jan. 10.

The rivalry game promised to be a tough Founders League match-up.

Two minutes in, with spectators hardly seated, Logan Ferrara of Loomis scored. In a blink, two and a half minutes later, Nikolai Bazalitski made it a 2-0 game.

The rest of the first period maintained a fierce pace of attacks by both teams with many great saves by both goalies.

The second period started and again stunned the crowd when Kent's Calvin Gustafson scored 50 seconds later. Loomis took control of the period with three more goals with Ferrara emerging as the real danger, accounting for two scores.

The 5-1 Loomis lead



Noah Fitzsimmons takes a shot for Kent School.



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN
Above, Calvin Gustafson controls the puck for Kent. Left, Gustafson lines up a shot through traffic in the game against Loomis Chaffee Jan. 10.

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