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The Lakeville Journal

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



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Taking a stand in Salisbury

Standing in front of the White Hart Inn on Saturday, Dec. 2, a group of Salisbury residents waved at passing cars, eliciting honking horns in support of their posters calling for peace and justice and a ceasefire in Gaza.

Living in a post-pandemic world

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — James Shepherd painted a bleak picture of the future in terms of infectious diseases at a Salisbury Forum talk at Housatonic Valley Regional High School Friday, Dec. 1.

Shepherd, a faculty physician at Yale University and a farmer living and working in Sharon, opened by noting he had given the same basic talk to a group of first-year medical students at Yale a few days earlier.

He spoke of the difficulties facing Yale-New Haven Hospital staff in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of these was caused by his beard.

Before the talk, when asked



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

James Shepherd, a Yale University faculty physician, spoke at a Salisbury Forum event.

See POST-PANDEMIC, Page A11

Piling up: Connecticut faces mounting trash challenge

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — When residents of Salisbury and Sharon come to their new, spacious, modern transfer station and deposit their items in the appropriate places, everything seems under control.

But Connecticut in general and the Northwest Corner in particular has a problem with what to do with the garbage.

Until July 2022 most of Region One's municipal solid waste (MSW)

went to a waste-to-energy (WTE) facility in Hartford. It was burned to produce electricity.

The Hartford plant closed in July 2022 after the state declined to invest some \$300 million to bring the antiquated plant up to speed.

Hartford leaders, notably Mayor Luke Bronin, are not interested in building a new trash plant on the site. They want the site, along the Connecticut River, cleaned up and redeveloped for commercial or recreational use.

Since the plant, operated by the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) was closed, Connecticut has been shipping the garbage out of state, to landfills in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

The Northwest Corner's MSW winds up at the Keystone Sanitary Landfill (KSL) in Dunmore, Pennsylvania, near Scranton.

Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station (SSTS) manager Brian Bartram said he remembers taking the trash to the dump on Bunker Hill in Salisbury as a child in the 1970s. "There were peacocks out front."

But in the mid-'70s, dumps were out, and transfer stations were in. Salisbury and Sharon opted to join forces and ran a transfer station on Route 41 for decades until the site's owner, The Hotchkiss School, decided it wanted it back.

The current transfer station, on Route 44 near the state line with Millerton, New York, opened in October 2020. The MSW and recycling is driven from the Salisbury-Sharon station to MIRA's Torrington transfer station.

From there the recyclable materials go on to companies that handle specific materials such as glass or cardboard. The garbage goes on to Pennsylvania.

Bartram said trying to get a handle on the overall waste disposal problem is difficult. When one problem is addressed, others



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Henry Kissinger signing books in the Kent Memorial Library.

Sharon residents debate solar plan pros and cons

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Concerned residents gathered for an informational town meeting Wednesday, Nov. 29, focusing on a solar panel installation planned for town property adjacent to Sharon Center School (SCS).

About 125 voters attended to learn the evolved status of the project and explore options that might still be available for the project that had received initial approval at a town meeting Aug. 18, 2022.

As a result of the 2022 town

meeting, and a unanimous vote by the 14 residents present, the town had signed a power purchase agreement with the Connecticut Green Bank. Preliminary implementation has begun.

A recent lawful petition carrying 209 signatures had asked for reconsideration of the project and the scheduling of a town-wide referendum vote, that has now been scheduled by the Board of Selectmen for Friday, Jan. 5. The referendum will decide by "Yes" or "No" vote whether the project may proceed. Voting will be at the Town Hall between noon and 8 p.m.

Further complicating the issue is a project application submitted

See SOLAR, Page A12

See TRASH, Page A12

Henry Kissinger dies at 100 in Kent

By Kathryn Boughton

KENT — Henry Kissinger, 100, one of the most controversial figures of the latter half of the 20th century, died at his Kent home Wednesday, Nov. 29, according to a statement from his consulting firm, Kissinger Associates.

The statement said: "He will be interred at a private family service. At a later date there will be a memorial service in New York City."

He is survived by his wife, Nancy (Maginnes) Kissinger; two children: David and Elizabeth; and five grandchildren.

Kissinger had made a home in Kent since the early 1980s, when he bought the Henderson Blueberry Farm on Henderson Road. He was

active in diplomatic circles until the end of his long life, and it was there he met with Chinese Ambassador to the United States Xie Feng on May 26 of this year, the day before his 100th birthday. The pair reportedly had an in-depth exchange of views on China/U.S. relations, and international and regional issues of common interest.

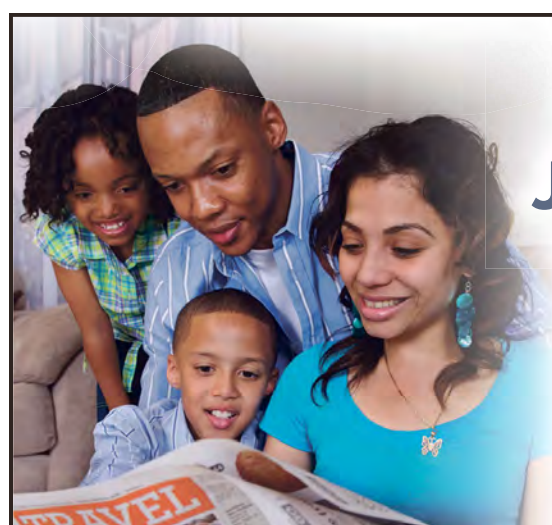
In July, Kissinger traveled to China where he met President Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders in Beijing.

Despite his larger-than-life impact on the world stage, Kissinger engaged with his fellow townspeople. He supported the Kent Volunteer Fire Department and

See KISSINGER, Page A11



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Regional

In The Journal this week

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Online This Week

Pine Plains approves solar farm proposal

The Pine Plains Planning Board unanimously approved Carson Power's plan to build a Tier 3 solar farm at Pulvers Corners on Tuesday, Nov. 28. Go to www.tricornernews.com

POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

The following information was provided by the Connecticut State Police at Troop B. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Disorderly conduct

On Tuesday, Nov. 28, at approximately 11:15 p.m., troopers from Troop B were dispatched to an address on Ashley Falls Road in North Canaan on the report of an active disturbance. Jeremiah Larsen, 41, was arrested and taken into custody on charges of threatening and disorderly conduct. He was issued a \$1,000 non-surety bond.

Three-car accident

On Wednesday, Nov. 29, at approximately 3:45 p.m., downtown Salisbury was the scene of a three-vehicle accident. Lisa Fuerst, 59, of Salisbury, was stopped in traffic eastbound on Route 44 and Academy Street. Amanda Slaughter, 43, of New York City, was stopped behind Fuerst. Kelli Stuart, 42, of Morris, failed to see Slaughter's vehicle stopped and struck it in the rear, causing Slaughter's vehicle to hit Fuerst's vehicle in the rear. Stuart's vehicle was towed from the scene and Stuart was charged with following too closely, resulting in an accident.

Winter clothing funds for children in North Canaan

NORTH CANAAN — Walmart in Torrington. Fran Canaan Child Care Center received funding for 12 children to receive winter clothing.

Warm the Children is a program providing new winter clothing and footwear for local children in need. Families to be served are chosen by local social service agencies, and schools. Shopping (family and volunteer shopper together) takes place at

Violating protective order

On Thursday, Nov. 30, troopers were dispatched to an address on Sharon Valley Road at approximately 8:30 p.m., for a disturbance. A subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Peter Peterson, 67, of Sharon, on charges of violating a protective order. He was released on a \$5,000 cash or surety bond.

Rear-ended in Sharon

On Friday, Dec. 1, at approximately 5:30 p.m., Jennifer Anderson, 47, of Sharon, was traveling south on Route 41 prior to Hosier Road. Dominic Sanchez, 30, of Falls Village, was traveling directly behind Anderson, who stopped to check on a broken-down vehicle parked on the left shoulder. Sanchez was changing the station on the car radio and struck Anderson's vehicle in the rear. She was transported to the hospital for minor injuries. Both vehicles were towed from the scene and Sanchez was issued an infraction for following too close, resulting in an accident.

The Lakeville Journal will publish the outcome of police charges. Contact us by mail at P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039, Attn: Police Blotter, or send an email, with "police blotter" in the subject line, to johnc@lakevillejournal.com.

Walmart in Torrington. Fran Chapel will be the shopper for families at her center.

Warm the Children is funded primarily with small individual donations. Tax-deductible donations are appreciated and can be sent to Warm the Children, PO Box 1001, Torrington, CT 06790. Checks can be written to "United Way," and in the memo please write "Warm The Children."

CT approves labor and delivery closure at Windham Hospital

By Katy Golvala
CT Mirror

The state Office of Health Strategy (OHS) announced on Friday the approval of a plan to terminate labor and delivery services at Windham Hospital, bringing an end to a three-year saga that pitted community organizers against one of the state's largest health systems.

Under the terms of the settlement, Windham Hospital, owned by Hartford HealthCare, must hire an independent third party to assess the need for and feasibility of establishing a birthing center in the area. If the study concludes that it is necessary and possible to do so, the hospital will have to either find a provider to operate a birthing center or operate it itself.

"Together with Windham Hospital, we carefully crafted this settlement to ensure the healthcare of birthing parents is not compromised by the termination," said OHS executive director Deidre Gifford in a statement.

The hospital will also be required to provide both emergency and non-emergency transportation for the birthing parent, as well as any support people, to and from the hospital for pre-delivery exams, labor and delivery, and post-delivery visits. Windham Hospital will continue to provide prenatal and postpartum care.

"Windham Hospital's decision to end childbirth services has always been about providing safe and sustainable care for women and babies. The state Office of Health Strategy's settlement with the hospital underscores our commitment to a safe childbirth experience, while acknowledging the existing and enhanced pre- and post-natal programs and services we continue to provide," said president of Windham and Backus Hospitals Donna Handley in the same statement.

The decision marks the first of three applications currently under consideration by OHS to close labor



PHOTO BY SHAHRZAD RASEKH / CT MIRROR

Activists stood on the steps of the state Capitol on November 13, 2023, to protest the proposed closure of the labor and delivery unit at Windham Hospital.

and delivery units in rural areas of the state.

In addition to Windham Hospital, two other rural hospitals — Johnson Memorial in Stafford and Sharon Hospital — also have pending applications to terminate birthing services. If all three receive approval, Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam would be the only rural hospital in the state offering birthing services.

Windham Hospital stopped performing births in June 2020. Three months later, Hartford HealthCare applied for state approval — known as a "certificate of need" — to officially close the unit, pointing to patient safety concerns due to low birth volumes and difficulty recruiting health care providers.

Community organizers from Windham have sustained a fierce campaign opposing the closure for over three years, holding vigils and protests in Windham

and Hartford to voice their concerns about the service cuts. In July 2022, OHS issued an initial denial of the proposal to permanently close labor and delivery at Windham, finding that, among other potential negative outcomes, the move could exacerbate existing health inequities, diminish access, increase costs and limit patient choice in the region.

Per the approval process, Hartford HealthCare appealed the decision the following month.

Among the new evidence Hartford HealthCare presented was the findings from a survey where hospital administrators reported "needing at least 200 annual births for safety and financial viability." Hartford HealthCare noted that "Windham handled approximately 100 births in each of its last sev-

eral years of operation."

The survey's authors also concluded that "many administrators indicated prioritizing local community needs for obstetric care over concerns about viability and staffing."

The issue of low birth volumes at Windham has been one of the most contentious points of disagreement between Hartford HealthCare and community members opposed to the closure.

"It comes down to both sides saying it's unsafe," said John Brady in a November 2021 interview with the CT Mirror. Brady is a registered nurse and serves as the executive vice president of AFT CT, a union representing health care professionals, as well as teachers and public employees.

According to the settlement, once both OHS and Windham sign the agreement, the parties will meet to establish a work plan for the study of the birthing center.

"This is how you kill a small city," said Willimantic town council member Rodney Alexander on the steps of the state Capitol during a November evening vigil calling for the restoration of services. "How can you convince a young couple to move to Willimantic, raise a family, with no maternity ward?"

The Journal occasionally will offer articles from CTMirror.org, a source of nonprofit journalism and a partner with The Lakeville Journal.

LEGAL NOTICES

**Legal Notice
Notice of Hearing
Insolvent Estate
ESTATE OF
JOHN W. CLOUSER, SR.
Late of Falls Village
(22-00437)**

Pursuant to an order of Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge a hearing will be held to determine whether the above estate is insolvent, as is represented in documentation on file at the Court of probate. Said hearing, wherein the Court's decision may affect your interests, if any, will be held on December 14, 2023 at 9:00 AM via webex: Please go to: webex.ctprobate.gov Enter ID Number: 2630 416 6078 & Password: 6PgCmnaJm 46 OR Dial: 1-844-992-4726. Enter Access Code: 2630 416 6078 By Order of the Court
Beth L. McGuire
Chief Clerk
12-07-23

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
MARY P. LAMB
Late of Sharon
AKA Mary Pitcher Lamb
(23-00458)**

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 21, 2023, 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:
Donna W. Lamb, Sr.
c/o Linda M. Patz
Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP
P.O. Box 101
Canaan, CT 06018
Jordan M. Richards
Judge
12-07-23

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
DOLORES J. CARLSON
Late of Salisbury
(23-00441)**

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 21, 2023, 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:
Brian Carlson
c/o Andrea Doyle Asman
Litwin Asman, PC
1047 Bantam Rd.
P.O. Box 698
Bantam, CT 06750
Megan M. Foley
Clerk
12-07-23

**TOWN OF CANAAN
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC NOTICE
STEVEN DUTTON
VARIANCE**

The Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Canaan (Falls Village) held a Public Hearing on Monday, November 27, 2023 at 6:30 PM in the Town Hall, 108 Main Street, Falls Village, to hear an application for variance of Section 3.2, minimum rear yard setback, of the Zoning Regulations by Steven Dutton, 64 Route 7 N. The Board voted 3-2 to reject the request because no hardship was created by the Planning and Zoning Regulations.

Richard Heinz
Chairman
12-07-23 655483

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Text and a reproducible photograph are due two weeks before the desired publication date. If sending a photograph (.jpg or .tiff file), please include the names of everyone in the picture in the body of your email.

For more information, or to submit
your paid announcement, please email
publisher@lakevillejournal.com.

Our Towns

P&Z weighs marijuana zoning after North Canaan voters speak

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — At an open workshop in Town Hall Sunday, Nov. 27, the town Planning and Zoning Commission discussed options for regulating and zoning recreational cannabis licenses in North Canaan.

Voters narrowly approved the sale of marijuana in the municipality on Election Day 2023 — so narrow, in fact, that a mandatory re-canvassing was issued by the secretary of state. The recount Thursday, Nov. 30, confirmed that the ballot measure passed 542-525.

At the P&Z workshop, Chairman Tim Abbott said the commission's goal would be to "make sure we all have a common understanding as to what we are allowed to regulate, where we have discretion, and how we do that."

Abbott explained P&Z is able to regulate buffer zones (proximity to schools,



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

North Canaan's Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed a map on Nov. 27.

churches, etc.), hours of operation, and signage. An issue was noted relating to day cares, which can be zoned residentially.

"We allow residential development in all zones," said

Abbott, noting this could pose a problem if someone were to open a day care within a residence located in a zone the commission approves for cannabis licensure.

Several commission members saw this as an opportunity to heavily restrict licenses.

"I don't care if it's a post-age stamp in the middle of town," said Mike O'Connor, suggesting that P&Z buffer 500 feet of all residential zones.

"We're talking 12 people here," said Doug Humes.

"That's all you need," said Abbott.

Abbott identified zoning

overlay districts as a potential solution to the limitations of buffering. Through overlays, P&Z could map specific areas in town to permit cannabis licensure.

The commission will present and review an overlaid map at its regular meeting in Town Hall Monday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m.

North Canaan's moratorium on cannabis licensure is in place through February 2024. P&Z may extend the moratorium if regulations are not completed in time.

If ordinances are not in place when the moratorium expires, the town would default to applying its liquor store regulations to cannabis operations.

"Our zoning is actually silent on liquor stores. So, that's why the moratorium is there," said Abbott.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Ty Ford led the pack at Holiday Production night Wednesday night, Nov. 29, by creating 19 of the 84 total wreaths produced. Below, Walter Deane concentrated on his work.

FFA wreath-making rings in seasonal holiday spirit

FALLS VILLAGE — The Agriculture Education wing of Housatonic Valley Regional High School was crowded on the evening of Wednesday, Nov. 29, with FFA alumni, family members, and just plain citizens helping out in making holiday wreaths.

The night yielded an impressive total of 84 wreaths, 19 of them

assembled by Ty Ford. The hum of activity, chatter and laughter combined with the overriding smell of pine to make the Holiday Production night one of the most enjoyable activities of the holiday season.

There is a second Holiday Production night Thursday, Dec. 7, starting at 6:30 p.m.



Canaan Child Care Center receives community grant

NORTH CANAAN — The Canaan Child Care Center has been chosen to receive one of the Year-End Critical Needs grants.

The Northwest CT Community Foundation (NCCF) recently approved year-end grants for 39 local nonprofits that are dedicated to helping area residents and families with limited financial means. A grant check for \$2,200 was

presented to Fran Chapell, director of the Canaan Child Care Center.

The Year-End Critical Needs grant round is made possible by the Northwest CT Community Foundation: Marion Wm. and Alice Edwards Fund, Draper Foundation Fund, Northwest Connecticut Philanthropy Fund, with support from Ruth Vaill and anonymous donors.




Sharon Hospital Community Update



Learn about the latest developments at our hospital. Sharon Hospital leadership will present a virtual community report that includes information on new services, and an update on our community needs assessment and health improvement collaboration. The independent monitor engaged by Nuvance Health will also report on its review of compliance with the April 1, 2019 Agreed Settlement with Connecticut's Office of Health Strategy.

We will discuss and answer questions from the community following the presentation.

Please join us via Zoom webinar:

 nuvancehealth.org/CTForums
 Join via phone: (646) 558-8656
 Meeting ID: 958 1353 9011 Passcode: 480818

 December 12  5-6:30 pm

This will also stream live at facebook.com/sharonhospital

To submit questions in advance:

Call: (203) 739-7919

Email: andrea.rynn@nuvancehealth.org

Mail: Sharon Hospital, Attn: Community Forum
 50 Hospital Hill Road, Sharon, CT 06069

No registration required

TTY/Accessibility: (800) 842-9710

OBITUARIES

Cameron Middlebrook Casey

KENT — Our dearly loved son, brother, uncle and friend, Cameron Middlebrook Casey, 36, of Kent, and Kentfield, California, passed away on Nov. 22, 2023, after a long and courageous battle with depression.

Cameron was a graduate of Marin Catholic High School in Greenbrae, California and the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado. He worked in the film industry in New York City and Brooklyn for ten years before moving to Kent, where he managed a family real estate business. Cameron was an avid mountain

biker, snowboarder, gifted stone artist and world traveler.

In addition to his mother and father, Janette Casey Bertrand of Marin County, California, John Casey of Kent, and his stepmother, Carolyn Casey, Cameron is survived by Caroline Simons and her husband, Taylor Simons, their children Henry and Tatum Simons of Shelter Island, New York, Madeline Casey and her husband, Michael Mutchler of Louisville, Kentucky, and Devan Casey of Kent, as well as his extended family.

A memorial Mass will

be held for Cameron at the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish Catholic Church at 17 Bridge St., Kent, CT at 11:00 A.M. Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023. Interment will follow at the Flanders Cemetery in Kent immediately after the Mass. A reception will be held at the Fife 'n Drum Restaurant at 53 N. Main St. Kent, after interment.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSAlliance.org). Requiem in pacem.

Kenny Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

In Appreciation

Joan Palmer

I knew of Joan Palmer from an early age. My sister and Mrs. Palmer's daughter were in the same class at school. I began to know her better in 1988 when I graduated from art school and got a "temporary" job at Housatonic Day Care Center and began working with Mrs. Palmer. The temporary job lasted 17 years.

We had a lot of fun working together. We shared an interest in art and did many, many art projects with the children. We also shared a love of animals.

When I began at daycare, Mrs. Palmer was doing a split shift. She'd come in at opening, leave at 1:00 and come back at three, there were always excited calls of "Mrs. Palmer's here! Mrs. Palmer's here!" She'd been gone only two hours, but she'd been missed. While the rest of us on the staff were called by our first names, she was always "Mrs. Palmer."

I learned a lot working with her. She knew how to keep the children captivated when she did story time. She gave the characters voices and drama. A favorite was her reading of "Snow White." When she did the evil queen, the children were spellbound. The children adored her always, all the seventeen years we worked together. She had fun with them but had a quelling glance and a tone to her voice that let them know when they'd overstepped a boundary. She was always gentle and kind to them, even when the quelling was needed.

We talked a lot about art, and I went to her art shows, amazed at how she had conquered the difficult medium of watercolor. She painted local scenes and scenes from the many trips she took, trav-

eling to Europe, Africa, and South America.

I admired her great sense of style. I often thought she could take a paper bag, cut holes for head and arms, add a few accessories and make it like a fantastic outfit.

When she retired, the day care was not the same for me. She'd been part of it since the beginning, when it formed in the early 1970's. It was then in a little building by the Lakeville Methodist Church. The children she taught in those many years of day care were very fortunate to have had her to teach and nurture them.

She was extraordinary. I feel lucky to have worked with her and learned from her and to have become her friend.

Robin Roraback

Salisbury

For more obituaries, see page A5

Send obituaries to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

Members of the public are invited to

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

State Project No. 0174-0451 Horizontal Curve Warning Signs on Local Roads

District 4

December 14, 2023, 6 p.m.

Register: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT0174-0451>

YouTube Livestream: <https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpinarchive>

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the community an opportunity to learn about the proposed project and allow an open discussion of any views and comments concerning the proposed improvements. A Q&A session will immediately follow the presentation.

The purpose of the project is to reduce the number of fatal and serious injury crashes on curves located on locally-owned and maintained roads. Enhanced horizontal curve delineation may be beneficial when: the curve radius is sharp; there is limited sight distance to and around the curve; or there are unexpected geometric features within the curve, such as an intersection or change in the curve radius. Improved horizontal curve delineation is recognized nationally as a low-cost proven safety countermeasure.

Right-of-way impacts associated with the proposed project are not anticipated.

Construction anticipated to begin Summer 2024. The estimated construction cost for this project is approximately \$305,000. This project is anticipated to be undertaken with 100% Federal funds.

Please register for the virtual public information meeting at <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT0174-0451>. Registration is required to participate. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the meeting.

Members of the public can submit comments and questions during the two-week public comment period following the meeting. Please direct comments and questions by December 28, 2023 to: DOTProject0174-0451@ct.gov and 860-594-2020 or Balazs Szoke, (860-594-2745; TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov).

ACCESSIBILITY

This meeting will also be livestreamed on YouTube, and closed captioning will be available. Non-English translation options will be available on Zoom and YouTube. The recording will also be available on CTDOT's YouTube Virtual Public Information Meeting playlist: <https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpinarchive>

Persons with limited internet access, use the call-in number 877-853-5257 and enter Meeting ID 817 0426 9388. Persons with limited internet access may also request that project information be mailed to them within one week by contacting Balazs Szoke (TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov; 860-594-2745).

Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS).

Language assistance may be requested by contacting CTDOT's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least five business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The scene at Trinity Episcopal Church Saturday, Dec. 2, with the tree lit and carolers singing.

Carols and lights in Lime Rock

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LIME ROCK — After an appropriate amount of hot chocolate was consumed and carols sung, the lights came on the big pine tree in front of Trinity Episcopal Church in Lime Rock on a slightly damp but mild evening Saturday, Dec. 2.

Organist Christine Gevert had her keyboard set up in the vestibule so the carolers had solid accompaniment.

The group sang traditional carols such as "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen" before finishing with "Silent Night."

Many of the revelers sported flashing lights on their heads. The less adventurous contented themselves

with festive neckwear.

A couple of small children, with lights on their heads, burrowed, giggling, into the underside of the tree.

There was almost no traffic along Route 112, so the singing rang clear and true into the night.

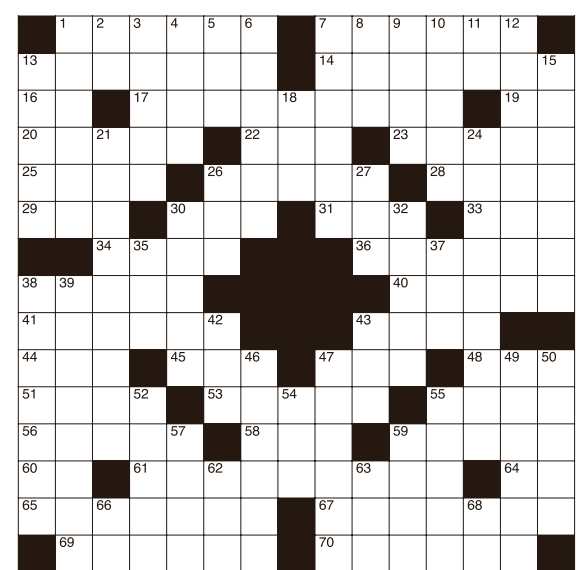


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Brain Teasers

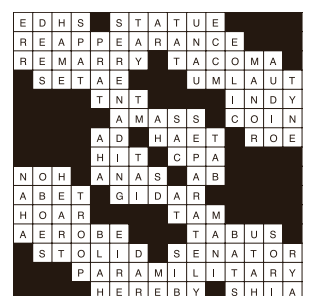
CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders
7. Salt
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. It begins with them
17. A way to compare
19. Government lawyer
20. Back parts
22. 8th month (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. ___ ex machina
26. Satisfies
28. Quebec river
29. A doctrine
30. Popular pickup truck
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid material
34. Company officer
36. Villains
38. Cricket frogs
40. German founder of psychology
41. Endured
43. A female domestic
44. A "place" to avoid
45. Cigarette (slang)
47. Canadian politician Josephine
48. French ballet/acting dynasty
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Belonging to the bottom
55. Sound
56. Yankees' slugger Judge
58. Dickens character
59. More wise
60. Flash memory card
61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
64. Atomic #79
65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Preliminary assessment of patients

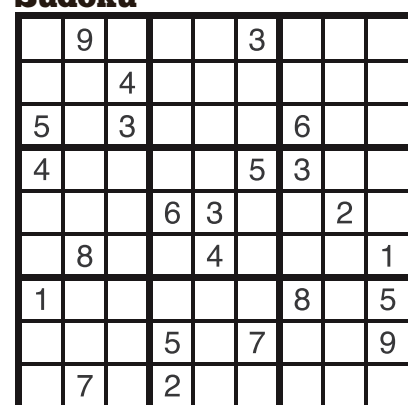


9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. The opposite of yes
12. Caused to be loved
13. Messianic in Islamic eschatology
15. Showing since conviction
18. Not safe
21. The number above the line in a fraction
24. Yard invader
26. Pouch
27. Swedish krona
30. Start anew
32. While white or yellow flower
35. Fourteen
37. Graphical user interface
38. Up-to-date on the news
39. Campaigns
42. Touch softly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the Pope
49. Anxiety
50. Body fluid
52. Phony person
54. Title of respect
55. Chilean city
57. City in central Japan
59. Silk garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. Man
68. Legal bigwig (abbr.)

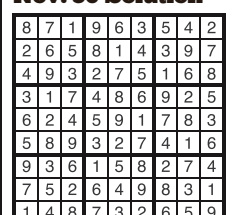
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Level: Intermediate



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OBITUARIES

Joyce Anne Marshall

NORTH CANAAN — Joyce Anne Dame Thompson Marshall, age 88, of 85 South Canaan Road, passed away Nov. 19, 2023.

Joyce was born Mar. 25, 1935 in Plattsburgh, New York, the daughter of the late Lloyd Peter Dame and Jennie (Miner Trombley) Dame of Dannemora, New York.

Married June 18, 1954, to Harry Ayres Thompson, Dannemora, New York, predeceased Feb. 9, 1981, Dover Plains, New York.

Married June 5, 1982, to Douglas Drew Marshall, Pine Plains, New York, predeceased Feb. 25, 2002, Sharon, Connecticut.

Her sister, Mrs. Nancy Conklin, New Port Richey, Florida, predeceased 2022.



Joyce is survived by her daughter, Deborah Thompson, Jacksonville, Florida, son Philip A. Thompson, Afton, Tennessee, and daughter Julie Thompson Lane, Ashley Falls, Massachusetts; step children, Judith Marshall, Fulton, New York, Susan Marshall, Fulton, New York, Douglas Marshall Jr., Syracuse, New York; her sister, Mrs. Eva Miner, Springfield, Massachusetts; 7 grand children, James Grant Smith III, Millerton New York, Bam-bi Denise Smith, Steven Lloyd Smith, Shaun Smith, Dover Plains, New York, Amanda Wright Whitehead, Dylan Nutter, Jacksonville, Florida, Ian Ayres Lane, Sharon; 5 great grand children; and 7 great great grand children.

Linda Louise Sheridan

MILLERTON — Linda Louise (Kitchen(s) Sheridan, age 84, a resident of Millerton, died on Oct. 20 in Sharon. She was born Jan. 17, 1939, in Jacksonville, Illinois, to Gerald and Ruth (Underwood) Kitchens.



Linda attended Jacksonville High School and Stephen Decatur High School. She went on to study at Millikin University, MacMurray College, the Ray Vogue School of Design, and the Art Institute of Chicago. The love of learning remained throughout her life.

Linda had a daughter, Frances Ruth Sheridan, with her husband, film and TV director, Jay J. Sheridan.

Her secretarial career in Illinois included working at Marvel-Schebler Borg Warner, IITRI, the American Dental Association, Illinois Power, John Deere Life Insurance, and as a Nuclear Steno at the Clinton Power Plant. She was a Sr. Administrative Assistant at TransUnion LLC Chicago, in the International Department, which she loved.

Linda was a devoted

mother to her daughter and son-in-law, and grandma to her grandchildren. She was a proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Creative, ever-loving, sharp of mind, and wit, she was always willing to go above and beyond for family and friends. Her strength of spirit and never-quitting constitution will be forever inspiring.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Evelyn (Nunes) and Andy Kitchens; her parents; her husband, Jay J. Sheridan; and one brother, Michael Kitchens.

Linda is survived by her daughter, Frances Ruth (Tristan) Sheridan; her much-loved grandchildren; Clyde, Beatrice, and Louise; her brothers, Jerald (Linda) Kitchens, and Stephen (Linda) Kitchens; sister-in-law Karen Kitchens; and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, please pray a Novena or Rosary, as they were meaningful to her in life.

A memorial will be held in Jacksonville, Illinois at a later date.

Patricia O'Loughlin Zucco

LAKEVILLE — Patricia O'Loughlin Zucco passed away peacefully at her home on Nov. 15, 2023.

She was born on Mar. 28, 1955, in Sharon, the first daughter of Francis and Bernice O'Loughlin, who predeceased her.

She grew up in Lakeville, and graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School. After spending most of her life in Lakeville, she moved to North Carolina and later to Florida.

Patty was passionate about her family, animals, and politics, and was a proud and frequent visitor to Facebook jail for her liberal views.

She is survived by her beloved son, Daniel Zucco of Holly Hill, Florida; her sisters Erin Reid of Sayville, New York, and Shannon Olsen of Portland, Oregon; her nieces Casey Reid of Chicago, Illinois and Abigail Neuge-

bauer of Sayville, New York; five great-nieces and nephews; her cousin Ross Fenn of Germantown, New York and extended family.

In lieu of flowers, Patty would be honored by gifts to the Humane Society, the American Cancer Society, or to the Hospice Foundation of America.

For more obituaries, see page A4

In Remembrance

Bill Lee

Bill Lee's relationship with The Lakeville Journal spanned many years. The Journal had a long tradition of giving cartoonists space on its editorial pages, and Bill, as a resident of Sharon and New York City, was generous in sharing his thoughts with our readers. His process was formed before the digital age, and what he did with his cartoons was draw them on paper, then bunch up a number of them, or just a single one, jam them into a paper envelope and mail them to us at the Journal.

Many of those cartoons are still relevant today. The one accompanying this remembrance was done years ago. He commented on worldwide, national, local and New York City topics, depending on the week.

Besides sending the cartoons he sent some writings as an "Investigative Cartoonist," reporting the ongoing drama/comedy that plays out in the streets and bars

of New York City, the world at large and the Northwest Corner.

Longtime readers will remember his cartoons, and may have met him in one of the local restaurants/bars, as he was a friendly presence and chatted up anyone who was willing to engage.

Sometimes he would call the Journal just to chat about wide-ranging topics, and those conversations were treasured by me, and those who came before me, I know. He often asked about doings in Sharon if he hadn't been able to get up to the country for a while. Thank you to Bill for being such a prolific supporter of his local community newspaper. Though he was a professional cartoonist whose work appeared in publications such as Esquire, Playboy, National Lampoon and more, he did everything for the Journal gratis.

Janet Manko
Publisher Emeritus,
The Lakeville Journal



A Bill Lee cartoon

In Remembrance

E. Bloxom Baker

Bloxy Baker was an angel: a hard driving, newspaper carrying, helicopter flying, hockey playing angel. He had so many sides to him, and in the years he worked at The Lakeville Journal driving, delivering and picking up newspapers, he shared the side of himself that was relentless, reliable to a fault, and endlessly responsible to his community.

When Bloxy first walked in our doors, we had just had a particularly difficult time with our driving. He truly came in as an angel who could reorganize the delivery department and understand every part of it, keeping the logistics in his head to implement every week. Does that sound easy? Trust me, it is not.

He was always thoughtful and attentive to his coworkers, especially his fellow drivers. When his buddy who drove with him fell on hard times, he tried everything to find ways to help him through a rough patch in his life. He never backed down from that, and stayed in close contact with him until the end of his own life.

During one end-of-year shutdown when the Journal was still at 33 Bissell Street in Lakeville, Bloxy took the

time to paint a lot of that old, abused building. One part was a stairwell that needed staging to get to the high parts. When I asked if the Journal could help with that, paying for something that would work for him, he just said, "Don't worry, I've got this. It will work." As he expressed with so many things. And it did.

We sold that building to the bank not long after that, and it wound up being torn down, but that didn't diminish the worth of his efforts in that moment. He had the mission of making things better around him, which was not ever an easy task at a small, struggling community weekly newspaper group.

The gratitude I, and we all at the Journal, have for Bloxy's efforts in keeping the papers out there during COVID shutdown and so many other challenges is boundless. All I would hope is to emulate his spirit of getting up and moving forward despite all obstacles. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, Bloxy, for setting a shining example of being undaunted by anything life could throw at you.

Janet Manko
Publisher Emeritus,
The Lakeville Journal

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Worship Services

Week of December 10, 2023

Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.

<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</p>	<p>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! Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>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</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org Misa en español a las 4 de la tarde el último domingo de mes The Revs. Heidi Truax & Felix Rivera trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT JOIN US FOR OUR HOLIDAY PROGRAM! Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, December 10 at 10:30 a.m. Christmas Reflections on Giving and Taking Joy For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Chabad of Northwest CT On The Green 69 West St. Litchfield, CT 06759 Childrens Camp Shabbat Services Hebrew School CTeen YJP Judaism With A Smile! chabadNW.org 860.567.3377 office@chabadNW.org</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am North Cornwall Meeting House 115 Town Street, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall</p>	<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>	
<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 A.M. 518-789-3138</p>	

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EDITORIAL Joining Forces

For generations, if Gilbert and Housatonic were playing football it was sure to be a fierce rivalry game. Many remember legendary Turkey Bowl matches between the two schools. No matter how rough the season had been up to that point, a victory over Gilbert on Thanksgiving made for a winning year in Region One.

Now when Gilbert and Housatonic take the field, it is not as rivals but as teammates. Since 2021 GNH football has put school allegiances aside to achieve a common goal: filling a roster.

Regional co-op teams are not new to the Northwest Corner. Northwestern High School (the "N" in GNH) first combined football teams with Gilbert in 2002, uniting players from Winsted, Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford, and Norfolk as Yellowjackets.

HVRHS football originally merged with Wamogo (Washington, Morris, and Goshen's regional high school) in 2007, bringing students from nine Litchfield County towns together in Mountaineer uniforms. In 2018, Oliver Wolcott Tech was added the Housatonic/Wamogo co-op and further expanded the sprawl of towns that contributed to one team.

A few years later, Nonnewaug requested to join the conglomeration and offered a brand-new athletic complex to host games and practices. Up to this point HVRHS had hosted all co-op activities. Traveling an hour to Woodbury for daily practices was not particularly appetizing for Region One players or parents.

In 2021 Wamogo and Wolcott Tech (along with Litchfield and Shepaug Valley) went with Nonnewaug and HVRHS backed out of the original co-op. Unable to fill a team alone, Housatonic decided to open a dialogue with Gilbert. By the fall, Mountaineer football was rebranded to Yellowjacket football. A hard pill to swallow for some... until GNH took the field.

The newly formed co-op team became an undeniable success and finished the first two seasons with winning records and playoff berths. In 2022 star running back Freddie Camp scored 30 touchdowns — the most of any player in the state that year — and led the Yellowjackets to the Class SS state semifinals. Back-to-back triumphant seasons earned GNH a promotion to the Naugatuck Valley League Copper Division (up from NVL Brass) for its third year.

Camp graduated, along with 15 other GNH seniors, in 2023. Staring down a green roster and a tough schedule, the Yellowjackets appeared to be headed toward a rebuilding year.

The 2023 season got off to a predictably sluggish start with losses to powerhouse programs including Ansonia, Naugatuck, and Woodlawn. By late October, GNH sat with a 2-4 record. A hard-fought loss in Watertown on Oct. 20 proved to be a turning point. The cogs slid into gear. A group of kids from across the county became something more: a team.

GNH went on to win the next five games, finishing the regular season with a record of 6-4 and qualifying for the state tournament for the third year in a row. The Yellowjackets advanced to the semifinals for the second consecutive year, where they met their match against Watertown once more.

This year, 11 HVRHS athletes suited up for GNH. Compare that to the 21 HVRHS players on the field with their Wamogo counterparts in 2015, and the last time the Mountaineers filled their own roster in 2006.

Teaming up with longtime rivals may stretch the limits of school pride, but it's hard to argue against the result of joining forces for the love of the game.



PHOTO BY KERRY NOBLE

Salisbury sidewalk safety concern raised

I am writing because I'm concerned about the area of the new sidewalk coming down the hill from the Salisbury Central School where the tarmac bleeds right into the highway.

I can envision kids bicycling fast down that hill and just going right into the west-bound traffic.

Perhaps the town has plans to protect pedestrians

and bikers in that area. Perhaps there's a guard rail being planned? I can understand trying to preserve the trees, but not if it means losing a life of a sidewalk user. I would imagine the town has a good degree of liability for the design of the sidewalk. Does anyone else see a potential problem?

Salisbury

Kerry Noble



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keleman Nature Trail/Preserve Referendum

Before voting on the Jan. 5 referendum regarding the Keleman Nature Trail/Preserve, I ask the Sharon voters to consider the following: (i) the importance of green energy and the existential threat of climate change; (ii) the advertised \$20+/- annual savings attributable to each Sharon property taxpayer (which savings (a) would not be evenly applied to all property taxpayers on account of varying property values; (b) may, or may not, be passed along to the taxpayers at all; and (c) may or may not be used to benefit the school budget); (iii) the impact that future undetermined higher or lower electricity rates would have on the relevance of this proposal; (iv) if the town should break its contract with the third party solar provider and find a way to utilize the school roof for the solar array, even if doing so causes the town to spend money; (v) the memory of the people whose time and money made the land preserve a reality and the memory of the people to whom trees within the preserve were dedicated and whether those memories would be dishonored by the proposed solar array; (vi) is it realistic that the preserve, after 20 years of use for so-

lar energy production, would ever be converted to another use; and (vii) because the preserve is the last undeveloped parcel of land adjacent to the school campus and available for school use, it is entirely possible that it will be needed by the school either for a playing field(s) or a new building(s). Discussion of the last point has been noticeably absent in the public discourse.

Aside from the preserve, the school campus is essentially fully built out and has almost no room for new buildings and/or playing fields. While the solar array will not take up the preserve's full 2.83+/- acres, it will, aside from a yet to be developed nature/solar panel observation trail (complete with a 7-foot high chain link fence), render its land unusable for any other purpose.

The preserve may very well be needed in future generations for school buildings and/or playing fields (which use would not be inconsistent with the donors' intent that the land be used for educational purposes). I recognize that the proposed solar array was discussed in Lakeville Journal articles over the course of the last, approximate, twenty months, but none of these articles dis-

closed the scope of its impact on the preserve.

I ask the Sharon voters to not consider the following points put forward for the solar array proponents: (i) the current condition of the preserve and the possibility that invasive plants may be growing in it and (ii) the current use of the preserve by the school's students. These arguments point unfair blame at the school and its students. If there are invasive plants; if the students are not using the preserve; and/or if the preserve has not been successfully integrated into the school's campus, then the fault for that falls squarely on the town for not providing funds for the preserve's proper upkeep and maintenance.

I ask, also, the Sharon voters to not consider the solar panel proponent's argument that because the school currently offers each student 1,800 square feet of "play space" (their term, not mine—the term belies the school's middle school students who need athletic facilities and not "play space"), excluding the preserve, the school does not need the preserve because: (i) in the decades to come, the school population may grow and (ii) it is simply patronizing to dictate such a quota when we live in a town with so much wealth and open space.

LETTERS

Solar plan support

I am writing to applaud the town's innovative plan to install solar panels behind the Sharon Center School. The project would save the town hundreds of thousands of dollars in construction and energy costs, while also offering children a dramatic demonstration of how we are addressing the global climate warming crisis on a local level with action, not just words.

The panels would occupy just 25 percent of a long-neglected plot overrun with invasive plant species. If we were to install the panels and replace those invasives with native plantings beneficial to birds and insects, that 2.8-acre parcel could pack a mighty punch for the environment. Please make this happen by supporting the project at the January 5th referendum.

Edmund Mander

Sharon

I am not a neighbor to the preserve (I live many miles away on Sharon Mountain). I was not a signatory to the petition calling for a referendum and I have nothing to do with the people who asked for the referendum (I do not think that I know them). However, my young daughter uses the school playground on weekends and enjoys the preserve.

Also, I was a part of the Sharon Center class of 1984, although I was only with them for grades 2, 3, 4 and 5. Sharon Center was where I learned all the important stuff, such as math, reading, writing, etc.... Those years were some of the happiest of my life and I truly wish for the school to succeed not just now, but in the decades to come. As I sat in the school gym for the Nov. 29 informational meeting, it brought me right back to my gym classes with Mr. Comporei 45 years ago (which really seems much, much less than 45 years ago). Few of the people who attended the Nov. 29 meeting will be around in 45 years. However, the school will still be here in 45 years, and it may very well then (if not sooner) need the preserve for recreational, athletic and educational reasons.

Michael Lynch

Sharon

Biden's lack of charisma — issue for young voters

Here's my take on recent political polls showing young voters deserting Biden in his re-election attempt. What concerns them isn't really his age, I think; it's his lack of charisma.

Biden does the task of a President well, with stability and thoughtfulness. He runs the political machine like the operator he's been for decades; he's a technocrat as much as a Democrat. He's mediating in the Mideast with subtlety and skill. But who's he inspiring? To whom does he represent the hopes of a generation?

He doesn't look and sound dynamic and visionary, at a time when looming crises seem to cry out for someone who combines the oratory skills of Martin Luther King with the New Frontier optics of Jack Kennedy.

Biden is not so much old as he's boring. By threatening

to re-elect Trump, America's youth are sending a loud and clear message to a seemingly deaf Democratic National Committee: give them a leader they can 'love on,' in their words.

When Lyndon Johnson's popularity in polls nose-dived in 1968, he sensibly withdrew from the re-election race (at the ripe 'old' age of 60). Sadly, the harrumphing Hubert Humphrey was the best the Democrats could scrape together as a replacement, and America elected the soon-to-be felon Nixon instead.

Can't Biden look at the polls, read the writing, and pass on the torch while there's still time? And (by the way), is there any Democrat out there today who actually is charismatic?

Salisbury

Robert Buccino

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

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Viewpoint

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Saddened by letter writer's mischaracterizations about Israel

I am saddened by the mischaracterizations made by Lloyd Baroody in his letter to the editor published in the Nov. 30 Lakeville Journal. To label Israel's actions as genocidal, racist and apartheid is inflammatory and simply untrue. Mr. Baroody fails to condemn the killing of innocent Israelis — Jews, Christians and Muslims. He fails to condemn the Hamas charter which calls for the destruction of Israel.

I am sorry that Mr. Baroody did not see the Interfaith Vigil at the Salisbury Congregation Church for what it was — a gathering of

friends to support the Jewish community. I commend the organizers (I was not one) for their efforts. I agree that we should always strive to be inclusive, and wish Mr. Baroody had been in attendance.

I abhor the killing of all innocent people — in Gaza, Israel or elsewhere. I condemn the terrorist actions of Hamas. I do not support the extreme policies of the Netanyahu government.

I believe the path to achieve peace is a two state solution — one that accepts the existence of a Jewish state in Israel and Palestinian state

in Gaza and the West Bank. Without that fundamental acceptance, there will be no progress. There needs to be leadership in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel to negotiate such a solution. Those leaders need to be supported by governments around the world, especially those of the others in the region including Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

Rather than criticizing from our respective corners, if we begin a constructive dialog, maybe we can achieve change.

Peter Takiff

Sharon



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

December light

Thanking everyone who attended vigil for Israel at Salisbury church

On behalf of my fellow members of the planning committee, I want to thank everyone who attended the recent Interfaith Vigil For Israel, The Hostages, and Peace. Over 80 people attended this event at the Salisbury Congregational Church (aka "The Meeting House") and we thank the Church for allowing us to hold the vigil there. Aside from the attendees, over 90 people allowed us to use their name in a list of supporters of the event.

In a recent letter to this paper (Nov. 30), an angry resident claimed that the vigil was not "representative" of the views of Salisbury residents, citing an informal poll taken among his fellow protesters and passersby at the weekly demonstration in front of the White Hart. I cannot say whether or not the vigil represents the views of a majority of Salisbury residents. But I do know that it represents the residents of Salisbury at their best: showing the community's support for our Jewish friends who are under attack in this

country and elsewhere in a manner frighteningly reminiscent of 1930's Europe.

The writer of the angry letter was, however, correct about one thing: we did indeed limit the publicity about the event for security reasons. Anyone not living under a rock can see what is happening across the country today, not just on college campuses but in most of our major cities. New York City just experienced attempts by anti-Israel and antisemitic protesters to shut down the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and the annual Christmas Tree Lighting at Rockefeller Center. And closer to home, as the only non-Jewish member of the Planning Committee I was stunned to learn that the Amenia Synagogue that many members of the Salisbury Jewish community attend has found it necessary to have armed security for all of its services for the past five years.

As Senate Majority leader Chuck Schumer said on the floor of the Senate this week: "Jewish Americans

feel alone to face all of this — abandoned by too many of our friends and allies in our greatest time of need, as antisemitic hate crimes skyrocket." I am proud to have been involved in the planning and execution of this vigil. And I thank everyone who attended and/or supported the vigil. It truly represents the Salisbury community at its best.

Tom Morrison

Lakeville

Christmas story

You may enjoy one of my favorite Christmas stories.

One year I sent a gift box with fruit and assorted goodies to my daughter and her family. Her teenage son, Jon, was the first one home and found the box on the porch. He saw all of the goodies, but ate only the four pears. The rest of the family wasn't too happy. He's been teased about it since.

Carolyn McDonough
North Canaan

Three-point response to a letter

I'd like to make three points in response to Lloyd Baroody's letter last week about the local peace vigil.

1. I wasn't at the vigil and therefore hesitate to comment other than to say it is hard to believe these people of faith wouldn't have been compassionate toward Palestinian civilians.

2. My Jewish friends reminded me of the anti-Semitism in our own community in the early '70s.

One example actually prohibited the sale of some properties to Jews or Blacks.

Twenty years ago I was part of a week-long treat to Auschwitz-Birkenau to 'bear witness' to the atrocities done to Jews (and some other non-Aryans) committed there. The experienced seared the heart forever.

The retreat had people of many different faiths, ethnicities and nationalities, including some Muslims.

We all internalized the message "Never Again!". That 'never again' extended to any form of ethnic, racial, or religious targeting. It was a message we hoped the whole world would grasp, but the

world hasn't listened so well. Indeed, the current rise of anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim acts in our own country is appalling. Racism persists.

3. But to the specific point that Mr. Baroody raises about Israel's culpability in the horror being experienced by Palestinian civilians right now: I am no supporter of the Israeli leaders' right-wing actions, particularly the incursions into the West Bank by Israeli settlers and the harsh restrictions on Palestinians in general, but the current horror is not Israel's sole responsibility.

Mr. Baroody makes no mention of the fact that Hamas, who has governed Gaza for the last 18 years, is a terrorist organization whose sole mission is to eradicate Israel and Jews.

Certainly Hamas knew the degree to which the Israeli government would retaliate after Oct. 7's brutal attack on Israeli civilians. It certainly knew that Palestinian civilians would suffer the most while Hamas could hide in its tunnels. In other words, it did nothing to protect its own population and

is sacrificing them for its own narrow ideology. Moreover, most of the financial support that flowed to Gaza in the last 18 years — intended to build and expand its economy, to help its citizens, was instead used by Hamas to build those tunnels and its military might.

Of course, there is some culpability on both sides for the extent of the horror and devastation. Of course, the history of this whole area from the birth of Israel on is a tangled skein, full of political and military machinations, including from outside countries intent on their own interests. Nothing is simple.

What can we ordinary citizens do to help? It feels like very little. What I hope is that we stop targeting specific (and innocent) groups of people here who are not responsible for the actions of their governments, much less their genetic inheritances. If we can do that, if we can stand up against prejudice in all its forms, we can become better people, a better community, a better nation.

Barbara Maltby
Lakeville

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — December 1923

H. Roscoe Brinton has installed a special car washing apparatus in connection with his regular heating plant whereby he will be able to wash cars with warm water during the winter.

A Ford car was being driven along the Hammertown Road one evening this week, when suddenly the lights went out. The driver, instead of trying to find out what was the matter, drove on through the dark. The car went over the bank by the little pond and dropped several feet into soft mud. It hit on its nose and turned gently over. The driver crawled out unhurt, and next day a wrecking car went up from Brinton's Garage and lifted the remains out of the bulrushes. It is better to park your car by the roadside and go afoot for help than to drive in the dark without lights.

Adv: Wanted — A housekeeper. I have a fine home, well furnished. I am alone and lonesome. Please write me for particulars. Address Chas. H. Pitcher, Sharon Valley, Conn. R.F.D.

A new storm shed has been placed over the steps at Best Theatre.

The many friends of Harris Rosseter will be surprised

to learn that he took unto himself a wife in the person of Miss Summer of New York on August 23rd last. Belated congratulations are in order.

Display Ad: As electricity is so generally used, what would be more appropriate than any one or more of the following electrical appliances? Curling irons, toaster stoves, flatirons, adjustable lamps, vacuum cleaners, washing machines, hair dryers and sewing machine motors are some of the items on sale at The Connecticut Power Company store in Canaan. Shop early while lines are complete.

50 years ago — December 1973

The Connecticut Department of Transportation has been notified that its design for the restoration of the covered bridge at West Cornwall has won first place in the historic sites category of a contest sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration. The award was for an "outstanding example of the preservation, relocation or restoration of historic sites."

"Are you aware of the type of motion picture you are coming to view?" Richard Masters asks this of everyone who comes to purchase a ticket for the XX-rated movies in Millerton, N.Y. Apparently some people have

different expectations and do not realize the type films that are being shown. Richard and Barbara Masters, formerly employed at the Canaan Drive-in in Connecticut, took over as managers of the Millerton theatre on Monday Nov. 26. The Victory Theater Corporation, which bought the Millerton Theater back in June, can explain the run of sex-based movies. Jim Severin, spokesman for Victory, said "No theater goes to X policy through preference, only through darn necessity." According to Mr. Severin, the Millerton Theater has lost over \$5,000 since August: "at this point we're just looking to meet house expenses. With X-rated films our take is a little bit better."

Dr. and Mrs. Elbert Gross of West Woods in Sharon gave their annual birthday party for Ludwig Von Beethoven on Saturday evening for approximately 50 friends. Beethoven was born on Dec. 16, 1770. Dr. Gross, president of Music Mountain, decided to move the party ahead a little, since the last two parties took place in serious snow storms and no one wants to celebrate Beethoven's birthday in a blizzard.

Two old stands of white pine in Cornwall have been listed as safe indefinitely because they are part of the Nature Conservancy, an or-

ganization dedicated to the preservation of natural areas. The Cathedral Pines and the Ballyhack are listed in part of a New England inventory of natural areas which was conducted in Connecticut in conjunction with the State Park and Forest Commission.

Bicon Electronics in Canaan is conducting a two-day school for industries in the use of a contact metal gauge. Bicon President Fred Kent reports the school will be attended by key men in industries from five states and Canada. He said that Bicon is associated with a small German firm which manufactures a contact gauge that can measure differences in metal thicknesses to 80 millionths of an inch, while the metal is on a roll.

25 years ago — December 1998

During a meeting of the Kent Center School Town-Wide Building Committee Monday, members talked about the possibility of expanding the building into the courtyard. "We discussed that area a few years ago and when I suggested cutting down some of the trees out there, some people wanted to cut me down — or string me up," Principal Ed Epstein noted.

Housatonic Valley Re-

gional High School battled Mr. Gilbert in the traditional Thanksgiving Day Berkshire Bowl. Gilbert took the contest, 14-12, but Housy's play provided some optimism for next season.

FALLS VILLAGE — Chief Warrant Officer Marc Mittaud, a former first selectman candidate, has been awarded the Army Commendation Medal for his work during a

recent arms inspection. Mr. Mittaud received the award for developing a mobilization plan for his aviation battalion in time of war along with formulating an air crew survival curriculum.

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

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The holiday season is here and one way to celebrate it is to donate to our local food banks. In the northwest corner, it is sometimes hard to see that food insecurity exists, but, for example, The Corner Food Pantry in Lakeville provides nutritious food for thousands of families in the Tri-State area. Here are websites of two local food pantries to consider donations to: The Corner Food Pantry: www.thecornerfoodpantry.org and The Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry: www.northcanaancongregationalchurch.org/_wpez/the-fishes-loaves-food-pantry/. Both all volunteer organizations do tremendous work to support our communities!



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Our Towns

Merry and bright in Salisbury

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Damp chilly weather didn't faze the townspeople of Salisbury, who turned out for a week-end of "Merry and Bright" activities Friday through Sunday, Dec. 1 to 3.

The Parade of Lights was postponed from Sunday evening to Tuesday, Dec. 5.

The Scoville Memorial Library was humming Saturday morning for the Friends of the Scoville Library book sale.

The Festival of Trees at Noble Horizons wrapped things up Saturday night with a gala.

Meanwhile at the firehouse in Lakeville, the Salisbury Winter Sports Association's annual Ski and Skate Swap was in full swing Saturday morning around 11:30 a.m.

Willie Hallihan of SWSA said there was a long line when the doors opened at 8 a.m.

Al Ginouves was spotted buying two pairs of cross-country skis.

He explained that the skis feature a "three-pin" binding, which he prefers for a variety of reasons.

He bought a newer (1980s-ish) pair with boots attached to a more contemporary binding and an older (1950s-ish) pair with a more basic binding and no boots.

The plan is to swap the newer bindings for the older



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Santa Claus made an appearance at The White Hart Inn on Sunday, Dec. 3.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The Salisbury Middle School Rock Band opened the Thursday, Nov. 30, concert with the familiar riff from Cream's "Sunshine of Your Love."



The Combined Chorus at Salisbury Central School performed at SCS Showcase concert There was a well-attended holiday concert Thursday, Nov. 30.

Salisbury Central School band rocks the house

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — It was difficult to find a parking spot at Salisbury Central School the evening of Thursday evening, Nov. 30.

Between the classrooms open for visits, the vendors plying their wares in the lobby of the upper building, and the holiday concert, the place was packed for the SCS Showcase event.

The primary buzz was for the Middle School Rock Band, which opened the concert with a spirited rendition of Cream's "Sunshine of Your Love."

No fewer than five electric guitarists, plus electric bass, keyboard and drums, cranked out the familiar riff.

Town school board chair David Valcin, between commiserations with a reporter about the state of the New York Jets, examined jewelry made by SCS students in the vendors' area, while Housatonic Valley Regional High School Agriculture Education Rene Boardman made a pitch for the soap made from cow's milk at her farm in Goshen.

The scene was busy and cheerful, as parents chatted and children bustled about.

bindings on the older set of skis, he said.

"All I need then is a pair of bamboo poles."

Sunday was rainy and raw, which didn't discourage people from coming to the Lakeville Hose Company Ladies Auxiliary's vendor market.

There was a well-attended holiday concert at the Salisbury Congregational Church Saturday, featuring the popular Bell Choir.

At the White Hart, children visited with Santa Claus, the Salisbury Band Christmas Brass and Hot Chocolate Society played, carols were sung and the town tree was lit.



Al Ginouves with two sets of cross-country skis with three-pin bindings. He unearthed these treasures at the Salisbury Winter Sports Association's annual Ski and Skate Swap at the Lakeville Hose Company firehouse Saturday, Dec. 30.

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Sports

Watertown douses GNH hot streak

By Riley Klein

TORRINGTON — Gilbert/Northwestern/Housatonic co-op football concluded the 2023 season with 21-0 loss to Watertown High School on Sunday, Dec. 3.

Watertown's size and strength on the frontline was too much for the nimble Yellowjackets to overcome. The Warriors advanced to face Joel Barlow High School in the Class SS state championship game Saturday, Dec. 9.

Seeded fifth in the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) Class SS playoff tournament, GNH's postseason began with a trip across the state to four-seed Tolland High School on Tuesday, Nov. 28.

In a back-and-forth game, the Yellowjackets came out on top with a 22-16 win. Housatonic Valley Regional High School freshman Carson Riva helped seal the victory with a critical fumble recovery late in the game.

The same night, top seed Granby/Canton co-op hosted eight-seed Watertown. The Warriors stunned Granby/Canton in a 26-12 decision and advanced to the semifinals to play GNH on neutral ground.

When Watertown hosted GNH in October, Watertown prevailed 12-7 after a slugfest of a game. GNH then went on to win the next five games only to meet Watertown for a chance at revenge in the playoffs.

The fateful postseason rematch was played in Torrington on Dec. 3. Mother Nature set a harsh stage that afternoon, with a steady downpour of rain and a raw 43 degree chill.

GNH looked to get its reliable ground game rolling early. Watertown's big fellas up front were relentless from the jump, refusing runners up the middle while their wings contained the edges. The Yellowjackets responded with some strong defense of their own and both teams left the first quarter scoreless.

Watertown strung together a long drive in the second quarter and chipped away at the clock. The Warriors capped off the drive with a QB sneak to the end zone by Brady Gambia.

Watertown led 7-0 at half-time. "If we can't come back down seven, we shouldn't be here," said GNH defensive coordinator Devin Michaud as the team headed back to the locker room.

Riding a lead and unphased by the elements, Watertown kicked into high gear for the second half. GNH's defense uncharacteristically struggled to wrap up tackles and the Warriors repeatedly capitalized with extra yardage after contact. Midway through the third quarter, Watertown found the end-zone again to go up 13-0.

Visibly battered, several GNH players hobbled from the huddle to the line of scrimmage and back for each play. They left it all on



GNH quarterback Nolan Risedorf was under pressure the whole game and forced to scramble out of the backfield.



Watertown quarterback Brady Gambia rushed in a touchdown against GNH in the CIAC Class SS tournament semifinal game on Sunday, Dec. 3. Watertown advanced to the championship game against Joel Barlow High School on Saturday, Dec. 9.



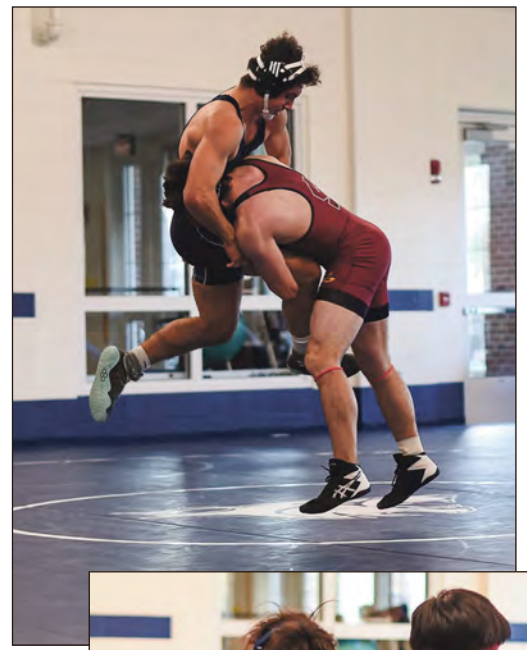
Droplets of rain splashed off colliding players in the cold, wet game.

the field but were unable to build up steam against the energized Warriors.

Watertown rushed in a third touchdown late in the game to bring the final score to 21-0. As the Warriors rejoiced at the final buzzer, the Yellowjackets hung their heads. Dejected, they patted each other on the back as they walked off the gloomy field.

GNH ended the year with

a record of 7-5 including postseason games and were among the last four Class SS teams standing in the state. The Dec. 3 game marked the end of their high school football careers for seven GNH seniors due to graduate next spring. Among them were captains Nolan Risedorf and Aiden Avenia, both of whom were named to the Naugatuck Valley League First Team for 2023.



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN



Top, Thanos Athanasiou sparred with Sixten Motivala. Lower, Anya Reppa pinned Edmund Wang late in the third round.

Cross-town take down

By Riley Klein

LAKEVILLE — The Hotchkiss School wrestling team hosted Salisbury School Wednesday, Nov. 29 for a spar to start the 2023-24 season.

The friendly scrimmage gave each side a chance to face off against Founders League competition before ranked contests begin.

Wrestlers were paired by weight and battled it out for three two-minute rounds, or until one was pinned.

Crowd favorite Anya Reppa of Hotchkiss pinned Salisbury's Edmund Wang

in the third round, resulting in roaring applause from the Bearcat bench.

Hotchkiss traveled to Wilbraham & Monson Academy on Wednesday, Dec. 6, for the first ranked match of the year. The Bearcats will remain on the road until Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024, when they will host Canterbury School and Taft School.

Salisbury began the official season at Hopkins School Saturday, Dec. 2. The Knights' home opener will be against Woodhall School and Hamden Hall Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 3:30 p.m.

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Dear Friends and Readers,

There is GOOD NEWS to report about The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News! We have added more journalists to our staff, expanded our news coverage and we are about to launch new websites for both papers with seven-day-a-week news coverage.

Like many newspapers across the country, we face financial pressures that threaten our ability to continue this vital work. Even after a successful matching campaign, we still need your help. As a non-profit news organization, we must close the gap between what we earn by selling newspapers and ads and our operating expenses. That's why we are reaching out to you, our loyal readers and community members.

The papers led the way this year in reporting on important issues to our community: Sharon Hospital, affordable housing, and environmental challenges to our lakes and state parks. And, of course, we remain the place to catch up on the police blotter, town meetings, local elections, local sports, festivals, movies, and the latest bear and wildlife sightings.

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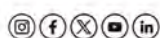
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Our Towns



PHOTO BY MATTHEW KRETA

Guests gathered at Hotchkiss Library of Sharon on Thursday, Nov. 30 for a screening of the 1945 romantic comedy "Christmas in Connecticut." The film was shown on the new projection system in the recently renovated library.

Movie night at Hotchkiss Library

By Matthew Kreta

SHARON — On Thursday Nov. 30, The Guild, a volunteer group in association with the Hotchkiss Library, hosted a public movie night utilizing the library's new projector. The movie was 1945 romantic comedy "Christmas in Connecticut," and was shown to an audience of approximately twenty people.

The new projector setup, which faces towards the front doors of the library from the back of its main lobby, presented a clear and detailed picture throughout the night. The sound system in the library was also excellent, han-

dling the older audio quality of the movie easily and clearly.

These new improvements, coupled with the new side entrance which was used as the main entry for the movie night, were excellent showcases of the building's new shine after its years of construction and renovation up to August of this year.

When the movie was over, attendees enjoyed some light refreshments and mingled for a few minutes discussing the movie. Reception for both the film and the event itself were positive among those present.

This is the second public

movie night hosted by The Guild, and one of several events it hopes to host in the future including more movie nights. Guild representatives stated that in January these movies will become a more regular occurrence, shifting to a consistent bi-monthly schedule on Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. Movies may sometimes be shown on Thursday mornings as well.

The next film shown will be "Charade" on Jan. 11. For more information on The Guild, as well as a calendar of other upcoming events being hosted at the Hotchkiss Library, visit www.hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org.

Board of Finance sets meeting with state education officials

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Long-standing uncertainty about the state's minimum budget requirement (MBR) and how it impacts the local Board of Education budget for Sharon Center School, and by extension, the town, has led the Sharon Board of Finance to arrange a meeting with state education officials.

A Board of Finance meeting with representatives of the state Board of Education will be held Wednesday, Dec. 13, with the public invited to join members of the Board of Finance at the Town Hall for the Zoom meeting. The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. and is expected to be one hour in duration. Residents will also be able to join the meeting on Zoom.

In addition to discussing the MBR, the Board of Finance anticipates asking for guidance on extracting capital expenditures from the Board of Education budget.

By unanimous vote, the Board of Finance also re-appointed current officers. Tom Bartram will continue as chairman, Jessica Fowler as vice chairman, and Robert Duncan as secretary.

Holiday Fest fills Kent with cheer

Santa Claus led the parade of lights in Kent on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 2. Fire trucks and floats filled Main Street for the seasonal event with scores of people lining the sidewalks.



Above, even the Grinch came to the tree lighting, with some pranks up his sleeve. At right, the tree was lit with a big star on top.



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

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KISSINGER

Continued from Page A1

attended its carnival every year that he was able, where he and his wife would stop for a grinder at the Rod and Gun Club booth before going on to the bingo tent to play with family, employees, and friends such as the late designer Oscar de la Renta.

A good friend of Dolph and Audrey Traymon, he would often broadcast interviews from the Traymons' Victorian house on Main Street and dine at their restaurant, the Fife 'n Drum.

Early in his Kent residency, he even used his vaunted diplomatic skills to smooth over a local kerfuffle over blueberries growing on his property. There was an

outcry from the community about the destruction of the blueberry bushes that had been a staple of Pick-Your-Own in Kent for years. Kissinger donated the blueberry bushes to Kent School, and they were planted at the girls school campus atop Skiff Mountain, now Marvelwood School. Kent residents have had free access to the bushes ever since.

Earlier in the 2000s, he participated in a program on Russia presented by the Kent Informal Club and the Kent Memorial Library.

Ken Cooper, then-president of the library board, knew the Kissingers well. "There is so much to say

[about him]," Cooper said. "Those of us in Kent saw a different side of Dr. Kissinger as a regular, normal presence in our community. He was a regular guy and very gracious to everyone. He was very supportive of the land trust, the library and the fire department. He loved nature and pets — his dog ate supper at the table with him every night."

"When we started the lecture series," Cooper continued, "he was instrumental in bringing major international figures to speak in Kent. One of striking things I remember is that we were very honored when [civil rights leader] John Lewis came to

speaking. We had a dinner for him the evening before, and we invited Dr. Kissinger and Nancy to attend. Dr. Kissinger stood up in the middle of the dinner and raise his glass in a toast to John Lewis. He said, 'You are a Democrat, and I am a Republican, but I want you to know that we are deeply indebted as a country, and I am indebted as a citizen, for your contribution to civil rights in our country.' I thought that was a very unanimous thing to do."

Cooper noted that Kissinger and his wife were a team. "Nancy and Henry were a team, they would finish each other's sentences," he said. "They were very

affectionate, very fond and respectful of each other. And they made sure they shared credit for anything they did."

But his time in Kent was just a homely backdrop to his career in what has been termed "the most powerful secretary of state of the post-war era." His complicated legacy still resonates in this nation's relations with China, Russia and the Middle East. Kissinger engineered opening relations between China and the United States during the Nixon administration, negotiated America's withdrawal from Vietnam and a détente with the Soviet Union at the height of the Cold War.

In the 1970s, Kissinger, who described power as an aphrodisiac, was second in power only to President Richard M. Nixon, having joined the Nixon White House in January 1969 as national security adviser and later serving as secretary of state. When Nixon resigned, he stayed on under President Gerald Ford.

He advised 12 presidents, from John F. Kennedy to Joe Biden. His cunning and a ruthlessly practical approach to international relations caused him to be heralded by some and reviled by others. His secret negotiations with China led to Nixon's most famous foreign policy achievement and was designed to isolate the Soviet Union. It set the stage for today's complex and sometimes fraught relationship between the two dominant economies. He was the only American to deal with every Chinese leader from Mao to Xi.

His involvement in the United States' role in Vietnam was deeply divisive. Reportedly never persuaded the United States could win the guerrilla war, he nevertheless guided the Nixon adminis-

tration in some of its most controversial moves. He was accused of breaking international law by authorizing the secret carpet-bombing of Cambodia in 1969-'70, an action against a neutral nation designed to root out the pro-Communist Vietcong forces operating across the border. The indiscriminate bombing killed 50,000 civilians.

He was known to quip: "The illegal we do immediately. The unconstitutional takes a little longer."

He negotiated the Paris Peace Accords that ended American involvement in Vietnam, calling it "peace with honor," and was awarded the 1973 Nobel Peace Prize for his role, but critics argued he could have made the same deal years earlier, saving thousands of lives.

He was the architect of the Nixon administration's efforts to topple Chile's democratically elected Socialist president, Salvador Allende. And when Pakistan's U.S.-backed military was waging a genocidal war in East Pakistan [now Bangladesh] in 1971, he and Nixon ignored pleas to stop the massacre and approved weapons shipments to Pakistan, whose president served as a conduit for Kissinger's courtship of China. At least 300,000 people were killed in East Pakistan and 10 million refugees were driven into India.

Once an advocate of limited nuclear war, he later reversed his opinion, conceding it might not be possible to contain escalation. By the end of his life, he had embraced the effort to gradually eliminate all nuclear weapons and, at age 95, began to warn against weapons controlled by artificial intelligence.

Courtesy of the Kent Good Times Dispatch, Kentgtd.org

POST-PANDEMIC

Continued from Page A1

about the full beard he sports instead of the clean-shaven publicity photo that was on the auditorium screen, Shepherd laughed and said he injured his shoulder in an accident involving a tractor.

Unable to shave, he allowed the beard to grow.

During the talk, he said hospital administrators asked everyone to remove facial hair so as not to interfere with masks.

Shepherd said his natural instinct was to refuse, so he wound up wearing a cumbersome and odd-looking combination of a respirator and mask. He displayed a photo, next to his publicity shot.

This get-up did not do much to reassure already frightened patients in isolation units at the hospital.

Shepherd recounted some of the notable events that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said the virus was identified fairly quickly "for the most of the world."

Things moved slower in the U.S., however. Shepherd said the decentralized nature of the U.S. health care system accounted for a lot of the delay, as did the Trump administration's decision to leave the World Health Organization (WHO).

Shepherd also said the bulk of the useful data he and his colleagues used came from the United Kingdom's National Health Service (NHS) and the WHO.

Shepherd compared the COVID-19 pandemic with the HIV pandemic.

He said HIV, which can cause AIDS, has jumped from primates to humans at least 12 times in the last 120-140 years in Africa.

The likely cause is the hunting and consumption of "bush meat," he said.

What facilitated the spread of the disease was human activity. "The event that made it a pandemic was the development of Kinshasa, Congo, into a major trade

center" by the colonial Belgian government.

Shepherd then segued into a discussion of climate change and infectious diseases.

He said he prefers to call it global warming "because that's what is happening."

He said global warming plus increased urbanization leads to decreased biodiversity. The combination then results in a decrease in animal and plant life and an increase in the numbers of insects (such as mosquitoes and ticks) and the animals that host them (such as mice and deer).

Shepherd noted that ticks previously confined to areas in the southern U.S. have now made their way north as far as Canada, bringing with them diseases such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Southern tick-associated rash illness.

He blamed increasing urbanization and a concomitant decrease in biodiversity for

the phenomenon.

"In short order things will change as a result of our environment changing rapidly around us."

Shepherd said he told the Yale first-year students that they would be dealing with a much larger group of infectious diseases in the future.

Shepherd was not sanguine about international efforts to combat global warming.

Instead he made a plug for his Sharon neighbor, Michelle Alfandari, co-founder of Homegrown National Park, which urges homeowners to plant native plants on their property.

Shepherd observed that some 80% of the U.S. is privately owned, and if the owners took steps to restore a proper natural balance, it would go a long way in combating the problems he foresees.

To see a video of the talk go to www.salisburyforum.org.



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TRASH

Continued from Page A1

immediately crop up.

SSTS has had some success in reducing the tonnage shipped to Pennsylvania. An organic waste (food scraps) diversion program was started in 2022 with 120 households participating. That number has since increased to almost 400.

Participants were issued with a container for food scraps and a starter roll of biodegradable bags.

The receptacles for the organic waste are between the recycling and garbage hoppers at the transfer station.

The wheeled, brown, 32-gallon cans are usually crammed to capacity. Bartram encourages this, as it costs the facility \$165 per week for Curbside Compost

— plus fees for the 32-gallon cans — to come fetch the stuff.

Bartram said, between July 2023 and October 2023, participants in the food scrap program diverted 14.15 tons of organic material, which would average out to between 50 and 60 tons per year.

For context, transfer station handled 29,000 tons of MSW between July 2022 and July 2023.

Bartram said getting rid of the organic waste costs about \$292 per ton. The tipping fee for MSW is \$116 per ton.

“So it’s about two and a half times more expensive.”

This is a substantial improvement over the cost per ton at the beginning of the

food scrap diversion program, when organics were about seven times more expensive than MSW.

Two restaurants, the Black Rabbit in Lakeville and Le Gamin in Sharon, have begun separating their food scraps, according to a Nov. 21 email update from Barbara Bettigole of the Transfer Station Recycling Advisory Committee. Volunteers are bringing the material to the transfer station.

Recent legislation requires that, as of January 2025, anyone generating more than 26 tons of waste will have to separate the food scraps, however.

How the transfer station will handle that is an open question.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
The Salisbury-Sharon transfer station (above) has dedicated containers for food scraps.



Bartram has ideas, including adding an employee with a dedicated vehicle to collect the organic material, or working with haulers to develop a route that would be cost-effective.

“Or we could put it out to bid.”

That still leaves the garbage.

Bartram said he has been advocating for more infrastructure for over a decade, and not getting very far.

State Sen. Steve Harding (R-30) described the “ship it somewhere else” approach as “a loss on all fronts.”

He said there could be some immediate relief if the four remaining WTE facilities in the state, particularly the one in Bristol, can increase their capacity, which would reduce the amount of MSW shipped out of state.

Harding said the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has been slow to issue permits for anaerobic digesters, which can process large amounts of materials such as food scraps.

State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) said her conversations with DEEP officials have been around finding

a funding mechanism for the large-scale diversion of organic waste, and for waste management in general.

Horn said that some Connecticut towns have expressed interest in hosting modern WTE facilities, which have a much smaller footprint than the old MIRA plant in Hartford.

Bartram expressed a certain nervousness about the continued existence of the MIRA Torrington transfer station as MIRA is wound down.

Both legislators said continued access to the Torrington transfer station is high on their lists of priorities.

Neither Horn nor Harding were willing to specu-

late on what if anything will happen in the 2024 legislative session, which is a “short session” that starts in February, ends in May, and is limited to bills on budgetary, revenue and financial matters.

But Horn said the issues around waste disposal are top of mind for many if not most legislators.

Looking at the big picture, Bartram said the state needs to build infrastructure.

“We used to be a leader in this.”

SOLAR

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Residents gathered for an informational town meeting Wednesday, Nov. 29, to share views on a solar energy project to be installed on town property adjacent to Sharon Center School. The meeting adjourned to a referendum vote scheduled for Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, from noon until 8 p.m. at the Town Hall.

by Verogy of West Hartford, installers of the project, awaiting approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) within the 65-day deliberation period due to expire this week. The application details a ground-mount solar photovoltaic array of around 400 panels to be installed on SCS grounds, to occupy the site of a student nature study trail, put in place several years ago, but not in active use.

“P&Z is not a part of this town meeting,” Dale Jones announced after his election as moderator for the meeting.

Doug Rick, member of the Sharon Energy and Environment Commission (SEEC), provided historical context, noting that he also serves as a director of People’s Action for Clean Energy (PACE), having been involved with that organization for the past 20 years. In late 2019, he had learned of a new program offered by the Green Bank called Solar MAP (Solar Municipal Assistance Program).

Rick brought news of the program to SEEC, whose members agreed that participation could bring clean, renewable electricity with no upfront cost while affording savings. SCS was found to be the best site for the program, promising savings in energy costs annually.

Hilltop Road resident David Levinson, who had promoted the petition drive and town meeting/referendum request, outlined neighbors’ concerns.

At principal issue was the question of the projected savings in energy costs.

“There are a lot of things that don’t make sense,” Levinson said, indicating that savings may not be as large as anticipated in the long run.

“We should have encouraged students to use the nature trail space,” Levinson added.

First Selectman Casey Flanagan agreed that the

numbers have been unstable, while noting that the projected electricity savings stand at \$524,000 over the 20-year life of the agreement, or about \$26,000 annually. The first year of agreement savings, though, would be likely to be more like \$16,000.

Noting that the Green Bank has already invested \$50,000 toward the project, Flanagan said that the town would likely need to pay back that amount should the project be voted down at the referendum.

“We’re trying to get the benefit of a reduced energy bill. While we won’t own the system, we won’t need to maintain it either,” Flanagan said.

Explaining energy costs and how the annual savings figure of \$26,000 was computed, Roger Liddell noted that electrical rates from the grid are increasing. By studying the energy costs for the current year and estimating an amount for December, he found that the estimate was reasonable.

Several residents expressed positions in favor of solar energy, but not at the SCS location near residents’ properties along Hilltop Road and other neighboring streets.

“We are good neighbors,” said school superintendent Doug Cahill. He recalled that the SEEC had suggested a solar array be installed on the SCS roof. He explained that there is too much equipment already installed on the roof and the integrity of the school’s flat roof was also questionable. Now that a new roof has been installed, guaranteed to last 30 years, any installation could void the guarantee.

Cahill explained that the lower field was considered, as were the neighbors, as the Board of Education considered the proposal at length.

“We knew that it was proposed to be built within the

nature trail area,” Cahill said, but the faculty saw the potential for science learning for the students exploring solar energy while also retaining the integrity of the nature trail to support habitat. Twenty-five percent of the available space will be occupied by the solar array, and 75% will be reclaimed as a natural habitat for native plants and pollinators. “The benefits for the many outweigh the interests of the few,” Cahill observed.

Neighboring property owner John Hecht asked about vegetative screening to mask the panels enclosed within steel fencing, learning that the current P&Z deliberations may include such screening strategies.

“Residents are looking for better landscaping to screen adequately,” added Parez Hecht.

The wording of the resolution being voted upon at the referendum drew heavy discussion, particularly for its use of the word “relinquish” in connection to the town land that is not being relinquished, but rather is being leased for 20 years to the Green Bank for the solar project.

Flanagan noted that at the end of the 20-year lease period, the town can ask Green Bank to dismantle and remove the equipment, the town can extend the lease, or the town could purchase the solar panels.

Rick said that at the end of 20 years, the panels would be 90% viable.

“It is a long-term lease,” Flanagan said, adding that the Green Bank will maintain the space within the fenced area where the panels are to be located. One resident asked whether the word “relinquish” could be changed, but Jones replied that the call to be voted on needs to remain as worded. The call was checked and approved by the town attorney and cannot be changed.

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WELLNESS: ISABELLE CLARK FOSTER AND MARGO DAVIS

Managing holiday stress

The holidays are a source of joy for some, and challenge for others.

For many of us, the holidays are simultaneously filled with the promise of making new memories, and rife with recollections of the past. The emotional and physical energies often expended during this season can leave us exhausted. Top stressors reported by people are: financial, travel, hosting, overloaded or empty schedules, grief and loss, and strained relationships.

Challenges

Feelings: In managing holiday stress, the first thing that mental health providers recommend is to acknowledge feelings. Any and all of our feelings are acceptable, both positive and negative.

Allow the negative feelings to pass when ready, and notice the positive ones with appreciation.

Grief and loss: A sense of loss can stem from many reasons. For some it might be the first holiday after the death of a loved one. For others, divorce can cause transition stress in addition to new and positive experiences and relationships. Perhaps some are struggling with health challenges.

Others are finding it hard to celebrate when larger world conflict and loss is happening.

Financial stress: With many people facing economic challenges, the pressure to buy gifts or produce elaborate meals can seem daunting. Media advertising and marketing content is not always helpful. Town food banks and agencies can be helpful with assistance. In some areas like the Northwest Corner, towns have social workers to help connect people with services. For people of all socioeconomic, groups it might be important to reframe the holidays as a time to connect with others versus overspending.

Relationships: Strained relationships can be a source of pain

during the holiday season.

Although it might be tempting for some to air grievances or resolve conflict, it is likely better to put these types of agendas aside during this time. Focusing on positive qualities in one's self and others has better outcomes and produces a sense of grace/acceptance.

Overload and isolation: For some, it might be tempting to overfill their holiday calendars with events and travel, which can often lead to burnout. For others, the impulse might be the opposite, and can create loneliness. The ideal is to strive toward balance.

Setting limits with "no" to an invite might be equally balancing as accepting an offer that could be nourishing. Self care means knowing when to look outward for connection and when to spend more quiet time with one's self or an intimate few.

When this season becomes too busy, arranging for down or quiet time can help us to recharge. Stress-free, screen-free time can allow us to drop into our

"rest and digest" parasympathetic nervous system, rejuvenating the body and brain.

Techniques

In coping with holiday stress, there are a variety of techniques that have proven to be helpful. It can be challenging to regulate one's emotions and behaviors during this time.

Mindfulness and meditation: Even brief mindfulness meditations with breathing can be helpful. The following link to a meditation on Insight Timer is an example of the many apps and forms of online support available, some of them free: [insight-timer.com/terrijenkins/guided-meditations/holiday-de-stress-with-mindfulness-of-now](https://www.insight-timer.com/terrijenkins/guided-meditations/holiday-de-stress-with-mindfulness-of-now).

Yoga might also be helpful, whether it be online or in person locally at a practice such as Be Well Community Yoga in North Canaan.

Lowered expectations: Lowering expectations of those around us, and of the holiday experience itself, is beneficial. None of us are going to be on our best behavior at all times. A forgiving sense of humor, different from sarcasm or barbed commentary, about one's self and others can

Continued on next page



"Let's just do hannukah this year."

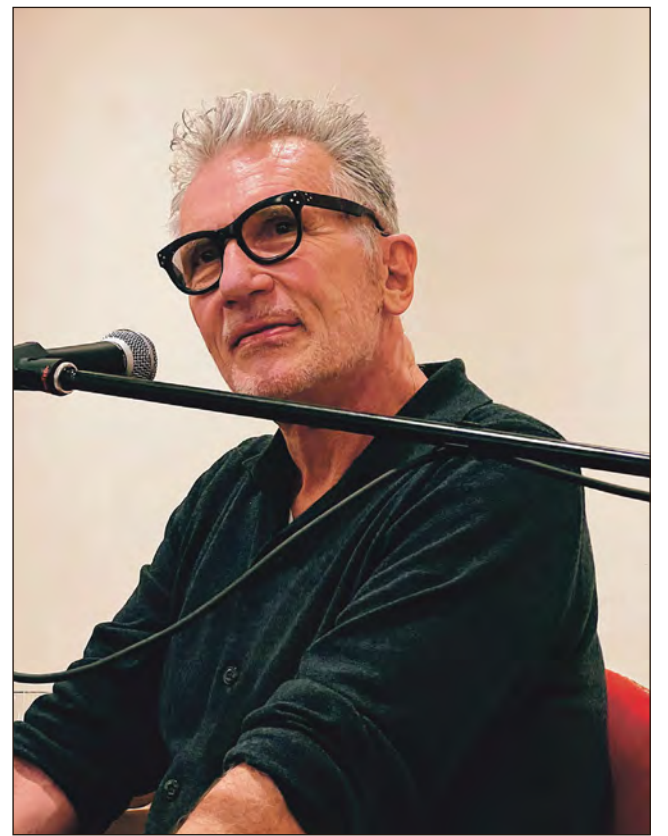


PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Cunningham was in conversation with WAMC's Joe Donahue at The White Hart Inn.

BOOKS: ALEXANDER WILBURN Michael Cunningham on new novel, 'Day'

In Michael Cunningham's new novel "Day," which he discussed with WAMC's "The Book Show" host Joe Donahue at The White Hart Inn in Salisbury, Conn., the night of Thursday, Nov. 30, a New York family faces changes over the course of three years.

Like his 1999 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "The Hours," Cunningham's first novel in a decade is a triptych, told in three parts. The story begins on the morning of April 5, 2019, moves forward to the afternoon of April 5, 2020, and concludes on the evening of April 5, 2021.

"There's the Holy Trinity, the three-act play. We are consistently drawn to the number three," Cunningham told Donahue. "Any two beings, objects, can only be in proximity to one another. You see this napkin..." He held up his cocktail napkin and water glass to demonstrate his point. "You can always draw a straight line between the napkin and the glass. If you add a third element, endless permutations are possible. At the subatomic level, an atom of hydrogen, a nucleus with one electron, behaves entirely predictably. An atom of something like helium, an atom with two electrons — it's impossible to tell how it will behave. When two storm systems are in proximity, they just go on, side by side. When the third one joins, it's a hurricane."

In addition to the novel's three acts, the story centers on three adults cohabitating in a Brooklyn brownstone: former high school golden boy Dan, now married to his wife, Isabel, as well as Isabel's younger brother Robbie, who moves in with the pair, often acting as a third, or even

primary parent to the couple's two children. Cunningham described the unconventional family unit as "Not quite good enough to be good, but not quite bad enough to dissolve... Dan and Isabel are screwing the kids up and are helpless in the face of it. The marriage is fraying, and they're doing the best they can, but they are complicit in the novel. They are watching in horror as their inability to continue loving each other harms their children."

Robbie's presence further strains the relationship, as a triangle of affection disrupts the status quo of the cozy brownstone. "Dan and Isabel are each, in their own way, in love with Robbie," said Cunningham. "Dan flirts with Robbie with a clear understanding that Robbie's not going to make a move or anything. So it's this atmosphere in which Dan, for complicated reasons, feels free to be flirtatious with Robbie. One of my favorite quotes is from Oscar Wilde, who said, 'Everything in the world is really about sex except sex. Sex is really about power.'"

Though COVID-19 and the pandemic are never named directly, the isolation created for New Yorkers forced to remain in their homes weighs heavily on the middle section of the novel, set in April 2020. Cunningham said, while he wanted to avoid the trappings of the post-COVID novel, he was keenly interested in the early responses to the crisis, the fastidious washing of groceries, the loneliness and the paranoia. He felt a contemporary novel set in New York couldn't overlook

Continued on next page

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FOOD: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Reaching new consciousness through baking

Koenraad Van Der Meer doesn't just bake bread; he is a bread philosopher with beliefs that are rooted in biodynamic principles, the intrinsic connection between the natural and spiritual worlds, and an approach to baking that produces not only a more nutritious and flavorful product but also fosters a new consciousness.

Originally from Holland, Van Der Meer has been making bread for over 40 years. He had two bakeries in Holland before moving to New Hampshire where he had a bakery on a farm. He worked for a bagel shop for another 10 years until, he said: "I woke up. In 2012, I decided that this is what I'm going to do for the rest of my life."

The waking up he

is referring to was the realization of the shortcomings of modern agricultural practices, notably the use of chemical fertilizers. He noticed that these practices were resulting in less vitality and flavor, a reduced nutritional value and, perhaps most importantly, a depletion in a spiritual connection.

He began to search for alternatives which led him to spelt and einkorn, ancient grains that thrive in nutrient-poor soils and maintain a closer connection to their original, wild state. "Every plant grows because it likes to grow there," says Van Der Meer. "We just need to observe and then we start to really learn things, if you open your eyes and see what's happening."

Van Der Meer's philosophy extends beyond just the choice of grains. He is a firm believer in Rudolf Steiner's teachings, particularly the concept of the group soul that links plants, animals, and humans to the cosmos. He views modern genetic manipulation, especially in the case of GMOs, as a disruption of this sacred connection.

In his quest to restore this bond, Van Der Meer incorporates unique practices such as using



PHOTOS BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Koenraad Van Der Meer, above, and his bread displayed on a table at a recent Millerton Farmers Market.

...holiday stress

Continued from previous page

be fun and emotionally freeing.

Humor, as they say, "is often the best medicine." When in doubt, "put on" comedy, whether it be through humorous personal recollections/ observations or entertainment media.

Faith: Whether it be religious or spiritual, faith can provide a spiritual rudder when we are challenged and help us to navigate better choices once we are not "operating" from a place of fear.

Empathy and giving back: Often, we find meaning and healing in service to others. Helping a friend or neighbor, making a financial donation, or volunteering for a community agency are all powerful ways to make a positive impact. As we all know, the holidays can spark feelings of generosity.

Boundaries: In the rush to celebrate the season, we can all get overwhelmed by an inundation of invitations to create, donate and celebrate. Evaluating when to say yes and when to say no can be part of healthy self preservation.

Being mindful of our own and other people's particular vulnerabilities, whether they be physical or emotional, is especially important during the holidays.

Perhaps seating,

timing, location and other concerns need to be thought out the best we can in order to accommodate different personalities and generations. Thoughtful and active listening can be more rewarding than any heated debate or conflict that may come up.

In some settings there is an agreement to stay away from divisive topics during gatherings. Others may not want to take this more structured approach. In these cases, taking space for a time when needed and then rejoining activities might be helpful.

Self care: Self care can mean many things: sleep, exercise, fresh air and vitamin D.

Abstaining from or limiting alcohol, nicotine, caffeine and excess sugar intake can reduce stress and protect the immune system. Overall, balancing care of one's self and others seems to be a key element in creating a positive holiday experience.

Isabelle Clark Foster and Margo Davis are licensed independent clinical social workers. Davis publishes at goingfor-whole.substack.com and offers a free meditation group every Friday at 4:30 p.m. at the Bushnell-Sage Library in Sheffield, Massachusetts.

...cunningham

Continued from previous page

the emotional toll of the outbreak. "I didn't want to write a pandemic novel, yet it would have felt like setting a novel in London during World War II without mentioning the Blitz."

Besides attending The White Hart event, sponsored by Oblong Books in Millerton, N.Y., the New York City-based writer has another Connecticut connection — his 14-year teaching

dew drops collected on specific days to imbue his bread with positive, cosmic energy. "Well, on certain days in the spring, like 40 days after

Easter," explained Van Der Meer, "there's this rising force in nature. And of course, that would be very beneficial to put it in bread. And so Ascension Day, that's when you see these rising forces both in the natural world and the spiritual world. This is also the day when the body of Christ is taken up into heaven."

On Ascension Day, Van Der Meer goes into the field with a bottle of spring water and a dropper. "We marry the dewdrop with the spring water homeopathically," he explained. "I discovered that there's some ionization going on. So negative ions are healthy for us. When the dewdrops are very fine, there's negative ions there. I actually observed a group of grass sprigs

together and I didn't even touch them, but they started moving. There's some magnetism going on there, it's really magical. It's a healing force that goes into the bread homeopathically."

Van Der Meer uses natural yeast cultures grown on sprouted barley, avoiding the sourness often associated with sourdough and producing bread that is both nourishing and easily digestible. He sees his work as part of a larger mission to foster a new consciousness, one that rejects the materialism and greed of the modern world in favor of a community-oriented, spiritually aware approach.

This New Age Consciousness, a term attributed to Steiner, emphasizes intuition, clairvoyance, tolerance and love. "Ignorance and corruption and greed, that's a dead-end road," said Van Der Meer. "But there is an economy that's community-based. He continued, "If you do something and you do it for the community's interest, then the community is going to support you."

A member of the Philmont Market and Cafe Cooperative's processing kitchen — a shared-use, fully licensed commercial kitchen facility — Van Der Meer does indeed have the support of the community, as his Holy Grain breads have become a popular staple at farmers

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Where to find music in The Berkshires

Thanksgiving's over, the leftovers are gone, and now it's time to get out of the house and see some live entertainment.

Luckily, there are many options to choose from in the region. Winsted has gradually seen its options for live music expand. Located at 524 Main St., 2nd Home Lounge serves tapas, wine and beer on draft in a cozy setting that lives up to its name. Grab an armchair or a sofa and share a charcuterie board with beers from Little Red Brewing, Norbrook, and Great Falls, as well as locally produced wines and spirits while you watch local musicians or comedians perform. 2nd Home Lounge is unique in that it emphasizes local. Hours vary so check the website for specifics: 2ndhomelounge.com

The Gilson Theater at 345 Main St. has live jazz every Sunday from 5 to 7 p.m. Seating is limited and tickets are typically \$15 and are available at the door or online at gilsoncafeinema.com

Further on up the road, Little Red Barn Brewers (LRB) features a wide range of hand-crafted brews in a former factory. With ample seating inside and out, it's a popular spot, with live acoustic music and trivia nights throughout the week. Partnering with the Old Riverton Inn, LRB has recently expanded into a massive adjacent space where it will have live events. For more info, check the website: lrbbrewers.com

Continuing north, Norbrook Farm Brewery in Colebrook serves some of the best beer around in a bucolic setting with great views overlooking hop vines, grazing sheep and stunning sunsets. Surrounded by 450 acres of wooded land, it also boasts trails popular with mountain bikers, hikers and Frisbee golfers. In warmer weather, the parking lot is usually packed with food trucks,

and Thursdays nights in August are cruise nights with vintage cars on display. Inside, there's ample seating; outside, fire pits allow year-round libation. Norbrook has a regular schedule of live acoustic music, typically on weekends. For a complete schedule, see www.norbrookfarm.com

Undoubtedly, one of the finest live event spaces in northwestern Connecticut, Infinity Music Hall in Norfolk has top-notch booking with an approximately 300-person capacity. Built in 1883, it's a gorgeous venue with wainscoted walls, colorful stained glass windows and a state-of-the-art sound system. Run by Good Works Entertainment, Infinity Music Hall has resumed a full booking schedule. Downstairs the bistro serves small plates and drinks in a convivial atmosphere. Check the website for popular national touring acts: www.infinityhall.com

With recent efforts to beautify and revitalize, Canaan is looking better than ever. The Music Lab's mission is "To Teach, Inspire and Promote Music in the Community." Located at 93B Main St., The Music Lab serves as a practice space and a recording studio, and hosts an acoustic night hosted by Mark Yard every Thursday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.: www.musiclabct.com

The Colonial Theatre just up Route 7 occasionally offers live music, usually in the form of sponsored benefit concerts and, lately, free movies in a gorgeous, mid-century movie theater. Performances have been held downstairs in the main space, but there's also a stunning upper level: www.canaancolonial.com

Crossing the state line into Massachusetts, Dewey Hall on Route 7 in Sheffield is a beautiful events space featuring folk music, contra

dancing, open mics and community events. The focus is on the traditional. See the calendar at www.deweyhall.org Just off of Route 23, The Egremont Barn in Egremont is one of the coolest venues around. As the name implies, the action happens inside a beautiful barn built in 1786. Comedian Jenny Rubin and musician Nick Keene curate a hip booking schedule open from Wednesday to Sunday from 5 p.m. onward. It features food and drink,

and has become one of the most desired places to play in the Berkshires. There's also accommodation at the adjacent inn. See the site: www.theegremontbarn.com Tucked way back on Undermountain Road, Race Brook Lodge in Sheffield offers eclectic musical and cultural programming, often with a global flavor. Live performances typically happen in the large barn situated on stunning property that also features an inn and a restaurant. Check

the website for complete listings: rblodge.com/events

The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington is one of the more stunning venues in the area, with a capacity of 681 that makes it ideal for larger live events. High-brow programming includes movies, plays, comedy, and music that ranges from classical to rock 'n' roll. For a full list of programming, see mahaiwe.org

For those seeking something really differ-

ent, Familiar Trees bookstore at 80 Railroad St. in Great Barrington programs music from time to time in its adjacent gallery. Recent shows have included electronica soundscapes and avant garde jazz. Check the site for listings: www.familiartrees.com

Big Elm Brewery at 389 Stockbridge Road in Great Barrington has live acoustic music in a lively setting where great beer and spirited conversation flow: www.bigelm-beer.com

HOLIDAYS: MATTHEW KRETA

Santa's favorite cookie

The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon hosted a festive cookie contest and meet and greet Saturday, Dec. 2.

With its first contest in 2019, the library has been hosting annual cookie contests in December where the public can submit and vote on entries.

Ribbons and decorations adorned the railings and lamps of the library's main hall, giving the room a beautiful and cheery glow.

This year there were about 15 cookie entries, and people could vote on three categories: best adult-made cookie; best child-made cookie; and prettiest cookie. For the two hours in which voting was open, the library saw consistent visitors come in and out to enjoy some cookies and hot chocolate. At the same time as the voting period, the Hotchkiss Library hosted Santa, who had his own gift exchange and meet-and-greet in the library's children's section.

Children enjoyed a chance to talk and sit with him over the two hours before he had to return to his workshop.

As people filed out toward the Town Green for the lighting of the town tree, votes were tallied

and the winners were revealed.

The winner of best adult-made cookie was Candice Hellman with her peppermint meringue cookies, the winner of best child-made cookie was the Atkins family with their chocolate marshmallow bites, and the winner of prettiest cookie was Barbara McCollum.

To learn about more upcoming events go to www.hotchkisslibraryof-sharon.org



PHOTO BY MATTHEW KRETA

Children visited with Santa Claus at the library.

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...baking

Continued from previous page

markets, the Berkshire Food Coop in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and multiple farm stands and stores in the region. Lately his attention has turned to education: "My next chapter is to do workshops and to inspire others to make this bread."

The New Year will find Van Der Meer traveling and leading workshops, teaching others about his spiritual approach to bread baking. "We shouldn't be dominating nature, we are the guardians," he explained. "We need to lift nature up, to advance evolution. By

doing that we advance our own evolution."

This reciprocity is the very basis of his mission and commitment to the transformative power of bread. "Bread is a symbol of peace," he said. "When you go somewhere, you need to come with a gift. Same with a plant. You need to come with something, and it responds." He added: "There's a saying in Dutch. It says, 'Whose bread one eats, whose word one speaks.' So, I better put out a good mission because that's going into the bread and that nourishes people."

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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. All entries can be found at www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar. To submit calendar items, email editor@lakevillejournal.com

DECEMBER 7

Annual Menorah Lighting

Sharon Town Green, Sharon, Conn.

Join us at the Sharon Town Green on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 4:45 p.m. for the Annual Menorah Lighting.

Even in darkness we can create light and encourage compassion. The spirit of Hanukkah—the Festival of Lights...is shared by all people who love freedom.

DECEMBER 8

Through the Artist's Eye

Kearcher-Monsell Gallery, Paul Stoddard Library, HVRHS, 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, Conn.

Painter and art educator Warren Prindle will exhibit a retrospective of his work at the Kearcher-Monsell Gallery (HVRHS) opening on Dec. 8, 2:30 to 5 p.m. The salon-style exhibition covers twenty-plus years from Prindle's oeuvre...plein air sketches, graphite studies, drawings and larger accomplished pieces, will be on exhibit and for sale with a portion of sales benefiting the HVRHS Fine Art Society. The Show runs through Jan. 15, 2024. For more on Prindle's work, visit warrenprindle.com or [@hvrhsgallery](https://www.instagram.com/hvrhsgallery) on Instagram.

Douglas Library Holiday Party

Douglas Library, 108 Main St., North Canaan, Conn douglaslibrarycanaan.org

Douglas Library of North Canaan will host its Annual Holiday Party on Friday, Dec. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. There will be hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and drinks. The cost is \$15 per person, \$25 a couple and all proceeds benefit the library. For more information, call the library at 860-824-7863.

Friends of Roe Jan Library Annual Cookies, Books, Soups, and Tag Sale

Roeliff Jansen Library, 9091 Route 22, Copake, N.Y. roejanlibrary.org

On Dec. 8 & 9, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., home-baked cookies and homemade soups will be available for purchase

as well as small holiday gifts such as tabletop books, candles, jewelry, children's books, picture frames, puzzles, and other homewares. During the sale, patrons are also encouraged to visit the Friends bookshop, located on the lower level of the library, and browse their extensive and well-organized selection of gently used books. Tickets for a 50-50 Raffle are available to purchase in the Friends Bookshop downstairs on Saturdays through December 9 and at the Cookies, Books Soups, and Tag Sale. A winner will be announced on Saturday, Dec. 9.

Community Reading

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

The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon and the Sharon Historical Society & Museum invite you to participate in the live reading of Louisa May Alcott's Little Women. The first reading session will begin on Friday, Dec. 8 at 4 p.m. and sessions will continue until Saturday, Dec. 9 at 10 p.m. Sign up to read for 15 minutes and learn more up at hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com.

DECEMBER 9

Celtic Holiday Concert

Amenia Town Hall Auditorium, 4988 NY-22, Amenia, N.Y.

Come to a free Celtic Holiday Concert at Amenia Town Hall Auditorium featuring Dave Paton, Joseph Sobol and Friends, Sat. Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. Free admission and free refreshments — a holiday gift from the Town of Amenia.

A Rose in Winter Concert

St. Andrew's Church, 1 N. Main St., Kent, Conn.

The Kent Singers will present A Rose in Winter on Saturday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 10, at 3 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church in Kent, CT.

Join us for these festive holiday concerts featuring songs of hope in the bleak midwinter. A gentle and beautiful program of music expressing joy, hope

and peace. The favorites you love and some new songs, too! The concerts will be conducted by our Music Director James Knox Sutterfield.

Tickets are \$20 in advance at kentsingers.com/category/tickets/ or at the door, with children under 12 admitted free; further information available at 860-619-8110 or at kentsingers.com

12X12 Art Exhibition

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

On Saturday, Dec. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m., the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn. will host the twelfth edition of 12X12, its annual art exhibition and sale which features over 60 artists this year. All works in the exhibition measure 12X12 inches and are priced at \$150 each. A portion of each sale benefits the library. For more information call the library at 860-824-7424 or visit huntlibrary.org/art-wall

Current Fiction Book Group

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

On Saturday, Dec. 9, from 4 to 5 p.m., the Scoville Library Current Fiction Book Group will discuss National Book Award winner *The Rabbit Hutch*, by Tess Gunty.

A limited number of books are available to borrow at the Scoville Library.

DECEMBER 10

Book Talk

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

Drawing on the best of boots-on-the-ground journalism, *The Fabulist* tells the bizarre, page-turning, and frankly hysterical story of George Santos, America's most outrageous grifter. The Dec. 10 discussion, starting at 3 p.m., will be moderated by Will Yakowicz, who covers the vice beat for Forbes. The author will be signing books after the program. The event is free, but space is limited, so please reserve your seat: tinyurl.com

com/y7ku592f

DECEMBER 12

Scoville Library Writing Circles

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

Starting December 12 and 14. Using prompts as a springboard, this writing workshop invites you to write freely, read your work aloud, hear responses, and respond to others' writing. Workshop leader

Karen Vrotsos has been teaching writing for over 25 years and is certified in the Amherst Writers and Artists method. Choose a Circle to join: Tuesday afternoons, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., or Thursday evenings, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The next 4-session cycle begins the week of Dec. 11. This in-person, Adult Programs workshop is limited to 10 participants. To register, visit scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/11505458

DECEMBER 15

Sandy Hook Vigil

In front of The White Hart Inn, Salisbury, Conn.

Please join us in remembering the victims of Sandy Hook and all victims of gun violence on Friday, Dec. 15, from 5 to 6 p.m. Meet in front of The White Hart Inn. Please bring your own candle.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Children at the David M. Hunt Library made ornaments on Saturday, Dec. 2, prior to the town's tree lighting festivities.

HOLIDAYS: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Handmaking ornaments at Hunt

Residents with the holiday spirit were already milling about the town Green well ahead of the official starting time of 4:40 p.m. for the lighting of the town's tree and the singing of carols and holiday songs Saturday, Dec. 2.

Candles were distributed and lit, relative newcomers mingled with old-timers, and children dashed about according to their own logic.

The revelers sang a mix of traditional carols

and popular songs, led by Rachel Gall on violin and John Stey on guitar.

Once darkness settled in and the tree was lit, a Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department fire engine, suitably decorated, motored slowly down Railroad Street to the corner of Main Street by the Green.

This was the moment the youngsters had been waiting for.

Santa Claus — the genuine article, not some department store impostor — clambered down

from the cab and made his way into the crowd.

The children looked on in awe, seemingly unable to speak.

Until a young voice piped up.

"Hi, Santa Claus!"

"Ho ho ho," replied Santa.

The ice now broken, the children swarmed the man in the red suit.

Earlier in the day, children gathered at the David M. Hunt Library worked on handmade ornaments, some of which made it to the town tree.

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Our Towns



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN



Kent's sweetest masterpieces

Gingerbread creations will be on display around Kent throughout the month of December. Pictured here are a sleigh at Sophie's Bakery, the Colosseum at Heron Store, and a greenhouse at Woodford's General Store



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Ex-FTX exec selling North Canaan airstrip

The airstrip in North Canaan on West Main Street is up for sale for \$2 million. It is owned by Ryan Salame, who pleaded guilty in September to criminal charges of conspiring to make unlawful political contributions and defraud the Federal Elections Commission. Berkshire native Salame made his fortune as a bitcoin investor, cryptocurrency executive and lieutenant to FTX exchange founder Sam Bankman-Fried, who was convicted on federal fraud charges last month. Salame was co-CEO of FTX Digital Markets, an FTX affiliate, and purchased the airstrip in 2021.

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With thanks to those who serve.

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