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Celebrating Our 126th Anniversary

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



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Joining in the celebration at The Hotchkiss Library's observance of National Pizza Day on Thursday, Feb. 9, were Sharon residents Audra Salazar, at left, and her daughter, Lucy.

National Pizza Day — a slice of 'genius'

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — No matter how you slice it, the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon's observance of National Pizza Day was a hit, attracting young families to socialize, enjoy and rate pizzas, make fanciful pizza jewelry and create pizza masks on Thursday, Feb. 8. The event was held at the library's temporary home at the American Legion Hall.

Large pizzas were donated by

Deano's of Lakeville for the children to decide their preferred toppings, whether plain cheese, meat or veggie.

Adding to the fun was a display of a dozen children's books that have been published on the subject of pizza. Little-known facts about pizza, assembled by the librarians, included that pepperoni is the most popular of all toppings and

See PIZZA, Page A6

Pupil Services head to retire after 35 years

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Martha Schwaikert, Region One's Director of Pupil Services gave notice last week of her retirement effective June 30.

Schwaikert has worked in special education for Region One for the past 35 years. She began her career at Kent Center School 1988. In 1993, she moved to teach

middle school at Salisbury Central School for twelve years.

In 2005, she transferred to Housatonic Valley Regional School, thus accomplishing her personal goal of having taught at each grade level in the District.

From 2009 to 2021, Schwaikert was the Supervisor of Special Education for Region One and became the Director in October of 2021.

In her letter to Region One Superintendent Lisa Carter, Schwaikert shared that she is retiring now in order to spend more

See PUPIL SERVICES, Page A6

Northwest Hills Council of Governments

Housing issues, addiction spotlighted in discussions

By Riley Klein

GOSHEN — Affordable housing was front and center in discussions during the Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOG) monthly meeting on Feb. 9.

Jocelyn Ayer, director of the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity (LCCHO), provided an update on housing statistics for

the region before reviewing plans for the coming year.

In the 21 towns that comprise NHCOG, 1,111 households remain on waiting lists for affordable rental housing. Of those on waiting lists, 53% are seniors. For those with

9,735 households in Litchfield County are severely burdened by housing costs, spending more than 50% of income on housing costs.

housing in Litchfield County, 9,735 households are severely burdened by housing costs (defined by households spending more than 50% of income on housing costs).

"Average sale price is going up and inventory is going down," said Ayer during her presentation. She added that Norfolk's average house price increased 105% in a single year and Cornwall's increased 77.5%.

The LCCHO has begun to partner with local nonprofit organizations to help get housing projects off the ground in the Northwest corner. Ayer indicated that the first three developments will be in Salisbury, Morris, and Falls Village. The LCCHO plans to make funding available for eight to 15 projects of up to \$30,000 each. "We're going to do a lot more work in 2023," she said.

Region One budget proposal up 2.76%

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE— The Region One Board of Education got a first look at the proposed 2023-24 budget at the regular board meeting Monday, Feb. 6.

The proposed spending plan has a bottom line of \$17,126,203, up \$460,234 (2.76%) from a budgeted \$16,665,969 in the current fiscal

year, which ends June 30.

The Region One budget has three components: Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Pupil Services (including special education), and the Regional Schools Services Center (aka "Central Office").

In the proposed budget, the HVRHS line is \$8,665,313, up

See R1 BUDGET, Page A6

See NW HILLS COG, Page A6

Time of year

It's black bear birthing season

This is the time of year — late January and early February — when black bears are giving birth in the den.

Ginny Apple, a Master Wildlife Conservationist volunteer with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, spoke on Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Norfolk Library to a rapt audience of approximately 100.

Apple said newborn cubs range from 6 to 12 ounces. Their blue eyes are closed and they have no hair.

"They're very cute," she said.

Apple's talk, part of a series sponsored by the nonprofit Great Mountain Forest in Norfolk and Falls Village, focused on the natural history of black bears in Connecticut and included an overview of habitat, diet, behavior and reproduction.

Apple began with a discussion of boundaries and advice on coexisting with what she called these "mythical creatures."

"We need to have boundaries with wild animals," she said. Apple explained that when a bear stands on its hind feet it is not necessarily a threatening pose. "It's getting a look," she said.

In short, they are more curious

"Some people think they are dangerous predators. Bloodthirsty. And often lie in wait for us unsuspecting hikers."

than dangerous.

"A Black bear is a somewhat mythical creature. They are very maligned sometimes. Some people think they are dangerous predators. Bloodthirsty. And often lie in wait

for us unsuspecting hikers," Apple said.

But black bears have been long honored in Native American cultures and mythology. Two U.S. states feature bears on their flag: California and Missouri. Many cities also incorporate the image of a bear on their seals. Even the Teddy Bear, with the

See BLACK BEARS, Page A6



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Ginny Apple spoke Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Norfolk Library.

NATURE'S NOTEBOOK
JOHN COSTON



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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 Monday, Feb. 6, troopers responded to a North Canaan residence on the report of a domestic disturbance at approximately 12:15 a.m. Upon investigation, Marcus Moorey, 40, of Devine Avenue, was taken into custody and transported to Troop B and charged with disorderly conduct and 3rd degree assault. He was unable to post a \$5,000 cash/surety bond.

Assault charge

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, at approximately 6:10 p.m. troopers were dispatched to an East Main Street address in North Canaan for a report of an active physical altercation. Eric Christiansen, 29, of Canaan, was arrested and

charged with disorderly conduct and 3rd degree assault. He was released on a \$5,000 cash/surety bond.

Criminal trespass

On Friday, Feb. 10, at approximately 7 a.m. troopers responded to The Lock Up in the town of Salisbury for a reported active disturbance. Troopers determined that Ashley Berry, 30, of Milford, Massachusetts, had entered the area unwanted and caused a disturbance. Berry was charged with 2nd degree criminal trespass and disorderly conduct and transported to Troop B. A \$5,000 non-surety bond was set.

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

Student art to raise Ukraine funds

FALLS VILLAGE — Come to the artgarage at Housatonic Valley Regional High School on Friday, Feb. 17, from 4 to 8 p.m. for an unusual art project to commemorate the start of the war in Ukraine and to raise relief funds.

Blank envelopes are used as a canvas. The artists used a wide variety of techniques, including sketches, illustrations, pen and ink, pastels, oil, and markers; origami, decoupage, encaustic, paper-machete, or paper cutting; photography, collage, fiber, and 3D art of found objects.

The projects hung will be for sale at a minimum \$10 donation. Higher amounts

of donations are welcomed. The proceeds will be donated to United 24, for medical care, The Prytula Foundation, for military aid, and to Americare.

Teen drowns after fall through ice

By John Coston

MILLERTON — A Webutuck High School senior drowned on Friday, Feb. 10, at the Iron Mine Pond area off Shagroy Road in Taconic State Park after he and a friend fell through the ice, according to the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office.

Noah Thompson, 17, of Amenia, was at the pond with a friend, according to his mother, Dayna Cook of Amenia.

The incident occurred at approximately 2:50 p.m.

According to the Sheriff's Office, the two teenagers had walked approximately 20 to 30 feet from the grassy shore onto the ice when the ice broke, sending them both into the water.

The girl, Emily Moustakas, 17, of LaGrange, who is a senior at Arlington High School, said they heard a loud crack while walking on the ice and then Noah fell in. Emily said she reached for him, but then fell in herself.

After she managed to clamber back on the ice, and after some time holding onto Noah, trying to keep him elevated, Noah ended up holding onto her leg. But after a while he let go of her.

"He was brave, and just couldn't hold on," Cook said.

"It took all she had left to get out and back onto the top of the ice, running for her life



PHOTO PROVIDED

Noah Thompson

to reach the cell phone," the girl's mother, Danielle Moustakas, said. "She is a hero and a brave one at that."

Cook said she heard about the tragedy when a friend called after hearing all the fire calls.

"Is Noah at home?" her friend asked.

"That was his spot," Cook said, knowing that he went up there a lot in the summertime.

Jason Watson, chief of the Northeast Fire District and Millerton Fire Company, said that the Millerton Fire Company was the first on the scene, arriving within five minutes, and requested additional resources. More than 100 firefighters and emergency personnel from numerous agencies in New York and Connecticut responded and were on the scene for more than three hours.

The pond is located in Taconic State Park about a

five-minute trail walk from Shagroy Road, which is off Rudd Pond Road. There is no road access to the site, requiring rescue personnel to walk in. The pond is a popular draw for area residents because of its remote, quiet setting. A sign posted on a tree on the way to the pond states, "Keep Off the Ice."

Stephanie Thompson, of Champlain, Noah's aunt, and her sister, Jennifer Thompson of Wassaic, were visiting the site of the drowning on Saturday morning.

"We wanted to see where it happened," Stephanie said. "To see if there was still some of his spirit here."

His aunts and his mother described Noah as someone with a gift to easily make people smile.

"He's got a smile that's infectious," his mother said.

"He had the biggest, biggest heart," Stephanie said. "And he was not just a kid who fell through the ice. He was a brother and a son and

a grandson."

Noah was a baseball player who played in school leagues and in farm leagues, she said.

His dream was to be an entrepreneur, his mother said.

On Saturday, approximately 50 Webutuck High School students received counseling at the school. On Monday, it will be "all hands are on deck" for all the students, said Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani.

"It's going to be a tough few days," he said.

Upon the arrival of DIVE Team and rescue personnel from numerous agencies, the victim was recovered and transported to Sharon Hospital in Connecticut, where he was later pronounced dead, according to the Sheriff's Office.

"They worked on him for three hours at Sharon Hospital," Stephanie Thompson said. "But he had been underwater too long."

Online This Week

North Canaan targets roadside invasives
 Mowing down woody invasive plants including, Japanese knotweed. Go to www.tricornernews.com

Midwinter's Night in Falls Village
 Revelers sampled food and music at the Hunt Library's fundraiser. Go to www.tricornernews.com/multimedia

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF DOLORES J. DUBOIS Late of Salisbury (23-00019)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 31, 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: Sharie Lee Schwaikert c/o Donna D Vincenti Law Offices of Donna D Vincenti, Atty LLC 12 Porter Street PO Box 1399 Lakeville, CT 06039 Beth L. McGuire Chief Clerk 02-16-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF STEPHEN MICHAEL LANGO Late of Salisbury (23-00041)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 31, 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: Patricia H. Hilborn c/o Mark J Capeceletro Mark J Capeceletro, LLC 117 Main Street P. O. Box 1045 Canaan, CT 06018 Megan M. Foley Clerk 02-16-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF DENNIS M. RAND Late of Sharon (23-00010)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 31, 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: Denise Rand c/o Neal Dennis White Cramer & Anderson LLP 46 West Street PO Box 278 Litchfield, CT 06759 Megan M. Foley Clerk 02-16-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF GEORGE S. POLLARD Late of Canaan (23-00367)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate,

District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 31, 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: Samantha Mannarino 183 Cotuit Street North Andover, MA 01845 Megan M. Foley Clerk 02-16-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF MARY T. KIRBY Late of Sharon (23-00021)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 31, 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: Kevin E. Kirby, Sr. c/o Lynda Lee Arnold Czepiga Daly Pope & Perri, LLC, 15 South Main Street, New Milford, CT 06776 Megan M. Foley Clerk 02-16-23



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Our Towns

Kent revisits discussion to add a second trooper

By Leila Hawken

KENT — Prominent among the requests considered at the first of this budget season's workshops to develop the town's 2023-24 proposed budget is a renewal of a request for a second state trooper to serve the town's needs. The Board of Selectmen considered the request at a workshop meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 8, held on Zoom.

Initiating the discussion

was a letter received from former state trooper Andy Ocif who has lived in Kent since 1969 and served as the resident state trooper from 1968 to 1975. Ocif participated in the selectmen's meeting to emphasize the need for an additional trooper.

"Kent is no longer a small community," Ocif said, citing continuing problems of seasonal recreational visitors crowding at popular locations such as Bulls Bridge and Kent Falls, where con-

gestion and lack of parking sometimes creates hazards for visitors

First Selectman Jean Speck said that the selectmen need to decide whether to add the request as a line item in next year's budget.

Recognizing that it is a continuing subject, Selectman Glenn Sanchez pointed out that a town meeting vote on a proposal for a School Resource Officer who would serve part of the calendar year as a second trooper

was resoundingly defeated by voters, 3 to 1. Based on that vote and other anticipated budget pressures, he said that he could not support the request.

Selectman Rufus de Rham agreed with Sanchez and did not see how the \$200,000 projected cost for a trooper could be added for the coming year.

"Those who came out and spoke, voted, and said 'no,'" de Rham said.

"I wish there could be a middle road," de Rham added, raising a possibility of sharing a trooper with another town.

"We have been talking about this for four years," Speck recalled. "We are standing on a cliff," she said, referring to public safety, adding that the consequences are substantial, particularly considering increases in numbers of seasonal visitors.

"We have an obligation to protect and provide for public safety," Speck said. "It's time for us to step up to this plate."

If the town had a second trooper, she suggested, the town would be able to assign the trooper at times to Kent Center School.

Continuing to seek a middle ground, de Rham asked for more concrete data, such as the likely costs, statistics on the numbers of complaints and specifics on stress point locations and situations.

Additional budget workshop discussions are planned for Feb. 15, 22 and March 1, with the selectmen scheduled to present their proposed budget to the Board of Finance on March 22.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Chocolate lovers rejoiced as the Chocolate Fest returned to Kent Center School on Wednesday, Feb. 8.

Chocolate Fest makes return to KCS

By Lans Christensen provided a variety of sweet treats for all.

KENT — After a two year absence, the annual Chocolate Fest returned to Kent Center School on Wednesday, Feb. 8. It was the 26th year of the event. A steady crowd was

Restaurants, vendors, and at-home bakers provided chocolate and bakery pleasing to every taste bud. All proceeds went to the KCS Scholarship Fund.

Polar Bear run set for Feb. 26

KENT — The 38th Annual Lake Waramaug Polar Bear Run is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 26 at 11 a.m. It is the oldest winter race

in Connecticut. Register online at www.lakewaramaugpolarbearrun.com or at the race until 10:30 a.m..

Email reporter Patrick Sullivan at patrick@lakevillejournal.com



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Kent News Inc. announced the start of fundraising efforts to bring the Good Times Dispatch back to Kent.

Group ready to revive weekly newspaper

By Patrick L. Sullivan

KENT — The revival of the Good Times Dispatch weekly newspaper is in the works.

On Saturday, Feb. 11 Kent News Inc. announced it has received nonprofit status and will begin fundraising efforts in earnest.

At the meeting at the Kent Art Association building, Kent News president and veteran journalist and photographer Karen Chase said the organization's goal is to raise some \$400,000, to allow for weekly publication in print and online for a year, plus a cushion.

If all goes well, the print edition will be mailed free of charge to all households in Kent, or about 1000 in total.

Chase said there are experienced editorial staff and freelance contributors lined up and ready to go.

For more information go to kentgtd.org.

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Our Towns

Cornwall considers composting service

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — A recent field trip to Litchfield offered insight and intrigue into creating a communal composting service in Cornwall.

Three Cornwall representatives visited the Litchfield Transfer Station last week at the invitation of First Selectwoman Denise Raap. Cornwall's Transfer Station Coordinator Ted Larson, Station Attendant Will Berry, and First Selectman Gordon Ridgway were given a tour of the composting piles in Litchfield.

"We found this very interesting," said Ridgway. "What was good about it was that it was a self-contained program."

Ridgway explained that the town of Litchfield collects leaves to fill two thirds of their composting pile and then area contributors dump food scraps that are mixed with the leaves. The final product is locally sourced compost that can be taken home by residents to use in their lawns and gardens.

"I was really impressed," said Ridgway. "We could set this up within a week once we get the go ahead from the state."

The board approved a motion to submit an application to the state for a permit to add this service at the Cornwall Transfer Station. Ridgway estimated the total cost to set up a designated composting area would be under \$1,000.

"Keep it here. Keep it local. Keep it in Cornwall," said Larson. "If we ship stuff out, we'll never see a finished product. Here we have a finished product. People can come in with their five-gallon buckets and they can take it home."

The board then reviewed options for handling two properties in town that have been accruing back taxes for about 15 years. Both properties are owned by the estate of Richard Burkhart: one is located at 8 River Road South and the other is on Kent Road just south of Cornwall Bridge.

Ridgway indicated that upwards of \$200,000 in back taxes is owed between the two properties and the land is presumed to be contaminated.

"The town does not want to get them to chain the title because we do not want to be responsible for the possible contamination there," said Ridgway. "There have been people that have come up and said they would be interested in buying these."

The board agreed to research a tax lien sale, through which an attorney would auction the properties and the town would receive a percentage of the back taxes from the sale.

"I don't see a downside, Gordon, because it's just been weighing on the town and the town can use the money. It sounds smart to me," said Selectwoman Janet Carlson.

The board reviewed their spending proposal for 2023-24 during this meeting as well. While the assessment increase from Region One has dominated budget discussions in Cornwall this year, Ridgway recognized the efforts each department has made to minimize spending during a difficult time.

"Appreciate all our departments efforts to try to hold their spending level, which is tough because some of the costs are increasing," said Ridgway. The Selectmen will present their spending plan to the Board of Finance on Feb. 16.

Eversource has proposed to trim trees along 70 of the 94 miles of road within Cornwall. The proposal indicated that Eversource responded to 134 outages in Cornwall last year, 73% of which were tree related. The energy company will contact customers before trimming begins in their area.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Roadside balloon humor

The Canaan Fire Co. in North Canaan at the intersection of Route 7 and Route 44 is having a little balloon fun following the Chinese spy balloon incident.

Sharon Audubon plans MapleFest on March 12

SHARON — Sharon Audubon Center, located at 325 Cornwall Bridge Road (Route 4) in Sharon, will hold its annual MapleFest and Maple Bake Sale on Sunday, March 12 between 12 and 4 p.m.

Ongoing guided 45-minute to 1 hour tours will lead visitors through the Center's sugaring operation, including a working sugarhouse and a re-creation of Native American and early Colonial sugaring methods.

Participants can watch as pure sugar maple sap is collected from the trees and turned into maple syrup.

Admission for the event is \$10 for adults and \$5 for

children (two years old and under are free.)

Wear warm clothes and boots, as the entire tour is outdoors and trails are often muddy or snow covered. Tours go out approximately every 15-20 minutes.

Fresh, homemade maple baked goods, as well as coffee and water, will also be available for purchase during the day as part of the Maple Bake Sale. For more information on MapleFest or the Sharon

Audubon Center sugaring operation, call 860-364-0520 x105, go to www.sharon.audubon.org.

Salisbury Kindergarten sign-up

SALISBURY — Salisbury Central School Kindergarten pre-registration for the 2023-2024 year is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, Wednesday, March 22, and Monday April 3.

All children born during the calendar year 2018

Salisbury sidewalk planning gets a nod

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — At the regular monthly meeting Monday, Feb. 6, the Board of Selectmen voted to go ahead with spending \$51,300 for planning and design of two stretches of sidewalk.

One stretch is from the firehouse on Brook Street to the point where the new sidewalk on Main Street (Route 44) ends between the village centers of Salisbury and Lakeville.

The other runs north on Undermountain Road (Route 41) to Cobble Road.

First Selectman Curtis Rand said there are funds available for such projects via the state Department of Transportation's Transportation Rural Improvement Grant Program (TRIP).

The projects must be ready to go, he added, hence the need to spend money on planning and design.

should be registered.

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

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BAD GRASS

2023

Be part of a fresh series of stand-alone conversations in NW CT that will encourage you to think differently about the land you live on and empower you to make choices that support biodiversity.

BAD GRASS SOLD OUT
Mike Nadeau, in conversation with Jeb Breece, provides a history of lawns and shares insights from over 40 years of experience transforming turf grass into native meadows. *Proceeds and awareness to benefit The Salisbury Association Land Trust.*

FOR THE BIRDS March 2, 5:30 pm | The White Hart
Acclaimed garden designers, Page Dickey & Deb Munson, share their secrets for using native plants to design gardens that are a feast for the eyes...and the birds, bees, and butterflies. And, explain why that matters. *Proceeds and awareness to benefit Sharon Audubon Center.*

IN SEARCH OF PERFECT March 31, 5:30 pm | The White Hart
Toshi Yano shares the story of his time as Director of Horticulture at Wethersfield Estate & Garden and why he gave up a dream job to go to Perfect Earth Project. *Proceeds and awareness to benefit Perfect Earth Project.*

A WALK IN THE WOODS April 29, 2 pm | Great Mountain Forest
Starling Childs reminisces about a lifetime spent practicing and promoting sustainable forestry followed by a walk in the Great Mountain Forest. *Proceeds and awareness to benefit Great Mountain Forest.*

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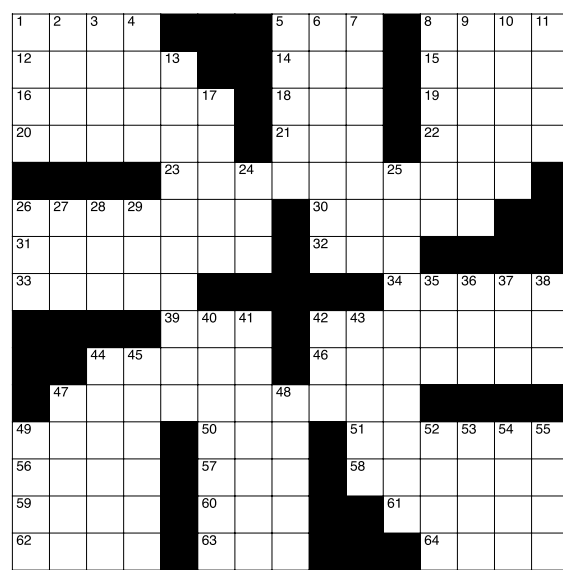
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- River in Tuscany
- A way to represent
- Rocker's guitar
- Civil Rights group
- Brew
- Scratch
- W. Asian country
- The Eye Network
- Clarified butter
- Part of the Cascade Range
- Downwind
- A way to steer
- Loop
- Not ingested
- Swampy coniferous forest
- Musician
- Signing
- Containing iron
- Part of a theorem or proof
- Veterans battleground (slang)
- Of enormous proportions
- Italian city
- Come before
- Balm
- Undergarments
- Male parent
- Ropes
- Ear part
- Investment vehicle
- Dictator
- Cain and ___
- A type of code
- Border river along India and Nepal
- It's what's for dinner
- Consume
- Christian __, designer

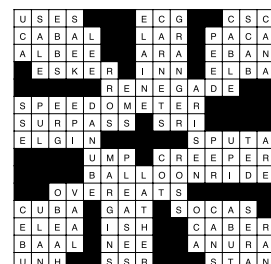
CLUES DOWN

- Cuckoos
- Skin issue
- City in central Japan
- Sorrels
- Twinned diamond
- Canadian province
- Monetary units
- Head honcho

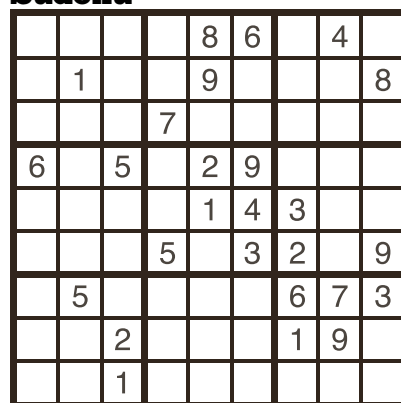


- Goddess of wisdom
- Part of a play
- Get rid of
- Applicant
- Bowling alleys have many
- Explosive
- "The Say Hey Kid"
- Ultrahigh frequency
- No (Scottish)
- Make a mistake
- Credit card term
- Keyboard key
- Woman (French)
- In the middle of
- Score perfectly
- Coat a metal with an oxide coat
- Deadly disease
- A place to dock a boat (abbr.)
- Belch
- Member of U.S. Navy
- "In ___": separate from others
- Examine extensively
- Adjust
- Tattle
- Actor Pitt
- Gulls
- Within
- Exceptionally talented performer

Feb. 9 Solution

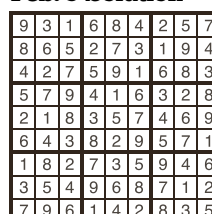


Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

Feb. 9 Solution



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OBITUARIES

Noah Michael Thompson

AMENIA – Noah Michael Thompson, 17, a lifelong area resident, died Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, at Sharon Hospital following a tragic accident that occurred in Millerton. Noah was a High School Student at Webutuck Central School District in Amenia, and was expecting to graduate with the Senior Class of 2023.



Thompson of Poughkeepsie and his step-father, Jeffrey Cook of Canaan; his grandmother, Judy Thompson of Wassaic, and his grandparents, Jeffrey and Sharon Kain of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; his step-grandparents, Mary and Charles Thomas of Dover Plains; three uncles, Matthew Kain and his wife Gina of Torrington, Michael Kain and his wife Karen of Lehigh Acres, Florida, and Curtis Kain of Amenia; two aunts, Jennifer Thompson of Wassaic and Stephanie Thompson of Champlain, New York; fifteen cousins and many close friends. Noah was predeceased by his grandfather, Kenneth Thompson.

Born July 20, 2005, in Sharon, he was the son of Terry Lee Thompson of Poughkeepsie, and Dayna Marie (Kain) Cook of Amenia. Noah played baseball throughout his life beginning with the Webutuck Little League and progressing to Varsity Baseball at Webutuck High School. He also played baseball for the Town of Amenia and for the Town of Dover. Noah was an avid weight lifter and enjoyed spending many hours at the gym. He loved music especially by rapper and record producer Mac Miller. His greatest joy was spending time with his beloved family and many friends. Noah will forever be remembered for living life on his own terms and for his amazing smile and infectious laughter and giving the biggest hugs. He loved everyone and his love continued after his untimely passing by selflessly donating his organs to those in need. He will be dearly missed and forever remembered by all.

Calling hours will be held on Thursday, Feb. 16, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, Feb. 17 at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Rd/Rt. 22 Amenia, NY. Rev. R. Kent Wilson will officiate. A reception will take place at the Amenia Fish & Game Association, 4623 Route 22, Wassaic, NY immediately following the funeral mass. All other services will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made to a local fire department or rescue squad of your choice or to Webutuck Little League. To send an online condolence to the family, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

In addition to his Mom and Dad, Noah is survived by four siblings, Emily Thompson, Caleb Cook, Logan Thompson and Sadie Thompson; his step-mother, Jennifer

Send obituaries to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

Camille Viafore Dennett

LAKEVILLE — It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Camille Viafore Dennett of Lady Lake, Florida, formerly of Lakeville.

Our sister passed away on Feb. 2, 2023. Camille was born in 1935 in Yonkers, New York, and was the oldest daughter of the late Alexander J. Viafore and Sophie Siwek Viafore.

She grew up in Yonkers and attended Yonkers Public Schools graduating from Roosevelt High School.

Camille worked for the old Bell Telephone company before moving to Lakeville in 1969 with her husband, John Dennett, who predeceased her.

Camille worked at the Wagner MacNeil Insurance Company for many years until her retirement when she then worked for Noble Horizons in Salisbury.

She and John had a small catering company as she also worked in several restaurants

in the area.

Camille is survived by her sister, Patricia Mazzola of Venice, Florida, her brothers, Alexander Viafore (Marcia) of Tuckahoe, New York; Kenneth Viafore of Maynard, Massachusetts and Ronald Viafore (Joyce) of Providence, Rhode Island. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews, especially her nephews Patrick and his family and Jimmy.

She was predeceased by her brother Vincent Viafore and her sister, Valerie Viafore.

Camille was active as a volunteer in the Lady Lake area and she often took care of pets as she was an avid caregiver for pets. She also loved to travel and lend support and care for others.

All services for Camille are private at the convenience of the family.

If you wish you make a donation in Camille's name, we honor your wishes for your favorite charity or your local Hospice organization.

Stephen John Gradowski

SHARON — Stephen John Gradowski, 78, of Cornwall Bridge Road, passed away Feb. 3, 2023, at home. He was the loving partner of Eileen Tedesco.



Stephen was born on Dec. 25, 1944, in Torrington, the son of the late Joseph and Catherine Gradowski. Stephen graduated from Torrington High School and the University of Connecticut with a degree in geography.

He retired as Vice President of WHYCHO Chromium, Thomaston.

He led an impressive life which included a love of dogs, especially his Border Terriers, and UCONN bas-

ketball, and was author of several patents.

In addition to his partner, he leaves brothers Joseph, Ed and wife Carol, nephew Michael Gradowski, nieces Katie Jankowski, JoEllen Sessa, Karen Lewis, and Karla Todd. He was predeceased by his brother Alex and sister Barbara Jankowski.

A grave-side service was held at the new Saint Francis Cemetery in Torrington, Feb. 10 at 11:00 a.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to the The Sharon Fire Department Ambulance Squad, P.O. Box 357, Sharon, CT. 06069. The Kenney Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Falls Village Frontier offer fails to move ahead

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — After a public hearing Jan. 27 and some time to think it over, the Board of Finance concluded on Monday, Feb. 6 that it did not have enough information to recommend the offer from Frontier Communications to connect some 20% of Falls Village households to fiber optic lines that are currently being installed in 80% of the town.

The matter was tabled.

First Selectman Henry Todd reported to the finance board that the state is planning modifications at the intersection of Routes 7 and 126.

Todd said the EV charger near Town Hall is not operational until new payment software has been installed, and that the Cobble Road bridge project will not receive state funding this year.

The finance board will recommend to town meeting a contract for \$27,500 to paint Town Hall.

Amistad story at Hunt Feb. 21

FALLS VILLAGE — The David M. Hunt Library will host storyteller Valerie Tutson's "The Story of the Amistad" on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. in honor of Black History Month.

Tutson is a multiple award-winning storyteller

who has been performing in schools, churches, libraries, festivals, and conferences since 1991.

This program is best suited for school-aged children and is made possible by support from CT Humanities.

Worship Services

Week of February 19, 2023

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

<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>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>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>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock In person services on Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 A.M. Livestream at 10:30 on www.trinitylimerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</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>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, March 12 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Pastor Jay Veronesi 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</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 5 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>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer Pastor Sun Yong Lee 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</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>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online Bible studies and Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.smithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3003 Rev. Robert Landback The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge MASS SCHEDULE SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart WEEKDAY MASSES Monday & Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart Tuesday 9 AM - St. Bernard</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>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mrgates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.</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. 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>

Sharon opts for EV chargers at town hall

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Two charging stations to serve electric vehicles were readily approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) at its regular meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the Sharon Historical Society while town hall elevator repairs continue.

First Selectman Brent Colley responded to P&Z questions, saying that the two charging stations to be located in the town hall parking lot would each hold two charging ports to accommodate up to four cars. Considered to be of medium strength (not the high-speed charge), a typical electric car charge could take from three to eight hours to complete at the stations.

Also approved was the town's plan to install a generator to serve the town in emergencies. Both applications were elements within the town hall parking lot expansion plans, a project supported by a state Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant.

Responding to residents' concerns about generator noise, Colley said that the generator would be expected to run for 20 minutes every two weeks.

P&Z chairman Lawrence Rand inquired about lighting plans for the town hall parking lot. Colley replied that the lighting plan would be included in future discussions.

Resident Margaret Keilty questioned the need for charging stations and asked for a count of how many such vehicles are registered in town.

Housing development

A public hearing on a Village Residential Housing development for 22 units in 11 buildings on 20 acres located at 82 Amenia Road and 67 Hospital Hill Road, continued from a previous meeting, was continued again to Wednesday, March 8. The P&Z asked for a traffic study and a secondary engineer's review of the plans as presented.

During the Feb. 8 public hearing residents expressed concerns about traffic safety and storm water drainage, already a concern in the area.

Representing the developer, Gold Dog LLC, project engineer George Johannesen of Allied Engineering in North Canaan described the plans for the acreage consisting of woodland, meadow and some wetlands.

Johannesen explained that the developer was first seeking a site plan approval, not a special exception permit

from the P&Z. The applicant is planning to apply for the latter in the future.

Commissioner Stan MacMillan raised an issue of insufficient lot frontage and voiced concern about minimum setback requirements found in the regulations. He also asked that a traffic study be conducted.

Neighboring property owner Margaret Keilty questioned the drainage plans and how current residents might be impacted.

Resident Dobrila Waugh and others raised concerns about drainage, increased traffic and lighting plans. The storm drainage in particular, they said, could encourage propagation of invasive loosestrife, pervasive in the area.

Resident Juliet Moore spoke for neighbors concerned about night lighting and questioned whether the units would be owner-occupied, along with the impact

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NW HILLS COG

Continued from Page A1

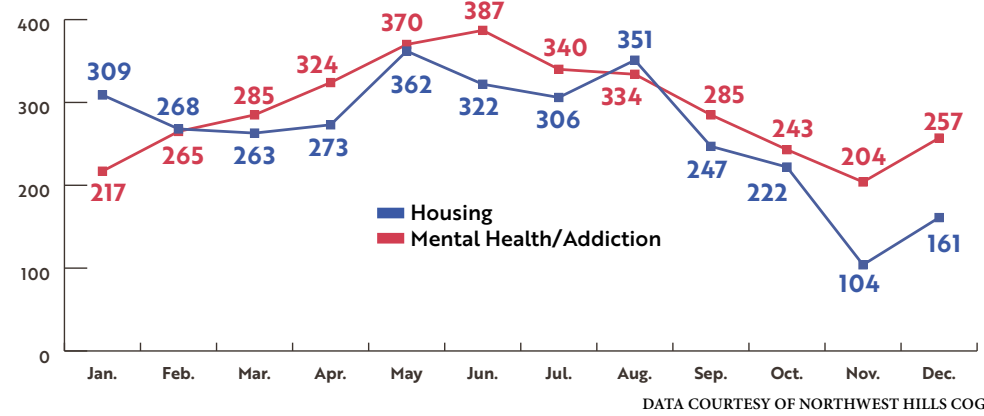
NHCOG Consultant Leo Ghio provided an update to the council regarding rural health resources and statistics for the past year. His presentation highlighted the seriousness and prevalence of mental health and substance use disorders in the area, noting the correlation between these issues and homelessness.

Ghio presented statistics during the Feb. 9 meeting and noted differences in need based on age group. His presentation stated that individuals under the age of 18 were most often seeking suicide and crisis intervention services, while individuals aged 50-plus primarily sought general mental health services.

"Very consistently you see that under 18 group seeking crisis and suicide intervention, which is very alarming," said Ghio.

Greenwoods Counseling Services' Executive Director John Simoncelli was in

211 Calls for Housing vs. Mental Health & Addiction Services Litchfield County, 2022



DATA COURTESY OF NORTHWEST HILLS COG

attendance for the meeting and weighed in on the topic. "Mental health services and addiction services are always grossly underfunded," he said. "We need to be a bit more proactive about this issue than we have been in the past."

Ghio suggested partnering with schools to implement evidence-based strategies that address adolescent and behavioral mental health issues. His presentation also recommended continuing

NHCOG's partnership with LCCHO to expand the availability of affordable rental units in the area, with a focus on workforce and elderly housing.

John Field, Coordinator for Region 5 of the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), also presented to the NHCOG in this meeting. He reviewed updates from 2022 and looked ahead to the coming year. Among his

updates included an anticipated arrival of migrants, saying DEMHS has already begun planning for the increase.

"Don't be surprised if migrants end up in your municipality," said Field as he offered support to the towns of the Northwest Corner. Field said systems are already in place and that towns should call DEMHS if accommodations and long-term housing options for migrants are necessary.

BLACK BEARS

Continued from Page A1

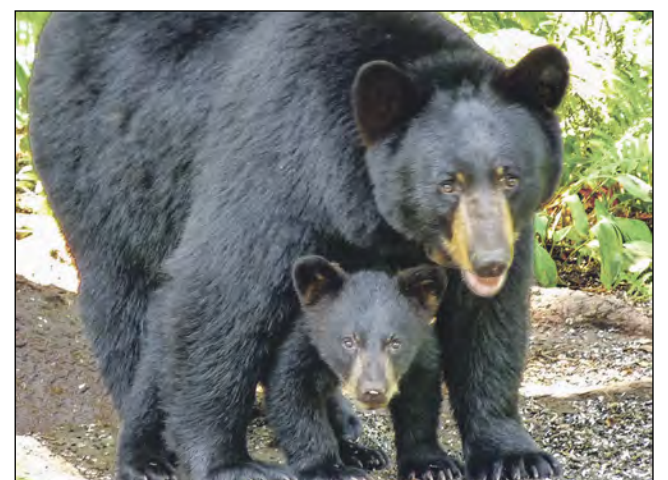


PHOTO BY GINNY APPLE

A black bear cub finds the safety zone.

origin of its name linked to President Teddy Roosevelt, represents a ubiquitous fascination with this long-lived mammal, Apple said.

While starting out in life at less than a pound in weight, adult black bears grow to range in size from about 100 to 600 pounds, and when standing can reach 6 feet and can run 30 to 35 mph, Apple said. By comparison, a polar bear can reach 1,500 pounds and be 8 feet tall when standing. Grizzly bears fall somewhere in the middle at 500 to 900 pounds.

The habitat for bears has evolved over 40 million years, she said.

"The largest bear was the giant short-faced bear at 2,200 pounds and 11 and one-half feet tall," she said. "It could run up to 50 mph. It disappeared 12,000 years ago."

Connecticut has a healthy population of black bears, she said.

"We have an estimate of somewhere between 1,100 and 1,200 bears in Connecticut. About 30,000 black bears in New England. There are about 4,500 in Massachusetts and two-thirds of those bears are in the Berkshires," Apple said.

In 2021, there were about 8,600 bear sightings reported in Connecticut, but Apple clarified that the number is skewed by the fact that there often are multiple sightings of the same animal as it makes it way through backyards in a neighborhood, visiting a

smorgasbord of birdfeeders along the way.

Of Connecticut's 169 towns, 156 towns have reported bear sightings. Apple said that there are more than 80 black bears hit by cars every year in Connecticut.

"A lot of our animals will go along the side of the road in the spring and eat the salt," she noted.

Apple said that bears love wetlands, and will go to reservoirs and ponds to get cool.

She emphasized that they "eat everything."

"They spend their lives eating," she said. "They love berries, nuts, and plants including skunk cabbage—and birdseed, which is the worst thing for them."

Breeding season runs from late May to August, with a gestation period of 7 months. In the fall, bears focus on acorns, though this year was a bad year for acorns, she said.

By mid-March bears begin to emerge from their dens, which can be anything from a slash pile to a downed tree. Rock dens, tree cavities and even a mountain laurel shrub can serve as a den.

The cubs can barely crawl, but soon learn from their mother how to climb a tree as the go-to safety drill.

"If there's danger, you go up a tree," Apple said. "That's what the mothers teach the cubs."

John Coston is a member of the board of Great Mountain Forest.

PUPIL SERVICES

Continued from Page A1

time with her family and to pursue other interests outside of the realm of special education.

She thanked the Region One community, "for all of the opportunities and experiences it has provided me throughout these many years. I have had the pleasure of working with so many amazing teachers, families and colleagues, but the truly exciting and rewarding work has always been the work that was done with and for our students. I have worked with hundreds of fantastic children on navigating their educational journeys and when-

"Martha is a caring and outstanding educator who has devoted her life to providing an excellent education to Region One students and supporting their families."

Lisa Carter, Region One Superintendent

ever I have the good fortune to encounter any of them as adults, whether as parents, community members, or sometimes even colleagues, I am always so very proud of who they have become. No other job can provide that level of human reward, and I feel exceptionally grateful for having been provided the experience."

Carter said, "Martha is a caring and outstanding ed-

ucator who has devoted her life to providing an excellent education to Region One students and supporting their families. Additionally, she is an excellent leader, colleague, and mentor, who is highly regarded by all Region One staff, administration, and Boards of Education. We are all profoundly sad to say goodbye to Martha, but wish her all the best in the next steps of her life journey."

Region One Board of Education Chair Pat Mechare, said "Martha has been an important and respected player in the area of special

education in Region One for 35 years. Her knowledge of special education methodology and her approach to students in her care has changed the lives of many. She will be missed for her advocacy, insightfulness, good humor and ability to meet difficult challenges."

Four other retirements or resignations were announced at the Feb. 6 Region One school board meeting.

Vance Cannon, currently serving as Library Media Specialist, Health and Physical Education teacher Lindsley Colligan, and Sukie Hatcher from Special Services are all retiring.

Robert Joeckel, School Counselor at HVRHS, is resigning in order to take a job at Enfield High School, where his wife teaches.

R1 BUDGET

Continued from Page A1

\$234,313 (2.78%).

Pupil Services is \$6,765,358, up \$82,917 (1.24%).

RSSC is \$1,695,532, up \$143,260 (9.23%).

The share each of the six Region One towns is assessed depends on how many students each town sends either to the high school or has in

programs that come under the aegis of Pupil Services or the RSSC.

Region One Business Manager Sam Herrick said Monday, Feb. 13 that the board is not finishing with the budget proposal.

The public hearing is Thursday, April 6 and the referendum is Tuesday, May 2.

Assessments In The Current 2023-24 Budget Proposal

Falls Village

\$1,410,052
decrease of \$87,204

Cornwall

\$1,856,893
increase of \$406,679

Note: Region One Business Manager reported to the Cornwall Board of Finance on Feb.10 that the figures he had provided the night before were too high, and had been adjusted accordingly.

Kent

\$2,307,456
decrease of \$151,844

North Canaan

\$5,733,250
increase of \$225,128

Salisbury

\$4,200,473
increase of \$204,025

Sharon

\$1,618,078
decrease of \$136,551

PIZZA

Continued from Page A1

that up to three billion pizzas are sold annually in the U.S. Incidentally that does not count another billion in frozen pizzas.

And did anyone realize that 17% of all restaurants in the U.S. are pizzerias?

"Pizza is one of my favorite foods. I like a reason to celebrate with the kids," said children's librarian Samantha Morosani, adding that it is a good reason to get kids into the library. "And I love Deano's," she said.

Morosani said that earlier in the year, the library had held a waffle celebration in observance of National Waffle Day, also a success that will be repeated in the future.

The Adkins family members from Salisbury were evenly divided over favorite toppings, with Evelyn who is now 10, nearly 11, preferring the meat topping and Theo at 5, going for the cheese. Their mother Ashley favored the veggie, indicating that it is often difficult to order a pizza for the group.

With appropriate Italian music providing ambiance, Sharon resident Audra Salazar and her daughter, Lucy (10, but turning 11 in March), were enjoying everything about the event.

"It's genius; I like the food," Lucy said. Her mother added, "If you feed them, they will come."

Get a head start on spring at Noble Horizons March 3

SALISBURY — On March 3, from 5 to 7 p.m., Noble Horizons welcomes community members to its opening reception for 4 Artists Anticipate Spring, a new exhibit and sale saluting the joys of the new season. Opening just three weeks before the official start of spring, the show features a variety of multi-media images interpreting the

traditional and cherished harbingers of spring; artists include Jean Saliter, Tina Chandler, Nina Mathus and Mim Galligan.

Begin the countdown to spring at this whimsical and cheerful exhibit while mingling with the artists, enjoying fine wine, Harney tea, and savory hors d'oeuvres. For more information go to www.noblehorizons.org.

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

BOOKS: LEILA HAWKEN

Richard Haass Demands Citizens to Engage

Those who suspect that they are living today in an endangered democracy would do well to read Richard Haass' latest best-selling book, "The Bill of Obligations: The Ten Habits of Good Citizens."

Locals from the region arrived early at trendy Tent New York

in Amenia, N.Y., where Haass was expected to sign copies of his book while attendees enjoyed the conviviality of a concurrent wine tasting provided by Le Caviste of Stanfordville, a draw for wine lovers since 2021. The event was sponsored and promoted by Oblong Books of Millerton, N.Y. Assessing that the

setting was conducive to a deeper conversation, however, Haass pleased the crowd by launching into an impromptu book-based talk about the current state of our democratic form of government, pressures from forces foreign and domestic, and importantly what citizens can do about it.

That conversation was at once informative and provocative, with Haass promising to stay as long as anyone had comments or questions.

"That people came is a tribute to the subject," Tent owner Darren Henault said to introduce Haass.

"This is a book about Democracy," Haass said, recalling that the book was two years in the making with many hours spent walking in Central Park and many hours during the pandemic in Stanfordville, N.Y.'s Wilcox Memorial Park to further the thought process.

In a later conversation, Haass' wife, Susan Mercandetti, indicated that they bought a home in Stanfordville about five years ago and remained there nearly full-time during the pandemic years.

Haass urged attention to the founding of the country and the Bill of Rights. "Rights are central," Haass said, while also reflecting on Abraham Lincoln's often quoted phrase "the unfinished work of America," as a call to committed participation in our democracy.

"Democracy has gotten into trouble," he said, adding that the question is how to fix it. "These are things that you ought to do," he said, speaking



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Richard Haass at Tent New York

of the obligations of a good citizen.

"We need a serious conversation about how to get democracy back on track," he said.

Someone asked, "Am I the only one who is terrified?"

"You're not alone," Haass replied, "There is a sense that America is off the rails. My real concern is that democracy will not last. The bottom line is to not be sanguine but to be energized. What can ordinary people do?"

The principle of national service and its value were described by Haass as an antidote to present-day divided America. He would in-

centivize such a service to make it attractive to young people, possibly through student loan forgiveness or other lures. "I'm a reformer, not a revolutionary," Haass explained, looking to find workable solutions to problems.

"We are not teaching our narrative in this country," Haass said, noting that Civics classes are no longer being taught routinely. He said that there is widespread frustration with the government. Broadcasting has devolved to become narrowcasting to appeal to population segments. "What people think is valid information is often not," Haass warned.

"Why can't religious authorities take a stand

on promoting civility?" he asked.

Asked whether there is hope, Haass said, "Nothing is inevitable; people make choices and decisions. Sure, I feel hope. The potential is there for us to get it right."

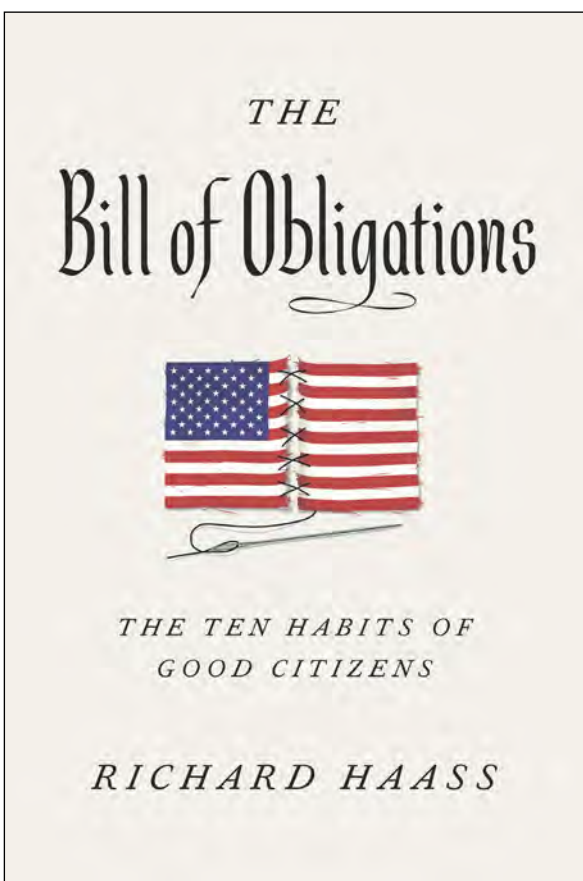
Political funding is a problem, Haass noted. About money and politics, an attendee said, "Money doesn't talk; it screams," particularly citing the Supreme Court ruling that corporate money is a form of political speech.

Haass said that there is the opportunity for greater transparency in political donations. He is also meeting regularly with corporations to advocate for democracy, noting that a few are developing good citizen programs for their employees. More should.

Haass said that he is asking corporations to reform their use of funding. He said that he has found that corporations respond to pressure, as do politicians.

"Gerrymandering is pernicious," Haass said, in response to concerns about local politics.

Responding to a question about how to promote the study of



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Continued on next page

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Mystery Uncovered in 19th Century Painting

As the adage goes, history is written by the victors — and in art, portraiture is the visual history told to us by the financial victors, the wealthiest and most influential who sought to immortalize their faces. Art can tell stories, but it can also obscure them. At Salisbury School, a private boys preparatory school in Salisbury, Conn., history teacher Rhonan Mokriski has been leading his students to uncover the hidden stories in local history in a course called “Coloring Our Past.” Students are challenged to investigate lesser-known accounts of Black, Indigenous, and Hispanic history in Northwestern Connecticut and The Berkshires. This month, some of Mokriski’s students have shared their research with the public over Zoom presentations, including a report shared through Scoville Memorial Library by Salisbury junior Joseph Chiarenza on The Winslow Mystery.

The mystery surrounds a once seemingly innocuous pre-Civil War era portrait by Edwin White.

Originally from Hampshire County, Mass., White studied in Paris under François Edouard Picot at the Academie des Beaux-Arts and later at The Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, a German fine arts academy and was employed as an instructor at The National Academy of Design in New York City. He is perhaps best known for his dramatic American historical renderings — “The Signing of the Compact in the Cabin of the Mayflower” or “Washington Resigning His Commission” — but in 1844 he was commissioned to paint Maria Birch Coffing, the second wife of John Churchill

Coffing, as well as a portrait of Mr. Coffing himself. In the collection of The Salisbury Association, the historical society writes that “John Churchill Coffing formed a partnership with John Milton Holley in 1810, Holley & Coffing, the leading iron masters in the region. In 1818, it became the Salisbury Iron Co.”

Both portraits were restored between 2010 and 2012 by Berkshires-based oil painting specialist Valentine Michalski, whose thorough cleaning revealed much more than just a depiction of the seated Mrs. Coffing. Michalski writes of the extensive erosion the painting had incurred, “When it arrived, the painting had been damaged by several ill-advised and unsuccessful attempts at cleaning, leaving the varnish with opaque white streaks over most of the surface. Misguided efforts to hide the results of these ministrations by overpainting with some sort of tarry substance failed to effect an improvement.” Behind the varnish was a second figure, peering behind a door, the youthful Black face of Jane Winslow.

Winslow, born circa 1825, was a free woman of color who lived and possibly worked in the Coffing home in Salisbury, although the exact nature of her place within the family remains ambiguous. She outlived Maria Coffing and later married a formerly enslaved man from Georgia who became a reverend at The Clinton African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Great Barrington, Mass., the first Black church in Berkshire County. Today, the



COURTESY OF SALISBURY ASSOCIATION

Maria Coffing and Jane Winslow by Edwin White

Zion Church is the home of The W.E.B. Du Bois Center for Freedom and Democracy.

Much remains unknown about the life of Jane Winslow and her full experience with the Coffing family in Salisbury. Edwin White’s painting provokes many questions simply by how unusual it is for the time — Jane Winslow’s prominence in the painting alone implies she played a large role in Mrs. Coffing’s life, even if the partially obscured background placement does not radiate with equality. The painting entices but does not fully explain. In some regards, it is Salisbury’s version of David Martin’s 18th-century portrait of Dido Elizabeth Belle and Lady Elizabeth Murray, two cousins, one Black, one White, which for centuries has inspired speculations, even as the real-life details of Dido Belle’s societal role remain murky.

Martin’s 1779 painting remains a rarity in the Western historical record of fine art, depicting the two women of different

racess as equals — as opposed to White’s depiction of Winslow, who despite her visibility, is nevertheless painted in a somewhat servile position. In 2021, The United Kingdom made the rare discovery of an even earlier 1650s painting by an anonymous artist depicting two women, one Black and one White, side by side as companions in similar dresses. Currently being researched, its significance highlights that the study of Black history remains an act of looking for what has



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN

Edwin White, 1848



COURTESY THE COLLECTION OF SCONE PALACE, SCOTLAND

Portrait of Dido Elizabeth Belle Lindsay and Lady Elizabeth Murray by David Martin

been hidden from view. Both the portraits of John Churchill Coffing and Jane Winslow with Maria Coffing remain

in the collection of The Salisbury Association and are on display at The Academy Building exhibit space.

FILM: JANNA SILLER

'Making Black America' documentary discussion group

In honor of Black History Month, The Falls Village Equity Project (FVEP) will host a film discussion on Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 23.

The subject will be Professor Henry Louis Gates Jr.’s, “Making Black America,” a PBS documentary series about the richness and resilience of Black culture despite the oppression faced by Black Americans.

The FVEP is a collaborative group of residents in Falls Village, Conn., who organize projects and gatherings with the goal of advancing a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion. It is one of four project areas of the Falls Village Community Development Corporation.

Each month, group members watch a chosen documentary about

equity and justice-related topics and gather to discuss. Some of the selections have included “Race: the Power of an Illusion,” “Delores,” and “Just Mercy.”

Last year, the group worked with local artist Rika Laser to design and install a crosswalk at the intersection of Main Street and Beebe Hill Road. The artwork represents themes of equity and place that were generated through a community brainstorming process.

FVEP received grant funding from the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation to invite the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence to bring a two-part MLK day educational program to Lee H. Kellogg middle schoolers.

“These film discus-

sions have been the missing piece in my efforts to re-educate myself. It’s one thing to watch a movie at home by yourself — sure, you’ll learn something. But the discussions have allowed me to further process and cement what I’ve learned in a supportive, non judgmental space,” says group member and Falls Village resident Maria Grusauskas.

Kyle Wilkinson, another group member and Falls Village resident calls the discussions “insightful and enriching, exposing me to a series of great documentary films celebrating unsung heroes like Pauli Murray and Dolores Huerta.”

Participants can pre-watch the series and RSVP to the discussion by contacting fvequitygroup@gmail.com.

...Richard Haass

Continued from previous page

civics and even to kindle a desire in young people to acquire knowledge, Haass suggested that classes be mandatory, not elective. He noted that in the coming year at Stanford University, every entering freshman will be required to take Civics. And New Jersey schools are moving toward initiating a required course in critical thinking, how to evaluate

the quality and intent of information as it reaches them.

Haass reports that the organization he heads in New York, the Council on Foreign Relations, has an educational program titled “World 101” that provides materials free of charge to educators, making learning about the world engaging and interesting. To learn more about that pro-

gram, go to www.cfr.org.

“Politics and wine: they go hand in hand,” said Leah Papeika of Le Caviste, who joined her husband, Maurice, in dispensing the wine throughout the event.

Henault noted that said that the Haass appearance was probably the fifth book event held at Tent since its opening. There will be more to come, he promised.

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Sharon Playhouse Open Auditions

The Sharon Playhouse in Sharon, Conn. will hold auditions for its 2023 summer/fall season on Sunday, March 19. Roles are available for musicals “Something Rotten” and “Oliver!”

and plays “Our Town” by Thornton Wilder and “The Lifespan Of A Fact” by Jeremy Kareken and David Murrell and Gordon Farrell. Actors of all ethnicities and gender identities are

encouraged to audition. To register go to www.sharonplayhouse.org to submit a resume. Actors should prepare the “Our Town” monologue provided and 16 bars of a musical theater song.

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EDITORIAL

Handing over the torch

This is the week that I trade places with our new publisher and CEO, Susan Hassler. If readers saw the donor page last week in this publication, they will be aware that their support for their local newspaper has meant everything to its survival. The general health of the company and the publications is good, much better than it was in 2019, and much better than it was in 1998.

In the 25 years since I started at The Lakeville Journal Company, first as associate publisher, then publisher and editor in chief, there were multiple times that it seemed the publications would not make it through. So it was never a given that this moment would come, when the next management group could take over for a new generation of readers. The fact that the two newspapers are still publishing weekly and finding committed and steady readership is a testament to the skills of our staff in all departments, as well as to the power of solid local journalism.

Each department and each newspaper has dedicated and knowledgeable staff. They will all continue to be the backbone of the company as it moves forward, along with any new staff coming on. We have been fortunate in having great people join our group in a region where a small population can make hiring new people challenging, and keeping employees equally so.

Our readers want us here, they have made that clear, and that says it all. They support us so loyally, and definitely make their voices heard as to what they want to see or not see in our publications. All those at the newspapers will keep listening, and keep these publications at the high quality they are now, always striving for even better quality.

I am confident that this group will do that, but if there are any concerns you have about your local community weekly newspaper, by all means contact your editors or publisher.

Thank you all for being willing to read and support local journalism.

— Janet Manko

Facts about Sharon Hospital's PCU

As the EMS Coordinator at Sharon Hospital and a practicing paramedic, I am writing today to encourage my community to understand the facts about Sharon Hospital's proposed Progressive Care Unit (PCU).

In my role as EMS Coordinator, and as a prehospital provider, I interact regularly with the EMS providers in Sharon Hospital's service area. These first responders are extremely skilled in providing high quality prehospital care for patients prior to their arrival at Sharon Hospital. When the patient arrives in the Emergency Department, they are met with Board Certified Emergency Medicine Physicians and highly trained Nurses, ancillary clinicians, and staff. Working together, our EMS teams and the Sharon Hospital staff provide life-saving care to patients in the Northwest Corner. The establishment of a PCU at Sharon Hospital will only enhance this already remarkable care.

If the PCU is approved, our EMS teams will continue bringing all patients in need of care to Sharon Hospital, just as they currently do. These patients will have access to the same pre-hospital and emergency care as they do today, and when they arrive at the ED, they will still be able to receive high quality critical care—including oxygen for respiratory support including ventilation, and telemetry monitoring—from the same staff currently providing this care in the ICU today. The difference is that they will receive this care in a centralized unit located just up the stairs from where the ICU lives today. This new unit will be enhanced with modern technology and will serve patients with a wider range of care needs, meaning

that as they recover, these patients will be able to stay in the same unit for the entirety of their care. This will ultimately create a more seamless, consistent inpatient experience at the hospital.

As a rural hospital, Sharon Hospital is already in the practice of triaging, stabilizing, and transferring patients who require specialty care not offered outside of larger medical centers. We practice this every day by leveraging a comprehensive network of EMS personnel, including EMS teams from both New York and Connecticut, NuVance Health system EMS services, other commercial EMS providers and—for patients with the most urgent care needs—LifeStar and LifeNet helicopters via Sharon Hospital's newly updated helipad. Our ability to provide comprehensive treatment and stabilization prior to transfer of this small number of acute patient population in this area is a key contributing factor in our ability to remain a five-star hospital.

The establishment of a PCU is the right decision for Sharon Hospital. It will create a more modern and consistent experience for our patients, and a more efficient use of space and resources for staff.

David Jensen
Poughkeepsie

Work on view for Hudson River artist

In reference to the recent article in the Compass concerning painters in the Hudson River School of Art, I might add that my great-great grandfather, Jasper Cropsey, was one of the original founders of that school. A museum, with most of his works, is located in Hastings-on-Hudson, adjacent to Cropsey's studio/home.

Taconic

Peter Cropsey Smith



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Perfect day for a walk on Salisbury's rail trail

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pope property use needs support

The recent presentation by the Pope Land Design Committee showed real progress. But there has been talk that the housing to be constructed should be limited to rentals. I'm not sure of the origin and reasoning. I think there may be some concern about complexity. But these kinds of combinations are common, and I am certain that the details can be worked out. If it would help to have some similarity in design, the Housing Trust would be happy with that. If some separation in location would help to set up contractual land arrangements, that would be fine. The town might retain ownership of the land; leasing it to the Housing Trust, which would then lease it to the home owner.

I think it is important to remember the town's commitment to affordable home ownership and the reasoning behind it. The following is from the 2018 Salisbury Affordable Housing Plan.

Many younger adults who

grew up in Salisbury would like to raise their own families here, but affordable "starter homes" are either non-existent or need a great deal of rehab in order to be livable. Demands on younger residents such as repaying college loans often leave very little household income to pay a mortgage. This statement is truer today than it was five years ago. A young family with whom we recently worked had \$40,000 for a down payment could not find a house that they could afford. For another applicant family, high on our list, both parents have good jobs and both have college debts. They cannot afford to buy a home in Salisbury, without our help. In this family, both parents are engaged in town-related volunteer work.

The Affordable Housing Plan states that the Pope property on Salmon Kill Road will contain, "A mix of home ownership and rentals." The following from Rick Cantele, president and CEO of Salisbury Bank, is also

from the Affordable Housing Plan. The statement is accurate and we have applicants working at the Salisbury Bank.

"The cost of housing is a significant factor in the hiring and retention of employees, particularly younger employees. I believe there is a definite advantage for our staff, for our company, and for our communities to have our employees live locally. Customers enjoy seeing familiar faces working in their local branches. Employees who have shorter commutes are often more involved in their communities."

We, of the Salisbury Housing Trust, will of course continue to acquire and build homes at various sites. But the Pope property with its location, size, town sewer and water, is important in our planning.

Leo Gafney
Co-President Salisbury
Housing Trust
Salisbury

More letters next page.

Winsted Phoenix was not short-lived

In your article "Nader backs new Winsted papers" published on Feb. 1, the writer, Terry Cowgill, wrote:

"The Winsted Phoenix, a mostly online venture led by former Winsted Journal editor Shaw Israel Izikson, was short-lived."

It was not lead by me. I was the editor, but it was led by the board heading its 501(c)(3) organization.

Furthermore, the news-

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TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — February 1923

Howard Morey is out again after caring for a severely injured thumb which was nearly severed from his hand recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Cleveland last week received a box of grape fruit and oranges from Mr. J.L. Honour who is now located at Orlando. The largest grape fruit measured 17 inches in circumference and both oranges and grape fruit were very finely flavored.

50 years ago — February 1973

Beginning last Friday, many Northwest Connecticut residents were surprised to find their favorite gasolines two to four cents higher, because once again many of the area's gasoline retailers had been forced to raise their prices. The surveyed average price of regular gasoline in the area appears to be 39.9 cents a gallon and 43.9 cents for high-test.

Despite a multiple fracture that has put her right arm in a cast to the shoulder, Evelyn Keyes of Lakeville is blithely tap dancing her way through the hit revival of No, No, Nanette, playing this week at the Bushnell Memorial in Hartford. Miss Keyes (in private life, Mrs. Artie Shaw) tripped on a curb in Boston last week while trying to hail a taxi. She held up the cast that is "explained" early in the show as having been caused by "helping my husband crank his Hupmobile."

A new day has dawned for the old Union Depot located in Canaan's center. The transfer of the property to Richard Snyder, who has long been a railroad buff, will bring about an abrupt reversal in the fortune of the old structure.

Selectmen will hold a hearing next Wednesday on a map change concerning Music Mountain Road. As things stand now the 18th century layout on town maps shows the Music Mountain right of way running through a corner of the main house at Carole King's Music Mountain Farm. Nobody is interested in relocating the road itself, but the selectmen, at Miss King's lawyer's request, would like to make the ancient maps coincide with the

Continued next page

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The Lakeville Journal Company, Publishers of

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

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Susan Hassler

Publisher and CEO

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In Memoriam

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Act now to keep Sharon Hospital ICU open

What will happen if Nu-vance is allowed to close the Sharon Hospital Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and replace it with a Progressive Care Unit (PCU)? Nu-vance falsely claims in its public outreach that a PCU will provide our community with the same level of critical care that it currently provides.

This claim is contradicted in Nu-vance's official filings with the CT Office of Health Strategy (OHS), in which it states:

- Its proposed PCU is akin to an "intermediate care unit" and, therefore, not equivalent to an ICU that treats acutely ill patients.
- Patients with clinical

conditions requiring ICU level nursing care cannot be admitted to the proposed PCU; instead, they must be transferred to another facility that has an ICU.

• 10% of the patients currently treated in the ICU will no longer qualify to be admitted to Sharon Hospital and will have to be transferred to another hospital.

What would this change mean for our community? While the Sharon Hospital Emergency Department would receive and stabilize ICU level patients, Sharon Hospital would not admit them. Instead, patients will be transferred to another hospital, up to an hour away

(weather permitting).

The sickest patients could no longer be treated at Sharon Hospital, and families of those patients will have to travel significant distances to be with them. Consider what the inter-hospital transfer of patients would involve — long wait times for transport, reliance on third-party paid services (for which patients get billed), and the physical issues that arise when transferring a patient (moving a very ill patient from a hospital bed to a stretcher, detaching all monitors and reattaching them to mobile equipment, getting the patient into an advanced life support ambulance for transport of an hour or more, moving the patient out of the ambulance, transferring the

patient into the new hospital and then into a room, moving the patient again from the stretcher to the hospital bed, reattaching all the monitors.)

Yes, this will all happen if the downgrade to PCU is approved by OHS. And, ironically, Nu-vance admits in its filings with OHS that its plan will cause Sharon Hospital to lose more money.

It's not too late for you to help. You can oppose Nu-vance's application to close the ICU and replace it with a PCU by providing written public comment to OHS by February 22. Just email a letter to CONComment@ct.gov and reference docket #22-32504-CON. Thank you for your support.

David C. Singer
Salisbury

Church's Guantanamo columns so important

I commend Charles Church, a Salisbury resident for his recent columns in The Lakeville Journal (1/12 and 1/19) about Guantanamo detainees for whom Mr. Church, a lawyer, has been working steadfastly — to protect their habeas corpus rights. Mr. Church has reported on detainee pre-Guantanamo torture and their deeply flawed case management and treatment at Gauntanamo. As his reporting confirms, basic human rights in many cases have been trampled on. Clearly, some Guantanamo detainees deserve their imprisonment, although most have not to date had trials. And few among us would condone the horrific crimes committed by Al Queda.

Thankfully, on Feb. 3, it was reported that Majid Khan, who finished his term of imprisonment (and one of the few cases that went to trial), was released to Belize, the first release in several years — even though apparently 20 of the 34 remaining prisoners have been approved for release. The cost of Guantanamo incarceration as Mr. Church reports is over \$15 million per detainee, yet Supermax prisons in the United States average \$78,000 per prisoner.

What a monumental waste of taxpayer funds. Let's hope that the Biden administration is able to find foreign refuge for these prisoners in the coming years. Aside from our feelings over these complex issues, that hard earned American taxpayer money could be more wisely spent.

Oren Rudavsky

Lakeville

We are for affordable housing, just not this

Dear Fellow Citizens, last August Congresswoman Jahana Hayes announced a \$750,000 "award" to the Falls Village Housing Trust to address the "dire" need for affordable rental housing in Falls Village, i.e. the "River Road" development in Lime Rock Station.

The "award" was the result of a solo appeal by First Selectman Henry Todd, written on town stationery. The "award" application is not available for public viewing nor covered by the Freedom of Information Act. Mr. Todd's actions were never vetted or approved by any Town Committees.

This singular move by Mr. Todd is typical for this outgoing Town Chief Executive. Over the last four years, Mr. Todd muzzled and resisted a townwide dialogue about River Road. Frustrated, a petition for a Town Meeting and yay or nay vote on River Road signed by 71 citizens in 2020 was thrown in a wastebasket.

A comprehensive letter of questions and grievances signed by 33 citizens was similarly dealt with. Mr. Todd for three years stated the town would have no fiduciary relationship with the private Falls Village Housing Trust or River Road until he changed his stripes and went all-in. Mr. Todd's relationship with the Town's Economic Development Director, Felicia Jones, (who just happens to be on the Board of the Housing Trust) has apparently finally borne fruit with citizens' questions unanswered or ever addressed.

Where will the (approximately) \$5 to \$7 million of financing to complete the project come from? What will the effect on the already sky high mill rate be? Will the Town be holding the bag if the finances for this 16 unit, 29 bedroom project don't appear or the development can't cover its costs. Why must this development be concentrated in Lime Rock Station, fully six miles from a supermarket and two miles from Town in a small neighborhood of 20+ houses that already has four Habitat for Humanity homes well placed. The Falls Village Housing Trust doesn't even own the land, Habitat for Humanity does.

Why is Habitat for Humanity which purports to support Home Ownership willing to cash in its chips and throw in for rentals. How does a prospective renter justify spending money that will not create equity for them but enrich a landlord who will privately own the development after 30 years? Other local wealthier towns crow about their affordable rental housing.

These towns' immense Grand Lists and low mill rates CAN support these projects. The \$750,000 Federal Grant will be sufficient to purchase the property and do land clearing and site prep. If financing doesn't come through, we will be left with an empty lot and a scarred landscape in the future Wild and Scenic Housatonic River Valley.

We state it time and again: We are not against affordable housing. We support smaller Falls Village scaled in-town units walkable to schools and amenities, part of the social fabric, enjoying the perks of community living. It can be achieved. Mr. Todd, let citizens voices be heard.

Colter Rule

Falls Village

Troutbeck's proposed expansion may pose threat to shared aquifer

I write this letter to ensure that Connecticut residents (people in the town of Sharon in particular) are aware that the proposed expansion of the Troutbeck Hotel and Conference Center near the border of Amenia and Sharon could seriously impact on the aquifer that is shared by portions of both towns. The fact that this aquifer is shared by both states makes this a Connecticut environmental/water usage issue as well as New York.

In the public hearing at the recent Town of Amenia planning board meeting, it was made clear that no actual hydrology study on the potential impact to the affected aquifer has been done. The newest version of Troutbeck's proposed expansion will use, by Troutbeck's own estimation, approximately 7,500,000 gallons of water annually, to be drawn from this shared aquifer. As a homeowner near Troutbeck, (on property that borders Sharon) I can attest to the fact that last year's drought adversely affected the gallons/minute of our own well. The pressure on this aquifer, if Troutbeck were to use 7.5 million gallons/year, may cause serious water problems for households in both New York and Connecticut, especially during times of drought.

I voiced my concerns to the Amenia Planning Board about this water usage issue in that hearing, and none of the planning board members or Troutbeck representatives seemed to know what the present water usage at Troutbeck is, to compare with the proposed 7.5 million gallons of estimated annual usage. The town of Sharon, Conn., the N.Y. and Connecticut depts. of Environmental Protection and Conservation, legislators and any other agencies concerned should be made aware of the potential threat posed to this shared aquifer, and need to ensure all required impact studies are completed before approval be given to Troutbeck to proceed with the expansion.

I implored the planning board in a letter submitted to the town of Amenia to delay any final decision on approval or disapproval of the Troutbeck plan until all potentially affected parties are satisfied that all applicable environmental impact studies have been completed. I also voiced concerns publicly that the changes at Troutbeck could adversely affect the quality of water in the Webutuck River that flows through the property.

This river is in the Housatonic River watershed, and the Housatonic's designation as a Federal Wild and Scenic river could warrant that further studies be completed before the Amenia board acts. A Connecticut Environmental Quality study may also need to be conducted. The Housatonic River Council, River Keepers, and other river protection organizations should be aware of this situation to help clarify any potential impact on the Webutuck River, and therefore the Housatonic River as well.

With the serious concerns shared by neighbors of the Troutbeck property, I feel the Amenia Planning Board should reconsider their decision to end all public hearings on this matter. It would seem prudent that another public hearing might be necessary to dispel any doubt that all environmental impact problems posed by further Troutbeck development have been addressed.

James Paton

Amenia

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

Continued from previous page.

way things are today.

25 years ago — February 1998

The White Hart, a Salisbury landmark for the past 190 years, was sold Friday to the Innac Corporation for \$850,000. Juliet Moore will remain as a partner and manager of the establishment.

Bill Farnham is quietly celebrating his 30-year anniversary as a service technician at Brewer Brothers in Canaan. It's not a big deal, he said, grateful for the opportunity to earn a living doing something he really enjoys.

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



What is pro life?

"I gather, young man, that you wish to be a Member of Parliament. The first lesson that you must learn is, when I call for statistics about the rate of infant mortality, what I want is proof that fewer babies died when I was Prime Minister than when anyone else was Prime Minister. That is political statistic."

— Winston Churchill

Churchill, the strong voice of leadership, ever concerned for his people, like PJ O'Rourke knew "infant mortality and life expectancy are reasonable indicators of general well-being in a society."

However, for decades the United States has held the soiled distinction of being the worst nation among developed nations for both infant and maternal mortality. For each of these key civil measures, infant and maternal mortality, the U.S. ranks 50th or below — worse than Cuba, Croatia, Uruguay, right along with Sri Lanka and Costa Rica. Deaths of U.S. mothers and infants in their first year ranks among the worst in the world.

In stark contrast, the U.S. has the highest spending on medical care among all nations — 60% more spent per capita than by the second highest rated Switzerland. U.S. moneys and political wrath are not for safe birthing, are not for mothers or infants pre or post birth living, they are staunchly for partial pro life, for some pro life, for pro life as a campaign slogan not a policy, commitment, or outcome for mother and infant health.

In the U.S., high incidence of mortality for mothers and infants is attributed to lack of pre-natal and post-natal care. The U.S., in contrast to the 10 countries with the lowest mortality rates/best care for mothers and infants, has significant lack of access to pre- and post-birth care along with a dearth of compensatory support.

In the United States feuds, angry debates, fisticuffs, gun attacks are rampant regarding women's reproductive health and personal choice. There is pitiful, if any, attention paid to the survival of mothers and infants outside this political dispute.

Just what does pro life mean? Marches, bombings, violent attacks, perpetrated on clinics and physicians regarding women's health. Abortion, legal for half a century, is being rescinded with some advocating a woman be incarcerated for having a miscarriage.

According to some state officials, religious groups and avid individuals there is no reason for a woman to make a choice about her life, her family, her health related to pregnancy. There is no legislation to enhance prenatal and post natal care — no goals — no asking for proof that fewer babies and new mothers have died.

Again, what is pro life in a nation fraught with guns — 393 million guns — and rising mass shootings? What is pro life when access to obstetrics for women in rural and urban areas declines? An obstetrics desert is spreading with millions of women without birth services within 30 minutes, including our own Sharon.

"One man can be pretty dumb sometimes, but for real bona fide stupidity, there ain't nothin' can beat team work."

— Edward Abbey

Kathy Herald-Marlowe

Sharon

More letters previous page.

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Sports

Housatonic girls get big win over Lewis Mills on senior night

By Riley Klein

BURLINGTON — The Housatonic Valley Regional High School Mountaineers charged into Lewis Mills High School on Feb. 9 and shocked the Spartans with a 31-27 victory.

Lewis Mills' student section was loaded with fans who came out to support their team on senior night. Five seniors started the game for the Spartans while the Mountaineers sent out four sophomores and a junior. Mills won 53-18 when these two teams faced off earlier in the season.

"We need to rebound, rebound, rebound against a bigger team," Housatonic coach Jake Plitt said court-side just

before game time.

Plitt opted to run a zone defense against the Spartans, which proved highly effective. The Mountaineers got an early bump thanks to some big defensive stops and a huge offensive spark from sophomore guard Daniela Brennan, who scored 10 of Housy's 11 first-quarter points.

Unable to penetrate the zone, Lewis Mills was held to seven points in the first quarter and three points in the second, resulting in an 18-10 lead for Housatonic when they entered halftime. Both refs' whistles were busy in the first half, with each team logging 11 fouls.

After a scrappy start, The Spartans came out of the locker room fired up and rode the

roars of the crowd. By the end of the third quarter Lewis Mills had narrowed the lead to four points.

Up 25-21 to start the fourth, Plitt reassured his team. "Keep doing everything we've been doing for the first three quarters, and we'll win. Stay aggressive," he said.

With Housatonic guard Tessa Dekker handling the ball high above the arc, Lewis Mills went for traps that resulted in more fouls than turnovers. Dekker shot eight for 10 from the stripe as Mills booked another nine fouls in the second half.

Determined to bring home a win on senior night, the Spartans continued to fight. With three minutes remain-

ing in the game, Mills came within one point of Housatonic. The Mountaineers stayed disciplined and welcomed the contact, earning all their fourth quarter points on the foul line.

Housy overcame the size mismatch and physicality throughout the game to persevere with a four point victory. The Mountaineers rejoiced triumphantly after silencing the crowd.

The win improved Housatonic's season record to 7-10 while Lewis Mills dropped to 4-14.

HVRHS's final regular season game is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 20 at home against Wolcott Tech. Tip-off is at 4:30 p.m.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

The Mountaineers celebrated after silencing the Spartans' crowd on senior night. Housatonic defeated Lewis Mills with a 31-27 final decision in Burlington on Feb. 9.

Highlanders outshoot Knights 92-80

By Riley Klein

SALISBURY — The visiting Frederick Gunn School Highlanders put on a shooters clinic when they played the Salisbury School Knights at Flood Athletic Center on Wednesday, Feb. 8. Gunn knocked down 12 three-pointers in the game and bested Salisbury in a 92-80 final decision.

The two teams appeared evenly matched as things got started in the first half. Both squads stayed neck and neck in the opening minutes. The Knights began to gain momentum and found themselves ahead by eight points with five minutes to go until halftime.

Salisbury senior Dylan

Watson ran the show on both ends of the court for the Knights. Watson essentially played point-center: he called plays from the perimeter when setting up the offense and then switched gears to secure the paint on defense. He had a monster first half as he scored 26 points and racked up three blocks and a steal.

Salisbury's student section erupted in cheers for Watson after he threw down a two-handed jam with authority. "Let's go, Dylan! That's tough!" shouted a fan.

Undeterred by Watson's performance or the hyped-up crowd, Gunn went to work from beyond the arc and hit six threes in the first half. The Highlanders took a

48-47 lead by halftime

Gunn came out shooting in the second half, opening the period with a 9-2 scoring run. In the span of a few minutes the Highlanders had established a comfortable 10-point cushion and put the Knights on their heels.

Watson struggled to find his rhythm as he was met with a triple-team every time he tried to drive the lane. The traps on Watson forced several turnovers and allowed the momentum to stay in Gunn's favor. The Highlanders continued to extend their lead by draining another six threes in the second half.

Watson found help from junior forward Hayden Barnes, who scored 18 points for Salisbury. Watson also

managed to put up 11 more points in the second half for a total of 37 in the game.

The duo helped their team come within two possessions of Gunn as Salisbury cut the lead to six midway through the second half, but that was as close the Knights would get. Gunn kept their foot on the gas until the final buzzer and won by a 12-point margin.

The Highlanders were led in scoring by junior guard Santana Sinvilcin with 25 sqft, First Floor, 3 off street parking, On busy road, close to town. Heat and electric included \$625.00 Plus Security. 845-392-4483.

The result knocked Salisbury's record to 4-12 while Gunn advanced to 11-5.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Salisbury's Dylan Watson (2) finished strong with 37 points and four blocks against Frederick Gunn.

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