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# The Lakeville Journal

TriCornerNews.com

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

## SHARON HOSPITAL

# A rural hospital's routine

*Editor's note: Sharon Hospital's plans to eliminate Labor and Delivery and substitute its Intensive Care Unit with a Progressive Care Unit have captured headlines for months. This story takes an overall look at the hospital's services.*

SHARON — A bloodcurdling wail from a young child in distress pierces the calm inside Sharon Hospital's Emergency Department, drowning out the soft, rhythmic beeps of nearby monitors. Doctors and nurses are huddled around the lone patient on this weekday afternoon in one of the department's 10 treatment rooms, which were filled to capacity the prior evening.

Dr. Ron Santos, who has served as director of the Emergency Department for 12 years, described the ED as a no-judgment zone, where all who enter are treated with equal doses of attention and care, whether they present in dire straits or for less-serious injuries or health issues.

"We're here to help people when they think they are having an emergency," said the physician. "We never want to minimize their concerns."

The ED, which is staffed 24 hours per day, seven days a week, 365 days of the year and on average treats about 40 patients per day, is often the first point of contact between patients and the hospital.

## REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

**Patient feedback reveals they are willing to travel a little farther to receive a high level of care at a hospital that is not congested and where they don't face excessive wait times to book appointments.**

But it is hardly the only department in the 78-bed, 250,000-square-foot, acute-care hospital providing services to the community. On average, about 250 people receive inpatient and outpatient services in a single weekday, according to hospital officials.



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Dr. Ron Santos, right, director of Sharon Hospital's Emergency Department, reviews a patient chart with medical staff.

### A walk through the departments

A recent late September tour, guided by President Christina McCulloch, offered insight into the daily operations of the

See NOTEBOOK, Page A5



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Climate change and carbon capture were the focus of a panel discussion hosted by the Sharon Audubon Center on Sunday, Sept. 25 at LionRock Farm in Sharon. Eileen Fielding of Sharon Audubon kicked off the discussion.

## Audubon hosts its first carbon capture panel

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Although the rate of progression is imperceptibly gradual, climate change spurred on by carbon in the atmosphere is relentless, a force that needs to be resisted.

In an effort to inform area residents of the perils and actions that can be taken, Sharon Audubon Center convened a gathering of nonprofit organizations dealing with conservation and a panel of experts to present

See CARBON PANEL, Page A5

# Save Sharon Hospital makes its case prior to public hearing

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Save Sharon Hospital group held the second of three discussions Thursday, Sept. 29 at the Scoville Memorial Library about Sharon Hospital's application to close its labor and delivery unit.

The state Office of Health Strategies (OHS) is holding a public hearing Tuesday, Oct. 18 (on Zoom) on the application from the hospital's owner, Nuvance, to modify the Certificate of Need that governs the hospital's activities.

Victor Germack began the presentation with background and a timeline on Nuvance's acquisition of Sharon Hospital.

He said "We have to tell the state we don't want labor and delivery to close."

He questioned Nuvance's assertion that it is on track to lose \$41 million with the status quo, adding

that by his calculations the labor and delivery unit is breaking even or even showing "a small gain."

"My feeling is they want to turn it into a feeder hospital for their system," he said.

Dr. Howard Mortman, wearing a lab coat, gave several examples of clinical obstetric situations that require specialized care. He said emergency room personnel are not trained for such situations.

He said having no maternity unit makes the hospital less attractive to doctors who might consider starting a practice in the area.

He said the number of births at the hospital has been consistent in recent years.

"We're delivering babies all the time," he said.

Dr. Mortman criticized Nuvance for not making an attempt to work with doctors, the community, or the state to find a solution other than closing the unit.

During the question and answer period, David Singer said SSH has

See SAVE HOSPITAL, Page A8



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Brody Reyes, 4, of Millerton, tried out the expanded, repaired and resurfaced playground on Saturday, Oct. 1, at Eddie Collins Memorial Park.

## Eddie Collins Memorial Park

# A park reopens for everyone

By John Coston

MILLERTON — The reopening of Eddie Collins Memorial Park on Saturday, Oct. 1, drew hundreds of people from the community at-large to mark the completion of the first phase of the revitalization of the park that has served as the recreational center for the region for decades.

The party came to life starting around noon as the 100-car parking lot filled to capacity, forcing an overflow across Route 22. Families arrived with strollers and excited children who ran into the wide-open space

See PARK REOPENS, Page A8

# Horn holds Zoom session after candidate debate fizzles

By John Coston

SALISBURY — Incumbent State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) held a Zoom event on Thursday, Sept. 29 in lieu of a debate with her Republican opponent Chris DuPont, who is vying to unseat the two-term incumbent for the district's seat in the Connecticut House of Representatives.

DuPont was unable to participate in the planned debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters and The Lakeville Journal at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, and the event was canceled.

"Although I would have preferred to participate in a debate with my opponent, that forum was canceled," Horn said in announcing her Zoom event. "Since I had agreed to debate and had saved this time in my calendar, let's take advantage of the opportunity to engage in our own give-and-take

See HORN ZOOM, Page A8

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# Our Towns

## Sharon sets town meeting on Comcast

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Anticipating a vote on the proposed Comcast partnership with the town, the Board of Selectmen set a date for a town meeting to be held on Friday, Oct. 28, beginning at 6 p.m., with the location yet to be determined.

The setting of a date came at the selectmen's regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 27. The town meeting could be held at Town Hall or the Sharon Center School.

On the agenda for the Town Meeting will be a decision on whether to expend \$800,000 from the town's undesignated fund to support the first half of the \$1.6 million cost of partnering with Comcast to expand broadband service to the currently unserved residences and businesses throughout the town.

At the meeting, residents will also vote on whether to authorize First Selectman Brent Colley to sign the Comcast contract.

Other items to be considered will be to approve an expenditure of \$105,432 for the Town Green Rehabilitation Project, Phase 2. The town will also vote on the purchase of two trucks for a total of \$310,402, with \$150,000 available within the Equipment Replacement Fund, and the balance proposed to come from the undesignated fund.

In advance of the town meeting and before signing a contract with Comcast, the selectmen agreed to select one of the attorneys recommended by Town Attorney Randall DiBella with specific expertise in similar contract review. By unanimous vote the selectmen

**On the agenda for the Town Meeting on Oct. 28 will be a decision on whether to expend \$800,000 from the town's undesignated fund to support the first half of the \$1.6 million cost of partnering with Comcast to expand broadband service.**

agreed to hire the services of Attorney Daniel Rosemark of Danbury who will work with Comcast attorneys in the review.

Looking ahead to the implementation of the project, selectman Dale Jones is working with the Sharon Connect committee to draft a job description for a contract performance manager who would serve as a "clerk of the works" liaison between the town and Comcast. The performance manager would also assist residents with any concerns while the project is underway, and be responsible for construction site visits, providing regular updates to town officials and the Sharon Connect committee.

Sharon Connect co-chair Jill Drew reported that she knows of two possible candidates for the performance manager position, pending approval of the drafted job description. She foresaw the manager as also functioning as a "fixer" for the project, helping with situations where permits are needed for the project to move ahead. Drew noted that the Comcast contract calls for a process that would expedite the permitting process.

### Town Hall parking lot

Reporting on plans to expand the Town Hall parking lot, Colley said that the proposal encountered a snag when the Sept. 26 meeting of

the town's Historic District Commission denied the plan that would add additional parking spaces and improved drainage along with electric vehicle charging capability and lighting. The first phase of the project describes the paving and installation of under-pavement conduits to bury the electrical cables. A later phase would bring lighting design, including style and establishing timing and brightness levels, as well as landscape details, Colley said, citing issues of concern to Michael Nadeau, a member of the Sharon Energy and Environment Commission.

Nadeau has offered an alternative parking lot plan that includes incorporating a curb-free middle island of vegetation to absorb water runoff as well as a rain garden at the rear.

"We are only setting conduits for future use," Colley explained about the first phase, noting that the lighting and landscaping are issues for a future phase. He called for accord on deciding the location of the lights and the drainage, indicating the possibility of agreement on the rear rain garden.

"We are caught in a municipal swamp," Colley said, eager to reach a resolution on the first phase.

Following discussion, the selectmen agreed to ask WMC Engineers to amend their plan to include some of

the aspects of Nadeau's plan, particularly the rain garden. Their concerns continued, however, in regard to the curb-less center vegetative island because it would eliminate parking spaces and be difficult to protect from winter plowing and snow-melt chemicals.

### Community Hall

Planning for the future of the Community Hall building west of Sharon Center School was discussed by selectman Casey Flanagan who indicated that The Sharon Housing Trust is preparing a proposal to convert the building into two units of affordable housing.

"I'm not endorsing the idea at this time," Flanagan said, favoring opening the topic up to the wider community to gather other ideas. "I don't know what the future use is," he said, but added that the building is underutilized at present.

Parks and Recreation Director Matt Andrus-Mette is currently using the building for office space and storage related to that program. Additionally, there are a few organizations who use the space for occasional meetings. The selectmen envisioned moving the recreation office to an underused municipal building adjacent to Veterans' Field, close to the recreation fields. The building experiences light use for animal rescue but could be reconfigured to accommodate a recreation office and storage.

Describing Community Hall as of stable and secure construction, the selectmen agreed to set a date of Jan. 1, 2023, to have the building emptied of its contents to allow a clear view of a future use.



PHOTO COURTESY NORFOLK FOUNDATION

### It's all about food

Haystack Book Festival co-chair Michael Selleck, at right, introduced Melissa Clark and Sam Sifton, best-selling New York Times food writers who spoke Saturday, Oct. 1, at Husky Meadows Farm in Norfolk to a sold-out audience. The festival ran from Friday, Sept. 30 through Sunday, Oct. 2.

### Hunt Library to host outdoor art and food event on Oct. 15

FALLS VILLAGE — There will be an outdoor reception at the D.M. Hunt Library Saturday, Oct. 15, 3 p.m. for the group art exhibiton, "Amuse-bouche: An Appetite for Art." This event is free and open to the public. For more information call the library at 860-824-7424 or go to [www.huntlibrary.org](http://www.huntlibrary.org).

### Trivia night for food pantries

NORTH CANAAN — The Salisbury Rotary Club, along with local food pantries and other local nonprofits will hold a trivia night fundraiser to ensure people in the Northwest Corner towns have the services they need.

The event will be held on Sunday, Oct. 16, at 6:00 p.m. at the Great Falls Brewery in North Canaan. There will be a 50/50 raffle and a raffle with a chance to win \$10,000. A food truck will serve until 6:00 p.m. or bring your own food.

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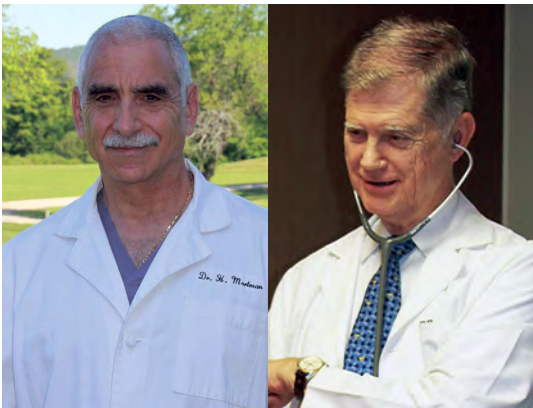
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# SAVE SHARON HOSPITAL

## Upcoming Community Events:



Community members showed up to rally in 2021, and we will rally again on October 16!



Above, left: Dr. Howard Mortman has been delivering babies at Sharon Hospital since 1991. Above, right: Dr. David Kurish, an internist and cardiologist who has been treating patients at Sharon Hospital for over 40 years.

### Community Roundtables

Learn what's happening at Sharon Hospital from the doctors themselves. Speakers include Dr. Howard Mortman and Dr. David Kurish. Attend one or attend them all! No reservations needed.

**Millerton, New York:**  
**Wed, October 5 at 6pm**  
Northeast-Millerton Library Annex

**Kent, Connecticut:**  
**Wed, October 12 at 6:30pm**  
St. Andrew's Parish,  
1 N Main St, Kent.

All events are sponsored by Save Sharon Hospital, and are not affiliated with the venues where the events are held.

### Rally to Save Sharon Hospital

Hear from our public officials, doctors, and fellow community members on how you can help save Maternity and the ICU at Sharon Hospital.

**Sunday, Oct 16 at 2pm**  
**at the Sharon Town Green**

### Testify at the Public Hearing

against NuVance's application to close Maternity.

- Written Testimony: Email [OHS@ct.gov](mailto:OHS@ct.gov) by Monday, Oct. 17.
- Oral Testimony: Sign up via Zoom on Tuesday, Oct 18 at 2pm. Public Testimony starts at 3pm. For the Zoom login and further information, please visit our website.

**Tuesday, Oct 18 via Zoom**  
**10am: Hearing begins**  
**3pm: Public Testimony begins**

Save Sharon Hospital, Inc. is a nonprofit community organization composed of volunteers and healthcare professionals from the Northwest Corner and the neighboring New York area who are concerned about the continued quality and availability of healthcare in our region. We are committed to supporting and maintaining the full range of services at Sharon Hospital.

[www.savesharonhospital.org](http://www.savesharonhospital.org)

## Our Towns

# Dennis Hopper, Brooke Hayward and a story of a Sixties alliance

By Riley Klein

KENT — Mark Rozzo, author of the new book “Everybody Thought We Were Crazy: Dennis Hopper, Brooke Hayward, and 1960s Los Angeles,” spoke about the origins of the work on Saturday, Oct. 1 at the Kent Memorial Library.

Rozzo read the opening passage before being interviewed by novelist James Kaplan.

The book explores the cultural revolution that took place in Los Angeles in the 1960s through the lens of one of the era’s most influential couples.

“Dennis Hopper and Brooke Hayward were emblematic of 60s L.A. and tied all aspects of the culture together,” said Rozzo.

The idea for the book began when Rozzo was doing an article on Hopper and Hayward for Vanity Fair. While working on the story he met with their daughter, Marin Hayward, who introduced



Mark Rozzo signed copies of his book in Kent on Saturday, Oct. 1.

him to her mother at their country home in Litchfield County.

“This book is on the line between history and memory,” said Rozzo. “Brooke provided

the memories.”

Meetings with Hayward, along with interviews from other figures of the time including Mark Nesmith and Jane Fonda, created a mystical retelling of the pop culture scene at the time.

“A lot of the book is about the art world in LA in the 1960s,” said Rozzo. “[Hopper and Hayward] purchased the first Warhol Campbell’s soup print for \$75.”

As Los Angeles became the focal point of the pop art

world, Hopper and Hayward were in the heart of the movement. Rozzo described the couple’s Hollywood home as a living museum, pulling together all aspects of art, music and new Hollywood.

“I met with Brooke and knew I wanted to tell the story with her at the center of this cultural experience,” said Rozzo.

After the interview with Kaplan, Rozzo fielded questions from attendees before signing copies of the book.

PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

### North Canaan cupcake challenge to benefit food pantry

NORTH CANAAN — The Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry, which supports families in need, will hold a cupcake benefit on Saturday, Nov. 5.

The location will be The Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave, North Canaan, during the annual Calico Fair. Prizes will be given. Entry fee is \$12.

Beginner or expert bakers, adults, or children, can enter one dozen of your best or favorite cupcakes. Cupcakes will be judged by taste, overall appearance, creativity, and texture.

Contact Fran Chapell at 860-824-0597 or email at fchapell@comcast.net to participate.

### COVID vax at HVRHS clinics

FALLS VILLAGE — There are three COVID-19 vaccination clinics coming up at Housatonic Valley Regional High School for people aged 12 years old and up.

The dates are: Friday, Oct. 7, Friday, Oct. 28, and Friday, Nov. 18. All three clinics are from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### Cornwall fire department celebrates 90th year Oct. 16

CORNWALL — Celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department Sunday, Oct. 16, noon to 2 p.m., at the firehouse, 289 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike in West Cornwall.

There will be an open

house, with informative displays, a “Kids Zone” featuring games and activities, and visitors can tour the firehouse, look at the equipment, and meet the firefighters.

And eat. Hot dogs, drinks, and snacks are included.

# P&Z approves zoning map for Salisbury

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Planning and Zoning Commission approved a new zoning map after a public hearing on Monday, Sept. 19.

Land Use Administrator Abby Conroy and commission chair Michael Klemens spent the summer going over the old zoning maps, visiting parcels and on a definitive and modernized map of all the properties in town.

In the process, they discovered over 300 properties that were included in multiple zones. They also found that the zoning maps were out of date, reflecting neither reality nor technological progress.

Conroy said the paper maps were difficult to use. They did not have street addresses or lot numbers, forcing people to find lots by recognizing their shape.

The maps did not show existing structures.

Klemens said they found around 300 lots in two or more zones. With the new map, that number is down to under 10.

The new digitized map, created with a geographical information system (GIS) will allow property owners to find their lots quickly. Conroy cautioned that updating the GIS info is a work in progress, and some information is not accurate yet.

Conroy gave examples

of where the new maps show changes in zoning. She and Klemens emphasized that the changes will bring many non-conforming properties into conforming status, and give homeowners more flexibility in what they can do with their properties.

Conroy read a letter from William Hower, who objected to his property being moved out of the Mt. Riga (MR) zone into the Rural Residential 1 (RR1) zone.

When the commission approved the new map, they added a condition that put Hower’s property back in the MR Zone.

Klemens said that overall, the changes will result in more non-conforming properties becoming conforming than it will create new non-conforming properties.

He said the new map will encourage economic development and create more housing opportunities.

Public comment was mostly supportive. Pat Hackett submitted a letter with several specific questions, which Conroy and Klemens addressed.

Hackett also asked that the hearing be continued, but Klemens demurred.

The commission voted unanimously to close the hearing and to approve the new map, effective Oct. 17 (which is when the appeal period expires).

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# 2022 SALISBURY FALL FESTIVAL

[www.salisburyfallfestival.org](http://www.salisburyfallfestival.org)  
October 7-9



### Ongoing

#### 20th Annual Scarecrow Exhibit

9 am – 6 pm Enjoy the scarecrows along Main Street of Salisbury and Lakeville.

#### All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church

at Salisbury Congregational Church  
Friday & Saturday  
10 am – 4 pm Country Store featuring baked goods, preserves, Greek pastries and foods, cheese, local maple syrup and honey, olives, breads, pies, herbs, cookbooks, and more.

#### Johannycake Books

Next to LaBonne's  
10 am – 4 pm Half-price sale on all books \$100 and less.

#### Local Honey from Peter Sadlon

Saturday & Sunday  
10 am – 4 pm 100% pure local honey and bee pollen.

#### Salisbury Artisans Group

Tents in front of the White Hart Inn  
Saturday & Sunday  
10 am – 4 pm Local artisans displaying their traditional and contemporary creations—jewelry, pottery, fiber arts, wreaths, woven goods, fine art, organic skin care, woodwork, ceramics, gourmet food, and much more.

#### Salisbury Association

24 Main Street  
10 am – 4 pm Fri. & Sat., 10 am – 3 pm Sun. Visit the Land Trust's exhibit "Come Into the Forest." Learn about the importance of forests—from the air we breathe, to clean drinking water, to the diversity

of life. Forests matter much more than we may realize.

#### Salisbury Congregational Church

Friday & Saturday  
10 am – 4 pm Quilt Show (church); Treasure Trove Tag Sale (Parish Hall)

#### St. John's Episcopal Church

Friday & Saturday  
10 am – 4 pm Baked goods and coffee. Left Bank Bookstalls (outside)

#### Hot Dog Tent

outside Congregational Church  
Friday & Saturday  
11 am – 2 pm Offers hot dogs, chili dogs, soda, cider, water and more.

#### Interlaken Inn

Route 112, Lakeville, CT  
5 pm – 9 pm Complimentary appetizer with the purchase of an entree at Morgans at the Interlaken.

### Friday, October 7th

#### Friends of Scoville Library

9 am – 10 am Giant Book Sale – Early bird buying \$10 per person. 10 am – 4 pm Free admission to Giant Book Sale in the Wardell Room.

### Saturday, October 8th

#### Children's Street Fair

along Library Street  
10 am – 4 pm Salisbury Central School 8th Grade offers games, face painting, and popcorn.

#### Danny Sings - The Buttons

Garden beside the Library  
10 am Children will enjoy a musical romp with improvised

songs and a cannon of loved music.

#### Free Magic Shows with Peter James

along Library Street  
11 am – 2 pm Sponsored by Salisbury Congregational Church.

#### All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church

at Salisbury Congregational Church  
10 am – 4 pm Country Store featuring baked goods, preserves, Greek pastries and foods, cheese, local maple syrup and honey, olives, breads, pies, herbs, cookbooks, and more.

#### Noble Horizons

tent on Main Street  
10 am – 4 pm Come and decorate dog-edible biscuits for your favorite pet!

#### Friends of Scoville Library

10 am - 4 pm Giant Book Sale in the Wardell Room. "Book Bag Sale" from 3 to 4 pm; \$10 a bag.

#### National Iron Bank

tent by Library  
10 am – 4 pm Stop by for refreshments and information about the special presentation by Martha Graham dancers in the Buttons Garden beside the Library at 3 pm.

#### SOAR

on Library lawn  
10 am – 3 pm Pop-Up Crafts featuring a variety of autumn crafts and hands-on activities for kids of all ages. Plus lots of pumpkins to decorate and henna by Nicky and SOAR students from the Salisbury Central School Enrichment Program

#### Indian Mountain School

on Main Street  
10 am – 3 pm Slimetastic! Volunteers from Indian Mountain School invite

participants to make slime. A selection of fun additives that sparkle and spook will ratchet up the fun.

#### Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service

8 Undermountain Road, across from the White Hart Inn  
11 am – 4 pm SVAS Open House! Everyone is invited to stop by and see the vehicles and equipment and speak with members to learn about joining the squad. Enjoy cider and donuts. Games for kids!

#### Lakeville Hose Company

Ladies Auxiliary  
on Main Street  
11 am – 3 pm Food Tent offering comfort food – chili and cornbread, mac and cheese, baked potatoes with toppings, soda, and water.

#### Salisbury Band

Quickstep Hotshots  
Bandstand on Library lawn  
Noon – 1:30 Enjoy live music; sponsored by the Salisbury Congregational Church.

#### Salisbury Community Dog Park

on Main Street  
10 am – 4 pm Stop by and learn about our Community Dog Park.

#### Housatonic Child Care Center

tent on Main Street  
10 am – 4 pm Information about our organization and games for the kids!

#### Annie's Fair Trade

on Main Street  
10 am – 4 pm Hand-poured and hand-painted candles from South Africa. Certified Fair Trade (most of the artisans are women) and a portion of the proceeds goes to Save the Rhino. Great gifts and hostess presents!

#### Salisbury Rotary

on Main Street  
10 am – 4 pm Stop by and

learn about the organization and its many service projects.

#### Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) Robotics Team

10 am – 4 pm Bake sale and demonstration of student-built robots that compete in a Robotics Competition.

#### Martha Graham Dances

Buttons Garden outside the Library  
3 pm National Iron Bank presents two iconic Martha Graham dances, Lamentation and Satyric Festival Song, performed by Graham 2. Afterwards, Graham dancers will teach children, of all ages, how to express themselves through movement in their own tube of fabric. "Graham" crackers and apple cider will be served.

#### Salisbury Affordable Housing Commission

on Main Street  
10 am – 4 pm SAHS will have information on the affordable housing organizations in Salisbury, as well as details on their community events. Stop by for answers to all of your housing questions!

#### Housatonic Youth Service Bureau

on Main Street  
10 am – 4 pm Learn about HYSB and have fun playing some yard games!

#### Salisbury Bank

10 am – 4 pm Stop by our

booth for donuts, apple cider and other goodies!

#### Cub Scouts

on Main Street  
10 am – 2 pm Pack 22 is handing out lollipops. Learn about Scouting and our upcoming events.

### Sunday, October 9th

#### Salisbury Congregational Church

Noon – 3 pm Treasure Trove Tag Sale – Half-price sale on everything! (Parish Hall)

#### St. John's Episcopal Church

11 am – 2 pm Left Bank Bookstalls (outside)

#### Musical Performance by the Joint Chiefs

on the White Hart lawn  
1 pm – 3 pm Enjoy live music by the popular Joint Chiefs!

#### Salisbury Winter Sports Association

at the Ski Jumps  
1 pm – 4 pm 13th Annual Brew-Ski Fest sponsored by Stateline Wine and Spirits. Sample over 150 beers and ciders from 40 breweries while listening to live music by "The Steve Dunn Band" Brats, burgers, and dogs for sale by Sunday in the Country Food Drive. Tickets are \$30 at Stateline Wine and Spirits in North Canaan; call 870-824-7295 or online at jumpfest.org or brewskifest.com. Tickets are \$35 at the gate.

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### Fall Festival at the Congregational Church!

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Sunday, Noon-3pm (1/2 price sale!)

## QUILT SHOW

Friday & Saturday, 10am-4pm

## HOT DOG TENT

Friday & Saturday, 11am-2pm

## SALISBURY BAND HOTSHOTS

Saturday, 12noon-1:30pm

## PETER JAMES MAGIC SHOW

Saturday, 11am and 2pm

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Friday, October 7  
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10am - 4pm

Saturday, October 8  
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10am - 4pm

**Danny Sings About Everything!**  
10:30am

**Children's Fall Crafts**  
10am - 4pm

**Salisbury Band Concert**  
12 - 1:30pm

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Please see [www.salisburyfallfestival.org](http://www.salisburyfallfestival.org) for full schedule of events

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# Sports

## Returning to angling form after long, hot and dry summer

BOICEVILLE, N.Y. — When we last checked in with Gary, he was getting used to his new life of austerity.

See, he'd made the mistake of going to the doctor for a once-over, and the medico brought in a couple of colleagues and gave Gary's system the gang gong.

So he was a little tetchy as we prowled around the Beaverkill and Willowemoc back in June.

But he was the picture of health and fitness when we coordinated on the Esopus last week, at the new Rail Trail and angler's access area below Five Arches Bridge.

The bridge is being rebuilt, and the dulcet tones of heavy machinery filled the air in the first few hundred yards.

We clambered around below the Chimney Hole, where the Esopus officially ends and the Ashokan Reservoir begins.

Because of the drought, areas that would normally be covered with water are easily traversed banks.

So we went further downstream than I have ever gone, to where the Ashokan starts to look like a lake.

Gary has attained his high school weight, and is in danger of disappearing behind saplings. He set a blistering pace and I felt distinctly lumpy trying to keep up.

But never mind that. I caught half a dozen wild rainbows, all on a silvery Surveyor nymph, tied on a barbless jig hook and adorned with a tungsten bead head.

This thing sinks.

Because the Esopus regulations have changed and New York is no longer stocking it with browns, the wild rainbows (aka "silver bullets" of Esopus lore) are bigger than they used to be.

### HYSB 5K run set for Oct. 22

LAKEVILLE — The Housatonic Youth Services Bureau will hold a Falcon 5K run and Kids Fun Run on Saturday, Oct. 22 at Indian Mountain School starting at 9 a.m. The 5K run is returning after a hiatus due to the pandemic.

All proceeds HYSB's programs and services. Registration at [www.hysb.org](http://www.hysb.org)



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

A fat, healthy and wild rainbow trout came to the author's (wet) hand on the Esopus Creek last week. New York state no longer stocks the Esopus, in order to encourage the reproduction of wild rainbow trout.

### TANGLED LINES

PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

We also encountered smallmouth bass, which is to be expected that close to the reservoir, and zero brown trout preparing to head upstream for spawning purposes.

Gary had to beat it around 2 p.m. I had the roofers at the cabin, so a mid-afternoon nap was out.

So I went to the Esopus upstream in Shandaken, where it is a medium-sized, freestone trout stream (as opposed to a big tailwater).

At the spot I entered there are four long, deep pools bracketed by rip rap on one side and a sandy, rocky bank on my side.

Stealth was key, as the water was gin clear and the sun behind me, casting a long shadow on the water.

But my back didn't cooperate with the crouching and creeping, so I stood up anyway.

It didn't matter, as it turned out.

Using a new Tenkara rod from Dragontail (fishes at 8 and 9 feet and change), and a #3.5 fluorocarbon level line, I deployed the Surveyor again, and only succeeded in getting it stuck on the bottom.

After I rescued it, in the process scaring everything with fins into next week, I took a breather.

A whacking big wild cat appeared on the rip rap opposite. It sat and looked at me.

I looked back, thinking it looked like a standard house cat except for the fact it was the size of a dog.

I spent 15 minutes watching the cat messing around. Then I rigged up a two wet fly rig on the Tenkara rod: A size 10 Leadwing Coachman, which is an Esopus standard, and a size 16 Light Cahill on the point.

I drifted this combo into the maelstrom at the top of the sequence of pools and was thrilled when what I initially thought was a hang up

turned out to be a fat rainbow of about 15 inches, which put up a serious fuss.

A few minutes later, I hooked and then lost the rainbow's cousin from the same place.

These all-day excursions are no longer routine. The roofers were gone when I staggered back into camp, and I fell asleep on the couch almost immediately.

I woke up feeling like something that crawls out of dead trees after a rainstorm, ate a ham and cheese sandwich and went to bed, tired, sore and very happy.



PHOTOS BY SAVAGE FRIEZE

### Run faster, jump higher

Above, Sylvie Kozik Stiffler in action during Housatonic Valley Regional High School's 3-0 win over visiting Gilbert Wednesday, Sept. 28. Below, Harper Howe (at left) and Gabi Titone of Housatonic Valley Regional High School competing in a cross-country meet at Northwestern Regional High School Wednesday, Sept. 28.



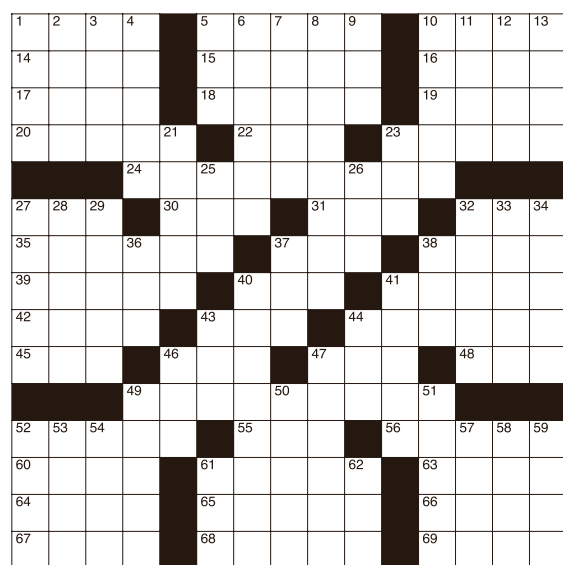
## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Bay Area humorist
5. Hurt
10. Icelandic poems
14. A taro corm
15. Metaphorical use of a word
16. It fears the hammer
17. Excessively quaint (British)
18. Laid-back California county
19. Cook in a microwave oven
20. Not late
22. Go from one place to another
23. Peoples living in the Congo
24. Popular pasta
27. Available engine power (abbr.)
30. Popular musician Charles
31. Angry
32. Spelling is one type
35. One who makes a living
37. Indicates location
38. Imperial Chinese dynasty
39. Small water buffaloes
40. Hungarian city
41. Fabric
42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
43. Precursor to the EU
44. Philly footballers
45. Female sibling
46. "When Harry Met Sally" actress
47. Magnetic tape of high quality
48. Insecticide
49. Apparatus to record and transmit
52. Some is considered "dog"
55. Israeli city \_\_ Aviv
56. Fencing sword
60. Ottoman military title
61. Wise people
63. Cold wind
64. Popular type of shoe
65. Administrative district
66. A way to reveal
67. Cooked meat cut into small pieces
68. Actress Zellweger
69. Romanian city

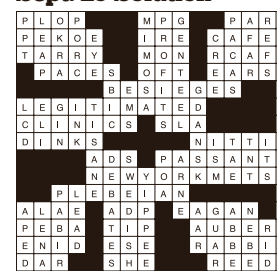
### CLUES DOWN

1. Small town in Portugal
2. Site of famed Ethiopian battle
3. German river
4. Christmas carols
5. Cash machine

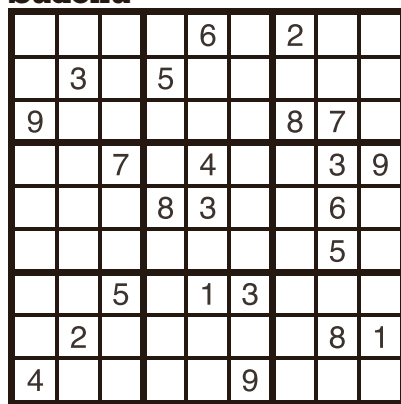


6. Rough and uneven
7. Rumanian round dance
8. Widespread occurrence of disease
9. A place to relax
10. Feeling of listlessness
11. Coat or smear a substance
12. Wild mango
13. Brews
21. Belgian city
23. Confined condition (abbr.)
25. Swiss river
26. Small amount
27. Part of buildings
28. Vietnamese capital
29. Sailboats
32. Shelter
33. Terminated
34. Discharge
36. Snag
37. Partner to cheese
38. A container for coffee
40. Spend time dully
41. Satisfies
43. Snakelike fish
44. Consume
46. Type of student
47. Erase
49. Instruct
50. Girl's given name
51. Jewish spiritual leader
52. "To \_\_ his own"
53. North-central Indian city
54. Greek alphabet characters
57. Weapon
58. Amounts of time
59. American Nobel physicist vital to MRIs
61. Soviet Socialist Republic
62. Witness

### Sept. 29 Solution



### Sudoku



### Sept. 29 Solution



Level: Intermediate

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## CARBON PANEL

Continued from Page A1

information about trends and corrective actions.

The conference that drew over 125 participants was held at LionRock Farm in Sharon on Sunday, Sept. 25, and was titled, "Connecting Carbon, Climate and Conservation." The focus of the program was an effort to define ways to capture carbon through forest management and by effective plantings, helping to fend off the effects of climate change.

"Considering climate change to be the most significant threat to birds, Audubon has no choice but to be involved," said Eileen Fielding, center director at Sharon Audubon.

"The idea [for the event] has been in the works for a while," said John Brett, chairman of the Audubon Stewardship Board, during an interview just before the start of the panel discussion.

"The aim is to bring together nonprofit organizations with like-minded perspectives on the issues. We'll do more," Brett said.

Sponsors of the event, in addition to Sharon Audubon, were the Sharon Land Trust, Salisbury Association Land Trust, Berkshire Agricultural Ventures, Great Mountain Forest (GMF) and the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA).

According to Brett, the idea came about during a dinner conversation he had with Roger Liddell of the Sharon Land Trust and Joshua Ginsberg of the Cary Institute in Millbrook, New York.

Nonprofit organization representatives providing information and distributing literature were Tom Zetterstrom of the Housatonic Valley Association and David Beers, a private lands forester serving western Connecticut.

"Focusing on clean-up, how do we get the carbon out of the atmosphere?" asked Fielding kicking off the discussion.

Panel member Matt Gallagher, director of programs and operations at GMF, responded that carbon is one of his key management objectives.

"Carbon pools store carbon," Gallagher explained. The variables are the quantity stored and how it changes over time. "Both are necessary to mitigate climate change," he added.

"Sequestration" is the process of removing carbon from the atmosphere, Gallagher said. Strategies can include protecting forests from other uses, increasing diversity, increasing numbers of young trees, increasing structural complexity within forests (young, medium and mature stands) and increasing the use of wood products because harvested trees make room for new growth.

Speaking of the watershed area stretching from Pittsfield, Mass. southward to Long Island Sound, Julia Rogers of HVA spoke of the

"Follow the Forest" program. She advocated maintaining forests as forests, important to wildlife and using plants that will withstand the progression of climate change.

Rogers said that just protecting segregated blocks of forested land is not enough. Mapping connections among the blocks is essential in order to see what should be happening at the local level.

"Understanding how we fit within the matrix is an important goal," Rogers said. "We are all members of small communities."

Dan Carr of Berkshire Agricultural Ventures, a nonprofit supporting the local food economy by helping to make local small farms viable, said that his organization offers technical assistance to agricultural start-ups, business planning, website design and helps with low-interest, flexible loans.

Also of Berkshire Agricultural Ventures, Ben Crockett described the concept of climate-smart agriculture with minimal soil disturbance. Perennial crops requiring less tillage include asparagus and rhubarb.

"You have to know that the trees will be there in 50 to 100 years," Crockett said, stressing the importance of a farm having long-term tenure.

"A carbon-rich soil is essential to successful farming," Crockett added, stressing the importance of reduced soil disturbance. He was encouraged by noticing that local dairy farmers are engaged in no-till farming. Organic matter promotes the growth of beneficial fungal colonies, he noted.

Summarizing common themes voiced by the panel, Fielding presented the effects of climate change on bird populations, citing examples of decimated populations.

"The biomass of birds has declined," Fielding reported. "The population has declined by half in the past 50 years," she said, adding that if the average temperature increases by three degrees centigrade, two-thirds of birds will lose their habitats.

"We can increase the amount of carbon we are sequestering," Fielding said, noting that the state is now 60% forested. She added that 80% of that forested land is privately owned, but over half of those privately-owned parcels are in the hands of small landowners.

Discussion with the audience turned to invasive plant species plaguing the area and how best to eradicate them, including biocontrol methods.

Liddell noted that mugwort, an invasive, produces up to 200,000 seeds per plant.

Emphasizing that residents need to remain informed, Liddell said that he hoped that the event will be the first of multiple meetings when organizations gather to offer informal discussions guided by conservation experts.

## PARK REOPENS

Continued from Page A1

Basketball games started immediately on the new basketball courts. Soccer players — young and old — took to the new regulation-sized soccer field. Mothers and fathers streamed into the expanded, repaired and resurfaced handicap-accessible playground.

The party atmosphere was fueled by rock music that filled the air, and food booths that served tacos and other traditional fare. The hot dog booth ran out of buns, but hamburger buns became an option.

A handicap-accessible walkway extends from a renovated pavilion to the Little League field.

The park is named after

Eddie Collins, who played major league baseball from 1906 to 1930 for the Philadelphia Athletics and the Chicago White Sox.

Stephen Waite, chair of the project committee for the park, recalled that he used to play baseball at the park as a youngster. Waite, a quadriplegic from an accident 35 years ago, is proud of all the volunteer efforts and also of the fact that the park is handicap-accessible.

On Saturday, the air of success was punctuated with news of a state and municipal grant of \$125,000 toward making the Little League field accessible to those in wheelchairs.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Basketball fever was over the top on Saturday, Oct. 1, on the new courts at the reopening of Eddie Collins Memorial Park in Millerton.

## HORN ZOOM

Continued from Page A1

on the issues you care about."

On Friday, Sept. 30 Dupont said that he also is planning a Zoom event with voters, and that it would be scheduled in the near future. He was traveling in Florida for work and his return was delayed by Hurricane Ian.

"We were in Ft. Myers and Sanibel, and we got evacuated on Tuesday," he said.

Eight people participated in Horn's Zoom meeting.

Horn started out by talking about what her constituents tell her are priorities.

"They want high quality education. They want access to health care. They want to be able to work from home. They want to be able to have clean air and clean water," she said.

Horn then turned to two questions that had been submitted verbally and in writing by participants. One questioner asked for an update on Sharon Hospital, which is seeking to close its labor and delivery unit and replace its Intensive Care Unit with a Progressive Care Unit. The hospital has a pending Certificate of Need (CON) application with the state Office of Health Strategy (OHS) to implement those changes.

"I actually had a meeting today with Christina McCulloch, who is the new head of Sharon Hospital," she said. Horn then described the status of the hospital's request, and gave a rundown of upcoming meetings and hearings, including those planned by Save Sharon Hospital and the state OHS on Tuesday, Oct. 18. (See related story, Page A1).

"I will be testifying at that hearing (OHS) on Oct. 18," Horn said, adding that she

has been encouraging others with on-the-ground experience to testify to give firsthand, factual perspective. "From a legislative perspective, I am working with other legislators to make sure that this CON process has teeth."

"So that when a hospital system like Nuvance (parent of Sharon Hospital) in this situation promised to keep labor and delivery open for five years under the CON that they're held to that promise. They are now applying to break that promise," she said.

A second question focused on federal funds targeted for rural broadband service. Horn described federal money that is "beginning to trickle through the system" that is earmarked for broadband, including \$40 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and \$100 million in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds as potential sources to provide access in unserved and underserved areas.

"I'm having conversations with every town in the Northwest Corner, and we're trying to figure out how to do this. Whether to do it together (as towns), or towns do something on their own," she said.

"The Northwest Corner, when you look at (broadband) infrastructure, is a blinking red light," she said, adding that state officials recognize that. "We have one of the largest infrastructure deficits in the state."

Horn also fielded a question about the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) response to the public outcry — and subsequent legislation — that resulted from the agency's tree-cutting at Housatonic Meadows State Park in Sharon last winter. She noted that a new hazardous tree policy drafted on Aug. 1 by DEEP "vastly limits" the number of trees that would be subject to it.

"I fully expect at the legislature next year we will take a

look at that policy and debate it and propose changes to it."

A final questioner asked what action the state might be considering to deal with the growing bear population, and the increasing number of bear-human encounters. Horn said that while some towns have enacted ordinances prohibiting "intentional feeding" of bears, "I would like to propose statewide legislation to ban the feeding of bears. It puts neighbors at risk. It conditions the bears."

Horn also noted that besides the danger posed by bears, they also damage farm crops, including cornfields, blueberry farms, Christmas tree farms, "A bear can take out acres and destroy a livelihood," she said, adding that she wants to consider ways to help farmers who suffer damage from bears.

Horn commented that bear hunting is a polarized debate. "I will just say Connecticut is nowhere near passing a bear hunt," she said.

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## SAVE HOSPITAL

Continued from Page A1

applied for intervenor status at the Oct. 18 OHS public hearing.

If it is granted, SSH witnesses will testify (as opposed to making comments along with the general public).

Both Singer and Germack noted that OHS recently turned down a similar request to shut down the maternity unit at Windham Hospital.

"We can take some comfort in what happened with Windham," he said.

Both candidates for the 30th District in the state

Senate were at the Sept. 29 event — State Representative Stephen Harding (R-107) and Democrat Eva Bernudez Zimmerman. Neither candidate intruded on the discussion or even identified themselves to the audience.

About 20 people attended. SSH is hosting two more roundtable discussions: Wednesday, Oct. 5 at 6 p.m. at the Northeast-Millerton Library Annex, and Wednesday, Oct. 12 at 6:30 p.m., at St. Andrew's Parish in Kent.

SSH is having a rally Sunday, Oct. 16 at 2 p.m. at the town Green in Sharon.



# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

**THEATER: ALEXANDER WILBURN**

## Black theater in a white town

In Central Harlem, N.Y., emerging Black writers come to Liberation Theatre Company to hone their artistry on the stage. Co-founder Spencer Scott Barros has forged a space to strengthen dynamic Black voices charged with something to say. This fall, he's far from home, up in the countryside of Connecticut, directing "A Raisin In The Sun" for Sharon Playhouse. He's a Black director working on an iconic Black play, in a town that's still 90% white. Barros isn't deterred.

**Alexander Wilburn: "A Raisin in the Sun" — a staple of the American stage, but also a milestone for African American theater. The first Broadway production written by a Black female playwright and led by a Black director. What does the play have to tell us today?**

Spencer Scott Barros: If we look at the state of race relations within the U.S. — Black people still don't make nearly as much as their white counterparts, that hasn't changed much from the '50s. Even the issue



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

### Spencer Scott Barros

of abortion, which is discussed in the play, is relevant with what happened recently with Roe v. Wade. The notion of Black people wanting to move to a better life, having dreams of a better experience, that's still happening, but now that happens through the lens of gentrification. So there are a lot of themes that are relevant for today's audience. This

story could still happen today.

As a Black director staying in Salisbury at one of the board members' guest homes, I could count the number of people of color I've seen on one hand. I'm sure people are looking at me like, "Who is he? Why is he here?" In the play, the character of Karl Linder doesn't want this family moving into

this all-white neighborhood because it will make the white people uncomfortable. People are much more savvy today, they wouldn't come out and say that. But you can sense there's an uncomfortability (sic). "Oh, you're just here for a short period of time? That's better, I can like you." But if I said I was looking at homes to buy? I'm sure I would be received in a very different light.

**What's it like performing this show for a majority, if not completely, white audience?**

I had really great conversations with Justin [Bocitto, Playhouse Interim Artistic Director] and Michael [Kevin Baldwin, Director of Education] before I accepted the offer to direct. They were very honest about their 99% white subscription base. Outside of theater, I do diversity, equity and inclusion workshops for corporations, I'm very used to having uncomfortable conversations where I am either the only person of color in the room, or one of very

few. [A Raisin In The Sun] isn't an all Black cast — there is one major white character. For this theater, we're playing him as a mirror to the subscription base that comes here. He's a reflection of how they may be, or what may be hidden in their own subconscious. As I said, people today are savvy. They're not going to say, "I don't want these types of people living here." I think the mirror is: we like to say and do all the right things, we like to present ourselves as inclusive, but our actions may be doing something entirely different.

A really concrete example is that in the play, Linder refers to the Younger family as "you people." The actor Dick Terhune is so brilliant, he doesn't overemphasize it, but every time he says it, the Younger family has a different reaction to it, to the words "you people." I don't think Linder realizes he's doing anything, he's so used to having conversations in his all-white community. So I hope a predominantly white audience might look at that and think, "Hm, I wonder if every time I told a Black person they were so articulate or they spoke so well, did they receive it

as the compliment I was intending it to be? Or did they receive it as a racial slur they had to accept?"

**Whom do you see as the invigorating voices of Black theater today?**

For a while it felt like there was one kind of [Black] story that could be on Broadway and be successful. It would have to have certain types of characters that make non-Black people comfortable. I've noticed a change now where writers are saying, "I'm writing my truth and what works for me. If you get it, you get it, and if you don't, you don't." Donja R. Love is a playwright I absolutely adore, a queer Black playwright whose stories are centered around queer Black life, often around being HIV positive. Dominique Morrisseau — I love her voice, it's very rooted in her history and her Detroit upbringing.

They're telling their stories their way and they're not apologetic. Just as we can tell a thousand stories through a white lens, we can tell a thousand stories through a Black lens. As a Black man, I don't relate to every single aspect of every single Black play I see, but I do love hearing those voices.

"A Raisin In the Sun" opens at Sharon Playhouse in Sharon, Conn., on Oct. 7. For tickets go to [www.sharonplayhouse.org](http://www.sharonplayhouse.org)

## At The Movies



The first Harp Guitar Gathering™ took place in Williamsburg, Virginia in 2003. It was conceived and organized by Stephen Bennett, who only intended it to be a one-time get together of players, builders, scholars and other aficionados of these instruments. It's taken place every year since, in 9 different states at this point.

**The 20<sup>th</sup> Harp Guitar Gathering will take place October 28-30 in Sharon, Connecticut, at Silver Lake Retreat Center (223 Low Road).**

It'll be hosted again by Stephen Bennett - who, along with his wife Nancy, moved to the Northwest Corner last year.

In case you're interested in hearing some harp guitar music, and really, why wouldn't you be?

**A pre-Gathering concert will be held on Wednesday, October 26th, 7:30 PM** at The Center on Main in Falls Village. \$15 admission.

It will feature Harp Guitarists Andy Wahlberg (FL), Travis Bowman (AR) and Matt Thomas (VA).

**There are two concerts which are open to the public: Saturday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM and Sunday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM.**

Both will be in the building at Silver Lake called The Cedars. \$15 admission at the door.

Appearing at these two concerts will be Stephen Bennett (CT), Muriel Anderson (TN) and Dave Powell (ID), along with Andy, Travis and Matt (of the Wednesday night concert), among others!

The Harp Guitar Gathering™ is a CT registered 501(c)3 non profit corporation.  
[harp guitargathering.com](http://harp guitargathering.com)



# TRI-CORNER CALENDAR



PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAVEN CONTEMPORARY  
*Bezawit* by Jeff Wallace

**Jeff Wallace**  
**'People and Places'**  
In Cape Cod Jeff Wallace spots a waitress, the seashore spattering sunlight across her skin. Back in his Brooklyn studio he recreates her gaze, gutting the interiors of old books, dyeing the pulp, and pushing it in place. The resulting portrait is, without the tinkering an oil painter might indulge, as immediate and impressionistic as his memory. Hung suspended in their frames, edges casting jagged shadow, the pieces are given proper weight as objects — Polaroids made by hand. *Now on view at Craven Contemporary in Kent, Conn.*

**Power Boothe 'Everything Trembles'**

As the end of Furnace Art on Paper Archive's second season nears, the sole art gallery in Falls Village, Conn., has firmly established its identity, with large scale geometric abstracts that find detailed depth with primary colors and make bold use of white.

In the penultimate 2022 show for Furnace, Power Boothe showcases a series both minimalis-

tic and kaleidoscopic. A professor of painting at the Hartford Art School with work in the collections of The Met and MoMA, Boothe makes abstracts easy to get lost in, playing with repetition and obsession. There's a dizzying effect looking deep into one — you're invited to stare.

*Opens at Furnace Art on Paper Archive in Falls Village, Conn., Oct. 8.*

**Victor Mirabelli 'Black & White and In Between'**

Looming Colonials by day, Colonials by night, Colonials painted in the shade of night. Victor Mirabelli's sparse oil



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARGAZZI ART

landscapes, like variations on the creaky, far off Olson House in "Christina's World," suggest total isolation with the foreboding country homes as the only refuge. There are little signs of

life in the tiny windows, but you can't help but feel as you observe the house, a presence within watches in return. *Now on view at Argazzi Art in Lakeville, Conn.*

**Rosemary's Baby**

Terror of the Upper West Side co-op... The famed Dakota, with its dormers and gables, its Gothic Revival glamor, is the setting for this pregnancy pact with the devil. A pair of newlyweds (Mia Farrow and John Cassavetes) have a new address and a baby on the way, but the young housewife is isolated by the suspicious behavior of her neighbors. This spooky and stylish Academy Award-winner served as inspiration for director Jordan Peele while making his debut, "Get Out." *At The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y. Oct. 8.*

**Carrie The Musical**

"Everyday, I just pray, every move I make is right," the young ensemble sings in "Carrie" the musical. "Will I be alone on Saturday night?" In 1988, the show answered that anxiety and closed after five performances. The adaptation of Stephen King's debut horror novel was the biggest bomb on Broadway. In 2012 the strange tale of Carrie White and her cruel classmates was retooled for an Off-Broadway revival that led to an Off-West End run in London. A cult musical with a Youtube following passionate for edgier, underground shows, Carrie lives — and sings — again. *At The Sherman Players in Sherman, Conn., through Oct. 22.*

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EDITORIAL

Sharon Hospital's dilemma

The complexities of running rural businesses of any kind are legion. With medical facilities like hospitals the problems are only made worse by the need to provide such a wide range of services that it can become next to impossible to choose what is most needed by their patients. Depending on the time of life, needs change dramatically. Does that seem too simplistic? Or obvious? Until you live it, it's hard to explain why those services are key at any given moment. Your child broke their wrist playing baseball? The Emergency Department becomes crucial and irreplaceable. Your mother needs a knee replacement, and she really wants to do it close to home if she's going to do it at all? The orthopedic physicians are the most important to your family at that moment.

The problem with trying to meet all needs is that it becomes very expensive. And that is the argument Nuvance and Sharon Hospital use in defending their plans to close Labor and Delivery and change the makeup and name of the Intensive Care Unit. Yet when those departments are needed, those who use them cannot find another approach to the medical care they need very easily.

This is why the physicians at the hospital, and the group Save Sharon Hospital, are making their voices heard at past and upcoming meetings and demonstrations. Their concerns must be heard and addressed by the hospital's administration and ownership in order for medical care to be seen as accessible in the region, for those who live both across the line in New York and in the Northwest Corner.

Because if potential clients for the hospital believe it hasn't heard them, and won't fulfill their needs when they become urgent, they will surely make solid plans to get their health care elsewhere. That would put the long-term viability of the hospital in question, making its eventual diminishing a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Right now, the hospital has multiple services that do meet the needs of people in the region who need medical care. (See story, front page, by Debra Aleksinas.) It will be a balancing act for the administrators at Sharon Hospital and Nuvance (as well as the state compliance agencies) to decide what the formula should be to best serve their population, and ensure the longevity of the hospital. There are no guarantees; many rural hospitals across the country have greatly reduced their services or closed altogether, after all.

But these decisions should be made considering the advice and requests of the physicians and the consumers — that is, the rest of us who aren't medical professionals but need their care. Without firm acknowledgment that these concerns must be taken seriously, there is the chance that the hospital won't be able to serve its population's needs no matter what departments it tries to keep open.

Party for Hochswender canceled; was Oct. 6

The open house at The Lakeville Journal building in Falls Village to say farewell to former Executive Editor and Compass Editor Cynthia Hochswender is canceled. It was originally slated for Thursday, Oct. 6. Hochswender's last day with the Journal is Oct. 7.

Please let Cynthia know your thoughts on her departure from The Lakeville Journal after serving in different capacities since 1999 by emailing her at [cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com). She would welcome seeing them.

Hochswender's last Compass as editor was Sept. 29. Alexander Wilburn, former senior associate editor, becomes Compass editor with the Oct. 6 issue.

— Janet Manko

Vote for Hayes

Can you imagine turning back the clock 50 years to take away the right of a woman to choose? This past summer the debate about Roe vs. Wade had me speechless! Every woman should be allowed full control over their own bodies and full authority over their decisions. The systemic barriers to health care in general has caused too many women to be excluded from proper healthcare.

Fortunately, in the 5th Congressional District, we have Congresswoman Jahana Hayes, who took the mantle during a U.S. House floor debate and voted to pass legis-

lation to strengthen and protect reproductive freedom in the United States. Her debate on the Women's Health Protection Act of 2022 and the Ensuring Abortion Access Act will empower women to make their own decisions and prevent States from interfering with the bodies, decisions and reproductive rights of women. Congresswoman Jahana Hayes is always out front fighting for ALL of us and she deserves our votes on Nov. 8.

Joyce Petteway  
President of the Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women

Waterbury

More letters next page.



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Rainbow over Salisbury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hospital needs to uphold principles

For months, I have been following the debate about why Sharon Hospital should or shouldn't close its Maternity unit. I understand, from my own first-hand experience as president of two small colleges, how important it is to set priorities for programming and to balance budgets.

In fact, during the 10 years when I was president at Wilson College in the small town of Chambersburg, Pa., the CEO of the local hospital and I met regularly, since our organizations had much in common: similar constituents and employee group profiles, including some highly educated and independent people; comparable leadership and management issues; complex and expensive facilities and equipment to maintain; budgets to balance; a range of programs and services needed to fulfill our missions and serve the community; continual need to promote our services, attract clients, recruit talent.

It is with this background of experience that I offer the following perspective:

First, even though Sharon Hospital is one of the most highly rated hospitals in Connecticut, I see no evi-

dence that any steps — other than mention on the website — have been taken to promote the excellence of the maternity unit. I don't know of any CEO, whose organization depends on a steady stream of clients, who doesn't have to recruit vigorously. Such promotion was promised; it never materialized. Plenty of positive testimony about the strength of these services is available. Why was there no vigorous promotion and recruitment of clients for our maternity unit?

Second, in every organization, there are units that are money makers and those that, while not financially profitable, are essential to the organization's mission and the community. In universities, certain sciences — such as organic chemistry programs — are often under-enrolled. Nearly all university science programs do not produce much — if any — net revenue, due to the high cost of equipment, laboratories, lab assistants, etc., very much as in the case of hospitals. However, organic chemistry is an essential part of a science education, and other units, such as business, are highly financially rewarding.

It's understood that one unit's financial success ensures that essential programs, such as organic chemistry, can continue. A loss-leader may not make money, but it is important to being able to attract quality students (patients), faculty (physicians), and staff. These principles apply equally to businesses.

It is common knowledge that maternity units, like organic chemistry programs, are either marginally or not at all profitable. On the other hand, Sharon Hospital offers at least four of medicine's most lucrative services, including cardiovascular services, neuroscience, orthopedics and oncology. What could possibly be more essential to a community than a maternity unit, especially one that is trying very hard to retain all the young families who moved here during the pandemic? Surely there is adequate revenue from the top four medical services to offset losses in maternity.

The proposal to close maternity services is not only untrustworthy, but dangerous and shameful.

Lorna Duphiney  
Edmundson

Sharon

Sharon Hospital's future in question

I'm worried about the future of Sharon Hospital and you should be too. You don't have to be a Wall Street analyst, but it helps, to see that Nuvance Health is on a well-worn path to close it. Sharon Hospital makes this area an attractive place to live and to an extent, adds to property values. If it weren't here, I think we are all aware of the long-distance alternatives. It can't shut down the hospital today, simply because it wants to, it has to "justify" its actions, but a review of its actions shows it is clearly headed in that direction.

Its first shot was to declare that Sharon Hospital lost \$41.16 million from FY17-FY21 and that these "losses cannot be sustained." ([www.nuvancehealth.org/locations/sharon-hospital/sharon-hospital-transformation](http://www.nuvancehealth.org/locations/sharon-hospital/sharon-hospital-transformation)). Done properly, that analysis includes a portion of the CEO's \$13 million pay in 2020 and some portion of Nuvance's 200,000 sq. foot office space expenses in Danbury, along with all the salaries of all the people who work there.

How much did they include? How do we know that the numbers weren't cast differently for different of its hospitals in order to prove that Sharon Hospital is "unsustainable?" The company won't say. The presentation says that data proving the

loss is proprietary. How this number was arrived at needs much more disclosure, because taken at face value, the next step is to convince us all that it needs to cut services that aren't "financially viable."

Here again, the same problem emerges. Labor & Delivery is cut because there aren't enough patients to make it "sustainable." We have the same question? How much of the Nuvance CEO's salary is allocated to the expense of Labor & Delivery and is every department in the hospital treated in the same fashion or does Labor & Delivery get singled out? Sharon Hospital is a large and aging facility. It is expensive to operate, and Nuvance needs to spend money on the facility to keep up with improvements in care. That is overhead. In this way, it is no different than a large factory. Nuvance is saying it needs to do less in the building and this will demonstrably lead to closure. There is an old saying in business that "you can't shrink your way to prosperity."

By declaring the hospital needs to cut services to become "sustainable," the building and maintenance become an ever-larger burden for what's left; at which point doctors and nurses see the handwriting on the wall, making it even easier

to demonstrate to the state of Connecticut, without resorting to an analytical exercise, that Sharon Hospital is just too expensive to maintain.

That is where we are headed if it continues to cut services.

Theodore Rudd O'Neill  
Lakeville

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — October 1922

The remains of William Scott, a Civil War veteran aged 75, were brought here from Torrington on Wednesday for interment, the funeral taking place at the home of his sister, Mrs. Joseph Platt. Mr. Scott is also survived by three sons, Burt R. of Torrington, Richard A. of Salisbury and Michael of Jamestown, N.Y., and two granddaughters of Salisbury.

A car driven by Mrs. Logan of Amenia collided with the steps at the M.E. Miller harness store last week Wednesday, making it necessary to repair them quite extensively. Happily no one was injured by the collision.

R.C. Miller's cottage is receiving a new covering of asbestos shingles.

In these days of coal shortage and the burning of wood in stoves and furnaces, it is only common prudence to see to it that chimneys and flues are clean and in good order. A little inspection in this line may save a disastrous blaze.

50 years ago — October 1972

Salisbury First Selectman William B. Barnett expressed new hope Wednesday that the state Department of Environmental Protection can be persuaded to modify its burning ban that has caused serious tree and brush disposal problems for Northwest Connecticut towns. The problem is rapidly approaching crisis proportions in some towns, Mr. Barnett pointed out, with mountainous piles of trees and demolition material accumulating.

William T.P. Jenks, 21-year-old meat manager at the Lakeville Food Center for the last several years, realized a dream Friday when he became the proprietor. He succeeded a well known Lakeville resident and civic leader,

Continued next page

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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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