



Holiday bazaar
Page B5

Claudia Cayne retires
Page A3

Cornwall presents five-year plan
Page A3



Farewell to Sondheim
Compass,
Page B1

Nourish the spirit
Letters, Columns
Opinion,
Pages B3-4

Help Wanted, Services, Real Estate
Pages B5-6

The Lakeville Journal

TriCornerNews.com

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

Light up the night for the holidays

By Cynthia Hochswender

NORTH CANAAN — The holiday season rolled in fast, before many had finished their leftovers from Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 25. Snow on Friday, Nov. 26, gave the Northwest Corner a White Christmas feeling. The first candles were lit for Hanukkah on Sunday night, Nov. 28.

And the Canaan Fire Company's Parade of Lights was held that same evening, with trucks of all shapes, sizes and vintages loaded up with holiday decorations and lights. The vehicles lined up in the Stop & Shop parking lot — so many of them that the parade stretched all the way from the start point behind the grocery store all the way around the perimeter of the parking area.

Canaan Fire Company Chief Brian Allyn happily said that he didn't know how many trucks would show up to participate that evening, but it was clear

See **LIGHTS**, Page A6



PHOTOS BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Santa was at the wheel of the Canaan Fire Company truck, top photo; students in the Housatonic Valley Regional High School FFA program were also there, their float adorned with greenery from the Holiday Shop (open until Dec. 23).

COVID-19

Nursing home outbreak over, but emotional trauma lingers

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — Two days before Thanksgiving, Kevin O'Connell, CEO of the Geer Village Senior Community, received welcome news: The latest round of testing on residents and staff at the on-site nursing and rehabilitation center "all came back negative"

"We're fighting a health-care war here. Every day that we don't have somebody test positive for COVID is a day of healing for us."
Cady Bloodgood, Geer Director of Nursing

for COVID-19, he reported in a phone interview.

Over the past two months, Geer had been battling an outbreak of the virus, which had sickened 89 residents and staff at the nursing home, causing eight deaths among residents of that building on the large North Canaan campus. For O'Connell, the negative test results came as a blessing.

In a Nov. 26 update to staff, residents and family, he reported that with input from the state Department of Public Health (DPH), "we are confident to say that this outbreak is over."

All unvaccinated staff will continue to be tested twice weekly; residents will be tested as needed (neither the Center for Medicare and Medic-

aid Services (CMS) nor DPH recommend routine testing of residents).

But while the imminent threat from the virus has subsided at the 120-bed nursing home, the psychological scars the outbreak has caused may take time to heal, noted O'Connell. He predicted that some staff, "will have a delayed response to the trauma. They haven't yet had an opportunity to process their grief."

The road to emotional recovery, said the Geer administrator, will begin with counseling assistance and peer support. "We do have many volunteers to help, including a social worker with the behavioral health company we

See **COVID-19**, Page A6

Directors Wager and Levinstein to leave Sharon Playhouse

By Cynthia Hochswender

SHARON — After four years at the helm of The Sharon Playhouse, Artistic Director Alan M-L Wager and Managing Director Robert Levinstein have announced that they will leave the theater on Dec. 31.

"We had a wonderful run, it's time to turn it over to another team," they said in an interview on Nov. 26.

The charismatic pair successfully guided the theater through four years — two of which were made challenging by the COVID-19 pandemic — finding innovative ways to attract patrons to the Sharon venue with everything from cabaret nights to laser light shows, most of them on a cus-

"They've done wonderful work for us, we're really, really sorry to see them leave."

Emily Soell, president of the theater's board of directors

tom-built stage in the parking lot.

In their short time in the Northwest Corner, the two theater professionals seemed to be everywhere and to have met (and befriended) everyone in the region.

"They've done wonderful work for us, we're really, really sorry to see them leave," said Emily Soell, president of the theater's board of directors and an actress who has appeared in many Sharon Playhouse productions over the years.

Although Levinstein and Wager will oversee the final productions of this year, the Playhouse board will begin now to look for new leadership.

"We've had many different iterations of these two jobs, where we've had a managing director full time, an artistic director part time, we've tried many things."

Soell said it's possible the Playhouse will hire a management consultant specializing in the arts to help the venerable theater to move forward.

"We are going to try to be very careful and find the right

See **PLAYHOUSE**, Page A6

Finding ways to keep trauma at bay

LAKEVILLE — Marietta Whittlesey, a Lakeville psychotherapist, said a group debriefing among Geer's nursing staff is a good idea, post-outbreak, as is access to mental health counselors. "An acute stress disorder could morph into a more serious case of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)," if left untreated, she noted.

"Our minds really know how to process a lot more than people realize," but there is also a point where closure is difficult for some people, Whittlesey explained.

"That is when individuals should seek specialized trauma treatment from the many mental health counselors available throughout the area."

Symptoms that may manifest following an extremely stressful situation include persistent flashbacks or nightmares, avoidance of a particular location where the trauma happened and hypervigilance regarding COVID-19.

For example, someone not wanting to return to work, she noted.

"Also, feelings that they should have been able to do something more to help, a feeling of responsibility," the Licensed Professional Counselor noted.

Starlight memorial will be bittersweet

A cherished annual end of

See **TRAUMA**, Page A6



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Here comes Santa Claus!

Santa Claus came to town for the St. Andrew's Christmas Bazaar in Kent on Saturday, Nov. 20. For more photos, turn to Page B5.



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<p>#1 Highest Sale Litchfield County 2021 Highest Sale EVER! Salisbury</p> <p>SOLD 2021!</p> <p>SALISBURY, CT ASK \$7,900,000</p>	<p>#2 Highest Sale Litchfield County 2021 Highest Sale Roxbury 2021</p> <p>SOLD 2021!</p> <p>Klemm Listed and Klemm Sold</p> <p>ROXBURY, CT ASK \$6,200,000</p>	<p>#3 Highest Sale Litchfield County 2021 Highest Sale Washington 2021</p> <p>SOLD 2021!</p> <p>Klemm Listed and Klemm Sold</p> <p>WASHINGTON/NEW PRESTON, CT ASK \$5,995,000</p>	<p>#5 Highest Sale Litchfield County 2021 Highest Sale Sharon 2021</p> <p>SOLD 2021!</p> <p>SOLD OVER ASKING PRICE!</p> <p>Klemm Listed and Klemm Sold</p> <p>SHARON, CT ASK \$4,950,000</p>	<p>#7 Highest Sale Litchfield County 2021 2nd Highest Sale Washington 2021</p> <p>SOLD 2021!</p> <p>WASHINGTON, CT ASK \$4,995,000</p>
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In The Journal this week

OUR TOWNSA3&5, B5
 OPINION..... B3
 OBITUARIES A4&6
 VIEWPOINT B4
 COMPASS.....B1-2
 CLASSIFIEDS.....B5-6

Three-day forecast

Friday.....Cloudy, high 39°/low 25°
 Saturday.....Snow, 36°/25°
 Sunday.....Cloudy, 32°/19°

Vaccine clinics Dec. 4, 7 & 28

Griffin Health Care will be at the Town Grove Senior Center in Salisbury on Dec. 7 and 28 from 1 to 5 p.m.

The clinic will offer Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, as well as booster vaccinations.

The clinic is open to anyone ages 12 and older; no appointment is required. Bring a photo ID, vaccination card if receiving a booster, and insurance card. Insurance is not required and no one will be turned away for lack of insurance.

For further information contact Lisa McAuliffe at 860-435-5186 or email lmcauliffe@salisburyct.us.

A free COVID-19 vaccine clinic will be offered at the North Canaan Town Hall on Saturday, Dec. 4, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The walk-in clinic is open to all residents aged 12 and up who live in any Northwest Corner town. No appointment is necessary, nor is ID or insurance. All vaccine types and boosters will be offered.

Recipe correction

In the department of “Never revise a recipe on deadline,” the editors apologize for leaving out the egg yolks in the fruitcake recipe in the Holiday Gift Guide included with our issue of Nov. 25.

Reader Peg Keskinen in Cornwall noticed the error (thank you). The egg yolks are added to the butter and sugar after they have been creamed.

We apologize, and hope that you will have great success with a wonderful recipe.

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.

DUI

On Nov. 15 Edward Martin Humes, 43, of North Canaan was charged on an active warrant for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs and failure to drive in the proper lane. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on that same day.

Struck a guardrail

On Nov. 20 at approximately 4:45 p.m. on Norfolk Road in Falls Village a 2010 Ford Transit Connect driven by Juan Sierra Navarrete, 46, of Torrington swerved and struck a metal beam guardrail. The Ford was towed and Navarrete was issued an infraction for failure to maintain the lane.

Rear ended

On Nov. 20 at approximately 5:45 p.m. on Main Street in North Canaan a 2009 Chevrolet Silverado driven by Jayson Frederick Rogers, 40, of New Hartford, Conn., struck the rear of a 2018 Kia Optima driven by William Reudgen, 70,

off the road and struck a utility pole, which broke and fell across the roadway. No injuries were reported. Schwarz was issued a written warning for failure to drive right.

Violated court order

On Nov. 21 at approximately 5:45 p.m. Troop B investigated a disturbance at a residence on Millerton Road in Sharon. Following an investigation, Shawn Lucas, 45, of Sharon was charged with violating a protective order. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on the following day.

Hit and run

On Nov. 22 on Route 44 in North Canaan a hit and run motor vehicle incident occurred at approximately 7 a.m. Troop B is currently investigating the vehicle that struck a parked 2016 GMC Sierra and fled. Anyone with information is asked to contact Troop B.

Struck a utility pole

On Nov. 23 at approximately 9 a.m. on Wells Hill Road in Salisbury a 2009 Ford Super Duty driven by Elmer Berganca, 27, of Salisbury veered off the road and struck a SNET utility pole. Berganca stated he had a faulty front axle. He was issued an infraction for operating a vehicle without a license and failure to maintain the proper lane.

Struck a utility pole

On Nov. 23 at approximately 3 p.m. on West Woods Road in Sharon a 2010 Subaru Forester driven by Walter Albert Schwarz, 82, of Sharon veered

off the road and struck a utility pole, which broke and fell across the roadway. No injuries were reported. Schwarz was issued a written warning for failure to drive right.

Drove through stop sign

On Nov. 23 at approximately 6 p.m. on Cornwall Bridge in Sharon a 2019 Mercedes Benz E 450 driven by William John Cowie, 77, of Sharon traveled past a stop sign and collided with a 2012 Honda Civic driven by Richard Ian Roney-Dougal, 75, of Sharon, that was passing through the intersection. No injuries were reported. Cowie was issued an infraction for failure to obey a stop sign.

Struck a utility pole

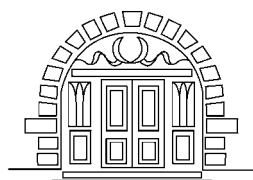
On Nov. 24 at approximately 2 p.m. on Gay Street in Sharon a 2004 Honda CRV driven by Eldi Hernandez Vasquez, 34, of Dover Plains, N.Y., veered off

the road and struck an Ever-source utility pole, causing the Honda to roll over onto its roof. Hernandez Vasquez was transported to Sharon Hospital. She was issued an infraction for failure to maintain the lane and operating without a driver's license.

Disorderly conduct

On Nov. 27 at approximately 5 p.m. Troop B responded to a report of a disturbance at a residence on Route 7 in Sharon. James Jamieson, 61, of Sharon was charged with disorderly conduct. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on Nov. 29.

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 cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com.



THE HOTCHKISS LIBRARY OF SHARON

The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon will discuss a new Computer Use and Internet Safety Policy, recently adopted by the Board of Directors, at a Zoom meeting on **Thursday, December 16 at 5:30 pm.**

The Library will implement filtering on all of its computers and internet connections in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). CIPA compliance is required for libraries to be eligible for federal funding that will assist with or cover the cost of internet related services and technology. Learn more about CIPA filtering by visiting <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/childrens-internet-protection-act>.

Copies of the new policy are available at the Library. The policy is also posted on our website, www.hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org.

The meeting is open to the public. Please register for the Zoom link at <https://hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org/event/cipameeting>

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 ESTATE OF EMILY JANE
 GIDDENS-JONES
 Late of Cornwall
 (21-00455)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 16, 2021, 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:
 Constance M Steuerwalt
 49 Popple Swamp Road
 Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754
 Megan M. Foley
 Clerk
 12-02-21

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 ESTATE OF
 DONALD J. HATCH
 Late of Canaan
 (21-00481)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 16, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciaries are:
 Michael E. Goewey and
 Donna Hatch Guzzo
 c/o Mark Capecelatro
 Mark J. Capecelatro, LLC
 117 Main St.-Box 1045
 Canaan, CT 06018
 Megan M. Foley
 Clerk
 12-02-21

**Salisbury Housing
 Committee Annual
 Meeting**

The Salisbury Housing Committee (SHC) is holding its annual meeting to elect officers for the coming year on Wednesday, December 8 at 5:00 pm, by Zoom. Members of the public are invited to attend this meeting and may submit nominees for the board before the meeting. Nominations may be made to Anne Kremer, 28 Prospect St., Lakeville. The Zoom address will be available at salisburycthousing.org after December 1. SHC is the proprietor of Sarum Village and Faith House, affordable housing units located in Salisbury. Anyone interested in renting at any SHC location should call Tammy Broderick at 860-435-0049.

11-25-21
 12-02-21

**Don't Miss
 This Week's
 Special Inserts!
 Sales and more!**

Check them out inside.

- CVS
- Ocean State Job Lot

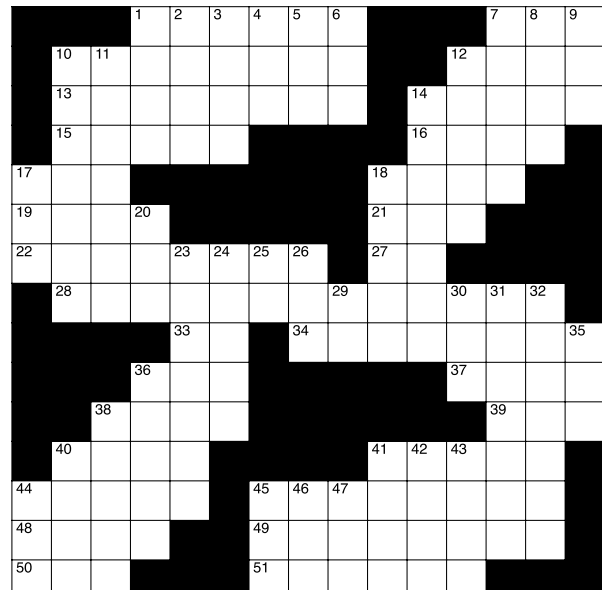
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Topsides
7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
10. A Sultan's court
12. Maine city
13. Largest living land animal
14. Appetizer
15. Encounters
16. Leader
17. The source of bacon
18. Nuclear near reach weapon (abbr.)
19. Celery (Spanish)
21. Pie ___ mode
22. Eye disease
27. Hello (slang)
28. Those in their 80s
33. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
34. Business organizations
36. Mimic
37. For indicating speed of rotation (abbr.)
38. Feeling
39. Visual way to interact with computers (abbr.)
40. "Let It Snow!" songwriter
41. Essential oil used as perfume
44. Norwegian composer
45. Coast
48. ___ lang syne, good old days
49. Gland behind the stomach
50. Tooth caregiver
51. King of Camelot

CLUES DOWN

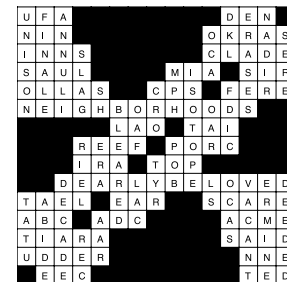
1. N. American indigenous people
2. Fascinated by
3. Root of out
4. Patti Hearst's captors
5. Atomic #50
6. Habitual drunkard
7. Arabic for "peace"
8. Trickery
9. One's physique (slang)
10. Not quite there
11. Wistfully mournful
12. Popular dance
14. Cut of meat
17. A way to stand
18. "Gunga Din" screenwriter
20. 10th month of the year (abbr.)
23. A way of jumping
24. Utah town



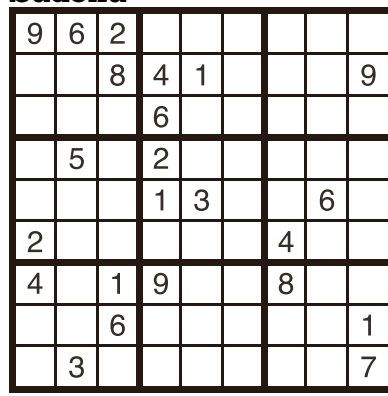
25. Of I
26. Actress de Armas
29. Silver
30. Play a role
31. ___ Falls
32. Attaches to
35. Japanese title
36. Expressed pleasure
38. Buckets
40. Dirt
41. Hypnotists' group (abbr.)
42. Restaurant drive-___
43. Digs up
44. He voices "Olaf"
45. Relaxing place
46. Body part
47. Pesky house critter

Look for the solution in next week's issue.

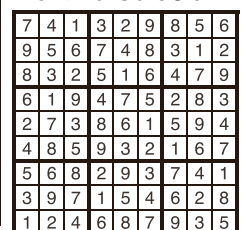
Nov. 25 Solution



Sudoku



Nov. 25 Solution



Level: Intermediate

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 To reserve seats, call 860-435-0566 or email info@salisburyassociation.org.
 Doors open at 4:30 pm. Walk-ins are allowed until the seating limit is met.

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Our Towns

After nearly two decades at Scoville, director Claudia Cayne steps down

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — After 19 and a half years, Scoville Memorial Library Director Claudia Cayne is retiring, with her last official day on Dec. 3.

In an interview at the library in November, Cayne reflected on the changes at the library — and in the library business — during her tenure.

The obvious change is the explosion in information technology.

“Libraries are in the position of defending their existence,” she said. “We successfully reinvented ourselves and remained relevant.”

When she first came to Scoville, it was routine for patrons to check out 10 books at a time.

“We don’t see as much of that.”

Also, “We used to have waiting lines for the computers,” but improved internet service at the library plus the ubiquity

of personal, portable devices put an end to that.

When she was hired, the library had no programs for adults. “One reason I was hired is I had experience [with such programs].”

“So that goal was realized in a major way.”

Cayne said more children use the library now — in part because the renovation made the children’s area more attractive, and in part because parents have been looking for more activities, given the restrictions placed on schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2016-17 renovations resulted in “a more welcoming space for people to come spend time” at the library, Cayne said.

The advent of streaming video and audio services have had a big impact on how the library uses its space.

“We had a huge weeding of the DVDs. Some hadn’t gone out in two or years or more.”



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
Claudia Cayne will retire Dec. 3 as director of the Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury.

Cayne also replaced the Dewey Decimal System.

“That was my decision. We’re the only library that has done it to this degree.”

“There was virtually no pushback after I explained that [the new system] made for easier browsing.”

But it was a big job. Every book had to be relabeled.

Asked what she is proudest of during her time at the library, Cayne thought for a moment before saying, “The most lasting impact is the building is in the best shape in decades.”

She thought a bit more and added the library’s responsiveness to patrons’ suggestions.

Asked what she’s going to do now, Cayne said, “Whatever I want.”

She said she will devote more time to volunteer activities such as the Little Guild in Cornwall.

“I like being physically active, and I bought a new road bike.”

She will also spend time on equestrian pursuits.

Cayne won’t be completely gone from the library. She said she has agreed to continue handling adult programs as long as she’s needed.

“But not past March.”

Before she leaves, she will help train incoming librarian Karin Goodell, who is now the director of the Beardsley Library in Winsted.



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Time moves at its own pace at the historic Merwinsville Hotel, which brings back a Victorian-style Christmas with its Holiday Show.

Merwinsville Hotel Holiday Show

By Lans Christensen

NEW MILFORD — The Merwinsville Hotel, still in progress with its 50-year-long restoration, is in the middle of its 20th annual Christmas Holiday Show, which extends over two weekends — it began Nov. 27-29 and continues through this weekend, Dec 3-5. Every imaginable craft

and gift is available, but the real attraction is the enormous “Dickens Village” diorama, with jaw-dropping detailed miniatures and a moving steam railroad. The village is created annually by Georganne Bensch, over two weeks (and, yes, she takes it down as well). Admission is free; get directions at www.merwinsvillehotel.org.



‘Off the Wall’ Opens in Kent Dec. 3

KENT — Five artists affiliated with the Kent Art Association have informally gathered to create an exhibition of their work, “Off The Wall,” with an opening on Friday, Dec. 3, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Incongruous, not bound by subject matter, medium or artistic sentiment, artists Carl Chalet, Werner Kappes, Frank Kara, Edward Robinson and Gino Zenobia reaffirm that art thrives in both the darkest and brightest of times.

The exhibition runs from Dec. 4 to 24 and is open Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.

All COVID protocols should be adhered to while in the gallery, which is at 21 S. Main St. in Kent, Conn.

Science meets art on Dec. 4

NORTH CANAAN — The Cranford Club is bringing the Flying Cloud Institute to the Douglas Library for a fun-filled morning of scientific and artistic exploration on Saturday, Dec.

4, from 10 a.m. to noon. This event is free and suited for pre-k and kindergarten students. Call 860-824-7863 or email douglaslibrary@comcast.net for information and to register.

Crafts & cookies at library Dec. 4

SHARON — Before the tree lighting on the Green, come to the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. to meet Father Christmas and for holiday festivities. Participants can do a holiday craft, hear some wintertime stories, and vote for their favorite entry in the Holiday Cookie Contest. Children can bring a wishlist to drop off in the North Pole mailbox.

This event will be held outdoors, so dress accordingly. The rain date will be Sunday, Dec. 5, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org

event/santa.

To enter the Holiday Cookie Contest, drop off cookies at the library on Saturday, Dec. 4, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Prizes will be awarded for favorite grown-up baked cookie, favorite kid-baked cookie, and prettiest cookie. For a list of contest rules and more information, go to www.hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org/event/cookie.

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Dear reader,

When this newspaper made a plea to our readers for support in 2019, The Lakeville Journal Company, publishers of The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News and www.tricornernews.com, was at a crossroads. Then, we were looking at drastically cutting costs in order to survive.

Two years later, after two highly successful appeals to our readership for contributions that saved your local community newspapers, this small media company is in a very different place. Your generosity kept us alive, even during a worldwide pandemic, and we were able to apply for and receive tax-exempt status from the IRS as a public charity. Your contributions to The Lakeville Journal Foundation are now tax deductible to the extent permitted under the law. Now it is time to regroup again and make a new plan to take this media company into a successful future.

During COVID-19 shutdowns and restrictions, this company was able to obtain two PPP grants from the U.S. government, which, combined with our readers’ generous support, helped us remain in place to report the news of your communities. Your wish for local news is what drives our mission, which publishes in the newspapers every week:

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

We sincerely ask you to be a Community Contributor, donating whatever you can to support local news, to The Lakeville Journal Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. Unlike the last two years, your donations are now tax deductible within the limits of the law.

Thank you for keeping track of your local news in our publications, and profound gratitude for your support that kept The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News and www.tricornernews.com here for your communities.

Noreen Doyle

Noreen Doyle, Chair

Janet Manko

Janet Manko, CEO, executive director

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Our Towns

The Writers Table has nourished creativity since 1999

By Leila Hawken

FALLS VILLAGE — Since the success in late September of the live readings by area authors at the David M. Hunt Library, it now seems likely that the readings will become a feature of the local literary calendar.

The idea began when Bosco Schell, president of the Hunt Library Committee, approached Falls Village resident and playwright Lonnie Carter seeking an idea for a literature-based public program.

The first event featured four women authors (Ann Bidou, Sheila Schwartz, Patty Ewald and Tiela Garnett) who are all members of a Falls Village group known as The Writers Table. It is most important to note that there is no possessive apostrophe in "Writers," and that is on purpose, Carter explained, during an October conversation.

The first meeting dates back to 1999 when a few literature buffs gathered to read poetry at the home of Gloria Parker, who then lived in Millerton before moving to Falls Village.

Before long, they shifted to the nearby Toymakers Café for monthly meetings that soon expanded to include an alluring potluck supper.

Toymakers Café co-owner Ann Bidou (and a member of the writing group for about 20 years) singled out the periodic addition of Sheila Schwartz's "astoundingly simple roast chicken" for its contribution to the potluck experience in recent years.

Carter said Bidou serves as organizer for the group, counted upon to send reminders of the upcoming regular meetings.

The group has always gathered to read their work to one another, Carter said, and that's pretty much how they are still structured. Having topped out at 10, they are not seeking any new members.

"We know each other really well," Carter said. He himself has been writing for nearly 50 years.

"We're supportive of each other; our critiques are constructive," Carter explained. Sometimes conversation can be practical, involving ideas

for contacts with potential publishers.

Bidou also indicated the value of the support offered by a writers' group. "My fellow writers' support is deeply important and incentivizes me to do extra editing and polishing."

Reflecting on the success of the September reading at the library, Schell said, "As a former magazine editor, I was blown away by the variety of themes: humor, loss, satire; and the high quality of work these writers produced, as well as the way they delivered it. I was enthralled."

Bidou shared the enthusiasm, feeling that the group should endorse more such library events. She even suggested the possibility of stepping it up to twice a year.

"Lord knows we would never run out of material," she added.

Be sure to remain on the lookout for future events at the Hunt Library in Falls Village that may include occasional readings from The Writers Table. Events are posted at www.huntlibrary.org.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Up on the roof

Work began on the Salisbury Congregational Church roof on Monday, Nov. 22. The church is installing solar panels as part of a "net zero" energy-efficient plan for the entire church.

Infrastructure on the agenda as town presents annual report and five-year plan

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — Following review of the town report at the annual town meeting on Friday, Nov. 19, voters unanimously approved the five-year capital expenditure plan. The relatively brief meeting, held on Zoom, drew sparse comment from the more than 30 residents in attendance.

Scott Cady was elected moderator for the half-hour meeting.

"There was a lot going on in town this past year," First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said, as he began a review of the town report. Hard copies

can be found in various public locations in town, and it can also be viewed on the town's website, www.cornwallct.org.

Ridgway urged residents to look for the report's listing of vacancies on various volunteer boards and commissions, and to consider putting their names forward to serve.

The few questions from the audience about the report sought clarification, with most sections drawing no comment at all.

One question was about the state trash facility in Hartford. Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (or MIRA) will be shut down next summer, because it needs repairs that are so expensive the state feels it can not afford them.

Ridgway indicated that the town will need to plan on an estimated 30% increase in disposal cost over the present annual fee of \$30,000.

The state plans to transport the region's waste to a Midwestern or Southern state. Ridgway said he feels that would be environmentally unsound.

"It's a crisis that has come home to roost," he said, indicating that Cornwall is working with other area towns to find a viable alternative.

The town's finances were reviewed by Board of Finance

Chairman Joseph Pryor, who summarized points in a report assembled by the town's finance officer, Barbara Herbst.

Pryor reported that the tax collection rate has increased despite the pandemic, with unassigned funds standing at \$2.43 million and the town maintaining a four-month operating reserve.

He added that the mill rate has remained flat for the past three years, thanks to growth in the Grand List.

The five-year capital plan, approved in advance by the selectmen and finance board and adopted at the town meeting, anticipates an expense of

\$680,000 in the coming year, the same amount as the current year.

That amount will support capital projects including road and bridge repair, the replacement funds for fire department and town crew vehicles and the town building maintenance and renovation fund (which includes Cornwall Consolidated School). The plan is posted on the town website.

Ridgway reported that some of the projects included in the plan are supported in part by state funding. He noted that the West Cornwall wastewater project is slated for a possible vote in the spring of 2022, ex-

pecting that the town will have been notified about federal funding for the project by then.

Of the capital plan, Ridgway said, "We try to level out the annual expenses so we can keep our infrastructure maintained."

The mill rate determines property taxes in Connecticut towns. A mill represents \$1 in tax for every \$1,000 of assessed property value. A 15-mill tax rate would translate into a tax bill of \$1,500 for the owner of a home assessed at \$100,000.

The grand list is the total assessed value of all taxable property in a town.

Properties are assessed at 70 percent of their total value.



Sharon Hospital Community Update

Come learn about the latest developments at Sharon Hospital. President Mark Hirko, MD, will present a virtual community report that includes information on our services and an update on the affiliation that created Nuvance Health. The independent monitor we engaged will report on its review of compliance with the affiliation agreement issued by Connecticut's Office of Health Strategy.

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

Please join us via Zoom webinar:

 nuvancehealth.org/CTForums
Join via phone: (646) 558-8656 or (669) 900-6833
Meeting ID: 928 8491 3239 Passcode: 896086

 December 14  5:30-7 pm

To submit questions in advance:

Call: (845) 554-1734

Email: sharonhospital@nuvancehealth.org

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

This will also stream live at facebook.com/sharonhospital

No registration required

TTY/Accessibility: (800) 842-9710

COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

STREAMING: ED FERMAN

The Great Stephen Sondheim

Stephen Sondheim died last week at age 91. He transformed the American musical. Ranking his musicals seems futile; they are all so different and almost all so good. Some of his best-known work, such as “Follies” and “Company,” is poorly suited for film adaptation, but two of his finest shows have had successful movie versions.

“Into the Woods” I saw the acclaimed 2019 Barrington Stage production of this much-loved show and came away thinking it doesn’t get any better than this. So I approached the film warily. But I doubt even the most fervent Sondheim worshippers will complain much about this spectacular 2014 Disney production, directed by

Rob Marshall and starring Meryl Streep.

Sondheim and James Lapine have conjured up a captivating look at several fairy tales — Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood — and intertwined them with a tale of their own.

A baker (James Corden) and his wife (Emily Blunt) are sent on a quest by a witch (Streep) to find the following items in order to have a baby: “A cow white as milk, cape red as blood, hair yellow as corn, and slipper pure as gold.”

During their adventures in the woods they encounter classic characters including Cinderella (Anna Kendrick), her evil stepmother (Christine Baranski) and the big bad wolf (Johnny Depp).

The first act (or 1:15 into the film) ends with the success of their quest and everyone perhaps living happily ever after.

Something quite different happens in the second act (final 45 minutes). The story moves away from fairy tales and begins to resemble the way we live now; that is to say, it gets a lot darker. Some will survive; some won’t.

The finale rewards us with a hopeful ending, two of Sondheim’s loveliest songs — “Children Will Listen” and “No One Is Alone” — and perhaps a few tears.

If you would like to step up from the usual holiday movies, gather the family and watch this wonderful show. Stream on Disney, rent on Amazon.



PHOTO COURTESY IMDB

Start a new holiday tradition by streaming Stephen Sondheim’s “Into the Woods,” starring local favorite actress Meryl Streep.

‘Sweeney Todd’

The Demon Barber of Fleet Street is definitely not a family show — unless you are the Addams Family. I saw the stage version during a 1989 revival at Circle In The Square, which was like having a front row seat at a slaughterhouse.

Tim Burton (“Edward Scissorhands,” “Batman”) directed the 2007 DreamWorks film and was the perfect man for the job. Johnny Depp was cast as Todd, not an obvious choice — Jack Nicholson must have been tied up (“Here’s Sweeney!”) — but Depp gave a fine performance that won him a Golden Globe and an Oscar. Helena Bonham Carter plays Mrs. Lovett, and Sacha Baron Cohen makes a brief but splashy

appearance.

Many of you will recall the plot. Todd returns to London after a false imprisonment, obsessed with avenging the judge who sent him away and took custody of his lovely daughter, Johanna. He gets his revenge but not before entering into a scheme to provide meat for Mrs. Lovett’s pies. Much slaughter ensues. The conclusion is a shocking stew of intrigue, retribution and carnage, with some relief being provided by the romance between a young sailor and Johanna.

The thrilling Sondheim score holds this dark melodrama together. Some songs may be familiar — “Pretty Women” and “Johanna” — but, as in all of his shows, the action does not pause for songs; they move the story along, like dialogue or opera. The director of the Metropolitan Opera reportedly was willing to stage “Sweeney” at the Met.

Turn up the brightness on your TV and stream it on Hulu or rent on Amazon.



IMAGE FROM DM HUNT LIBRARY

Handmade toys by Jennifer Markow are among items for sale at the D.M. Hunt Library pop-up shop in Falls Village, Conn.

ARTISAN GIFTS AND EDIBLES AT D.M. HUNT LIBRARY SHOP

The holiday pop-up shop at the D.M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn., continues until Jan. 11, during library hours (Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5p.m., Friday 3 from 3 to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

The Holiday Pop-Up Shop has crafts, ornaments and foodie stash from local artisans and small businesses. Items for purchase will include glass ornaments by Nunwell Glass, pottery by Diane Schapira, small sculptures by Serge Fedorjaczenco and toys by Jennifer Markow. For foodies there will be culinary

salts from Rolling Rock Farms, maple syrup from Lou Timolat and Eric Carlson’s Falls Village Saw Mill, and jams from Bosco Schell.

For book lovers, there is a brand-new large Hunt tote bag and a book sale cart packed with volumes perfect for giving.

In addition, the exhibition Flora & Fauna remains on display through Dec. 19. It features etchings of cats and wildlife by Allen Blagden and paintings on glass with marbled paper by Lilly Woodworth.

A portion of all sales benefits the library, which is at 63 Main St.

SMITHFIELD CHURCH CONCERT AND TEA DEC. 4

After a one-year hiatus, the Smithfield Church Christmas Concert & Tea returns on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 4 p.m.

The Smithfield Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Matt Finley will present holiday classics, an offertory on Greensleeves, excerpts from “The Nutcracker Suite,” readings of two poems and more.

There is no cost to attend. Masks are required for the concert; anyone attending the tea after the concert must bring proof of vaccination.

The Smithfield Church is at 656 Smithfield Valley Road (Route 83) in Amenia, N.Y. For more information, contact thesmithfieldchurch@gmail.com or go to www.thesmithfieldchurch.org.

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Christmas Concert and Tea

The Smithfield Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Matt Finley



The Smithfield Church
656 Smithfield Valley Rd., Amenia, NY

December 4
4:00

...The Chamber Orchestra returns, playing Christmas songs and classics!

TheSmithfieldChurch.org/concert for program details...

This event is part of *The Bang Family Concert Series*

The public is invited
No entrance admission...
A plate will be passed during the performance for those who wish to make donations to the church. Contributions will be gratefully accepted.

Attendees are asked to wear a mask in the church, and those wishing to stay after the concert for tea are required to show proof of immunization.
Thank you for your cooperation.

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The Timeless Classic
LIVE On Stage!

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE
A LIVE RADIO PLAY
BY JOE LANDRIS

Saturday, December 11
2:00pm & 7:00pm

Sunday, December 12
3:00pm

Holiday Entertainment for the Whole Family!

\$10 Kids (12 and Under)
\$20 Adults

Sharon PLAYHOUSE

More Info & Tickets:
SharonPlayhouse.org

All performances in the Bok Gallery.
Proof of vaccination will be required.

CHARLIE BROWN Christmas

Friday, December 17
7:00pm

Saturday, December 18
3:00pm & 7:00pm

Sunday, December 19
3:00pm

DAY TRIPS: DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Discovering the Secrets of a Summer Estate — Now That Autumn Has Arrived

Full and winter usher in new seasons of beauty and tranquility throughout the 510-acre Topsmead State Forest in Litchfield, Conn., whose crown jewel is an elegant yet understated circa 1925 English Tudor-style cottage.

Edith Morton Chase built her home at Topsmead as a summer escape, but after the scent of spring and summer flowers is gone, the estate unfolds in a different way.

Trees that have shed their leaves reveal the bones of a landscape that captivates the senses. The main house, designed by noted architect Richard Henry Dana Jr., is the focal point, with its cypress exterior woodwork, lead downspouts, walls of brick and stucco, and slate roof.

Upon her death in 1972, Chase bequeathed her beloved country estate to the people of Connecticut and requested in her will that Topsmead remain undisturbed and in "a state of natural beauty," according to a history of the forest on the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) website.

Over the years, an endowment left by Chase — a savvy businesswoman, who built up her wealth and real estate holdings over the decades — has been used to preserve the buildings and grounds as they were at the time of her death.

The former landowner adored the outdoors, as is

The flowers are gone now at Topsmead State Forest in Litchfield, Conn., revealing the structures behind them. It's a perfect time for a day trip.

evident from the landscaping around the cottage. Twisted old apple trees and ornamental cherry trees line the drive, complementing the home's striking architecture. Their leaves long gone, beauty is revealed in the few remaining apples high atop the trees, or the clusters of ruby-red cherries suspended from barren limbs, making for a breath-taking silhouette against an azure sky.

Plantings of holly and juniper come into focus, now that the forsythia, peonies, lilacs and fragrant perennials are enjoying their seasonal slumber. As the nights grow longer, the curled, fallen leaves and once-soft flower petals allow the sculptural evergreens and mature trees to make an elegant statement.

According to a history of the property on the DEEP website, in 1917 Chase received 16 acres of land on Jefferson Hill in Litchfield from her father, Henry Chase, the first president of Chase Brass & Copper Company in Waterbury, Conn.

She originally built a rustic cabin on the prop-



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

erty, which was later replaced by the current residence. In 1927, according to the historical account, Chase purchased the former Buell Farm and renamed the property Topsmead Farm to reflect its "top of the meadow" location. At one time the farm produced food used on the estate.

On a recent late-morning visit, a handful of visitors strolled the lawns and paths and rested at picnic tables scattered throughout the site. The Edith M. Chase Ecology Trail offers a 7/10ths mile walk with interpretive signs. A weathered sign directs visitors to the forest's butterfly garden and wildlife viewing blind.

The park, on Buell Road, is open for year-round passive recreation, including walking, bird-watching, picnicking

and cross-country skiing. Gates open at 8 a.m. and close at sunset. Visitors are invited to picnic on the grounds; open fires or grills are not allowed. Pets on a leash are permitted in the picnic areas and on hiking trails.

The park and exterior of the building can be visited daily all year long; the gates close at sunset.

For more information, go to <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/State-Parks/Forests/Topsmead-State-Forest>, or follow the Facebook link for the Friends of Topsmead State Forest.

The complete set of illustrations by **Carl Chalet** From his book "Man's First Word" Showing in the Group Exhibition OFF THE WALL

Opening: December 3rd, 6 – 8 pm
Where: Kent Art Association
 21 South Main Street, Kent
 Show runs December 4 – December 24
 Thursday – Sunday, 1 – 5 pm

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Send items to calendar@lakevillejournal.com. All entries can be found at www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar.

MISC.

SWSA Ski Swap Sale. Lakeville Hose Company, 4 Brook St., Lakeville, Conn. www.salisburyisjumping.com
 Dropoff Dec. 3, 4 to 7 p.m.
 Sale is Dec. 4, 8 to 11 a.m., pick up money, unsold equipment from 11 to noon. No dropoffs Dec. 4.

Housatonic Valley FFA Holiday Store. 246 Warren Tpke., Falls Village, Conn., ffa.hvhs.org
 Trees, wreaths, roping, poinsettias and more; Nov. 27-Dec. 23, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hometown Holidays. Lakeville Firehouse, 4 Brook St., Lakeville, Conn.
 Dec. 4: 11-4 Vendor Fair; 3-5 Photos with Santa; 5:30 Tree Lighting

Santa and Cookie Contest in Sharon. Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main Street, Sharon, Conn., www.hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org
 Meet Father Christmas, hear stories and participate in a craft, Dec. 4, 1 to 3:30 p.m.; Holiday Cookie Contest, drop off cookies between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Tree Lighting in Sharon. The Green, Main St., Sharon, Conn.
 Tree lighting, carols, hot cider on the porch of the Sharon Historical Society & Museum, Dec. 4 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Tree Lighting and Gingerbread House Competition. Cornwall Library, 30 Pine Street, Cornwall, Conn., www.cornwalllibrary.org
 Children's and adult categories with prizes, Dec. 5 beginning at 4 p.m.

Kent parade of Lights. Kent, Conn.
 Dec. 4, Line up at Kent Green at 5 p.m., Step off at 6 p.m.

ART

The Clark Art Museum. 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. www.clarkart.edu
 PRINT ROOM POP-UP, Dec. 4, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Five Points Center for the Visual Arts. 855 University Dr., Torrington, Conn. www.fivepointsgallery.org
 CLAY SNOWMEN, Dec. 4, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Kenise Barnes Fine Art. 7 Fulling Lane, Kent, Conn. www.kbfa.com
 Holiday pop up shop, Dec. 4, noon to 4 p.m.

BOOKS

Oblong Books & Music. 26 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. www.oblongbooks.com
 In-Person Book Signing: Annie Leibovitz, Wonderland, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.

The Mount. 2 Plunkett St., Lenox, Mass. www.edithwharton.org
 Home: A Celebration with Charlotte Moss & Susan Wisler, Dec. 7, 4 p.m. (online).

KIDS

Norman Rockwell Museum. 9 Glendale Road, Stockbridge, Mass. www.nrm.org
 Joyful Holidays Family Day, Dec. 4, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Winter Wonderland Scavenger Hunts, Dec. 5.

MOVIES

Bardavon. 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. www.bardavon.org
 FILM: IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (1946), Dec. 3, 8 p.m.

MUSIC

Salisbury Association. Salisbury, Conn. www.salisburyassociation.org
 Annual Holiday Concert, Dec. 4, 5 p.m.

THEATER

The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck. 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck, N.Y. www.centerforperformingarts.org
 A Christmas Carol, Dec. 3 to 19.

Shakespeare & Company. 70 Kemble St., Lenox, Mass. www.shakespeare.org
 The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley, Dec. 16 to 19.

At The Movies

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EDITORIAL

Now, time for nourishing the spirit

In this year of vaccination and boosters, more holiday events are happening than in 2020, giving all the opportunity to find some inspiration in the season that was harder to come by last year. But, you may find that after the revelation of a new variant of COVID and supply chain problems, it seems as if the holiday spirit is still in too short a supply around your house this year. Time to encourage the first annual viewing of some family members' favorite holiday movies and such activities? If that doesn't do the trick, there are additional ways to increase the goodwill to all so necessary to enjoying the shortest and darkest days of the year. You will have your own ideas, and this year we would really like to hear about them through letters on our opinion pages, but here are a couple of suggestions to get you on your way.

Take a look through Compass this week to see calendar listings, as well as briefs throughout the newspaper, of tree lightings and parades of lights, Menorah lightings, concerts, chorales, dance performances, decorating days, festivals of trees, seasonal theater, special showings of movies on the big screen, church bazaars and ceremonies and more. Attending any of these will go a long way toward gathering some good feelings for the rest of the season. And after all, there has already been some snow to begin the process, so we should be halfway there.

One important thing to remember at this time of year, though, is that many of the season's celebrations also function as fundraisers for area nonprofit organizations. These include not only the churches, food pantries and gift collections, but also the libraries, historical societies, fire companies and more. Many of them may just wish to break even, yet would benefit from greater support at this time of year, especially after a time of extended pandemic-limited activity.

This year our plea to readers to support nonprofits will include, of course, this newly minted media nonprofit. The Lakeville Journal Foundation is now an approved nonprofit organization, and as noted in our enclosed letter of appeal for support, any donation to it will have tax benefits as allowed by law. So thank you to all our readers who include us in your end of year giving. It means so much to all of us who are working to keep local journalism alive in the region.

Thinking about our neighbors who could use some help getting through the holidays, and the cold winter months to follow, can help give us all some reasons to feel good about giving to worthy organizations, as so many do at the end of the year coinciding with the holidays.

If we find ways to help those in our communities who are struggling, as those holiday celebrations encourage us to do, and carry that sense of community into the months ahead, the spirit of the holidays will mean even more and have longlasting effects for those around us, and for ourselves.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — December 1921

SALISBURY — Several from this place went up on Mt. Riga last week to witness the devastation caused by the ice storm. While it was a magnificent sight, the sun lighting up whole forests of glittering diamonds, it made all heartsick to see the terrific destruction of valuable trees.

LIME ROCK — Mr. Walter Boardman was out of town a few days the early part of the week buying Christmas goods.

The State Police Department has condemned the town hall at Canaan. The Selectmen of that town are contemplating making the necessary changes and improvements.

LAKEVILLE — The framework of E.J. Vosburgh's new cottage on Bostwick Hill is up and Edward McCue's new cottage on Main Street is also progressing.

Work on the new concrete road from Canaan to New Milford is to be started very soon.

Wm. Judd has installed a pipeless heater at his barber shop

50 years ago — December 1971

That old Canaan — Falls Village — North Canaan confusion cropped up again this week. This time it clouded the picture as to which town gets how much aid under the

Emergency Employment Act of 1971. Thousands of dollars in services may be at stake. The mistake occurred when unemployment figures for the town of North Canaan were originally attributed to Falls Village, giving that town an unemployment rate of 22.5 percent.

Although journalistic gremlins caused a mistaken headline on The Lakeville Journal's front page last week, this Saturday is the proper Saturday for the glass collection at the Salisbury town garage. The conscientious recyclers who left their accumulated jars and bottles at the appointed spot last week needn't worry; their contributions will be included in the regularly scheduled collection, which will be this Saturday morning from 8:30 to noon. The recycling committee of the Housatonic Audubon Society is sponsoring the project.

Irate Kent property owners remained up in the arms this week as efforts continue to find a way around tax revaluations that have increased local assessments by as much as 3000 percent. More than 150 property owners voted last Friday night to seek redress of their grievances through a special town meeting, but Town Counsel Thomas F. Wall advised later that such action would not be legal or binding upon the Kent Board of Assessors.

One of the early casualties of the winter weather was state trooper Dean Hammond, who

lives on Twin Lakes Road in Salisbury. While patrolling on Mt. Riga on his snowmobile last Thursday, Trooper Hammond fell from the vehicle and dislocated his shoulder. Salisbury's resident state trooper Robert Smithwick, who was with Trooper Hammond, on his own snowmobile, came to the rescue and transported the injured man down the mountain.

Milt Machlin of Brinton Hill Road, Amesville, has been appointed editor of Argosy magazine. Mr. Machlin has been with Argosy since 1958. He was promoted from picture editor to managing editor in 1961 and to executive editor in 1967.

The Berkshire-Litchfield Environmental Conservancy Council in Lakeville has obtained 1,000 "SAVE CANAAN MOUNTAIN" bumper stickers as reminders of its opposition to the Canaan Mountain pumped-storage project. They are available to members and friends.

The 1971 edition of the White Oak, Housatonic Valley Regional High School's yearbook, recently was honored with an award in journalism. The award was presented by the New England Scholastic Press Association for last year's publication.

East Cornwall is a small rural community situated at the top of Great Hill, lying in the eastern part of Cornwall.

Houses are at least a quarter mile apart. In the past two or three years, several newcomers have moved into this community and have not become acquainted with each other or those who have lived here for many years. Miss Harriet L. Clark, a lifetime resident, decided to do something about it. On Tuesday, she and Mrs. Marjorie Osuch held a coffee klatch at Mohawk Farm, Miss Clark's home, to enable these neighbors to become better acquainted. Twelve were invited and nine were able to attend. An enjoyable hour was spent by all.

Dr. Richard Collins of Lakeville has accepted the post of Director of Health for the Town of North Canaan. Selectmen announced last week their appointment of Dr. Collins, a specialist in internal medicine and a member of the Sharon Clinic staff since 1968. Dr. Collins fills the vacancy created this fall by the death of Dr. Robert Sellow Jr. With Dr. Sellow's death North Canaan lost its only resident physician.

Adv: Cook in minutes, not hours... with the new Hotpoint Portable Microwave Oven. Operates on standard 115V outlet. Needs no special wiring. Perfect for kitchen, patio, poolside, cabin, boat or campsite. Cuts conventional cooking time 50 to 90 percent. Do a meat loaf in 18 minutes. Ideal

Continued next page



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

A walk in the snow: feels like winter

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The hospital is trying to sustain itself

It seems to me that in all the hype and noise about Nuvance Health's plans for Sharon Hospital, there has been a certain amount of disingenuous and deceptive branding.

The group making all the noise about "Save Our Hospital" are misconstruing the effect of Nuvance's plans.

Saving the hospital is exactly what Dr. Hirko and the Nuvance leadership are trying to do. And to save the overall organism, they have to sacrifice one element which is not self-sustaining.

So, if the protestors want to be more honest

about the campaign, they should call it "Save Our Maternity Center."

Because the overall fiscal viability of the hospital is exactly what Nuvance is trying to sustain. Painful changes often have to be made. Assets reassigned. Community needs redefined. Prioritizing the most important elements does not put the entire hospital at risk.

Quite the opposite.

Nat Benchley

Sharon

Sharon Playhouse mourns the loss of longtime friend Marshall Schwarz

Last week the Sharon Playhouse lost one of its most beloved, loyal, supportive Board Members. And the Playhouse's board, staff and management alike are heartbroken.

His statesmanship, wisdom, commitment and generosity

were as laudable as his sense of humor and cut-to-the-chase ability to address divisions and decisions. We are touched and humbled by his family's request for support of the Playhouse in lieu of flowers.

You are missed, Marshall.

You will be remembered for as long as the Playhouse stands.

Emily Soell and the Board, Management and Staff of the Playhouse

Sharon

Deadline for letters is Monday at 10 a.m. for that week's publication. Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com. Letters are not more than 500 words.

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

GUEST COMMENTARY
JON SWAN

Of Fire, Ice and Hollow Men

Robert Frost's famous poem, "Fire and Ice," which posed the question whether the world will end in fire or in ice, was published in Harper's Magazine just over a century ago, in 1920. The nine-line poem may have been inspired by the poet's reading of Dante's "Inferno" or, more likely, by a conversation with Harvard astronomer Harlow Shapley whom Frost had asked, a year before he wrote the poem, how the world would end. Shapley replied that either the sun would explode and incinerate the Earth or Earth would end up freezing in deep space.

Now, in 2021, the answer to Frost's question seems increasingly clear. The headline of an August 6, 2021, Wall Street Journal report by Ann M. Simmons, the Journal's Moscow bureau chief, read "One of the coldest places on earth" — Yakutia, about 3,000 miles from Moscow — "is on fire." The subhead noted that "Blazes could pump a record amount of CO2 into the atmosphere, with wildfires also plaguing California, Turkey, and Canada."

The Moscow Times, for its part, pointed out that, while global warming is thawing Siberian soil that has been frozen for millennia, Russia is warming 2.5 times faster than the planet. The headline of an April 30, 2019, Nature magazine article, by Merritt R. Turetsky and colleagues, spelled out the result: "Permafrost collapse is accelerating carbon release." The text went on to warn that "the sudden collapse of thawing soils" may double the warming from greenhouse gases released from the tundra.

Meanwhile, as the climate warms, the sea level of the world's oceans is rising. As a Nov. 5, 2021, The Conversation article, by Jianjun Yin, associate professor of geosciences at the University of Arizona, noted: "Since 1880, average global sea levels have risen by more than 8 inches...and the rate has been accelerating with climate change." As Professor Yin pointed out, if the polar ice in Greenland and Antarctica melted completely, the global sea level would rise by 200 feet—"about the height of the Statue of Liberty."

Drowning Lady Liberty, not to mention the east, south and west coasts of America, should be a criminal offense, but the oil companies have gotten away with attempted matricide for decades — as exemplified by a headline in the October 26,

Continued next page

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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The acquitted vigilante should spare us his views

Now that he's been acquitted of murdering two with his illegal semi-automatic, 18-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse should go home and spare us from having to listen to his unformed views on current events.

His own lawyer has advised him to change his name and start his life over again. He should, for his own good and that of this deeply divided nation.

But he probably won't. The temptation to become an extremist icon will be too great and he will likely let himself be exploited by those who see him as a useful prop for their own pursuits. I hope I'm wrong.

Some of the members of Congress who made noises about making the teenager a congressional intern will follow through on the offer and Rittenhouse or his mother may see it as a nice career move.

Rep. Madison Cawthorn, one of our stranger statesmen, released a video after the verdict reminding his followers, "You have a right to defend yourself. Be armed, be dangerous, be moral." He has invited Rittenhouse to accept an internship in his office where he can be armed and dangerous and moral while getting coffee for the congressman and his staff.

Donald Trump Jr., the noted big game hunter, is promoting a gun rights organization's plan to send Rittenhouse a brand, new AR-15 to replace the one the police confiscated. And don't be surprised if the National Rifle Assn. treats him like its Man of the Year or at least, its Second Amendment poster boy, the living and

breathing personification of the 21st century militiaman. Only now we call them vigilantes.

I have no quarrel with the Kenosha, Wis., jury that deliberated 26 hours before unanimously accepting Rittenhouse's contention that he was defending himself when he shot and killed one demonstrator who attempted to seize his gun and the other who attacked him with a skateboard. He then wounded the third who had pointed a handgun at him.

There were many hot button side issues surrounding this case: vigilantism, racial justice, gun rights and the like but the jury accepted the defendant's claim of self defense and that's all it had to do.

Legal experts point out that Wisconsin law, like many other states, requires the prosecution to disprove a defendant's claim he was trying to defend himself when he killed someone and to do it beyond a reasonable doubt.

The Kenosha prosecutors failed but they did show evidence of Rittenhouse recklessly pointing his semi-automatic at people before the shooting started. The teenager had no firearms training, but he did have the right to openly carry the weapon he was too young to buy or own. If you think this makes no sense, you're on to something.

The presiding judge, Bruce Schroeder, who seemed hostile to the prosecution, inexplicably dropped a charge of unlawfully carrying a dangerous weapon,

which Rittenhouse was clearly doing. And even though it would have been a misdemeanor, probably carrying no jail time, conviction would have at least acknowledged Rittenhouse's conduct was something less than heroic.

He was, without a doubt, playing vigilante and the vigilante is the next worst thing to the lynch mobster in the lexicon of those who take the law into their own hands. The process of turning him into a hero continued within hours of the verdict with his booking on the Tucker Carlson talk show, with other Fox propagandists waiting in the wings.

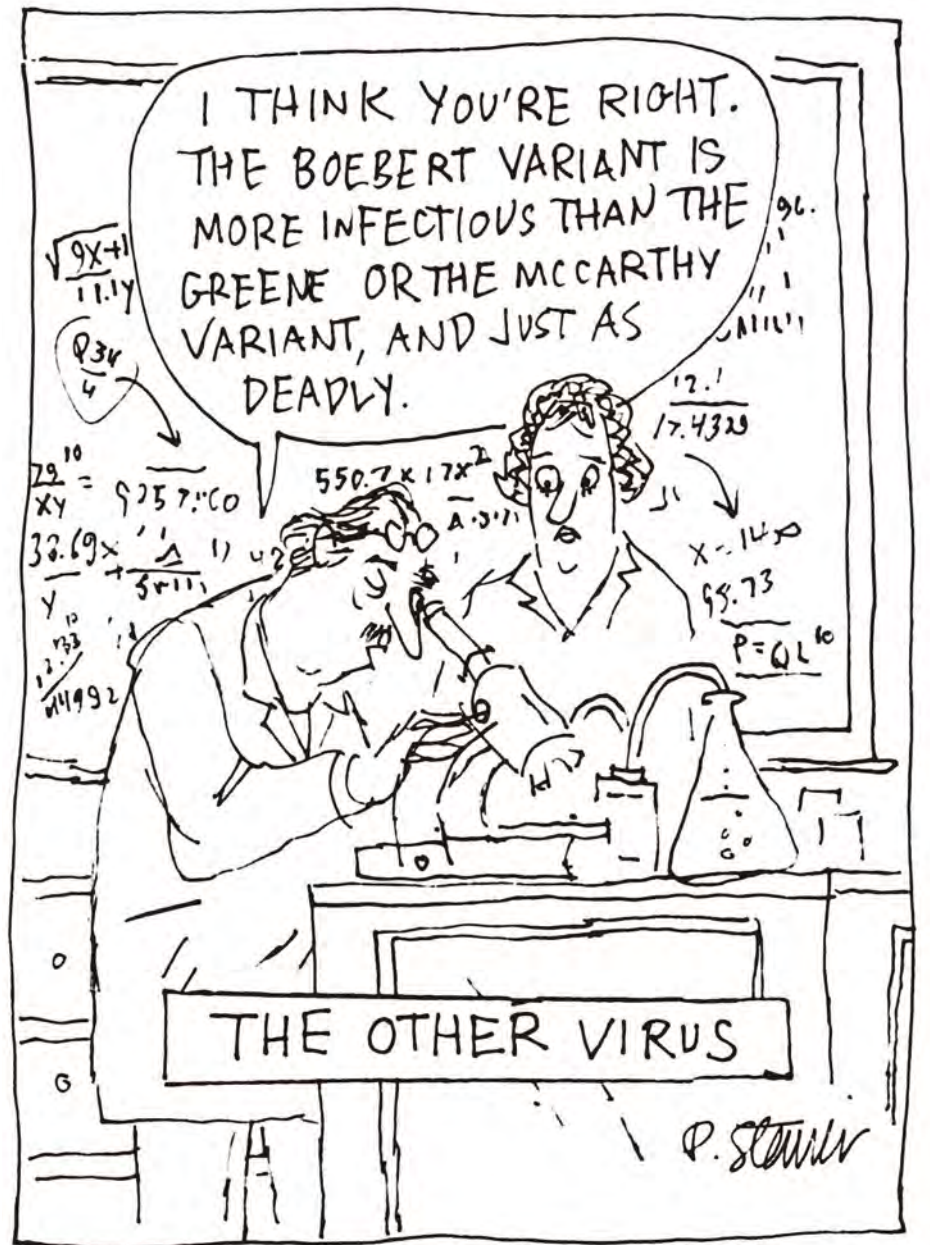
Thoughtful conservatives like David French agreed with parents of the Parkland, Fla., school shooting victims in expressing fear that Rittenhouse will soon be joined by copycats who see his verdict as a license for them to obtain a gun and play militiaman.

"When you turn a foolish young man into a hero," wrote French in *The Atlantic*, "you'll see more foolish young men try to emulate his example."

There won't be a shortage of foolish younger and older men in a nation that has more guns than people. And if the Supreme Court makes open carrying easier in an upcoming New York case, we can expect more gun toting teenagers and their elders standing their ground, shooting and killing and making not always legitimate pleas of self defense.

Simsbury resident Dick Ahles is a retired journalist. Email him at rahles1@outlook.com.

IF YOU ASK ME DICK AHLES



Missing the old neighborhood

I have no doubt that anyone reading even the first few sentences of this column will guess my age and they will definitely be right on the money. Yet, although I am not a kid anymore and I've gone through the so-called many phases of life, I do not consider myself a close-minded person. I am very much up to date with technology, and I feel very much at home with different kinds of software. I do pay my bills online, and guess what? I just connected my iPhone to the printer through wi-fi, which made me feel I am pretty much in touch with our new reality.

But when I recently signed up to one of those social media apps that helps bring neighbors together and gives the people who live around us a sense of community and fellowship, that's when I realized how old fashioned and outdated my way of connecting with people has been. And it appeared that the only way I might have a sense of joy and connectedness with neighbors is if my skills are, using a tech word, "upgraded." Which means that instead of a face-to-face and personal interaction, I should use an app to communicate with people who live only a stone's throw away from my house.

And this is exactly where I felt an inner resistance and total unwillingness to adapt to this new reality of what a neighbor and neighborhood means to

me. In fact, I actually felt that emotional need to somehow transport myself to those olden days, where instead of scrolling up and down the screen to find out what's going on in the neighborhood, I wanted to actually feel and sense the person, the beating of his or her heart, the facial expressions and the tone of voice of the person I am in touch with.

Oh boy, now the reader will definitely know my true age, especially when I tell the story of when, decades ago, neighbors watched my aunt climb the roof of her house and shout from the top of her lungs informing the folks in town that her daughter just had a baby girl who is as beautiful as a mermaid and that the baby had blue eyes like her old Uncle Samuel, and curly hair like old Aunt Martha.

The echo of that announcement reverberated from window to window, door to door and from mouth to ear until the entire neighborhood knew all about the baby girl who had blue eyes and curly hair. And in return they whispered prayers and expressed wishes of health and happiness for the parents and the new baby. And that's exactly how news was broadcast and how people expressed their feelings of joy and sadness in those now forgotten pre-tech days.

But that's exactly why having been brought up in an old-fashioned neighborhood, I felt it was perfectly normal for me when my wife and I first moved to this beautiful town of Lakeville, to walk across the street and knock at the door of my neighbor and ask if they have any advice in finding

someone who can shovel out the snow. And to my surprise and astonishment, my new neighbor, who couldn't even pronounce my name, told me that he would be delighted to plow the snow himself and that will be without any charge. And that was for me like a homecoming thousands of miles away from my birthplace.

To this day, I am still a believer of getting my information

from an actual person, a human being with whom I can share a laugh, a shake of hands and at some point perhaps a cup of coffee and, why not, sometime in the very near future a backyard barbecue with all the members of our families.

But things have changed. Don't I know it?

And even an old-school fellow like me understands the hazards of openness with neighbors who might seem friendly but might intrude on our privacy and cause trouble. Yet, I will always before login to another neighborhood app will not hesitate to knock on a neighbor's door, say, "Hello neighbor," and after a little chat about the best or worst pizza place in town, I will ask if he has any suggestions on where to buy a Christmas tree.

And that's the flesh and blood kind of neighborhood I am still longing for. Which proves the saying that you can take the man out of the old neighborhood, but you can't take the old neighborhood out of the man.

Varoujan Froundjian is a digital artist and writer. He can be reached at: varlink3050@gmail.com.

Dogs that help endangered species

Dear EarthTalk: What are conservation dogs?

— *Jon Gretcham, Portland, OR*

Simply put, conservation dogs are canines specially trained in sniffing out evidence of specific wildlife species that scientists are seeking to learn more about for one reason or another. Most commonly these dogs are used to help biologists understand where and how threatened or endangered wildlife species are hanging on—or if they are still around at all.

At the forefront of this burgeoning field is Rogue Detection Teams (RDT), a Washing-

ton State based non-profit that sends their specially trained dogs around North America and beyond to help scientific researchers, government agencies and non-profit groups gather field evidence in order to further their conservation work.

It's no wonder that conservationists have started using detection dogs, a standard practice in the military and law enforcement since the

1940s when U.S. troops first employed canines to detect German land mines in North

Africa. By pairing human handlers well-versed in ecology and biology (the "bounders") with detection dogs trained on a specific scent,

conservationists can monitor the density, distribution and overall health of certain species of concern.

To wit, Rogue's dogs have worked all over the world helping conservation groups bolster their cases with hard data collected in the field.

EarthTalk is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. To donate, visit www.earthtalk.org.*

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TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

Continued from previous page

for instant menus, snacks, reheating or defrosting. \$399.00 Kustom Kitchens of Litchfield Inc.

Mr. and Mrs. Isadore Tadiello of Canaan and Mrs. and Mrs. Roy Stanard of Norfolk left Saturday for Pearl Harbor where they will participate in a reunion of the veterans of that fateful day. Mr. Tadiello was stationed on the USS Curtiss during the attack while Mr. Stanard served aboard the Thornton.

25 years ago — December 1996

Michael Flint, the man who characterizes himself as the Northwest Corner's Rush Limbaugh, is giving up his Sunday morning radio show "Straight Talk." After 30 months on the air, Mr. Flint's next broadcast is his last. Pressures from various sources forced him to give up the show, he explained in an interview Wednesday morning.

Jennifer Martin was recognized as an Iris Honor Scholar at Elmira College earlier this semester. Ms. Martin is the daughter of Arthur and Carol Martin of West Cornwall.

Citing serious radio transmission problems due to the area's topography, Litchfield County Dispatch, which handles emergency 911 calls for 19 area towns, has plans to erect a communications tower in Canaan. The free-standing lattice-type tower would be located on the Foley Farm on Lower Road. Fire company volunteers often have difficulty getting signals on their pagers. For example, firefighters who work at Brewer Brothers in downtown Canaan have to rely on the fire siren directly above them to alert them to an emergency, since the radio signal does not reach their pagers there.

Kent Center School students have a thriving business in returnable cans and bottles. They collect them and use the deposit returns to enlarge their financial account for laptop computers, which will be delivered in January, and for field trips. Cans and bottles may be left in the red shed next to the school entrance.

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

JON SWAN

Of Fire, Ice and Hollow Men

Continued from previous page

2015, Scientific American article by Shannon Hall titled "Exxon Knew about Climate Change almost 40 years ago."

Shell knew, too, as demonstrated by a 1991 educational film titled "Climate of Concern," produced by Shell and obtained by the Dutch journalism platform de Correspondent, which "warned that the company's own product could lead to extreme weather, floods, famines, and climate refugees..."

Last January, Sludge, an independent, nonprofit news outlet that produces investigative journalism on lobbying and money in politics, posted an article by Alex Kotch headed "Members of Congress Own Up to \$93 million in Fossil Fuel Stocks." The subhead noted: "As dire climate change projections mount, one in four members of Congress is invested in oil, gas, or coal interests."

Meanwhile, it may be worth noting that T.S. Eliot came up with his own memorable suggestion of how the world might end, in "The Hollow Men," published in 1925, five years after Frost's "Fire and Ice":

*This is the way the world ends
This is the way the world ends
This is the way the world ends
Not with a bang but a whimper.*

Jon Swan is a poet, journalist and former senior editor of the Columbia Journalism Review. His writing can be found at www.jonswanpoems.com.

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One of the consequences to all the new inground pools being installed in this real estate boom is the fact that they are lethal kill zones for wildlife such as frogs, toads, salamanders, turtles and small mammals. This is completely unnecessary, as a wildlife biologist, Rich Mason, has developed a very simple device that allows this wildlife to escape from the swimming pool and continue on with their lives. What is even more amazing is the price is under 25 dollars per unit. For more information and to prepare for next spring please visit: <https://froglog.us/>.

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Our Towns



Shop early, avoid the rush

KENT — Supply chain interruptions and labor shortages are continuing across the country, so it makes sense to buy holiday gifts from local vendors this year (and every year!).

St. Andrew's Church in Kent got a hop on the holiday shopping

season with its annual Christmas Bazaar, held on Saturday, Nov. 20. Santa made an appearance (see photo, Page A1), wearing a mask, as did the youngsters who came to discuss their wish lists with him.

— Cynthia Hochswender



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Wreaths, wrapping paper and wonder were on display at the Christmas Bazaar, where shoppers could stock up on stockings, gifts and holiday decor.

SWSA Ski & Skate Sale on Dec. 4

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA) annual sale of new and used ski and skate equipment and clothing will be held Saturday, Dec. 4, at the Lakeville Hose Company in Lakeville from 8 to 11 a.m.

Residents can bring equipment to be sold Friday, Dec. 3, from 4 to 7 p.m. No equipment will be accepted on Saturday.

On Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon, pick up money or unsold equipment. Any remaining equipment after noon Saturday will become the property of SWSA.

Equipment eligible for sale includes downhill skis, boots and poles; cross-country skis, boots and poles; ice skates and hockey equipment; snowboards and boots and snow shoes (no clothing).

Finding homes for the holidays

SALISBURY — Help at-risk families remain in their homes during the holiday season and enjoy a read-aloud of the original Paddington bear story by Michael Bond on Sunday, Dec. 5, at 3 p.m. in the ballroom at The White Hart inn. Masks are required; seating is on the floor (pillows are welcome).

There is no cost to attend. Donations are welcome for the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness.



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