

Tim Riley remembered Page A4

Understanding refugees Compass, Page B1



Costumes and candy Pages A3 & A5

Responsibility for the environment starts at home Letters, Columns Opinion, Pages B3-4

"Reporting timely and accurately to DPH brings confidence

to the community that our most vulnerable citizens are safe."

Dr. Manisha Juthani, DPH Commissioner

Tag Sales, Help Wanted, Services, **Real Estate** Pages B5-6

We want to hear from you Survey, Page A3

# The Lakeville Tournal

Daylight Saving Time ends November 7; Clocks move backward

12 PAGES IN 2 SECTIONS VOLUME 125 NUMBER 14 © 2021 The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC Periodical Rate Postage Paid at Lakeville (Town of Salisbury), Connecticut 06039 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021 \$2.00

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

# Waning immunity and data reporting concerns

"I think if people aren't cautious, it's possible that we are going to see another surge this winter." Dr. Mark Marshall, Sharon Hospital

#### Why there are COVID-19 State crackdown highlights issue of lax reporting by breakthroughs among some nursing homes vaccinated patients

By Debra A. Aleksinas

While all three available COVID-19 vaccines are helping to prevent severe illness and hospitalization, nursing home residents are at heightened risk of becoming critically ill due to aging immune systems and underlying health conditions, according to health experts.

"I am kind of surprised at the current outbreak and how sick people became — for a group of 99% vaccinated individuals — and

how it spread so easily," despite vaccinations, testing, PPE, protocols and a host of safety measures, said Kevin O'Connell, CEO of the Geer Village Senior Community in North Canaan, where an outbreak of the highly contagious Delta variant has infected 69 residents and staff, resulting in three deaths (see adjoining article this page for more details).

"Almost all the infected were fully vaccinated, so we are obviously concerned we

See BREAKTHROUGHS, Page A6

and safety concerns.

"Reporting timely and accurately to DPH helps the state ensure that the long-term care industry is meeting this goal and brings confidence to the community that our most vulnerable citizens are safe," Juthani said.

Of the 643 long-term care facilities subject to the order, 226, or 35%, had failed to report to DPH by the Sept. 28 deadline, and 122 facilities have failed to report altogether

See DATA REPORTING, Page A6

## Miner and Horn weigh in on planned end to obstetrics unit at Sharon Hospital

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SHARON — The state legislators for the Region One towns told The Lakeville Journal that they are paying close attention to the plan to close the obstetrics unit at Sharon Hospital.

In a phone interview Thursday, Oct. 28, state Sen. Craig Miner (R-30) said he has received a lot of calls and emails about the hospital.

"I'm not convinced the parent company [Nuvance Health] has taken its commitments as seriously as it should."

Miner acknowledged that certain procedures can be money losers, "but the community feels they are necessary, part of the package"

And he wondered how the hospital will retain labor and delivery staff when the future of the unit is in doubt.

State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) pointed out that Sharon Hospital is in the middle of the process of evaluation by the state Office of Health

"They have to apply for permission" to close the maternity unit. "Eventually there will be a

That hearing will be critical.

There are multiple meetings scheduled in November on the matter, starting with a discussion between chief elected officials in Connecticut and New York and hospital President Dr. Mark Hirko, Chief Nursing Officer Christina McCullough and Dr. Mark Marshall at Sharon Town Hall on Friday, Nov. 5, at 1 p.m. (Attendance at the in-person meeting is restricted; the

See SHARON HOSPITAL, Page A6



# Halloween came back to life in Northwest Corner towns — sort of. Some towns quietly hosted their annual trick or treat events, including Salisbury, photo below, which had children visit from several area towns. For more Halloween, photos, see pages A3 and 5 and The Lakeville Journal Instagram. The Kent Pumpkin Run was held again on Oct. 31, after being "virtual" last year. More photos and race results are

By Debra A. Aleksinas

facilities, including dozens of nursing homes,

for failing to report the vaccination status of

employees by Sept. 28 as mandated by exec-

day, Oct. 28, DPH Commissioner Dr. Mani-

sha Juthani issued a first round of civil pen-

alties of up to \$20,000 per day, citing health

In making the announcement on Thurs-

utive order.

The state Department of Public Health (DPH) is cracking down on long-term care

## **Sharon Hospital**

on Page A4.

## Discussions & protests planned

SHARON — In addition to a tancing will be enforced. meeting Nov. 5 in Sharon (see story, this page), three other events are planned for discussion of Nuvance's proposed cuts at Sharon Hospital.

Sharon Hospital will host two in-person roundtable discussions to provide an open forum for community members to ask questions and provide feedback.

Sessions will meet at the following locations and are limited to no more than 15 people, in compliance with COVID-19 safety protocols. Advance registration is required on a first come, first served basis. Masks are required and social dis-

Because of the limited capacity available, community members are respectfully requested to register for only one session.

Meeting dates are as follows:

• Tuesday, Nov. 9, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Sharon Town Hall.

• Thursday, Nov. 18, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., at the Interlaken Inn in Lakeville.

To register, email SharonHospital@NuvanceHealth.org or call 845-554-1734 with your name and phone number.

Community members are encouraged to go to www.nuvancehealth.org/sharonhospitaltransformation for the latest updates on the hospital's transformational plan, including a recording of the Sept. 29 Community Update pre-

To ask questions or schedule an additional small group conversation to discuss our plans, email SharonHospital@NuvanceHealth.

The town of Sharon will offer a Zoom link to the meeting at https:// us02web.zoom.us/j/8727483273; the meeting ID is 872 748 3273.

There will also be an event on the Green in Sharon by the grassroots group Save Sharon Hospital on Saturday, Nov. 6, at 3 p.m.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

## Election results

Vote totals from the Nov. 2 municipal elections were not available when this issue went to press. When they become available they will be posted at www. tricornernews.com. The totals will also be included in our print edition of Nov. 11.

The Lakeville Journal thanks all the candidates.

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## Regional

## In The Journal this week

OUR TOWNS ...... A3, A5 OPINION ...... B3 OBITUARIES ......A4 COMPASS.....B1-2 CLASSIFIEDS.....B5-6

VIEWPOINT..... B4

Three-day forecast

Friday.....Cloudy, high 46°/low 30° Saturday......Sun, 48°/28° Sunday ......Cloudy, 52°/32°

#### POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

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

#### Serious injuries in car crash

On Oct. 24 at approximately 12:15 p.m. on Route 63 in Falls Village a 2012 Honda Accord driven by Jason Wass, 23, of Middletown, Conn., was traveling at a high speed and rear-ended the vehicle traveling in front, a 1991 Toyota Celica driven by Laura Leifert, 54, of North Canaan. As a result of being struck by Wass's Honda, Leifert was transported to Sharon Hospital due to serious injuries and then taken by LIFE STAR helicopter to Hartford Hospital.

Wass drove away from the scene of the accident but was later located by State Police. He was taken into custody and charged with reckless driving, following too closely, evading responsibility and interfering with a police investigation.

He and his passengers, Katlin Morowski, 17, and Samuel James Besmer, 21, of Kent had no injuries.

Wass is scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on Nov. 3.

#### Check larceny

Troop B is investigating a report of money larceny in Sharon by way of stolen personal checks belonging to a female victim in Sharon on multiple dates in August. The case remains open.

#### Struck tree in road

On Aug. 26 at approximately 8 p.m. on North Elm Street in North Canaan a 2008 Nissan Versa driven by Brianna Jean White, 24, of North Canaan disregarded a closed road sign in front of a down tree and wires in the road, and collided with the tree. No injuries were reported. White was issued an infraction for traveling too fast for the conditions.

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.

## Veterans Day and flag burning in area towns Thursday, Nov. 11

A Veterans Day ceremony will be held on Thursday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. at the memorial on Maple Street in Kent by the American Legion Hall-Jennings Post #153.

Brent Kallstrom, the Post #153 adjutant/commander, will lead the ceremony, which will commence with an innovation and prayer from the Reverend John Heeckt of the First Congregational Church of Kent.

That will be followed by a rifle salute and taps by bagpiper Don Hicks.

First Selectman Jean Speck will say a few words and then Kallstrom will give a brief speech about Veterans Day. There will then be a closing prayer by the Rev. Douglas Worthington of St. Andrews Episcopal Church.

St. Andrews will host a luncheon for all veterans and their families following the ceremo-

On Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 6 and 7, Post #153 with the cooperation of the Davis IGA, will again be collecting money to support American Legion Charities.

In North Canaan, the Couch Pipa VFW will not hold its traditional ceremony at the Doughboy statue, because of ongoing roadwork. Instead, the ceremony will be held on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at the Couch Pipa VFW Post 6851 headquarters at 104 South Canaan Road in North Canaan.

From 5 to 7 p.m. there will be a free spaghetti dinner for all area veterans and their spouse or significant other.

Veterans are invited to participate in the service at the war memorial at Salisbury Town Hall at 11 a.m.

Flag burning on Veterans Day will be on Thursday, Nov. 11, at the veterans monument in Sharon at 11 a.m. For more information, contact Brian Kenny at 860-364-5709.

Most area schools will hold a Veterans Day ceremony; call the individual schools to find out how to participate.

## Help for seniors on how to manage bills & more, on Nov. 11

SALISBURY — Art Mulligan will explain how a senior advocate can help older adults and their families understand and access the services, resources and benefits that ease later-life transitions, in a Zoom talk hosted by Noble Horizons on Thursday, Nov. 11, at 7 p.m.

A senior advocate can coordinate and organize medical, legal, and financial documents, including Medicare billing issues, manage and mediate communication between designated family members and other advisors, and set up and monitor services to assist and safeguard seniors at home or find appropriate care outside the home.

Mulligan has spent his entire career in health-care administration and for 31 years served as the president of the Board of Directors of Visiting Nurse and Homecare North-

More information and a Zoom link are at www.noblehorizons.org or 860-435-9851.

> Send obituaries to cynthiah@ lakevillejournal.com

#### **FAMILY & FRIENDS**

## Scholarships available for student essayists

FALLS VILLAGE — Mountainside treatment center will be providing \$10,000 worth of academic scholarships to high school juniors and seniors. The treatment provider has created the Mountainside Brighter Future College Scholarship to foster awareness and education about addiction among youth who have been impacted by substance use disorders.

Interested students will need to complete an initial application and then submit a short essay explaining how they have been impacted by their

own or a loved one's substance use disorder. The writing sample should also detail how the student's personal experiences have shaped their understanding of addiction as a disease.

The scholarship funds will be provided as \$1,000 awards to up to 10 chosen applicants. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is Dec. 1. Successful applicants will be announced on Dec. 15.

For more information and the essay guidelines go to www. mountainside.com/brighter-future-scholarship

#### Understanding Medicare options, in sessions on Nov. 9 and 16

SALISBURY — Salisbury Senior Services is hosting two Medicare events at the Senior Center at the Town Grove in Lakeville.

Understanding Your Medicare Options for 2022 will be offered on Tuesday, Nov. 9. Join Amanda Halle, a CHOICES Counselor from the Western Connecticut Agency on Aging at 1 p.m. for a discussion and question-and-answer session on Medicare Basics. Whether you are new to Medicare or currently enrolled in a Medicare plan, this session will help those individuals better understand their Medicare options including learning about state assistance programs that can help pay for some health-care costs.

Review Your Healthcare Plans for 2022 during Medicare Open Enrollment will be offered on Tuesday, Nov. 16

Open enrollment began Oct. 15 and continues until Dec. 7. Meet with a CHOICES counselor from the Western Connecticut Agency on Aging to review your current healthcare plan to ensure it meets your needs for 2022.

This is the time when you can change your Medicare plan

Space is limited and appointments are required for the review sessions. Contact Lisa McAuliffe at 860 435-5186 or email LMCAULIFFE@SALIS-BURYCT.US to schedule an appointment.

## **Correcting Errors**

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/ or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.

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

Check them out inside.

CVS

Ocean State Job Lot

## **LEGAL NOTICES**

#### **Legal Notice**

A meeting of the plot owners of the Amenia Island Cemetery Association will be held on Tuesday, November 16th at 5:30 pm at the Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22 Amenia, NY for the purpose of electing trustees and for such other matters that may properly come before the meeting.

The annual meeting of the trustees will immediately follow the meeting of the plot owners.

> 10-28-21 11-04-21 11-11-21

## **Legal Notice**

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Application #2021-0154 by Kerry & Erling Madsen for a 2-Lot residential subdivision at 10 North Beaver Dam Road Salisbury, Map 23, Lot 17-1 per the Salisbury Subdivision Regulations. The hearing will beheld on Monday, November 15, 2021 at 5:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The application, agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at www.salisburyct. us. Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to aconroy@salisburyct. us. Paper copies may be reviewed Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission Martin Whalen, Secretary 11-04-21

#### 11-11-21 **Legal Notice**

To Whom It May Concern: Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 6:30 PM, in the Canaan Falls Village Town Hall, the Canaan/Falls Village Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the

following application; <\*J>Consideration of Special Permit, for a restaurant Map 68 as Lot 4 and is located

use at the municipal building 107 Main Street.

Respectively Submitted Thomas Scott ZEO 11-04-21 11-11-21

#### **Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands &**

**Watercourses Commission** Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on October 25,

2021-IW-041 by Adam Zimmerman for a vertical expansion to an existing dwelling in the upland review area. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 68 as lot 4 and is known as 50 Channel Road, Salisbury. The owners of the property are Jeffrey & Caren Cox.

Approved - Application 2021-IW-043 by Christian Allyn for targeted invasive knotweed management. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 16 as lot 13 and is known as 112 & 138 Housatonic River Road, Salisbury. The owners of the property are Thao & Scott Matlock.

Any aggrieved person may appeal this decision to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §22a-43(a) & §8-8.

#### 11-04-21 **Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury** Planning & Zoning Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following application was approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on October 26,

Special Permit Application #2021-0151 by Adam Zimmerman for vertical expansion of a nonconforming dwelling in accordance with section 503.2 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's

at 50 Channel Road, Salisbury, Connecticut. The owners of the property are Caren & Jeffrey Cox.

Town of Salisbury Planning

**Zoning Commission** Martin Whalen, Secretary 11-04-21

#### **Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Zoning Board of Appeals**

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Salisbury, CT on October 19, 2021: Approved - Application Approved -Application #2021-0152 by Marketplace of Salisbury (LaBonne's) for a Variance for Maximum Building Coverage due to hardship related to Section 307 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The property is shown on the Salisbury Assessor's Map 54 Lot 25 and is known as 22 Academy Street, Salisbury, CT. The owners of the property are Marketplace of Salisbury (LaBonne's). Any aggrieved person may appeal this decision to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §8-8.

> Salisbury Zoning Board of Appeals Stacie Weiner, Secretary 11-04-21

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS **ESTATE OF KATHERINE BUSSELLE SCOTT**

#### **Late of Salisbury** (21-00472)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated October 19, 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: Robert S. Boyd c/o Michael Downes Lynch Law Offices of Michael D. Lynch 106 Upper Main Street

> P.O. Box 1776 Sharon, CT 06069 Megan M. Foley Clerk 11-04-21

# SAVE SHARON HOSPITAL



JOIN US to show support for the nurses and doctors at Sharon Hospital!

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**KEEP Labor and Delivery open!** 

**STOP Nuvance from eliminating services in** our community!

**ENGAGE** our elected leaders and SIGN letters to the state!

www.savesharonhospital.org

🚯 Save Sharon Hospital

Save\_Sharon\_Hospital

**OUR VOICES WILL BE HEARD.** AGAIN.

## Your opinion matters; please take our survey The Lakeville Journal News Coverage

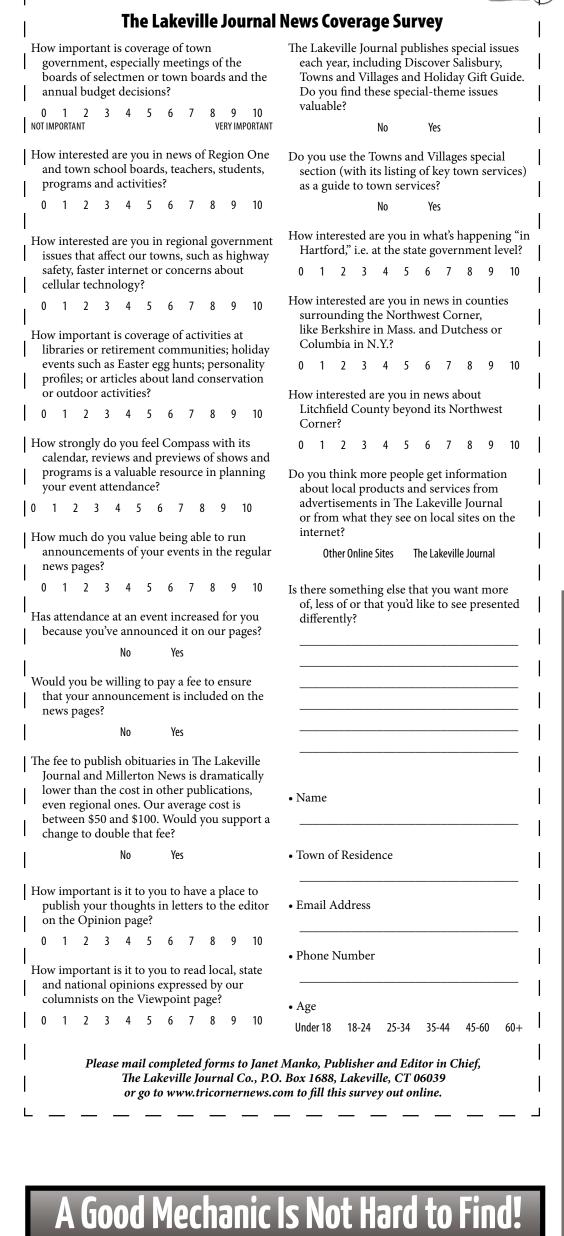
did a readership survey in 2019, The Lakeville Journal Co., publishers of The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News and www.tricornernews.com, was at a crossroads. Then, we were looking at drastically cutting costs in order to survive, yet wanted to continue to provide you with the news coverage that mattered most to you. Your answers helped us formulate what our newspapers and special publications look like now. Two years later, after two highly successful appeals to our readership for contributions that saved their local community newspapers, this small media

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 hear from you, our valued readers, on what you would like most to see in your community weekly news. We sincerely ask you to take the time to respond to our survey, here in hard copy or online at www.tricornernews.com, expressing what matters most to

company is in a very different you week to week. In 2019, we received around 300 replies to our survey. It would be great to beat that very good percentage of responses this time around.

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.

> Janet Manko, publisher and editor in chief Cynthia Hochswender, executive editor, The Lakeville Journal Whitney Joseph, editor, The Millerton News



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Trick-or-treaters in costume filled the streets of Lakeville, despite the threat of soggy weather.

## At last, a nice 'normal' Halloween

The weather was perfect on Halloween evening, Sunday, Oct. 31 — until it wasn't. The evening started out with mild temperatures and skies that were just overcast enough to be spooky. Children could wear their costumes without needing a warm coverup.

But as the sun was setting, a light rain began to fall. Soon it became a fairly heavy downpour. In Salisbury, the water didn't deter children and parents who were already out and about in their costumes. The rain lasted only long enough to wash away shaving cream decorations.

In Falls Village, trick or treat was held on Main Street, sponsored by the Recreation Department. Prizes were awarded for Halloween decorations; Lakeville Journal Senior Associate Editor Alexander Wilburn was one of the winners (see story Page A5).

Children and parents came to a Halloween event at the Scoville Memorial Library on Saturday, Oct. 30. The children worked on a Halloween-themed puzzle, buzzing around the children's area, the stacks upstairs and occasionally outside. Most were in costume, including Batman and assorted ghouls.

**CLUES ACROSS** 1. Nuclear undersea weapon 5. President of Syria al-

10. Partner to flows 14. "Snow" in Welsh

16. Song

20. Antsy

22. Wrath

24. Past

31. Talk

41. Fabric

42. Crucifix

18. Doddering

23. Spills the beans

30. One has 24 hours

38. Chinese dynasty

39. Australian river

40. Software to transfer audio (abbr.)

47. A digital tape recording of sound

64. Large, semiaquatic reptile (slang)

44. "Hotel California" rockers

45. Michael Knight's car

49. Scientific instrument

60. Ottoman military title

66. Indiscreetly reveal secrets

1. One point east of southeast

6. Normal or sound powers of mind

2. Italian monetary unit

4. Tropical American tree

46. Actress Ryan

48. Insecticide

56. Sword

52. Golden-\_\_ corn

61. Aromatic plants

63, Cold wind

65. Political unit

67. Comfort food dish

68. Actress Zellweger

69. Romanian city

3. Warship prison

7. English county

9. Female deer 10. Not late

13. Impudence 21. Advises

8. Not compatible with

23. Founder of Babism

11. La \_\_ Tar Pits, Hollywood

12. "Jupiter's Legacy" actress Leslie

**CLUES DOWN** 

55. Israeli city \_\_ Aviv

27. The woman

32. It can sting 35. Astronomy unit 37. Halfway

15. Famed Mexican painter

19. Resist authority (slang)

17. ticks outward from the crown

— Cynthia Hochswender

## Submit ideas for ARPA funds

SHARON — Sharon's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Advisory Committee is conducting a survey of residents and will discuss the results at a community meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be both in-person at Sharon Town Hall and online via Zoom conference. The town has also mailed an information card to all residents.

The survey is available online at www.sharoncovidrecovery.org. For those who prefer to fill it out on paper, printed surveys are available at Town Hall, the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, and the Sharon Post

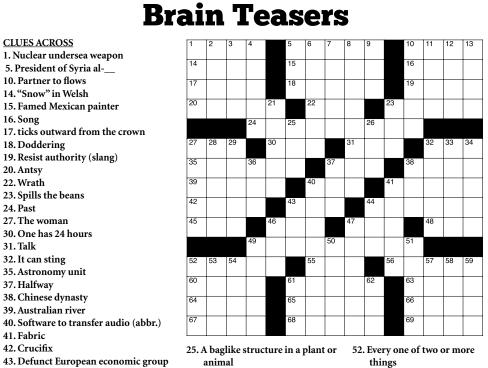
The selectmen also approved an application for Sharon residents who would like to request assistance. Applications are available online at www.sharoncovidrecovery.org. Printed applications are also available at Town Hall, the library and the Post Office.

## Food drive at Salisbury Bank

Salisbury Bank's 14th annual Fill-the-Basket food drive began on Nov. 1 at all 14 branches of the bank, in Berkshire, Litchfield, Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties. The bank branches will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items and household supplies. Cash donations will also be accepted. All donated items as well as the monetary contributions collected will be donated directly to food pantries serving each area.

Pantries are in particular need of canned goods, cereals, macaroni and cheese, cake mix, peanut butter, mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard and tomato sauce. Household necessities such as paper towels, diapers, shampoo and soap are also appreciated.

The food drive will run through Dec. 17.



25. A baglike structure in a plant or animal

26. Male parent 27. A type of plug 28. Capital of Vietnam

29. Fungal disease

32. Shelter

33. Finished

34. Excrete

36. Unhappy

37. Partner to cheese 38. Coffee receptacle

40. Spend time dully

41. Makes full 43. Snakelike fish

44. Take in solid food 46. student, learns healing

47. A way to take away

49. Impart a lesson to

51. Spiritual leader

50. "Transformers" actress Fox



59. Isodor \_\_\_, American Nobel

61. Soviet Socialist Republic

things

53. Indian city

58. Amounts of time

physicist

54. 17th stars

57. Weapon

62. Witness

## Sudoku

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

O	)											
			Oct. 28 Solution									
7		9		2	5	4	8	1	3	7	9	6
′		J		7	1	3	9	2	6	5	4	8
				6	9	8	7	5	4	1	3	2
				8	2	1	4	9	5	3	6	7
				9	3	6	1	7	2	4	8	5
	3	4		5	4	7	3	6	8	9	2	1
	J			4	7	9	6	8	1	2	5	3
				3	6	2	5	4	7	8	1	9
Lave	d. leter			1	8	5	2	3	9	6	7	4
Level: Intermediate												

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## **OBITUARIES**

## Dennis R. Jordan

R. Jordan, 78, a 55-year resi-

dent of Dover Plains, died Oct. 27, 2021, at Vassar Bros. Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Dennis was a professional concrete finisher for over 40 years with Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 5, which is based in Newburgh,

N.Y. Following his retirement from Local 5, he worked privately in the concrete construction field for several years.

Born Jan. 27, 1943, in Jersey City, N.J., he was the son of the late Joseph Jordan and Mary Ellen Flynn.

On Feb. 5, 1966, at the Millerton Presbyterian Church, he married Kathleen V. "Vicki" Hoag. Vicki passed away on May 12, 2014.

Dennis was a 49-year life member of the I.H. Ketcham Hose Co. in Dover Plains, where he could often be seen carrying the American Flag during dress parades, as a longtime member of the fire department Color Guard.

He was also a life member of the Dutchess County Volunteer Fireman's Association, the Hudson Valley Volunteer Fireman's Association, the Royal Order of Red Vests, an honorary member of the Chestnut Ridge Rod & Gun Club and a former baseball umpire with the Hudson Valley Umpires Association.

He loved to deer hunt in New York and Maine every year with his friends and was an avid gun enthusiast and shoe collector who loved to shop at Cabela's and Bass Pro.

For many years he bowled at Washington Lanes in Mabbetsville, N.Y., in the men's league and the mixed league with his

He was loud at times and had no problem expressing his opin-

DOVER PLAINS — Dennis ion, but he always truly cared about people and especially

be filled.

by his sons, Jeffrey J. Jordan and his girlfriend, Tammy King-

don of Millerton, Brian M. Jordan and his wife, Amber, of Millerton and Christopher S. Jordan and his wife, Ashley, of Copake Falls, N.Y., Cole Jordan, Cooper Jordan, Tyler Jordan and Breana Smith and Sidney and Sierra Surdam; his brother, Jeffrey Jordan of Oregon; his sister, Audrey Beauregard of Florida; his sister-in-law, Bonnie Summers of Millerton; and his dear friends, Mark Z, Scott and Robin and his buddy Colton, Brad and Melissa, Brock and Sara, Frank and Nicole, IP and Tee, Larry, Doug and Maureen, Bruce and Carmen, Rob and Carolyn and many more whom he loved and enjoyed spending time with.

Saturday, Nov. 6, from 10 a.m. to noon at Faith Bible Chapel of Shekomeko in Millerton (follow Route 22 to McGhee Hill Road to 222 Silver Mountain Road). The J.H. Ketcham Hose Co. will conduct services at 11:45 a.m. during visitation. Funeral services will begin at noon with the Rev. William Mayhew officiating. Burial will follow at Irondale Cemetery in

the J.H. Ketcham Hose Co. in Dover Plains.

entrusted to the Scott D. Conktheir assistance and care.

### Richard Eric Dell

SALISBURY — Richard Eric Dell, 69, a lifelong resident of Salisbury, passed away peacefully at Noble Horizons on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021. A full obituary will appear in the Nov. 11 Lakeville dedication ceremony.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Results for the top finish-

For additional photos, see

ers are at www.iresultslive.

Page A1 and our Instagram.

com/?eid=5136.

Lee Sohl won a prize for her lion tamer and lion costume.

## Pumpkin Run returns

 ${\it KENT-Conditions\ were} \quad {\it the\ Kent\ Green\ Shopping\ Cen-}$ perfect for a 5-mile race, especially one that involved Halloween costumes.

The Kent Pumpkin Run was "live" once again, and perfectly timed: The 45th annual Sunday race was held on the actual day of Halloween this year, Sunday, Oct. 31.

Last year the race was a "virtual" run.

The winner was 54-yearold Mike Nahom, with a time of 28:45. In 2004, Nahom took second place with a finish time of 28:30.

The first female finisher was 41-year-old Alissa Scott, with a

In all there were 424 registered runners. The youngest Top 20 finisher was 14-year-old Rory McNamara with a finish time of 31:30.

The Kent Pumpkin Run is organized by the Kent Chamber of Commerce and is hosted by

his many friends who he did so much for. "Den-Den's" passing leaves a void in the many hearts of his dearest friends which will not soon, if ever,

Dennis is survived

Calling hours will be held on Millerton.

A reception will follow at

Arrangements have been lin Funeral Home in Millerton. We wish to thank our friends John Beck and Jim Childs for



for it.



PHOTO BY TOM BROWN

## The final home game of 2021

The boys soccer team from Housatonic Valley Regional High School hosted its final home game of the season on Friday, Oct. 29, ending in a 4-1 loss to Terryville.

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## Dedication ceremony honors the service of Tim Riley at Veterans' Field

Remembering Tim Riley

and his years of service

umpiring and refereeing

local sports programs,

family and friends ded-

icated a memorial bench

and shade tree in his

honor at Veterans' Field

on Thursday, Oct. 28.

Standing are Riley's

sisters-in-law, Lisa, at

left, and Barbara; and

seated are Riley's daugh-

ter, Lauren, and brother

Coincidentally, Dinneen

Dinneen had recommended

the type of tree to be planted

at the site. When he told the

folks at Old Farm Nursery in

Lakeville of the remembrance

and the purpose, they did not

all about," sister-in-law Barbara

said, "He loved it here. His

memory is here. Anything to

do with a ball field, he was all

"That's what small towns are

Riley's daughter, Lauren,

hesitate to donate the tree.

Riley commented.

noted that it had been 43 years

to the very day that Tim Riley

had been in Dinneen's wed-

Kevin.

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Parents watching their children enjoy the newly installed playscape at Veterans' Field may do so from the new pine bench honoring Tim Riley's years of service to area sports.

The Riley bench will be shaded by a newly planted red maple tree, a gift of Riley's alma mater, the Housatonic Valley Regional High School Class of 1974.

A dedication ceremony for the bench and the tree was held on Thursday, Oct. 28, at Veterans' Field, bringing Riley's family together with friends to remember his significant contributions to regional athletics during his years as a beloved baseball umpire and a basketball referee.

"He always enjoyed being around sports and kids, for sure," Kevin Riley said in remembering his brother, who died in April 2021 at the age of 64. Kevin Riley has also coached sports at Housatonic, exemplifying the Riley family's deep roots in Sharon and the area and their devotion to youth sports programs.

Following news of Tim Riley's death, memorial donations were sent to Sharon's Parks and Recreation Department. With those funds, Parks and Recreation Director Matt Andrulis Mette purchased the bench for the new playscape, determining it to be a fitting and lasting tribute.

A brass plaque describes Tim "Riles" Riley, "who believed that having fun and exercise were two things everyone should enjoy every day."

Remembering his brother, Kevin Riley noted that Tim returned to Sharon in 2019. The Class of 1974 at Housatonic learned of the bench and joined to honor their classmate by arranging for the memorial tree, which was planted by classmates Dave Hosier and Bill Dinneen.

Dinneen of Cornwall serves on the high school remembrance committee, and represented the Class of 1974 at the

PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN



Week of November 7, 2021

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

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.

30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442

St. John's Episcopal Church

12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290

**North Canaan** Congregational Church, UCC

Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people Pastor Savage Frieze 172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am
AT THE PILGRIM HOUSE 30 GRANITE AVE, CANAAN: FISHES & LOAVES Food Pantry and CLOSETS for clothing Tuesdays from 5 to 7 and Thursdays from noon to 2 www.facebook.com/

northcanaancongregational **Methodist Church** 

112 Upper Main Steet, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer Pastor Sun Yong Lee 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net

Promised Land

**Baptist Church** 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting — 7PM **(860) 824-5685** VISITORS WELCOME!

www.promisedlandbaptist.org The Chapel of All Saints,

Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mmgates 125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.

The Smithfield **Presbyterian Church** 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY

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**SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH** 

860-927-3003 The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge MASS SCHEDULE SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart WEEKDAY MASSES Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & First Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart

**Canaan United Methodist Church** 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service

'Open Hearts – Open Minds – Open Doors' Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com

**Millerton United Methodist Church** 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546

Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 A.M. 518-789-3138

#### **Christ Church Episcopal** in Sharon

9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker www.christchurchsharon.org

**Greenwoods Community Church** 

355 Clayton Road, Ashley Falls, MA Sunday Service 10:30 AM Kidz Konnection K-6th grade (during Sun. Service) Nursery Care All Services Pastor Trip Weiler 413-229-8560 www.greenwoodschurch.com

> St. Thomas **Episcopal Church** 40 Leedsville Road

Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links **Rev. AJ Stack** 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality

**Trinity Episcopal Church** 

In person services on Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 A.M. www.trinitylimerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627

#### Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT

Join our virtual Zoom service on Sunday, November 14 at 10:30 a.m. "The Discipline of Gratitude" For information, contact Io Loi at jokiauloi@gmail.com

All are Welcome The Lakeville United **Methodist Church** 

319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Pastor Joy Veronesi 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

#### ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH

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DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary

ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078 **UCC in CORNWALL** 

Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am

Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall

Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community

**Sharon Congregational** 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online Bible studies and Sunday services

Join us in our fellowship hall for in-person Bible study, Thursday, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Contact us at 860-364-5002 or

**All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church** 

info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Rev. John Kreta

> 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us

## Our Towns

## Falls Village brings back the Halloween spirit

children and families.

FALLS VILLAGE — Not since Stephen King's "Christine" have there been so many haunted cars! To celebrate reemerging from a 2020 Halloween damped by protective pandemic measures, this year the Falls Village Recreation Department, led by Director Emily Peterson, organized "Trunk or Treat on Main Street." This spooky outdoor festival in downtown Falls Village invited car owners (including a few vintage car owners, of course) to design popup Halloween stations to give

out candy to trickor-treaters and their families.

"Trunk or Treat" also pulled in decorated businesses like the Falls Village Children's Theater, the Falls Village Cafe and Furnace Art on Paper, as well as the decorated exteriors of participating Main Street homes.

The celebration included a hay ride from Birch Mill Farm to carry along children through the village's darkened tree-lined streets ... with, one hopes, no ghosts along for the ride.

— Alexander Wilburn



Downtown Falls Village hosted the town's first "Trunk or Treat," where cars became the decorated venues for giving out candy to



Homes on Main Street also participated in the decorating contest, with this haunted party winning one of the prizes.

# Views on affordable housing at Cornwall forum

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — Continuing the process of developing a state-mandated plan for creating affordable housing opportunities within the town, a second public forum held on Wednesday, Oct. 20, presented the draft plan.

About 58 town residents took part in the Zoom forum.

The Affordable Housing Committee will meet and decide on any changes to the draft plan in advance of a public hearing to be held on Wednesday, Dec. 8, on Zoom. Residents will again have an opportunity to offer comments on what will be the latest amended draft at that meeting.

[Look for an article about the Oct. 25 housing meeting in the Nov. 11 Lakeville Journal.]

As he opened the Oct. 20 forum, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway urged residents to read the town's recently revised Plan of Conservation and Development, posted on the town website at www.cornwallct.org. The plan is also required by the state. It is updated every 10 years and forms the basis of all planning and zoning largely responsible for how a town looks.

Ridgway spoke of the importance of identifying the best options for affordable and attainable housing for essential community members including firefighters, farming personnel and teachers, and others — what he called "the backbone of our community."

#### Why it matters

Getting the forum underway, several town officials and Affordable Housing Committee members summarized the current housing situation, the needs to be met, the work of the social services department and how these perspectives have informed the work of developing an affordable housing plan.

Ingrid Ellen, a housing committee member, said that housing is essential for a diverse community. "All of us want Cornwall to be open to a variety of incomes."

The state has mandated that all towns must have an affordable housing plan by July 2022. The selectmen build the specifics and the Planning And Zoning Commission has responsibility for the regulations and enforcement that will bring the

Housing committee member Jill Cutler reviewed the Plan of Conservation and Development and its provision for affordable housing. She described Cornwall as a 19th-century town with a 19th-century lifestyle. While she sensed the anxiety about change, she also pointed to the need to attract families with school-age children, without whom "we will have a museum,

Social Services Director Heather Dinneen reviewed the work of her department serving the town's families and their housing needs, along with other needs brought on by the pandemic.

not a town."

Janell Mullen, who is consulting with the committee as a town planner, quantified the need by offering statistics showing that 78 local families (13%) are spending half of their income on their housing costs.

#### Some ideas

Over many months of meetings, the housing committee has discussed the need for attainable rentals, assistance for first-time homebuyers who frequently bring along schoolage children, and increased citizens who perhaps want to downsize while continuing to

live in Cornwall. Increasing the number of rental options is seen as a goal, according to the plan, calling for allowing more two-family or multi-family houses. Accessory units are also suggested, where an owner of a larger home might create an income-producing apartment and perhaps another free-standing small rental home on their property.

Several residents who offered comments praised the draft and the work of the task force that created it.

Part-time resident Kevin Conway agreed that there is a museum-like quality to the town. He asked about cluster housing. In a separate comment, he suggested Cornwall Bridge as a possible location for multi-family housing.

Ridgway responded that the plan allows for multi-family housing anywhere in the town. "We do allow more than one family on a lot, and that is an issue being discussed by

Accessory apartments in homes are already provided for by state regulations as a right, committee member Maggie Cooley pointed out. She said that the town already has a number of existing multi-family configurations in the Cornwall Plains area.

#### Residents weigh in

Resident Caroline Nastro urged that a special permit process be included in the plan. Ingrid Ellen noted that any

ideas need to meet health and zoning codes.

Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Anna Timell agreed, noting that she could not see how a multi-family unit could be accommodated on a 1-acre lot, for example.

She also noted that the Planning and Zoning Commission role at this point is to show that the affordable housing plan, the Plan of Conservation and Development and the planning and zoning regulations can the countryside, asking that the work together.

Honora Horan urged that the town limit short-term rentals as a policy, noting a growing number of Airbnb and other short-term rentals in town.

Ridgway said, "We are the least developed town and we have the greatest percentage of preserved land in the state."

A few residents noted that too many young people are living with their parents in town as their only option.

While favoring higher density housing like that found in apartment structures, resident Tobie Cornejo spoke of residents' love of old buildings and

plan maintain a view toward preserving and protecting the local heritage.

Discussion raised the possibility of local architects being willing to work with townspeople who might have large homes and want to create an accessory apartment.

In that way, the aesthetics would be preserved while an affordable housing unit would be added.

Ridgway suggested that local architects, builders and developers might contribute ideas that would result in providing creative affordable housing opportunities for the town.



## River Road residents share concerns about Sharon Land Trust plans

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Asking for greater transparency in the planning process guiding the Sharon Land Trust's planned conservation easement on acreage on Dawn Hill Road (and plans to create a hiking trail there), River Road residents attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 26, to voice their concerns directly to the town and to representatives of the land trust.

Residents were already concerned about an overflow or cars parked along River Road, with visitors there to enjoy the Housatonic River and the Appalachian Trail.

The increased numbers of visitors meant that cars blocked driveways and River

At present, the land trust representatives said, two parking spaces are planned for the 63-acre Dawn Hill conserved property. Residents of River Road and Dawn Hill said they fear additional impact as people come to take advantage of the proposed hiking trail. The land would be conserved with help from a state grant; the state requires public access for properties it helps protect.

Recognizing residents' concerns, the selectmen invited the Sharon Land Trust (SLT) to attend their meeting to hear those concerns and to open the door to more dialogue. Representing the SLT at the meeting were co-vice presidents Chris Clow and Roger Liddell.

"We are seeking a solution that works for all," First Selectman Brent Colley said, acknowledging that the property owners are concerned about the volume of traffic, parking, speeding and access for emergency vehicles.

Any plans for a larger recreation area at Dawn Hill might draw even more cars to the area, Colley said as he summarized concerns.

Saying that the SLT's protection of the Dawn Hill property could disrupt their quality of life, 10 road residents attended the selectmen's meeting to ask that they be informed about the SLT plans and that they be heard in regard to their concerns.

Describing plans for the Dawn Hill property, Clow termed it a conservation easement, indicating that state funds purchase the development rights, but the property owner still owns the land. There would be very little signage pointing visitors toward the two parking spaces, Clow said.

Colley described the selectmen's meeting as "the start of a conversation" among those involved. "We can figure something out."

One River Road resident suggested that a committee of residents could meet with the SLT to remain informed about the process and ensure

that their concerns are heard. Selectman Dale Jones suggested that the SLT initiate a policy of advance notification of neighbors when any project is being proposed. Because the public is being affected, it becomes a public issue, he said.

Colley suggested that a public meeting might be useful to determine what information can and should be provided to area residents as part of the acquisition and site planning process.

#### Technology upgrade

With a view toward enhanced cybersecurity, resident Meghan Flanagan recommended a committee be formed to consider a technology upgrade for Town Hall. Such an upgrade could provide for working and meeting remotely, including capacity for hybrid meetings. She encouraged the selectmen to name a committee to review options and identify funding

#### **ARPA funding**

Reviewing progress of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding committee, Jill Drew reported that applications are beginning to come in and she asked that the selectmen agree to a deadline of Jan. 15 to submit applications. She indicated that her committee is preparing a survey and creating application forms to be available in English and Spanish to be used by individuals and organizations.

A community meeting will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 1, beginning at 6:30 p.m., when the ARPA committee will provide information on the pro-



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## 15th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony



The staff and students of SCS would like to pay special tribute to our military veterans. All veterans are encouraged to join us at this ceremony. You do not need to be a Salisbury resident.

Date: Thursday 11/11/21

Time: 10:00 - 10:30 am

Location: Salisbury Central School (upper building) \*Ceremony will be outside to meet COVID safety precautions so please dress for the weather. Chairs will

be set up.

#### **BREAKTHROUGHS**

Continued from Page A1

are experiencing some level of waning immunity," noted O'Connell.

Dr. James Shepherd, a resident of Sharon and an infectious disease consultant at Yale New Haven Hospital, explained that in the elderly, immune systems age along with the rest of the body.

"Therefore, they make less robust initial responses to vaccination, which wane sooner than in younger people. This is the basis for earlier booster shots for people over 65.

"Nevertheless, the vaccines continue to provide excellent protection against severe disease and death on statewide and national surveillance."

#### Some were 'unable to survive'

According to Dr. Mark Marshall, vice president of Medical Affairs for Sharon Hospital, the elderly with serious underlying health issues are most at risk of severe illness and death, especially as vaccines lose their effectiveness.

Recent studies by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest that as the Delta variant spread, vaccines became less effective at keeping people 75 and older out of the hospital.

"I can tell you that people I have seen who have died," said Marshall, were older, with immunocompromised systems, underlying illnesses such as lung and heart disease and other comorbidities.

"And they were unable to

Although the town of Sharon in recent weeks has been red on the state's color-coded map — indicating a high rate of transmission of the virus Marshall said that there has been no major increase in COVID-19-positive patients at Sharon Hospital in recent

"We generally have one or two in the hospital, and on other days have none. That is a big contrast to what we were dealing with several months ago. Things have settled down, with the exception of sporadic outbreaks."

The other Northwest Corner town that was red on the state map on Oct. 22 was North Canaan. Salisbury was orange. The three other Northwest Corner towns were gray.

> **Boosters & flu shots** a priority

Because nursing home res-

idents and staff were among the earliest recipients of COVID-19 vaccines when the shots became available late last vear, they are now among the first in line to receive booster shots. Flu shots are also being administered at the nursing

to hold a Pfizer booster shot clinic for residents and staff on Tuesday, Nov. 2, in conjunction with Walgreens Pharmacy. Individuals infected with COVID-19 are not eligible for the boosters, said O'Connell.

Noble Horizons in Salisbury, according to Administrator Bill Pond, had recently initiated the booster process among residents, and plans to

"We're not mandating it, but we have seen a very eager response to the booster," said

Sharon Health Care Center

## Transition to an

Looking ahead, Shepherd said high levels of community resistance to infection and disease show that the impact of COVID-19 is waning in Connecticut.

"We are well into the transition from an epidemic to an endemic infection. Could a new variant emerge that can reinfect us more efficiently? Possibly, but the trend is toward greater host protection."

But Sharon Hospital's Marshall warned that the highly infectious disease has not disappeared, and human behavior over the next several months will either stamp down the virus or heighten its spread.

"I think if people aren't cautious, it's possible that we are going to see another surge this winter."

#### Free shots at clinics

Several towns in the area are hosting clinics with vaccines, boosters and flu shots. Check

A free COVID-19 vaccine clinic will be held on Saturday, Nov. 6, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at North Canaan Town Hall. All vaccines will be available, dependent upon CDC guidelines, including boosters. No appointment is necessary, nor is photo ID. Residents of all six Northwest Corner towns

## Google and Connecticut partner to offer training in information tech

**By Cynthia Hochswender** 

has partnered with Google to offer training in information technology skills, leading to a

Students can take the courses at all community colleges and career and technical education high schools across the nation as part of the program.

The goal is to train workers for "information technology related sectors [that] have reported a skills gap in the U.S. workforce," according to a press

release from Gov. Ned Lamont. Students can be ready to move into careers with \$60,000 annual salaries after three to six months of training in data analytics, IT support, project management and UX design fields, all of which are expected to need an increasing number of workers in the next decade.

More than 150 companies are participating including Infosys, Verizon, Walmart, Wayfair, and Google. Infosys has pledged to hire 250 program graduates at its Hartford loca-

Through the College of Technology, all Connecticut community colleges will offer credit courses that will include Google Career Certificate courses beginning in spring 2022. Non-credit courses will also be offered regionally using the community colleges' work-

Geer Village was scheduled

offer shots to staff soon.

Pond on Oct. 20.

plans to roll out booster shots 'in the near future," according to spokesman Tim Brown.

## 'endemic infection'

town websites for information.

# force development offices, with

the roll out of the Google IT The state of Connecticut Support certificate in spring 2022. Connecticut State Colleges & Universities (CSCU) will partner with the Office of Google Career Certificate. Workforce Strategy to help initially subsidize these programs

> for students and job seekers. According to the press release, 82% of graduates of the Google program "report a positive career impact within six months of completion, such as a raise, promotion, or new job."

> For more information about the certificates, go to g.co/grow/ GoogleCareerCertificates or CSCU's website at www.ct.edu/ google.

through Oct. 21, according to the state. DPH is continuing its review and has begun to audit the information reported by the facilities.

**DATA REPORTING** 

Continued from Page A1

#### What else isn't being reported?

The state's action also brings into question how nursing homes are reporting bi-weekly data on COVID-19 infections to the state. Most show up on data charts as having zero cases. Others, including Geer Village in North Canaan, report a high rate of infection among staff and residents, as well as COVID-related deaths.

None of the three nursing homes in the Northwest Corner, and the state itself, could explain why the majority of the 208 statewide nursing home facilities on the two most current bi-weekly reports (released by DPH on Oct. 12 and Oct. 26) reported not a single confirmed case of the virus, even at a time when the Delta variant is reported to be creating a surge among the most vulnerable populations.

A total of 37 cases of COVID-19 among residents, six deaths and 34 staff infections were reported statewide during the two-week period ending Oct. 26, out of a total nursing home population of 18,890.

The prior two-week reporting period, ending Oct. 12, revealed 71 resident infections statewide, three deaths and 34 staff infections, out of a total population of 18,849.

#### 'Very confusing to see all the zeroes'

The skilled nursing facility at Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in North Canaan recently experienced a spike in new cases of COVID-19 among its fully vaccinated residents and staff. The assisted living facility at Geer Village remains unaffected.

"All I can say is that at the last Zoom call we had with DPH on Wednesday, Oct. 20, they indicated they had six new facilities reporting COVID outbreaks. It is very confusing to see all the zeroes on this week's report," said Geer CEO Kevin O'Connell on Friday, Oct. 29, a day after the bi-weekly data collection was released by the

state. O'Connell confirmed that 53 residents and 16 staff became infected with COVID-19 in recent weeks, and three residents with underlying health conditions died, with their deaths attributed to COVID-19.

Of the 53 residents infected. 25 have recovered; of the staff members infected, seven have

recovered. "After 18 months of battling to keep this virus out of our nursing home, we are sad to report an outbreak affecting 69 staff and residents. We are encouraged to see 37 individuals already recovered and coming off isolation. Sadly, we have lost three individuals with serious underlying health issues to COVID," said O'Connell.

The Geer administrator said the infection was brought into the nursing home by a new patient who came in short term, had tested negative upon admission, and then tested positive a few days later. The infection was isolated to the nursing home, he said, and did not spread to the Lodge, assisted

living facility or other campus locations.

"Once it gets into the building it is very difficult to control," O'Connell said of the highly infectious Delta variant.

The Geer team, its CEO noted, is following guidance from the state DPH and the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention(CDC), and continues to monitor the situation closely with ongoing testing occurring bi-weekly.

"Our remote location has previously been an advantage in keeping the virus out, but that is no longer the case, despite declining rates of infection across the state," said O'Connell.

In a prior interview on Oct. 19, O'Connell said he had no idea whether other nursing homes are or are not reporting confirmed cases within 24 hours as required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. But, he said at that time, the state DPH report, with all its zeroes, "does look odd.

"Whether we happen to have a unique case here, I don't know. Do I think there are unreported cases out there? I understand the difficulties involved with testing and tracking cases. I would not be surprised if the numbers are higher when the new update comes out."

As it turned out, the latest batch of numbers released in the state's Oct. 28 bi-weekly data collection revealed the opposite, showing a decline in reported infections.

#### No current cases at Sharon **Health Care Center**

Non-compliance is one possible explanation for the low data collection, said Tim Brown, spokesman for Athena Health Care System, which operates Sharon Health Care Center. He did not rule out the possibility of statewide under-reporting.

"It is possible that there are more cases out there than are being reported," said Brown in an interview on Oct. 20, during which he reported that there were no positive cases of COVID-19 at the Sharon nursing home.

At the start of the pandemic, before vaccines went into residents' arms, the Sharon facility was a hot spot for COVID-19. Brown said he can relate to the fallout that facilities face when infections become public. "We have been reporting right from the beginning, when many others were not doing that."

According to the most recent DPH report, three confirmed resident infections and four resident deaths at Sharon Health Care Center were recorded in the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) data for the period July 22, 2020 through Oct. 28, 2021; 14 staff infections were reported at the Sharon Nursing home after June 17, 2020.

#### Flaws in NHSN data

Bill Pond, administrator at Noble Horizons in Salisbury, maintains that there has never been a case of COVID-19 on campus, and the zeroes next to his facility in the most recent bi-weekly state reports, he said,

Yet, a deeper dive into the DPH reports showing cumulative cases from 2020 reveals one reported resident case of COVID-19 and 12 reported staff infections at Noble.

Pond said the one reported case of a resident exposure was the result of a false-positive test from an individual who was being discharged shortly after the test was taken. "When we addressed that with DPH, they recorded it, took it into consideration and we had hoped it was going to be backed out," but it never was, the Noble administrator explained.

'That's a blemish on our record that has been brought to my attention before," said Pond, who referred to the 2020 data collected by the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) as "flawed. Many facilities early on had problems with that [portal].... Since then, it's become more accurate."

As for the reports of infected staff, Pond said not one of the workers who contracted the virus had physically been on campus, thanks to a strong, at-home and on-site outdoor screening process, established in March of 2020, prohibiting staff entry to the facility if symptoms of illness were present.

Pond said "100%" of the staff who tested positive contracted the disease from the community. "They were staff members scheduled to work a given day, and we paid them not to come in."

The Noble administrator said he doubts that there is a severe undercount among nursing homes statewide and that the statistics are verifiable.

"If one case is not reported, and you don't isolate that person and the virus spreads, then you have a real problem. It goes against the total grain of what we are all doing as a group" to stamp out the virus.

Geer's O'Connell agreed. "We are all at a point where nobody is special or immune, and the only way out is to make sure you are reporting and that the state is tracking it."

Facilities can face stiff penalties and fines for failing to report confirmed cases of COVID-19 within 24 hours through a special portal of the state DPH.

DPH has access to facility-reported data in the NHSN tracking system and pulls this data on a bi-weekly basis to produce the nursing home reports, according to spokesman Christopher Boyle.

"Any updates that facilities submit after Wednesday of each week are not reflected in the bi-weekly report," Boyle explained. "If facilities notice a discrepancy in the report, they are advised to notify DPH." He added that DPH is continuously updating and providing any revisions in subsequent reports.

#### SHARON HOSPITAL

Continued from Page A1

proceedings will be on Zoom, with a limited number of participants. The meeting will also be recorded.)

This meeting is hosted by the town of Sharon, with participation by the first selectmen of other area towns. For information, go to your town's web-

site or go to www.sharonct.org. Horn said Nuvance has committed to keeping the unit open in the meantime. Like Miner, she expressed concern that medical staff will start looking elsewhere for jobs, with the future of the maternity unit up in the air.







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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

**ART: ETIENNE DELESSERT** 

# Only Fortune Makes Us Different from Them

or some of us life can be relatively normal — even if for days there might be a limited selection of cat food on the grocery shelves, or no baking soda. Perhaps some money problems here and there. Or encountering people who refuse the COVID vaccine because they want "the freedom of dying ..."

Chris Pouler, a resident of Lakeville, Conn., since 1999, is shy: the kind of man who can auscultate a world situation for 15 years, be haunted by the immigration crisis, and express a different normality — that of the people who attempt to change their lives by walking, or crowding onto a raft in search of our kind of life.

We should perhaps remember that for centuries immigrants have broken from their environments to come to the U.S. (from Germany or Kenya — the family origins of two of our recent presidents).

We have flourished ... with immigrants.

Pouler is a great painter of faces that tell personal stories. In this exhibition, he also orchestrates scenes with several characters, isolated in empty landscapes, who wonder if they have the courage — and the despair — to leave. They have seen the rage and the violence, storms flooding the streets, earthquakes breaking their towns, drug cartels



IMAGE COURTESY CHRIS POULER

Kristina, an Iraqi refugee, is the subject of one of a series of paintings by Chris Pouler focusing on the life and struggles of refugees.

kidnapping their children, and lack of work.

Their misery and anger should darken their expressive faces. But Pouler's humble secret is that the hundreds of faces in a show of his work called "Relativity," at the Warren Family Gallery at the Berkshire School look straight at you, with sadness and hope in their eyes; they look relatively normal. Like our own children, like our friends. The paintings reflect that once there was happiness; each pale smile paints a glimmer of hope.

It is a "political" exhibition, but in fact all the faces of children, mothers, proud fathers and trembling grandparents hold the weight of the decisions to improve their conditions. They came from Syria, from Myanmar or Sudan, Kosovo and Columbia, Haiti or Mexico. They feel deeply that their odyssey will finally be understood.

Oddly, a few faces are painted with closed eyes. Perhaps lost in their thoughts. I recognized

## ADVERTISE IN COMPASS

To advertise your event under the Arts & Entertainment banner, call 860-435-9873 or email advertising@ lakevillejournal.com hammad Ali; he was also some kind of migrant, an "other" who proclaimed he was "the greatest ever."

among them a young Mo-

In this multimedia installation, Pouler has a very skilled way of encouraging us to reflect upon a world which, in 10 or 20 years, will find millions and millions of people leaving the continents of Africa and Asia, or the Middle East because there is no longer enough water: a "relatively" big crisis! Let's get ready!

I especially like Tryptic #2: a melancholic image that reminds me of some of the best canvasses of Eric Fischl, before his innocence turned to vile cliché. And Kristina, The Girl from Iraq, among a field of glorious marigolds. She crumbled at the hands of ISIS, picked a flower from the grave. Her spirit is triumphant!

"Relativity," a show of paintings by Chris Pouler, is at the Warren Family Gallery at the Berkshire School in Sheffield, Mass., until Dec. 18. The show can be seen Monday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment (call 413-229-1265). All visitors must be vaccinated and masked.

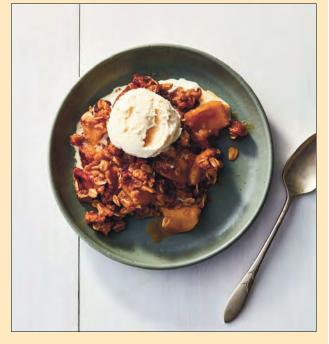


PHOTO BY MARK WEINBERG

New York Times Magazine food writer Dorie Greenspan will take about her 14th book, which includes a recipe for the caramel-apple crisp in this photo, in a Zoom talk Nov. 6.

# TAKING YOUR BAKING UP A NOTCH WITH DORIE GREENSPAN

One of the loveliest things about Dorie Greenspan as a cookbook author/food writer is that she's very chatty and encouraging and gives detailed explanations that are sufficiently fun to read that you don't skip over them. Learning should always be this easy.

This wonderfully conversational food coach will be featured in a Zoom conversation hosted by the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon on Saturday, Nov. 6, at 4 p.m. She will be chatting with another famous foodie, Priscilla Martel; mostly they will be talking about Greenspan's new (and 14th) book, "Baking With Dorie: Sweet, Salty & Simple."

If you want to give

Greenspan a test drive before the Zoom, we have a recipe from the cookbook at our website at www. tricornernews.com. A caramel-apple crisp, it will give you an excuse to go to a farmstand near you and buy some of the apple bounty that our region is offering right now. It's also a more sophisticated and surprising version of something we all love (apple crisp), that's a little less sweet, a little more complex and less "white," with whole wheat flour and old-fashioned rolled oats.

> —Cynthia Hochswender

To register for the Zoom talk, go to www. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org/event/baking.

# BROMBERG, KAUKONEN AND CASADY ONSTAGE TOGETHER AT THE MAHAIWE

The David Bromberg Quintet and Hot Tuna will perform together in a concert on Saturday, Nov. 27, at 8 p.m. at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Mass.

It will be an evening of modern appreciation of historic blues music by two iconic American bands.

David Bromberg is a musician's musician, adept at guitar, fiddle, Dobro and mandolin in multiple styles. The seminal blues guitarist Rev. Gary Davis claimed the young Bromberg as a son.

Jorma Kaukonen and Jack Casady founded Hot Tuna in 1969 as a side project during their Jefferson Airplane days.

Today, Kaukonen is a leading practitioner and teacher of fingerstyle guitar. His contemporary performances carry on the work of the Rev. Gary Davis.

Casady is known for having broadened the range and scope of electric bass playing, taking it out of the rhythm category and bringing to it a world of complex and complementary melodies.

Tickets for the concert are \$41 to \$86 (\$5 off for Mahaiwe Members) and must be purchased in advance at www.mahaiwe. org or 413-528-0100 from Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.



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PHOTO COURTESY BARDAVON

Christophe Landon, one of the world's premier luthiers, will talk about and demonstrate the magic of stringed instruments in a fundraiser on Sunday, Nov. 7, for the Hudson Valley Philharmonic.

## WHAT MAKES THE STRINGS SING, WEEP AND LAUGH

Christophe Landon, one of the world's leading luthiers, will give a talk on "Mysteries of the Great Instruments" at Revel 32 in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., hosted by the Bardavon, on Sunday, Nov. 7, at 3 p.m.

Landon will bring his collection of priceless violins, violas and cellos, with demonstrations on each by members of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic.

All seats are \$100 and seating is very limited. This event benefits the Hudson Valley Philharmonic and includes hors d'oeuvres and a wine toast, plus cash bar.

For information on COVID restrictions and to purchase tickets, contact the Bardavon or UPAC box offices at 845-473-2072 or 845-339-6088 or go to www. bardavon.org.

MOVIES

The Moviehouse, 48 Main

Now playing: No Time to

Die, Velvet Underground,

Dune, Bergman Island,

Arts Center, 14 Castle St.,

THE WIZARD OF OZ

(1939), Nov. 26, 4 p.m.

FRAGILITY ETUDES:

Nov. 20, 8 p.m.

MUSIC

www.clarkart.edu

www.cewm.org

4 to 5:45 p.m.

(online).

(online).

(online).

TALKS

noblehorizons.org

MASS MoCA, 1320 MASS MoCA

Way, North Adams, Mass. www.

MUSIC BY SUSIE IBARRA,

FILM BY YUKA C. HONDA,

The Clark Art Museum, 225

PERFORMING ARTISTS

Nov. 21, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

**Close Encounters With** 

IN RESIDENCE CONCERT,

Music, Great Barrington, Mass.

Café Music—Jazz, Rap and

Grand Reopening!, Nov. 21,

**Scoville Memorial Library**,

38 Main St., Salisbury, Coni

Women in Jazz presented

by Flute Juice artist Galen,

www.scovillelibrary.org

Nov. 9, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Noble Horizons, 17 Cobble

Helping Seniors with Home, Financial and Legal

Needs, Nov. 11, 7 p.m.

The Salisbury Forum,

Salisbury, Conn. www.

sharonplayhouse.org

SHERRY TURKLE: A Zoom

Webinar, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Sharon Playhouse, 49 Amenia

Teen/Adult Beginner Tap:

Teen/Adult (12 and up),

Nov. 8, 15, 22, 6 to 7 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 68 Main

warnertheatre.org

St., Torrington, Conn. www.

Dogfight, Nov. 6 though 21,

Fridays and Saturdays, 8

p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m.

Road, Sharon, Conn. www.

salisburyforum.org

Road, Salisbury, Conn. www.

South St., Williamstown, Mass.

Great Barrington, Mass. www.

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# TRI-CORNER **CALENDAR**

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

#### ART

**100 Main**, 100 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. www.100mainst.

a.m. to 4 p.m. Argazzi Art, 22 Millerton Road,

Custom Shades, Nov. 6, 11

Lakeville, Conn. www.argazziart. Collection of Gallery Artists. Featuring works by Ewa Bathelier, Sandrine

Kern, Victor Mirabelli, Antonio Murado, Richard Segalman, Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment.

The Clark Art Museum, 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. www.clarkart.edu OPENING LECTURE FOR **COMPETING CURRENTS:** 20TH-CENTURY JAPANESE PRINTS, Nov. 6,

#### BOOKS

#### **Hotchkiss Library of**

2 to 3 p.m. (online).

Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. www. hotchkisslibrary.org Author Talk With Dorie Greenspan: "Baking With Dorie: Sweet, Salty & Simple", Nov. 6, 4 to 5 p.m.

Oblong Books & Music, 26 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. www. oblonabooks.com

Virtual Book Launch: Kal Penn: You Can't Be Serious, Nov. 5, 7 p.m. (online).

The Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. www.

cornwalllibrary.org READING MIDDLEMARCH WITH MARK SCARBROUGH, Nov. 9, 16, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

#### KIDS

American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. www. americanmuralproject.org StopMotion @AMP (virtual program), Nov. 10, 17, 24, 5 to 6 p.m. (online).

Kent Memorial Library, 32 N. Main St., Kent, Conn. www. kentmemoriallibrary.org D&D Adventures, Nov. 5, 19, 3:30 p.m. Writing a Children's Book with Caroline Nastro, Nov. 6, 2:00 p.m.

Millbrook Free Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. www.millbrooklibrary.org Outdoor Art Group,

Fridays, 3:10 to 4:30 p.m.

#### MUSIC: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

# **Exploring the Roots** Of French Cabaret Music

ezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe will sing French cabaret songs at a fundraising event for the Bard **College Conservatory** of Music and Graduate Vocal Arts Program on Saturday, Nov. 6, at 8 p.m. in the Fisher Center's Sosnoff Theater in Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y. Tickets for the live performance start at \$25. Virtual livestream tickets are pay what you wish. All ticket sales benefit the Bard Conservatory Graduate Vocal Arts Scholarship Fund.

Blythe has performed

on many of the world's great stages, such as Carnegie Hall, Metropolitan Opera, Covent Garden, Paris National Opera, San Francisco, Chicago Lyric, and Seattle Opera. Joining her in the performance Nov. 6 will be pianist Kayo Iwama, who has performed at venues including the Walter Reade Theater at Lincoln Center, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, DiMenna Center, Merkin Hall, The Morgan Library, Jordan Hall, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Tanglewood, the Kennedy Center,

Tokyo's Yamaha Hall and the Théâtre du Châtelet in

Blythe and Iwama will be joined by members of the Vocal Arts Program and Conservatory Collaborative Piano Fellowship in a program that explores the beginnings of the world of French cabaret, a musical movement that was born to explore an exotic and bohemian ideal, expressing social and political satire through song.

The evening's program includes a repertoire of French cabaret songs spanning 1866 through

1968, and includes "Les temps des cerises" (1866) by Jean-Baptiste Clément (1836-1903), "La Vie en rose" (1945) by Louiguy (1916-91), "Le serpents qui danse" (1957) by Charles Baudelaire (1821-1867), and "Les moulins de mon coeur" (1968) by Michel Legrand (1932-2019) among many others.

To purchase or reserve tickets, go to www.fishercenter.bard.edu, call 845-758-7900 (Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.), or email boxoffice@bard.edu.



IMAGE COURTESY ALEXIS ROCKMAN

This 1988 painting by Alexis Rockman was inspired by the artist's love of amphibians, including this snapping turtle.

## **FOR THE LOVE OF TURTLES** (AND ART)

Alexis Rockman, known for his contemporary paintings and works on paper, will talk about one of his favorite subjects turtles! —in a live event at the library in Cornwall, Conn., on Saturday, Nov. 6, at 5 p.m.

Rockman, a new resident of Warren, Conn., will talk about the eastern painted, snapping, spotted, bog and wood turtles, as well as their far-flung relatives — and will also show images of and discuss some of his paintings that feature turtles.

Rockman has developed a cult following for his often-apocalyptic artwork that focuses on the impact that humans have on our planet.

Registration and COVID vaccine are required. Maximum attendance is 60 people. Register at www. cornwalllibrary.org/events.

## **WORKS BY CHALEFF AND KENRO & YUMIKO IZO AT NEW GREAT BARRINGTON ART GALLERY UNTIL NOV.28**

Artist and entrepreneur Carrie Chen, creator of the Casana cashmere line, has opened a gallery at 16 Railroad St. in Great Barrington, Mass. The gallery's first exhibit, which opened Oct. 30 and remains on display until Nov. 28, features the work of internationally award-winning sculptor and pottery artist Paul Chaleff, a Hudson River Valley resident.

Chaleff's work has been exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York's Museum of Modern Art, the National Museum of American Art at the Smithsonian and Muju

Sculpture Park in South Korea.

On the walls are photos by Kenro and Yumiko Izu, who are longtime friends and collaborators with Chaleff. Also residents of

the Hudson River Valley, the Izus' photographic work focuses on subtleties of nature.

The gallery will be open every Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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## **EDITORIAL**

## Responsibility for the environment starts at home

lobal leaders from the G20 are meeting at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow until Nov. 12. Their mission is to bring parties together to accelerate action toward the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, according to the COP26 website. As President Joe Biden and the other G20 leaders negotiate actions to address climate change, it's a good time for Northwest Corner residents to evaluate our own approaches to environmental responsibility and action.

It can seem overwhelming, hearing the issues being discussed at the COP26 summit, to try to think of ways to address climate change locally and make a difference where we live. But this is a time when it is really important to take that on. As reported in last week's Lakeville Journal by Leila Hawken and Patrick Sullivan, towns here are preparing to cope with the July 2022 closing of the trash-to-energy facility outside Hartford, MIRA (the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority), where this region's trash is now sent for disposal. That closing will take on great importance for the ability of our towns to dispose of our garbage.

It may seem relatively inconsequential compared with the global problems being talked about at COP26. But we need to remember that if all communities across the Earth took such matters in hand and found the most environmentally sound way of living in our own places, the health of the planet would be in a better state right now. So let's try to find a solution as a region that will be viable

The state of Connecticut is offering the option of the towns signing on to having their trash trucked to other areas of the country (the Midwest and the South) and buried. But even if all the towns sign on and get the best rate for such a service, costs to consumers will escalate. And it wouldn't be a long-term solution. There are only so many places willing and able to take other regions' garbage in and dispose of it, and let's face it, their space to do so is certainly not infinite.

The towns here have historically followed the most environmentally responsible structures for disposing of waste they could find, in general. Cornwall in particular is now considering opting out of the state's plan, searching for better alternatives. Encouraging wider composting of food waste is one way to try to reduce the solid waste that needs to be disposed of somehow.

Another way, of course, is for all of us to work to reduce our solid waste that needs to be dealt with at all. That may not be a simple task with so much packaging and other waste being a seemingly unavoidable part of our society, but it's one that needs to be taken on seriously.

If we expect our world leaders to achieve a path to change on the global scale, we need to take our own steps to improve the lot of the planet, as well as our homes and neighborhoods. Take any ideas you have to do that to your town leaders right now. There is no time to waste.

## Partisan politics at the local level unnecessary

In a letter in the Oct. 28 paper, my counterpart on the Democratic Town Committee attempted to justify his Committee's refusal to allow any of its candidates to accept a formal Republican endorsement. His justification was that, in an email I sent to him in June, when we were considering endorsing one or more Democratic candidates for the Board of Ed, I asked about their views on introducing critical race theory into the school curriculum.

According to Mr. Ginouves, this amounted to injecting a "wedge issue" that we allegedly took out of a "national and state Republican playbook", an issue that only someone "blinded by partisanship" would try to raise. This is odd, as I had spoken to two former Democratic BOE members, neither of whom was the least bit offended by my inquiry and one of whom said that our Committee was right to look at the issue in light of what is going on at the national and state (Hartford) levels.

Apparently the view of Mr. Ginouves and his fellow committee members is that Salisbury Republicans are only entitled to take a position on an

More letters are on the next page.

issue if that position does not coincide with the position of the state or national Republican Party. While this may be a clever way for the DTC to dismiss our views, I suspect they would not want the same standard to be applied to positions they take. Whether the issue is taxes, health care, affordable housing or school curriculum, it is inevitable that an issue will, from time to time, be part of a national discourse.

In any event, the question of who is playing partisan politics can rather easily be answered. Only our committee, not the DTC, offered to run Democrats on our line as a way of showing bi-partisan support for those candidates. And only our committee, not the DTC, has sent letters and paid for newspaper ads in which we announced our support for four incumbent Democratic candidates. We will continue to voice our support for Democratic candidates that we feel deserve election, regardless of whether our bi-partisanship is reciprocated.

Tom Morrison, Chair Salisbury Republican Town Committee Lakeville



An autumn walk in the woods

## **TURNING BACK THE PAGES**

Norma Bosworth

100 years ago — November

Word has been received from Mr. J.W. Cuineen, Superintendent of the Central New England Railway, that in the future the Salisury Station will be opened and heated on Sunday for the accommodation of patrons of Sunday trains.

LIME ROCK — Edward Carter of Lakeville was in town Sunday calling on his old school mates.

The favorite occupation of the average Lakeville resident at present is raking leaves and building bonfires.

LAKEVILLE - WilliamBradley Jr. has been exhibiting a good sized hoot owl to his friends. Bill captured the bird on the J.R. Taylor place

Hilen Eggleston of Lime Rock has taken a position at Farnam Tavern.

Stanley Mather will soon move into a part of Burt Ball's house on Church Street, recently vacated by Madison

#### 60 years ago — November 1961

Albert W. Olsen of Lime Rock was elected President of the Board of Trustees of Sharon Hospital at the annual meeting held last Saturday. He succeeds Dr. Bradley Coley, who died

SHARON — When two pranksters at 1:30 last Monday morning fired cherry bombs at his house, a Calkinstown Road resident fired a charge of bird shot at the intruders, wounding one in the left arm and both legs. The teen was treated at Sharon Hospital and released the next morning. His companion was uninjured. The resident was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and the youths were arrested on charges of breach of peace and illegal discharge of fireworks.

The first concrete steps toward doing something about public fallout shelters will take place within the next 30 days when a group of architects and engineers will move into the Salisbury area to conduct a survey of public buildings for that purpose, L.S. Neely, local Civil Defense Director, told the Journal this week.

Plans to reopen Geer Memorial Hospital as a community general hospital in Canaan were changed with the announcement yesterday by a hospital spokesman that the building will open this week instead as an institution for chronic and convalescent hospital patients. Frank L. Jacobs said the state had granted the license to operate as The Geer Memorial Sanitarium and Hos-

Correction: In last week's Journal, some of the first copies off the press mixed the warp and woof of a carpeting advertisement for the Housatonic Rug Shop so that it seemed as though another merchant had gone into the business. We caught it on the press, but to those few readers who may have headed the wrong way in their search for wall-to-wall decorating, we apologize and

Continued next page

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## **Support Sharon Hospital services**

This past week, Save Sharon Hospital gathered testimonies from families who recently delivered at Sharon Hospital. Responses poured in: heartfelt, intimate stories of profound experiences that were unique in their details, but one mother from Millbrook, N.Y., probably summed up the testimonies best: "It was an incredible experience for many reasons... but specifically because of the amazing support during my pregnancy and professional decisions [my doctor] made in terms of my baby and [my] health. I felt like I am his fam-

I felt the same way when I delivered my two babies at Sharon Hospital — the medical team there makes all patients feel like we are special, and not just numbers on a list. Giving these testimonies to the nurses and doctors felt like the least we could do to thank and support them as once again their lives are upended as Nuvance threatens to close Labor and Delivery at Sharon Hospital, among other cuts.

In 2018, when the previous owner of Sharon Hospital, HealthQuest, merged with WHCN to become Nuvance, Connecticut permitted the merger with the stipulation that Nuvance agree to not close Labor and Delivery at Sharon Hospital for the next five years. Yet here we are, not even three years later, and Nuvance is planning to close Labor and Delivery, and considering cuts to the Surgical Service and the

Instead of drastically cutting vital health services, we ask Nuvance to use the remaining time to find long-term, sustainable solutions, working with community input. One suggestion is to promote and advertise for pregnant patients. I have met several new mothers who weren't aware that Maternity at Sharon Hospital is still open. Nuvance must also look outside the box, and as before, our group is here to help.

During the pandemic surge in the spring of 2020, members of Save Sharon Hospital helped organize a large community project to sew homemade facemasks, hundreds of which we donated to Sharon Hospital to help keep their employees safe supply. We organized a meal train for Sharon Hospital employees to help lift their spirits. We were the masterminds and facilitators behind local schools submitting artwork from children that was placed on large banners to support Sharon Hospital staff. Our community has so much to give. Save Sharon Hospital represents a diverse group of stakeholders across this community, and we want to work with Nuvance to find a long-term solution for our hospital.

when N95 masks were in short

This Saturday, Nov. 6 at 3 p.m., we will gather on the Sharon Town Green in support of the medical staff at Sharon Hospital, while standing together to oppose Nuvance's planned closures. Scheduled speakers include elected officials from across our New York and Connecticut region. We will have petitions ready to sign, asking the state to hold Nuvance to its agreement. We ask everyone in the community to join us.

Lydia Moore Save Sharon Hospital Sharon

## Keep hospital's Birthing Suites open

I gave birth to my daughter at Sharon Hospital on Aug. 1, 2021. She arrived two-and-ahalf weeks before her due date, surprising us on a Saturday evening. Because the Birthing Suites at Sharon Hospital were only 10 minutes away, staffed by incredible doctors and nurses who provided exceptional care, I arrived and delivered my baby safely in a few hours. Although it was earlier than expected, my delivery was ultimately the one I had hoped for and had faith the hospital would provide. My husband and I chose to start our family while living full time in Sharon over the past year specifically because we would be able to deliver here. We could not have been better rewarded for our decision.

My experience is sadly not the norm for so many women, who endure births with none of the attention, respect, and empowerment I was given. And yet, the message from Nuvance Health to community families is that the gold standard care at Sharon Hospital in the Birthing Suites is too good for them, because it costs Nuvance too much. When Nuvance announced their intention in late September to shutter Labor and Delivery and cut ICU and surgical services within the next year, they blamed a financial strain of running a department that supposedly does not have enough births to support it. However, Nuvance has not been transparent about the exact dollar value of the budget gap that if filled could keep maternity running.

If the Birthing Suites need knew this birthing experience

was an option for them. They

more patients, where is Nuvance's community outreach? Why aren't they shouting from the rooftops about their incredible unit? Community hospitals should be expanding high quality services to more people, not taking them away. I am confident there are other couples like me and my husband who would come running if they would also feel assured in their decision to raise their families in the area with a full-range hospital standing at the ready. The nurses and doctors who brought my daughter — and

so many other babies — into the world safely, should be rewarded and celebrated for their stellar care. They are instead wondering again if their jobs are safe. Even in the whirlwind blur of my delivery, I remember vividly how the doctors and nurses supported me, encouraged and coached me, and made me feel like I could do the impossible. Now, it's our turn to show our support for them. My family and I will be at the Sharon Town Green on Saturday, Nov. 6, at 3 p.m., to demonstrate our opposition to Nuvance's plans, and rally for the cause of Saving Sharon Hospital.

**Emily McGoldrick** Save Sharon Hospital Sharon

#### THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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#### <u>Mission Statement</u>

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

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William E. Little, Jr., chair.

## Received excellent care for Labor & Delivery at Sharon Hospital

In May 2019 I gave birth to my son, Samuel, at Sharon Hospital. This was relatively shortly after the first time it was announced that Labor & Delivery would be closed. I'm so incredibly thankful that this did not happen. Being able to give birth in a place that I knew with people who I knew cared about me and my baby gave me a feeling of comfort and calm. My care was personalized to me, and I received attention that I may not have received had I been required to travel further and go elsewhere to give birth. I'm so, so thankful for my nurses and doctors at Sharon Hospital, and I hope that I have the same opportunity to give birth to my next child there as well.

Access to maternity services and full emergency services is essential to the well-being of

our community and the families who live within it. My family and I will attend the Save Sharon Hospital rally this Saturday, Nov. 6, at 3 p.m. at the Sharon Town Green to support Sharon Hospital medical staff and to oppose Nuvance's plan to close maternity and cut surgical and ICU services.

Please join us to protect our community's access to health-

Brittni Scavotto Falls Village

Deadline for letters is Monday at 10 a.m. for that week's newspaper. No more than 500 words. Please Send

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# Viewpoint

# New life for Music Cellar, thanks to community support

am writing to express my thanks, with deep humility and gratefulness, for all of those who contributed to The Music Cellar gofundme. You've allowed us to purchase the building, and thus secure our home-base of 10 years,

Millerton, N.Y. In a world where school budgets so often suffer, and the arts are considered extracurricular luxuries rather than the integral piece of humanity that they are, it gives me hope to see so many coming together to show their

BOYS AND GIRLS, TODAY WE'RE GOING TO LEARN

ABOUT AMERICAN HISTORY WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT

RACE. NO CIVILWAR, NO SLAVERY, NO JIM CROW,

SECREGATION, SELMA, CIVIL RIGHTS, VOTING RIGHTS OR KKK, AND QUITE A FEW OTHER THINGS. EXCEPT

SO, AMERICA BROKE OFF FROM ENGLAND IN 1776, LED

BY A BUNCH OF WONDERFUL CHRISTIAN WHITE MEN WHO

MAY BE TO SAY THOSE THINGS WEREN'T SO BAD.

MADE IT PERFECT. ANY QUESTIONS?

support and valuation of music education. It makes me proud to live in a community that sees the importance of music and creativity.

Rhythm, melody, musica...whatever we call it (some cultures don't have separate but rather one word that encompasses both)...It is a universal human behavior across the planet. Everyone that gave the Music Cellar a gift is also casting a vote for the propagation of an idea: The idea that musical skill-building provides rich benefits for the developing mind. Kids who are encouraged to vocalize, express, drum, strum and otherwise outwardly BE themselves in life, will be connected with humanity and ready to share ideas. Kids that jam together, learn to plan together. Group activity and a practice discipline provide a solid foundation and sense of self. My compatriots and I truly believe the world will be a better place, if we get as many youngsters as we can, playing

I've seen the benefits first hand, working with the same kids for a decade or more. Kids who are encouraged early on to embrace their creative side, develop into confident/self assured individuals. Be it Lucian, who when I met at age 4 was dancing to Michael Jackson and learning guitar, and now has far surpassed my skills on the instrument, and studied chemistry at a university in St. Petersburg, and is headed off for a full ride at Case Western Reserve. There's Aerianna,

in time with others.

words for music and dance,

#### GUEST Contribution **JONATHAN** GRUSAUSKAS

who started on ukulele, who now plays drums, guitar and trumpet and is one of kindest, politest, and most thoughtful young women I know (say hi to her in the tea room at Harney and Son's cafe). These are just two examples of "case studies" I've witnessed with my own eyes, where a child who was taught music at an early age demonstrated a heap of benefits to their maturity and development on their way to adulthood. To know that so many people see the importance of musical activity is heartwarming.

There are truly too many people to thank, it would take up three pages. I need to give props, however, to some key players. Kealan Rooney, this institution would not exist if it wasn't for your idea a decade ago, to start a camp for teaching music to kids, and I am infinitely grateful for your years of hard work and investment in the space and its mission. Not only did Kealan co-establish our original space, oversee the move to our new location, renovate, teach, and rehearse in the space, he also brought our mission outward, spending early mornings driving all over Region One to teach drumming at the many daycares. This program was started by Charlie Keil, another man we

can attribute our existence to. Not only did Charlie spark my interest and early studies into rhythm and ethno-musicology 20 years ago, but he has been a supporter of the music cellar from the beginning, and kept our doors open through thick and thin. Charlie's mission is to save the world by getting as many kids as we can singing and drumming, and his "born to groove" ethos is the book by which we operate. Lastly, we'd like to thank our landlord, and after all these years, certainly our friend, Victoria Soracco. Torey has rented her beautiful space to us for a decade now, and has always been supportive of our mission and enabling us to provide our services to the community. She was kind enough to accept our somewhat modest offer for the building, in lieu of several higher offers, because she wanted to see the Music Cellar continue its work. She held the building for us as we raised the funds to purchase it. We can't thank her enough for years of enjoying this space, and for her generosity in prioritizing us as purchasers.

It brings me hope to watch my community come together in support of music education.

Jonathan Grusauskas aka "Jonny G" is a full time musician who runs The Music Cellar in Millerton, a community music school and studio. He grew up in Falls Village and when not teaching lessons or singing songs at toddler jam, he tours the country in his rock band "lespecial" with his two bandmates Rory Dolan and Luke Bemand from Kent.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Public should have been informed of infections

An outbreak of the COVID-19 Delta variant began at Geer Nursing Home in North Canaan a month ago with just a case

By late October, there were nearly 70 cases, all in one building, including 15 staff, and 53 out of 77 residents, three of whom died.

These were "breakthrough" cases. Nearly all the infected per-

sons had received the original Pfizer vaccinations. Geer never notified the press or public about this.

Geer did send a notification to families of residents on Oct. 3, informing them of the initial small outbreak. It was also on an inside page of their website. After that, families were only directly notified by Geer if and when their own family member caught it.

Our family only learned about it this way on Oct. 23. Before that, we had no inkling of the great extent of this deadly outbreak that had been snowballing all month.

It continues to get worse, even after quarantines and isolation of cases. On Oct. 23, when we were first informed, there were 49 cases. On Oct. 29, when I spoke to Geer CEO Kevin O'Connell,

Geer did notify North Canaan First Selectman Charlie Perotti

## Retelling a tale

" 'We must get rid of the two brats,' she declared. And she kept on trying to persuade her husband to abandon his children in the forest."

> — Step Mother, Hansel and Gretel

Once upon a time there was a country founded on Truth and the voice of the people, Democracy — a laudable pair together setting forth a mighty nation, not perfect, certainly not fully equal, but a place others sought and in which many prospered. The country had history, achievements, a talented citizenry capable of reflection and learning, innovation and inspiration. Truth and Democracy were well cared for if occasionally the form of care was disputed.

One day with a confluence of natural and unnatural elements at play, the laudable pair wandered into a dark forest —abandoned, denied, not understanding the turn of their existence. Dropping informational and assistance-seeking bread crumbs on the snarly forest floor, Truth and Democracy arrived at a most inspiring house — the Capitol where resided pristine members of Congress in chambers pledged to the wellbeing of Truth and Democracy. Here, though, they found much pushing, shoving, injury which some described as insurrection and others as a family outing, a stroll up the stairs, through the doors and along the halls of US majesty. Much print space, air time, and opinions were formulated for debate including menacing words, tales, some threats regarding what is, what is fact, what is American.

Truth and Democracy's story is in the writing, daily there are judicial, legislative, pundit roiled events and commentary. Truth and Democracy are encased in the Capitol where it is unclear of their treatment — it varies from ardent defense to intensive misinformation, from loud silence to vehement roars of recrimination. U.S. "evening news" can rarely tread beyond U.S. upheavals, disruptions, deaths.

The fate of Truth and Democracy is uncertain — determined by the purpose and strength of their keepers — will the laudable pair be plucked and dressed for baking into an autocratic U.S. ethos or might they be healthy, freed from a persistent state of uncertainty -once again to boldly walk, run, play and strike compromises with free will.

Each week the tale of Truth and Democracy emerges in Bannons, Texas Bans, vaccine mandates, vaccine and mask mandate overthrows, an unthwarted pandemic, individual rights, individual responsibilities, frauds within frauds, clowns without laughter.

Fortunately, historians remind us that though current manifestations differ, U.S. citizenry has before been in stark and risky conflict. Much is changing, much is replaced, nature's climate is altered as are people preferences. Choices are being made, may they be done with care and regard for consequences.

"Losing your way on a journey is unfortunate. But, losing your reason for the journey is a fate more cruel."

> – H. G. Wells **Kathy Herald-Marlowe**

and State Rep. Maria Horn at some point, but neither of them informed the press or public either.

I contacted the Republican-American myself on Monday, Oct. 25. That was their first knowledge of it. They acted quickly with an online report Tuesday and a front page story Wednesday (Oct. 27, "Nursing home outbreak").

I also emailed The Lakeville Journal (twice) on Oct. 25. They didn't respond, and had no report in their next issue, or even

I appreciate how hard and difficult this is, and, after talking with Mr. O'Connell, I agree that publicity doesn't make it easier.

But an outbreak of this size and severity should have been brought to the public's attention. And the notification should have been made weeks ago, and should have come from Geer and/or the other officials.

Mark Godburn

Norfolk

More letters previous page.

## We need Sharon Hospital

Nuvance Health has announced plans to close the Labor and Delivery Department at Sharon Hospital, as well as to make drastic cuts to the Surgery Department and the ICU. This closure will affect everyone in our community, not only if you're pregnant or planning to become pregnant. If Labor and Delivery closes, it will lead to further downsizing of Sharon Hospital. As the hospital will no longer be required to keep anesthesiologists and surgeons on call for births after normal operating room hours, there will be no more evening or overnight emergency surgeries. As more departments are cut to skeletal units or closed completely, we will be left with a glorified urgent care center that transfers emergent patients to other hospitals an hour away.

The Labor and Delivery Department is a particularly outstanding unit that should not be shuttered. I gave birth to our first son in April of 2021 at Sharon Hospital. The nurses and doctors who cared for me there were above and beyond amazing and helped me through an otherwise complicated and scary experience. They made me feel comfortable and well cared for, and I was also extremely impressed with their progressive methods. Not only did they keep my comfort and safety foremost, they also chose the least invasive methods during my labor whenever possible. They had birthing balls and other props on hand for use during labor, and a massage therapist went door to door to see if any of the laboring women were in need of a massage. After delivery, they offer new parents a special "celebratory dinner." Ours was delicious beyond hospital standards and a thoughtful touch.

We are lucky to have such a fantastic facility in our area, and Nuvance should be marketing it, rather than trying to shut it down. Having a full-service hospital in our community is not only important for the health of every individual who lives here but is also key to attracting businesses and families to our area.

A rally is taking place on Saturday, Nov. 6 at 3 p.m. on the Sharon Town Green. My family will be in attendance and we hope you will join us, in speaking out against Nuvance Health's proposed cuts to Sharon Hospital. The well-being of our community depends on it.

> Meredith Murphy Save Sharon Hospital

Lakeville

## Correction

In Bob Green's guest column of Oct. 21, "Auto safety can be taught, to all of us," he would like to correct the statistics as seen in the following paragraph: "My most recent rounded figures show that since 2007, U.S., 14 years passed, we've totaled over 84 million reported crashes at a cumulative cost of \$870 billion/year., topping \$12 trillion, check my math. Averaged, that would cost every driver \$900+/year, even if you didn't crash. Insurance companies make money on this. The human cost - 490,000 violently killed, far more if we go further back in time. The emergency services injury rate stays at about 2 million per year required ambulance transport to a hospital. Injuries can range in severity, superficial to life threatening. Sobering statistics, enough said."

#### TURNING BACK THE PAGES Norma Bosworth

Continued from previous page

bow in the direction of Cornwall Bridge.

FALLS VILLAGE — The Edward Wildey family has moved to the home on Dublin Road formerly occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Kay Peterson.

A dog of mixed parentage, one that onlookers believe was Ronald Wike's, caused great excitement in the Lover's Lane area of town last Thursday afternoon when she got caught in a culvert under the road and was freed only when Harold Jones and Dick Murtagh of the Town Road Crew removed part of the culvert with a John Deere scoop shovel. After the dog (who showed her gratitude by happily rolling on the grass at their feet) had gone off, the men repaired the culvert and the road over it. Mr. W.M. Kimball, who reported the dog's dilemma, said he thought Mr. Jones and Mr. Murtagh deserved credit, not only for all their work, but also for their attitude of interest in the trapped dog.

CANAAN — To widen the entrance to the parking lot used by customers of the First National and Colonial Theatre, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Boscardin of Railroad

Street is being moved from its former location at the entrance to the parking lot to a new site on Bragg Street.

#### 25 years ago — November 1996

LAKEVILLE — Fairfield Farms ranked as largest in registering the most Angus beef cattle in Connecticut, having recorded 63 head of Angus with the American Angus Association during fiscal year 1996, according to Richard L. Spader, association executive vice president.

Todd Baker is in stable condition and recovering at Hartford Hospital this week following the crash Friday of the small plane he was piloting. But there is a long road to rehabilitation ahead for the 24-year-old Canaan resident who sustained severe injuries when the single engine Bellanca crashed into the Konkapot River in Sheffield, Mass. shortly after takeoff from Canaan Airport. There were no passengers on board. Todd is the son of Ronald and Joan Baker, owners of the Canaan Market.

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

# Realtor® at Large

Falls Village now offers a wonderful opportunity to view both beautiful art and to enjoy excellent food in the center of Town. Kathleen Kucka is the curator of the art gallery Furnace - Art on Paper Archive located at 107 Main St in Falls Village. The gallery focuses on contemporary art on paper and features many local artists. Visit their website at: www. furnace-artonpaperarchive.com/ current. And while there, enjoy the food and coffee at the Falls Village Café, which is also in the same building. Their web site is: fallsvillagecafe.com.



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## Green energy forum is Nov. 6

SALISBURY — The Green Team of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC will sponsor a round-table discussion about moving toward "net-zero" energy consumption on Saturday, Nov. 6, at 10 a.m., in support of the Global Day for Climate Justice.

The Green Team has embarked on a project to ensure that the church building's use of electricity equals the amount of electricity produced in a given year by installing solar panels, installing LED lighting and sensors, and converting oil furnaces to electric heats pumps, among other

Two industry experts will

be on hand to discuss solar arrays, lighting and electric heat pumps and there will be a brief overview of the church's project. All contractors, homeowners or other interested persons are invited to attend. At the end of the round-table, participants will be able to answer questions and request other topics be covered in future sessions.

Join the round table via Zoom at https://us02web. zoom.us/j/88487945944?pwd=YnFSNWxHdTl1U-3BRTGs1NklKbFQ2QT09. The meeting ID is 884 8794 5944 and the passcode is: 136032. For questions, contact the church office at 860-435-





A bear visited Eileen Epperson in Salisbury on Oct. 12.

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#### Have feeder, bears will feed...

A bear came back for second helpings at Eileen Epperson's house in Salisbury, on Tuesday, Oct. 12.

She described it as "huge." Its first visit was two weeks earlier, when it took down a large birdfeeder. This time it ambled up to the porch to feast on a smaller feeder.

Epperson was at home and watched it through the glass sliding door.

"It moved when I moved the sliding door slightly to see better," Epperson said. "It pulled itself slowly off the porch, drew back, didn't stand up, but started to go on all fours away from me.

"About 10 feet away, he/it stopped, turned around and looked back at me. It was a special moment."

— Cynthia Hochswender

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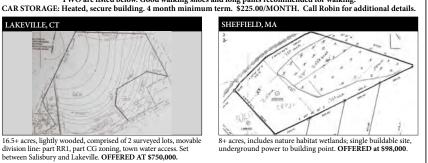
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Please send letter of interest and resume to Patti Starzyk at pstarzyk@millbrook.org or Millbrook School, 131 Millbrook School Rd., Millbrook, NY 12545.

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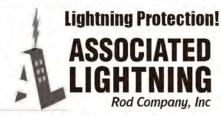
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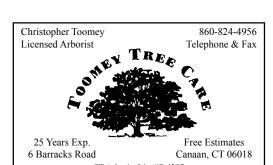
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