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The Lakeville Journal

TriCornerNews.com

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Celebrating Our
125th Anniversary

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



PHOTO BY HUNTER O. LYLE

Grown in a greenhouse at The Pass, in Sheffield, Mass., Papaya Punch is a popular product.

CT pot stores coming soon

By Erica E. Phillips
CT Mirror

Since Connecticut approved recreational pot over a year ago, the process of licensing and building out the state's market has been a slow burn.

But regulators said last week that approved marijuana busi-

See POT STORES, Page A8

By Elias Sorich

Early child care centers across the Northwest Corner and in eastern Dutchess County tell a common story: An emerging staffing shortage underscores challenges both old and new in the industry.

From a dearth of applicants, to unreliable and sporadic state and federal funding — the current picture is of a chronically undervalued industry that fights hard to provide crucial services to underserved populations.

Providing both before- and after-school care to children ages 0-6, early child care centers occupy a challenging midway point between parents and the education system. They aim to afford parents the flexibility to work the jobs they need to support the family, while also educating children with social and developmental skills critical to their success in school.

"The reality [is that] we're not just babysitters. We're educators who help children get ready to go to school," said Tonya Roussis, director of Housatonic Child Care Center in Salisbury.

In fact, according to Fran Chappell, executive director of Canaan Child Care Center: "It's more like social work than child care. We also do food, quality lunches, make sure

Child care centers face staffing, funding shortages



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

Children at the Housatonic Child Care Center in Salisbury played outside during the sunny weather on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

the children have clothing, boots, hats, mittens."

Recently, however, these organizations have been hit with a staffing shortage that has left them unable to serve the number of families their capacities should allow.

Staffing shortages

"[It] started after we came back after COVID. Before COVID, when

"The reality [is that] we're not just babysitters. We're educators who help children get ready to go to school."

Tonya Roussis, director
Housatonic Child Care Center

I lost some teachers because they didn't want to come back and work in that environment. And from there, the past two years, it's just been really hard to find people."

This translates to child care centers like Housatonic and Canaan Child Care operating at under-capacity, serving fewer families than their facilities can accommodate. Housatonic Child Care Center, Roussis said, has capacity for 56 children — right now it's only able to take on 40. This, coupled with the fact that regionally there is a higher demand for child care than there are

See CHILD CARE, Page A8



Sunny Kellner, a wildlife rehabilitation specialist, helped an injured Canada goose Wednesday, Nov. 23, in Salisbury.

PHOTO BY ANNE DAY

Injured and stranded, goose gets opportunity at rehab

By Riley Klein

SALISBURY — As the flock migrated south for winter, one Canada goose was left behind. Since August, a lone goose has called a small pond in Salisbury home.

The property owner has kept

a keen eye on the goose and was working closely with the Sharon Audubon Center (SAC) to plan for the winter.

SAC Wildlife Rehabilitation and Outreach Specialist Sunny Kellner said she has been watching this goose throughout the fall.

"The goose raised a group of babies and had a mate [earlier this year]," said Kellner. But when the family flew south, this goose was not able to join them.

A medical evaluation found healed fractures in the radius and ulna of the left wing. Wrist damage was also discovered, which caused some loss of feathers.

"This goose will not be able to fly again," said Kellner.

SAC specializes in songbirds and was not equipped to house waterfowl, but the center agreed to help with capture once an adequate

See GOOSE, Page A8

HYSB forges bonds as it helps community's youth

By Isabelle Clark

FALLS VILLAGE — October's Falcon 5K marathon held at Indian Mountain School (IMS) in Lakeville to benefit the Housatonic Youth Service Bureau (HYSB) was hailed as a fundraising success, but also as a win because making community friends and connections is part of HYSB's mission to strengthen

the emotional health of youth and families

More than 100 runners registered for the event, held on Oct. 22 — the first 5K held for HYSB since the pandemic.

"Schools throughout the country have seen a post-pandemic surge in the need for increased

See HYSB, Page A8



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Get 'em while they last

The Housatonic FFA holiday store opened last weekend and sold over 100 trees by mid-day. See page A3 for more.



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Regional

In The Journal this week

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POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

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

U-turn results in crash

On Friday, Nov. 18, at approximately 10:45 p.m. a 2009 Toyota Tacoma driven by Keith Arnold of Brookfield was traveling southbound on River Road in Sharon when Arnold made a U-turn and then swerved for a deer in the road and struck a guardrail. Arnold was issued an infraction for a restricted turn.

Rear-ended

On Friday, Nov. 18, at approximately 12:30 p.m. a 2020 Bluebird driven by John Matthews, 68, of Falls Village was traveling north on Route 45 in Cornwall and stopped at a stop sign. Matthews started to move forward then stopped again. Andrew Cole, 19, of Spencerport, New York, was driving a 2021 Toyota Rav4 and was following Matthews. Upon the second stop at the intersection, Cole rear-ended the front vehicle and received an infraction for failure to drive a reasonable distance apart.

Assault charge

On Monday, Nov. 21, at approximately 8:30 p.m. troopers responded to 158 Lower Road in North Canaan for a disturbance. An investigation led to the arrest of Mark R. Hurlburt, 30, of

the same address, on charges of disorderly conduct and third-degree assault. Hurlburt was released on \$1,500 non-surety bond.

Leaving accident scene

On Tuesday, Nov. 22, troopers were dispatched to the vicinity of 260 East Canaan Road in North Canaan where the owner of a 2012 Subaru Legacy, Debra Gitterman, 58, of Philmont, New York, reported that a large, white pickup truck struck her vehicle and left the scene. The Subaru was towed from the scene.

Evading responsibility

On Wednesday, Nov. 23 at approximately 12:20 p.m. a 2021 Land Rover Sport driven by Krystian Segalla, 38, of North Canaan was parked in a non-designated parking spot at the Walgreens in North Canaan. Another vehicle, a 2012 Subaru driven by Eugene Dube, 70, of Ashley Falls, Massachusetts, was backing out of a parking space and struck the corner bumper of the Land Rover. Segalla said she observed Dube driving away. He was located by troopers, who issued him a misdemeanor summons for evading responsibility.

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



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Millerton's Festival of Lights

The annual Festival of Lights filled the Village of Millerton with holiday spirit on Friday, Nov. 25, with a day-long schedule of events that reached a high point at sundown with a tree lighting and a jubilant parade of fire trucks and floats.

Hellmann exhibit opens at Cornwall Library

CORNWALL — The Cornwall Library will present "A Few of My Favorite Things..." a selection of paintings by artist Susan

Hellmann, whose lush, heartfelt work often depicts Cornwall, at an opening reception on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 6 to 8 p.m.

As an occupational therapist, Hellmann specialized in mental health issues. Hellmann is now retired and lives in West Cornwall.

Registration for the reception is required: www.cornwalllibrary.org/events/ The exhibition will run to Jan. 15.

Online This Week

Look for these stories and more, exclusively at www.tricornernews.com.

Planning board considers Dover substation

Millerton, Millbrook residents chime in at meeting. Go to www.tricornernews.com for the full story.

Housatonic FFA holiday store open

The store sold 100 trees in a couple of hours. See the video at www.tricornernews /multimedia.

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

Check them out inside.

• Ocean State Job Lot

Salisbury Bank food drive runs through Dec. 16

Salisbury Bank continues its 15th annual Fill-the-Basket food drive through Dec. 16.

All 14 branches, located in Berkshire, Litchfield, Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties will collect 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 local food pantries serving each area.

Local pantries are in need of a variety of donations. Household items such as paper towels, diapers and shampoo are also needed.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF NICOLAS C. OSBORN Late of Salisbury (22-00431)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 17, 2022, 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:
Robin L. Sweeney
c/o Mary M Ackerly
Ackerly Brown LLP
782 Bantam Road
P.O. Box 815
Bantam, CT 06750

Beth L. McGuire
Chief Clerk
12-01-22

Salisbury Housing Committee Annual Meeting

The Salisbury Housing Committee (SHC) is holding its annual meeting to elect officers for the coming year on Wednesday, December 7 at 5:00 pm, by Zoom. Members of the public are invited to attend this meeting and may submit nominees for the board before the meeting. Nominations may be made to SHC, PO Box 10, Salisbury. The Zoom address will be available at salisburyhousing.org after December 1. SHC is the proprietor of Sarum Village and Faith House, affordable housing units located in Salisbury. Anyone interested in renting at any

SHC location should call Tammy Broderick at 860-435-0049.

12-01-22

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF ERIKA B. CARROLL Late of Cornwall AKA Erika Carroll (22-00410)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 15, 2022, 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:
Charles R. Ebersol
Ebersol, McCormick, Reis & Steck, LLC
9 Mason St
PO Box 598
Torrington, CT 06790

Megan M. Foley
Clerk
12-01-22

ESTATE OF LEE A. MINOFF Late of Sharon AKA Leon Abraham Minoff (22-00439)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 15, 2022, 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:
George F. Biondo
85 Carl Fisher Plaza
PO Box 5030
Montauk, NY 11954
Megan M. Foley
Clerk
12-01-22

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application #2022-0207 by owner Aaron & Alycia Zimmerman for the vertical expansion of a nonconforming dwelling at 16 Woodland Drive, Lakeville, Map 35, Lot 06 per Section 503.2 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The hearing will be held on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 10:00 AM. 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/agendas. 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 landuse@salisburyct.us. Paper copies may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
Martin Whalen, Secretary
12-01-22
12-08-22

The Lakeville Journal FOUNDATION



Bistro responds to tomato pie accusations

The Lakeville Journal, February 9, 2012

There are lots of great reasons to support The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News this holiday season.

Here's one you probably didn't think of: Tomato pie.

The controversial treat (www.tricornernews.com/tomatopie) makes for a splendid variation on the familiar Thanksgiving menu of turkey, stuffing and the rest. It's also been the topic of delightful and informative articles chronicling the fierce battles the dish has stirred up among area chefs, a reminder of the pleasures to be found only in hometown newspapers.

So please don't forget to give thanks for the richness of life in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut and eastern Dutchess County, and of our vigorous local journalism.

We are making changes at The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, to preserve local reporting and to expand it. A fine way to express your support for this crucial project is by making a tax-deductible contribution to what is now a nonprofit enterprise in this holiday season.

And from all of us at The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News to all of your families and friends, Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy your turkey — and tomato pie!

Noreen Doyle
Noreen Doyle, Chair

Janet Manko
Janet Manko, CEO, executive director

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Enclose your check or money order and mail to The Lakeville Journal Foundation, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039
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Our Towns

Holiday tree sales brisk at FFA

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — By the time a couple of reporters got to the FFA holiday store Saturday, Nov. 26, 100 of more than 700 Christmas trees had been sold.

Business was brisk at 1 p.m., as members of the Housatonic FFA hustled to serve a steady stream of customers coming to the south side of the Housatonic Valley Regional High School campus.

Dave Moran, the head of the Ag-Ed department at the high school, said the trees arrived the week before Thanksgiving.

Spencer Markow, a senior who serves as FFA treasurer, demonstrated for The Lakeville Journal how to wrap a tree in nylon netting.

He also volunteered that he had taken some aerial photos of the south side of campus, with the trees lined up and ready to go.

Markow said the team of some 25 students and faculty unloaded the trees in one class period (about 50 minutes).

"I'm pretty sure that's a record."

Inside, people were buying poinsettias, gigantic blocks of cheese and wreaths.



PHOTO ABOVE BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
AERIAL PHOTO BY SPENCER MARKOW

Spencer Markow readied a Christmas tree for transport at the FFA Holiday Store on Saturday, Nov. 26. At right, Markow's aerial photo of the trees ready for purchase.



The FFA holiday store is open 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily through Dec. 22. Be aware that the trees sell out quickly.

The FFA holiday store is the organization's primary fundraiser.

Steiner to read from WWII novel

SHARON — Anyone who has gotten to know the character of Willi Geismeier through the historical novels ("The Good Cop" and "The Constant Man") by Sharon's Peter Steiner will know that he is a force to be reckoned with, a one-time Munich police detective who stops at nothing to bring evil deeds to light and evil doers to justice.

Geismeier leaves the Munich force after having dealt with some of the worst initial schemes of the Nazis and their sympathizers as they came to power in the 1930s in "The Good Cop," but after leaving Germany for the U.S., returns to his home country and again finds ways to serve the cause of good when he plunges into the thick of underground resistance against the Nazis during World War II in Steiner's newest Geismeier novel, "The Inconvenient German."

Willi is the leader of The Flower Gang, an ingenious structure of secret operatives across Germany and the occupied countries. Those involved use names of flowers to shield their real names from the Gestapo and others who would put them in danger as they try to move

Jews and other targets, like an American pilot who crashed into the countryside outside of Munich, across the border to safety from the Nazi's grasp.

The characters who are introduced throughout the novel give a vivid picture of what life was like during WWII under the Nazis. Steiner illuminates how those from all social strata had their lives completely dismantled and then rebuilt to either support or sabotage the Nazi war machine.

Steiner will have a book reading at the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 4 to 5 p.m. For more information, go to www.hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org.

— Janet Manko

Sandy Hook vigil Dec. 14

SALISBURY — A candlelight vigil to remember the 10th anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy and all victims of gun violence will be held Wednesday, Dec. 14, from 5 to 6 p.m. in front of the White Hart Inn, Routes 41 and 44 Salisbury.

Please bring a candle.

Cornwall selectmen appoint seven to fill town vacancies

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — The Cornwall Board of Selectman approved seven appointees to fill vacancies in the town government during its Tuesday, Nov. 15, meeting.

First, the board moved to confirm the appointment of

Lee Sohl as Cornwall's new animal control officer. Sohl will be paid on an hourly basis at a rate of \$37 per hour. Her husband, Jim Sohl, was also approved as the assistant animal control officer.

The Sohls will replace Brad Hedden, who is unable to continue in the role due

to increased state requirements for the position. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said Hedden is pursuing additional training so he can handle calls related to small animals.

The board also filled five vacancies within three Cornwall town boards: Heidi

Cunnick to the Conservation Commission, Bianca Griggs to the Economic Development Commission, and Stephen Saccardi, Melissa Bronson and Wendy McFarlane to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The repairs on River Road have been finished ahead of

schedule. More than 800 tons of field stone and rocks were used to replenish the embankment along the river. The work was completed at a cost of \$4,000.

"Now the road is open and hopefully the riverbanks are in good shape for high water," said Ridgway.

The board also reviewed the status of the Friends of Cornwall investigation, which is ongoing at the state level. Ridgway spoke with an information officer at the State Election Commission who was unable to comment due to the nature of the investigation.



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We are here for you: please reach out to sharonhospital@nuvancehealth.org with any questions.



Our Towns

NCES thanks veterans for their service

By Leila Hawken

NORTH CANAAN — Giving thanks to veterans was the theme of an all-school assembly at North Canaan Elementary School, hosted by the second-grade class on Monday, Nov. 21.

There were patriotic songs, letters written by the students, and certificates to be presented to each veteran who attended, estimated at 15 who had served in most of the military branches. Many veterans were relatives of current NCES students. Organizer of the event was Denise Sorrell, who teaches the second grade, assisted by 12 other staff members.

“They really worked hard on the event,” said NCES Principal Alicia Roy, speaking of the students. “Whenever we have a chance to honor the veterans, it is very special.” Roy also served as Master of Ceremonies, for the event aptly titled, “Thankful for Veterans.”

Students read letters they had written to veterans, each skillfully taking a turn at the microphone. A chorus sang selected patriotic songs.

“You are our heroes,” said Paxton Funk, as he read from his letter. “Veterans are amazing,” was a sentiment offered by Everett Hamilton. “Thank you for everything you have done for our country,” read Reagan Marchi.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Veterans were honored at a school assembly at North Canaan Elementary School on Monday, Nov. 21. The event was presented by the second grade class. Marine Sgt. Kurt Crump, foreground, was among those honored.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Jocelyn Krodman of Petit Felts made a sale at the Salisbury Artisans sale Saturday, Nov. 26.

‘You need a shrimp’ and other thoughts

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Artisans Group came to the White Hart Saturday, Nov. 26, to offer unusual and handmade gifts for holiday shoppers.

Jocelyn Krodman (Petit Felts) had a new line of Christmas tree ornaments: little mushrooms, bananas and shrimp.

They came with a deal (one for \$15, two for \$20) and a sales pitch.

“You need a shrimp,” Krodman said to a wavering shopper. “People don’t realize they need a shrimp.”

It worked. The woman bought a shrimp and a mushroom.

While eyeing the potholders from Jennifer Markow (Strings and Stones of Cornwall), musing on the lamentable state of his own supply, and scribbling in a notebook, a reporter was approached by Molly Hardy (Favorite Places Art).

“Are you taking food orders?” she inquired.

This sort of interaction is what separates the Artisans from other shopping experiences. It’s like dropping in on old friends after a prolonged absence.

The Nov. 26 show was the last scheduled event for the group before Christmas. For more information on the vendors involved, go to www.artisansale.org.

Pop-up shop comes to Hunt

FALLS VILLAGE— The David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village will host a holiday pop-up shop during operating hours through the end of the year. A portion of the proceeds benefits the library. For library hours, go to www.huntlibrary.org.

Boy Scouts to recycle trees

Boy Scout Troop 22 will remove and recycle Christmas trees this year on Saturday, Jan. 7, in Sharon, Salisbury, North Canaan, Falls Village and Norfolk.

To sign up, go to www.tinyurl.com/troop22 or call 203-217-9917.



PHOTO BY TOM BROWN

Cornwall Turkey Trot

Thanksgiving got off to an early start in Cornwall as the Turkey Trot 1-mile run commenced a little after 9 a.m. The run was sponsored by the Cornwall Library.



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OBITUARIES

Marian Ferguson

LAKEVILLE — Marian Ferguson finished her life peacefully on Monday, Nov. 21, 2022, at the Sharon Hospital. With her were her loving husband Carr, her daughters Laura, Sharon, Marcia and Sandy and her four beloved sons-in-law. Sending their loving farewells were her eleven grandchildren and her three great grandchildren, in each of whom she instilled her own great love of Lakeville and her home on its lake. When she arrived on its shores in 1962, she sensed she had found her home for life. In the six decades since, she formed abiding friendships with other parents, fellow sailors, golfers, tennis players, skiers, skaters, bridge players, worshippers, demonstrators, hikers and travelers. Her gusto for life, and friends, her grace and athleticism were legendary.



City, Iowa where their third daughter joined the family, and to New York City and Lakeville, their fourth daughter being born in the Sharon Hospital.

The heart of Marian's life was her family, whose own lives gave her greatest satisfaction. Her work as a speech therapist, however, benefited countless patients and students, starting at Cornell with older stroke victims of aphasia (a problem she confronted herself in her last years,) and later, children with the same disease while working at Stanford University's Institute of Childhood Aphasia.

Equally rewarding, was her work on speech and learning issues for students in New York and Washington schools. In Washington, she participated in the establishment the first secondary school dedicated to such students, serving as the Chelsea School's first diagnostician and admitting officer as well as classroom teacher, for which service her students voted her their commencement speaker.

Marian travelled extensively and adventurously in her later years, voyaging to the remote highlands of New Guinea and bathing among penguins in Antarctica.

At home, she was a consummate hostess, sharing her rambling house on Lakeville Lake, "Roundelay" with an ever-expanding number of friends, friends of friends and many a chance-met stray. Her motto on all occasions was "the more the merrier."

Her loving family will strive to keep her welcoming spirit alive and bright, carrying her legacy of hospitality and kindness into the future.

Donations or offerings in her memory may be made to her dear friends at the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service, P.O. Box 582, Salisbury, CT 06068.

Dennis Rand

SHARON — Dennis Rand, 69, of 27 Hill Rd., Sharon, passed away peacefully Nov. 15, 2022, with his sister Denise Rand and his first wife Kris Katsonis by his side.



Dennis was born Dec. 8, 1952, in Dover, New Hampshire, son of the late Carlton and Ellen Rand.

Dennis graduated from Dover High School class of 1971, and Thompson School at UNH. He served in the US Air Force during the Vietnam Era war.

Dennis moved to Milwaukee and was very active in the rugby club at the Up and Under Pub in late 1979. He began his Rugby career in Dover, New Hampshire. The Milwaukee club went on to win the US national championship in 1985. After playing first class rugby, he accomplished his dream of becoming a Forester.

Dennis had a big heart and a love of people, rugby, St. Patty's day, hunting, fishing, the outdoors and most of all his two sons Neon (Iain) and Caleb.

Dennis is survived by his most precious accomplishment in this life his two sons Neon (Iain) and Caleb Rand. He's also survived by his sister Denise Rand (Kip) his

brother Thomas Rand (Lisa) and family and friends.

Dennis will be missed by all who knew him. The room without Dennis will be a bit less fun, a great deal quieter, and with fewer hugs.

Thank you to the staff at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital 5th floor and Sharon Healthcare Center.

Celebration of life in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Dover, New Hampshire will be announced at a later date.

A fund will be set up for his boys. For more information please contact his sister.

MILLERTON — Raymond C. "Ray" Loper, 91, a lifelong area resident, died peacefully on Monday, Nov. 21, 2022, at his home in Millerton, from complications of bile duct cancer. He was surrounded by his loving family.



Born May 18, 1931, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Clifford and Hazel (Miller) Loper.

Ray spent the early years of his life working on a farm owned by his sister and brother-in-law, Doris and Frank Perotti. Ray held various positions throughout the years, most notably as Superintendent of Streets in the Village of Millerton and Highway Superintendent in the Town of North East. Ray also owned a franchise within the Independent Buyers Association for eleven years and worked as a bus mechanic and bus driver for

the Webutuck Central School before his retirement.

Ray served his country in the United States Navy aboard the USS Leyte during the Korean War from June 1948 until his honorable discharge in June 1952. On August 23, 1997, in Millerton he married Carol L. (Culver) Lasher. Mrs. Loper survives at home. Ray was a life member of the VFW Post No. 7955 in Copake and was a former member of the Millerton Fire Company, where he served two years as a line officer attaining the rank of Captain.

Ray and Carol traveled extensively during their 25 year marriage and his love for his family was beyond measure. In Ray's later years, he loved oil painting on canvas and successfully presented a portfolio to the Juried Artist Review Panel and became a Juried Artist. He was also an avid flower gardener in his

spare time. Nothing could keep Ray down; he was a tuberculosis, colon cancer and heart surgery survivor as well. He will be dearly missed by his loving family and many friends, especially for his positive outlook, quick witted nature and great sense of humor.

Ray is survived by his wife Carol, his daughter, Jeannie Stevens and her husband Barry of Millerton; his daughter-in-law, Rev. Susan Loper; four grandchildren, Timothy Loper, William Stevens (Katie Infantino), Heidi Stevens (Jason Reyell) and Abigail Clemons and her husband Garett; four great grandchildren, Chloe Stevens, Colin Stevens, Leah Rae Clemons and Alton Stevens; four stepchildren, Eugene Lasher and his wife Roxanne, Howard Lasher and his wife Dee, Glen Lasher and Jamie Lord and her husband Timothy; his sisters-in-law, Della Howley, Grace Sandagato and his brother-in-law, Gary Culver and his wife Sandra. He is also survived by several step grandchildren and

step great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Ray was predeceased by his first wife, Corene (Baker) Loper; his son, Rev. Edward Loper and his siblings, Doris Perotti, Donald Loper, Beatrice Shaw, Eva Briggs, Charles Loper and Robert Loper.

There are no calling hours. Funeral services and burial with standard naval military honors will take place at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton in the spring of 2023 and service information will be announced on the funeral home web site and published in The Millerton News. Rev. Susan Loper will officiate. Memorial contributions may be made to the NorthEast-Millerton Library, 75 Main Street, Millerton, NY 12546 or to V.F.W. National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton. To send an online condolence to the family please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

Leslie-Hart Fenn Tapscott

SALISBURY — After a remarkably long and joyful life, Leslie-Hart Fenn Tapscott, 104, passed away peacefully on Friday, Nov. 18, 2022, in Salisbury.



She was born on Nov. 2, 1918, in Hartford, Connecticut during the influenza pandemic. She attended Miss Porter's School in Farmington and studied piano at Hart School of Music in Hartford. One of her most memorable experiences was serving with a Clubmobile unit of the American Red Cross in World War II. Her Clubmobile, The Lincoln, provided servicemen with food, entertainment and "a connection home." Leslie continued this service to others throughout her life, to her family, her friends, and her wide community. Her family was her endless source of happiness and pride.

She met the love of her life, Bob (Tap) at a dinner in West Hartford and a year later, they married on Feb. 28, 1953. They enjoyed 60 years together raising their sons, Jim and Bob in North Haven, before retiring to Salisbury in 1982. While in New Haven, she did volunteer work for

Planned Parenthood, Foote School and several libraries.

She was a member of the Colonial Dames, the New Haven Junior League and Garden Club. Leslie took memorable trips with Bob to Sun Valley, Idaho back in its heyday and later in retirement they took cross country

train trips through the American and Canadian Rockies. She enjoyed birdwatching, fly fishing, cross-country skiing and preparing beach picnics at Fishers Island and in the Adirondacks. An avid reader throughout her life, she loved to talk about the books she read and reread old favorites. Over the last three years, she spent her days listening to books on tape and traveling to far away places through the stories.

She is survived by her sister, Polly Mellen, her sons, James, Robert Jr., their wives Gretchen and Heidi, and four grandchildren Emma, Kate, Phillip and Harrison.

A memorial service is planned for summer 2023.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Braille Institute to support books on tape for seniors.

Sharon United Methodist Church holds annual holiday fair Dec. 3

SHARON — The Sharon United Methodist Church will hold its annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the basement of the church at 112 Upper Main St.

There will be handcrafted ornaments, decoration and balsam wreaths, as well as sterling silver jewelry, Honora pearl necklaces, glass

bead necklaces and plenty of supplies to create your own keepsakes.

Baked goods will be an assortment of cookies, bars, breads, cakes and pies, which make great hostess gifts during the holidays. There will also be puzzles, books and housewares. Any questions, call Judy Loucks at 860-364-5814.

Worship Services Week of December 4, 2022	
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	Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org
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	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
North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232	Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock In person services on Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 A.M. Livestream at 10:30 on www.trinitylimerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627
FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org	Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT WE ARE NOW MEETING IN PERSON! Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, December 11 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@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 Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078
The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer Pastor Sun Yong Lee 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net	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 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community
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	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 for a Carols by Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m. We will not be offering a service on Christmas Day this year. Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org
Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194	SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3003 Rev. Robert Landback The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES 4 PM - Sacred Heart 6 PM - St. Bernard 8 PM - St. Bridget CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 8:30 AM - St. Bridget
The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building	The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mmgates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.
Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!	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
All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Candlelight vespers in December, Saturdays at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us	

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Our Towns



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Meredith Dittmar, one of the organizers of the Festival of Trees at Noble Horizons, said Sunday, Nov. 27, that it was nice to have the event back after a two-year hiatus.

Festival of Trees back at Noble with silent auction and gala

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Festival of Trees and accompanying silent auction continue this week from noon to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1, and Friday, Dec. 2. The event returned this year after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As visitors walk in they will notice the large toy soldiers at the entrance, remi-

niscent of “The Nutcracker Suite.”

The festival winds up Saturday, Dec. 3, with a gala from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45 per person.

There is also a 50/50 raffle and a children’s toy raffle.

At 6:45 p.m. the bidding closes in the silent auction. Meredith Dittmar of the Noble Horizons Auxiliary said a team springs into action and the winners are announced

shortly after the close of the bidding.

The Festival of Trees is a major fundraiser for the Auxiliary.

Recent projects of the group include installing a new WiFi system at Noble (the old one was overwhelmed by the increased activity during the pandemic) and purchasing a vehicle to take residents out for appointments and errands.

Hunt Library art show set Dec. 10

FALLS VILLAGE — On Saturday, Dec. 10, from 4 to 6 p.m., the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village will host the flash group art exhibition, The Return of 12x12.

This popular year-end art sale, and fundraiser for the library, is back after a two-year break and will feature more than 60 local artists including Janet Andre Block, Robert Cronin, John Hodgson, Danielle Mailer, Ken Musselman, Robert Andrew Parker, Mary Perotti, Peter Steiner, Judith Wyer and Lilly Woodworth. All works in the exhibition measure 12x12 inches and are priced at \$150 each. A portion of each sale will benefit the library.

For more information call the library at 860-824-7424 or visit huntlibrary.org/art-wall.

Kent Singers present concerts Dec. 10 & 11 at St. Andrews

KENT — The Kent Singers present “Welcome, Yule! A Holiday Retrospective” on Saturday, Dec. 10, and Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. at St. Andrew’s Church in Kent.

The Kent Singers are celebrating their 50th anniversary season with the concert, which features favorite selections from the group’s

repertoire. The concerts include piano, organ and brass accompaniment under the direction of James Knox Sutterfield.

Tickets are \$20 in advance online at www.kentsingers.com and at the door, with children under 12 admitted free; for more information call 860-619-8110.

Hospice, pet care program at SVNA

SALISBURY — Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County announced a new program aimed at helping hospice patients care for their pets.

Pet Peace of Mind recognizes and actively supports the unique bond between hospice patients and their pets. It aligns with the agency’s mission to provide the best home health and hospice care for patients.

Pet Peace of Mind allows patients to complete their end-of-life journey without worrying about their pet’s current or future needs. The initiative provides volunteer pet care services for patients who are unable to care for their pets while on hospice. Services include assistance with pet food, financial assistance with routine veterinary care, transporting the pet to veterinary appointments and dog walking.

“Pet Peace of Mind offers us the tools and training to help our patients care for their four-legged family members,” said Eileen Rydel, Hospice Director of Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County. For more information about the Pet Peace of Mind program or to become a volunteer, call Rydel at 860-379-8561 or visit www.vnhlc.org.



PHOTOS BY JOHN COSTON

North Canaan Parade of Lights

North Canaan was lighted up on Monday, Nov. 28, for its Parade of Lights through town. Santa (aka Robert Twing of New Marlborough, Mass.) rode in a 1930 Reo Speedwagon, delighting on-looking children. Twing, a native of East Canaan, has been in the Santa role for 55 years. Below, young riders on a giant agricultural spreader “parade float” waved to the crowd.



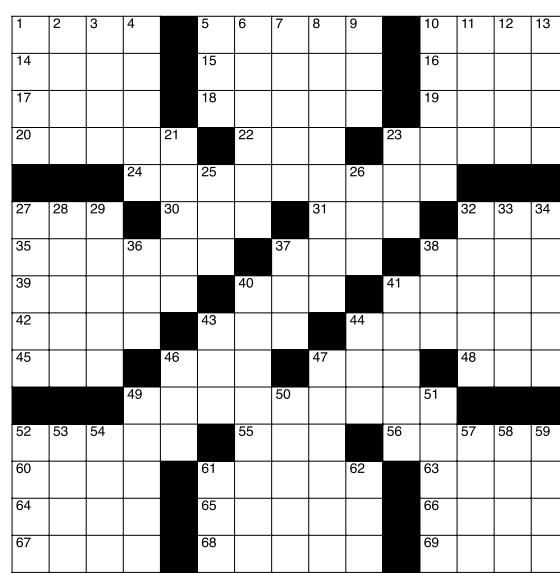
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Chop up
5. Ones who utilize
10. Sings with closed lips
14. South American hummingbird
15. Serves as a coxswain
16. Liquor distilled from coconut or rice
17. Spur
18. Senile
19. Tanzanian people
20. Cruel
22. Boxing’s “GOAT”
23. Yokels
24. London soccer team
27. Chinese chess piece
30. Supervises flying
31. 007’s creator
32. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
35. A spider makes one
37. Liquefied natural gas
38. Opaque gem
39. Brazilian palm
40. Periodical (slang)
41. You might step on one
42. Marvin and Horsley are two
43. Partner to cheese
44. Unpleasant smell
45. Field force unit (abbr.)
46. Fashion accessory
47. Cool!
48. Time zone
49. Songs to one’s lover
52. German river
55. Go bad
56. Sword
60. Very eager
61. Leaf bug
63. Italian seaport
64. Napoleon Dynamite’s uncle
65. Member of Jamaican religion
66. Large wading bird
67. Carries out
68. Eternal rest
69. It holds up your headwords

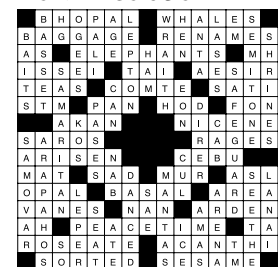
CLUES DOWN

1. Not low
2. Small water buffalo
3. A mark left behind
4. Archaic form of have
5. Fiddler crabs
6. Popular Hyundai sedan
7. Deport
8. Making over

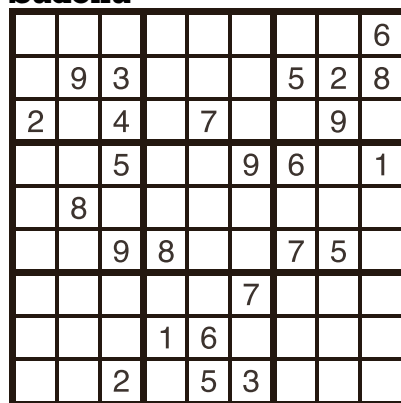


9. Midway between south and southeast
10. Arabic masculine name
11. Type of acid
12. Popular 1980s Cher film
13. Outdoor enthusiasts’ tools
21. Chinese city
23. “Star Wars” character Solo
25. The bill in a restaurant
26. Old, ugly witch
27. Burn with a hot liquid
28. To claim or demand
29. “A Doll’s House” playwright
32. Involuntary muscular contraction
33. Pea stems (British)
34. Double or multiple fold
36. No longer is
37. Lakers’ crosstown rivals (abbr.)
38. S. American plant cultivated in Peru
40. Cloth or fabric
41. Flanks
43. Disfigure
44. Angry
46. Baltic coast peninsula
47. Large, flightless birds
49. Plants of the lily family
50. Medieval Norwegian language
51. Polio vaccine developer
52. Not soft
53. Exchange rate
54. Voice (Italian)
57. Baseball’s Ruth
58. Famed guitarist Clapton
59. Take a chance
61. Wife
62. Elaborate handshake

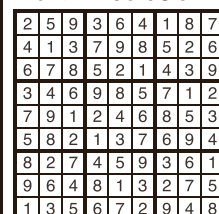
Nov. 24 Solution



Sudoku



Nov. 24 Solution



Level: Intermediate



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THE TIME IS NOW!!



Members of the community, government officials and doctors at Sharon Hospital spoke at the October 16 rally. Above, top to bottom, L-R: US Senator Richard Blumenthal, patients and families showed up and spoke, US Representative Jahana Hayes, Dr. David Kurish and Dr. Howard Mortman.

Testify at the Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 6

The deadline to testify against Nuvance's application to close maternity is almost here!

- Submit your written testimony by emailing OHS@ct.gov any time before December 6
- The public hearing starts at 9:30am on December 6 via Zoom (visit our website for link). **Public testimony begins at 3pm**, and you can sign up to speak starting at 2pm via Zoom.

Testify with us in person!

Join Save Sharon Hospital at the Sharon Town Hall, where we will be streaming the public hearing live on Zoom, and testifying alongside fellow community members!

SAVE SHARON HOSPITAL

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

www.savesharonhospital.org

CHILD CARE

Continued from Page A1

centers with openings, means that waiting lists are longer, and families are turned away.

"I do have spaces in my toddler room, but I fear filling them with not being able to hire somebody. Because of the [state mandated] one-to-four teacher-child ratio. I've kept those rooms low in case we can't find a teacher ... and I do have a wait list."

Figuring out what exactly has caused this staffing shortage, however, has proven elusive to Roussis.

"I really can't figure it out. I'm not sure if it's the pay, the environment, the job itself. The applicants that do come in, they're satisfied with what we start them out with. I'm a part of this group of directors that gets together every month, and we all have the same issue. We're all bogged by it, by the fact that we can't find teachers. It's not just us, it's across the board everywhere."

According to Jeanne Wagner, executive director of the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc., this systemic lack of applicants is occurring across Dutchess County as well. Wagner's organization is the New York State designated Child Care Resource and Referral agency for both Dutchess and Putnam counties, and over an 18-month period her organization observed difficulty in finding available openings, particularly for infant and toddler care.

But to Wagner, an element of this puzzle comes down to something simple.

"Money. Early childhood people should be paid on the level of public school teachers, and they aren't at all. Afford-

"Early childhood people should be paid on the level of public school teachers, and they aren't at all. Affordable housing is a problem. Public transportation enters into it too."

Jeanne Wagner, executive director of the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc.

able housing is a problem. Public transportation enters into it too."

Longstanding funding woes

The issue of funding is a familiar one to Chapell who, having worked in the early child care industry for more than 20 years, has witnessed the ways that funding rises and falls.

"[At Canaan Child Care Center] we were getting \$8,000 a year for 15 years [from the town], and then it was gone. And we were like 'Whoa, what are we gonna do?' But you know, Canaan is a low-income town and they just don't have it in their budget."

According to both Roussis and Chapell, this sort of funding unreliability plagues the industry, which makes it difficult to compensate their teachers and workers at the levels they'd want to, and that will retain them in the long-term.

A brief bright spot, however, came during the pandemic in the form of stopgap funding made available for child care centers through national and state programs like COLA (Cost-of-Living-Adjustment) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). For Chapell, it allowed her to retain her staff, and even make some much-needed improvements.

"Our playground before was basically just mud with a fence around it. During the pandemic, believe it or not, I was able to ask for a climber, and I got the funds for it."

Such pandemic-era funding, however, has either dried up, or is set to dry up soon. Once those funds are gone, directors like Chapell are left wondering how to move forward.

"The uncertainty is what makes you nervous. Right now I've got great staff and I'm able to pay them, but as soon as this money goes away — I'm looking at my board and saying: 'OK, what's our strategic plan? What are we gonna do to keep our staff?' It's a worry — but I've been there before. I've been in child care a long time, it's always a struggle."

Glimmers of hope in an embattled industry

A glimmer of hope, however, has taken the shape of an informal network of early child care center directors that formed during the pandemic in Connecticut's Region One School District. The network was, according to Chapell, crucial to their ability to stay afloat.

"We've been fighting hard, all the directors. We call ourselves the Northwest Child Care Collaborative, all the child care centers in the region. We work together to

help each other.

"Because it's for the families, and you just want to do what you can, play your part in the communities, to keep all of it going."

The Northwest Child Care Collaborative's monthly meetings are organized by the Middlesex Coalition for Children, a nonprofit that seeks to improve the lives of children in Connecticut's Middlesex County, and they count seven regional child care centers as members.

"It's been super helpful. We got together to support each other, to get on the same page in terms of our pandemic policies, and to try to come up with solutions," Roussis said. "Anything we can do to support each other, to get through what we're going through. More times than not, we've had the same situations in common. It's a great group of women."

This form of self-advocacy is one that Wagner sees occurring both in Dutchess County and on a national level, and as having the potential to levy positive change in the industry.

For Chapell, such efforts raise the hope that, someday, the landscape of early child care might structurally improve for the better.

"You look at other countries that do [early child care] so well, and it's like, why aren't we doing this? There are different child care alliances that are looking at those models and saying, how can we make this work for us?"

But for now Chapell knows what has to be done.

"You need to be scrappy. We have to constantly fundraise, constantly write grants. You really have to look anywhere and everywhere and say, who can help us? Just in order to make this place a quality center where the goal is for parents to be able to go to work and not have to worry about where their children are."

GOOSE

Continued from Page A1

rehabilitator was identified.

"Because the injury happened so long ago, we didn't want to capture and keep it in a cage for longer than we needed to," said Kellner.

After the pond started to freeze last week, and a coyote was reported in the area, the time to relocate arrived.

"We found a rehabilitator with capabilities to take it in," said Kellner. "The goose will be getting treatment for infection in the wrist."

The center, which asked not to be identified, can provide proper rehabilitation and long-term placement for the goose. Once healed, the goose will live among other resident geese that are not able to migrate due to permanent injuries.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Holiday fascination

Anna and Isabel Schiller came to the Christmas Bazaar at St. Andrew's in Kent Saturday, Nov. 19.

POT STORES

Continued from Page A1

nesses are on track to launch retail sales within the next few months — delayed from their original timeline, but in keeping with more recent estimates.

In an announcement Tuesday, Nov. 22, the Department of Consumer Protection said the supply chain was close to reaching the 250,000 square feet of licensed growing and manufacturing space required by law in order for sales of recreational marijuana to commence.

"Given this threshold, the start of adult-use cannabis sales relies on the successful conversion of all four existing medical marijuana producers or additional cultivation to come online," the announcement read.

As of last week, three of those four existing medical marijuana producers — Advanced Grow Labs, Connecticut Pharmaceutical Solutions and Curaleaf — have fulfilled the requirements to obtain hybrid licenses, enabling them to serve both the medical and recreational markets. The fourth application is under review, according to DCP.

As expected, the state's existing medicinal marijuana infrastructure provided the groundwork for establishing the adult-use supply chain, but the fees to convert those licenses were significant: \$1 million for retailers and \$3 million for producers. The rate was discounted for operators who formed 50/50 "equity joint venture" partnerships with a person or business who met certain low-income requirements and was based in a community that had been historically harmed by marijuana's prohibition.

Seven medical retailers have been approved for hybrid licenses and could be ready to sell products as

soon as production reaches the 250,000-square-foot threshold. Many more have submitted applications to convert their licenses, DCP said.

The approved retailers are:

- Affinity in New Haven
- Bluepoint Wellness of Connecticut in Branford
- C3 Torrington (Still River Wellness) in Torrington
- Fine Fettle Dispensary in Newington
- Fine Fettle Dispensary in Stamford
- Fine Fettle Dispensary in Willimantic
- Willow Brook Wellness in Meriden

DCP has also been evaluating license applications from new entrants to the market. Fewer than 50 licenses were available across nine categories, from growers to product manufacturers, transporters, retailers and delivery services, through the lottery process. And half were designated for "social equity" applicants, who are being selected via lottery.

To date, DCP has issued provisional licenses to more than 40 growers and retailers.

Unlike medical marijuana businesses that are building on existing operations and infrastructure, new entrants will be trickling into the market more slowly over the coming year or so. Those selected via lottery then have to apply for a license before they can get to work launching their business, an expensive and time-consuming process in the highly regulated marijuana market.

The Journal occasionally will offer articles from CTMirror.org, a source of nonprofit journalism and a partner with The Lakeville Journal. A longer version of this article appears online.

HYSB

Continued from Page A1

mental health services for their students, and we feel fortunate to have the opportunity to be a part of these efforts by hosting something like the Falcon 5K," said Charles Brown, Director of Admissions at IMS. "We hope to make it an annual event. A number of our students have benefitted from HYSB services over the years."

HYSB, a nonprofit human services agency benefiting youth and families in Northwest Connecticut through free counseling and empowerment programs, has seen a surge in need since the pandemic, particularly among younger children.

HYSB serves preschool through high school aged youth in the Region One School District, where there is a shortage of child mental health providers, in keeping with nationwide trends.

What makes HYSB unique is both its no-cost services and its collaboration and connection with schools.

Most of its services take place in the local school settings.

Catherine, age 17, a student at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, said, "HYSB provided me with a comforting and safe environment to share my true self."

What also sets HYSB apart, according to Executive Director Kelly Parker, is that most of the programming "is based on feedback from youth and always changing and evolving to meet the community need."

HYSB providers utilize a short-term 10-week model of therapy, but welcome clients back when need arises.

Well over 100 youth each week are served. Clients are also referred out and connected to community resources.

HYSB also recognizes that hardships facing youth and families before the pandemic have only intensified. As a result, it is more committed than ever to serving and supporting youth.

Recognition that the school-based setting is conducive to prevention, accessibility, improved academic experience and social emotional growth has been encouraging. Along with this young generation's sharp rise in mental health challenge is its strong stance against stigmatization and the importance of seeking services early on.

Since its establishment in 1991, fundraising has been an integral part of HYSB's survival and evolution. Along with the Falcon 5K, HYSB holds a charity golf tournament, its largest fundraiser, at the Torrington Country Club.

But the agency is not without its challenges. Difficulty hiring and high staff turnover exist, due in part to less-than-competitive salaries.

The agency structure is made up of the following positions: Executive Director, Director of Finance, Director of Development, Clinical Director, two Clinicians and a Youth Program Coordinator. (The last is part of

a newly formed social work position.)

Due to funding constraints, the new position is currently only filled part time with a combination of local and federal funding. The agency had to draw from its grant designated for prevention programming.

HYSB has an annual budget of \$675,000, of which 42% is derived from business, community and individuals and 23% from town and state governments. The balance is from foundation grants and contracts.

In terms of local funding, HYSB receives appropriations annually from each of the six towns in Region One. In addition, it has requested \$60,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from each town in its jurisdiction. To date, it has received \$4,000 from Salisbury, and \$15,000 from both Cornwall and Sharon. While not enough to hire the full-time position, the help has been "significantly impactful," according to Parker.

Volunteers are needed to help with fundraising events, program implementation and community festivals.

Isabelle Clark is a licensed independent clinical social worker.

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment



PHOTOS BY FLORIAN KALOTAY (DIDONATO); TIMOTHY WHITE / DECCA (FLEMING)

Left to right, Joyce DiDonato as Virginia Woolf, René Fleming as Clarissa Vaughan and Kelli O'Hara as Laura Brown.

THEATER: ALEXANDER WILBURN

The Met Opera Wades Into the Water With Virginia Woolf

The Hours' comes to the stage of The Met Opera in an original, world-premiere adaptation of the 1998 novel, composed by Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer Kevin Puts and directed by Phelim McDermott

"There is no comfort, it seems in the world of objects, and Clarissa fears that art, even the greatest of it," Michael Cunningham wrote in his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, "belongs

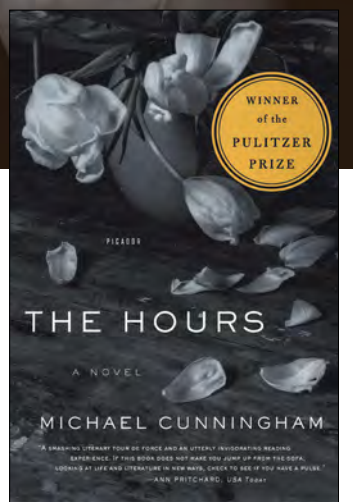
stubbornly to the world of objects." Cunningham writes of a single day in the life of three women — each to varying degrees of ordinariness, separated by time, connected in ways they will never know, by an object, a piece of art, traveling through their lives, and not necessarily a comfort.

The "object" is "Mrs. Dalloway," Virginia Woolf's exemplary novel of the modernist age, the story of single day which begins, of course, with a

mission to "buy the flowers herself." The women in Cunningham's day are Clarissa Vaughan, a 51-year-old at the end of the 1990s, stepping out in June on W 10th St., who embodies the traits of the fictional Clarissa Dalloway, Laura Brown, a housewife at the end of the 1940s who is reading the novel, and finally, there is Virginia herself. This is Virginia the obsessive artist, empty stomach filled with coffee, in the years when she was still writing, before she filled her pocket with stones and walked into the River Ouse in Sussex, swept away by the current.

The suicide letter she left behind for her husband, Leonard Woolf read, "Dearest, I feel certain that I am going mad again."

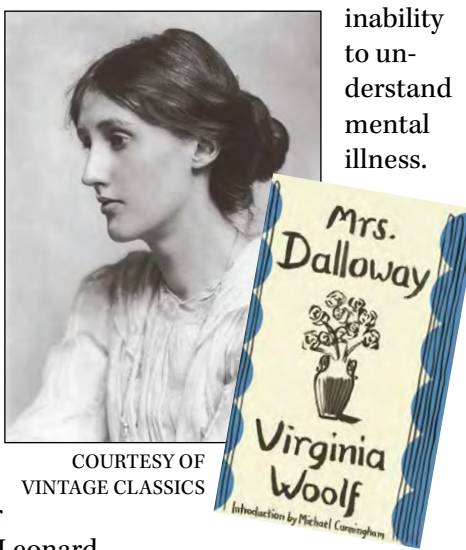
The New York of Cunningham's 1990s is oddly



COURTESY OF MACMILLAN

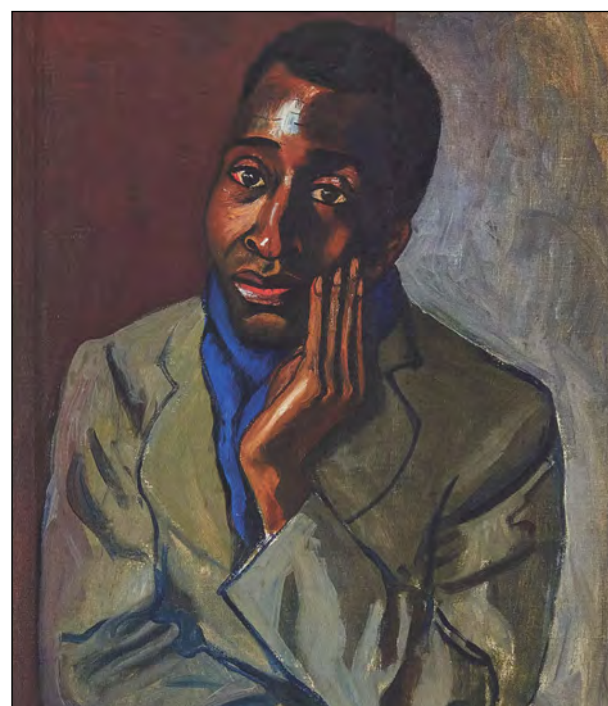
still very much the Manhattan of today, a boiling pot of fervent street life, of eccentricity and ambition. The shadow of the 1980s AIDS crisis looms large but doesn't dampen debates on gender-queer radicalism versus gay assimilation, the role of moneyed patrons to support low-selling, but intellectually vital art, the ever-present need to prostrate oneself with acts of good liberalism,

and our inability to understand mental illness.



COURTESY OF VINTAGE CLASSICS

"The Hours" will broadcast as part of The Met Opera Live in HD on Dec. 10 at both Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Mass., and The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y.



COURTESY OF DAVID ZWERNER BOOKS

The cover of Alice Neel: Uptown by Hilton Als Instagram's Oracle

Hilton Als, a longstanding staff writer for The New Yorker who won the Pulitzer Prize in 2017, a gay Black man of age 62, is perhaps the most elegiac voice in an increasingly small world — that world belonging to those who don't know just passively consume art and literature but study it for signs of who we might be. A large man in stature with a soft, languid voice, even as his essays traverse the contemporary Als subverts the expectation to be contemporary. Instead, he often writes of what we've lost, reflecting on what feels like, as you read his work, watching the sun set on a past century of glittering, vital artistic output slowly growing dimmer. Why do the 2020s feel like a eulogy to originality and integrity? Of the late New York Times fashion photographer Bill Cunningham, Als wrote, "You wanted to aid Bill in his quest for exceptional surfaces, to be beautifully dressed and interesting for him, because of the deep pleasure it gave him to notice something he had never seen before." And the month Joan Didion died, Als wrote of her early essay collections like "The White Album," as "touchstones for me on how to avoid snark and skepticism—the easy tools of journalism—and try something harder: analysis informed by context, even if what you were analyzing was yourself."

A prolific poster on

Instagram, Als turns even low-res shots of his television screen into digital polaroids, snapshots of his viewing habits paired with his snapshot captions, their length varied and unexpected. Here he remembers lunches with actress Billie Allen, discusses the "badly cast" new season of "The Crown" on Netflix, or gives kudos to Sydney Sweeney on HBO's "Euphoria" for "facing what's rank in the character being played, their confusion over dashed hopes, misguided intentions, their own sour guile and bored cunning." On Oscar night he lamented Kirsten Dunst's loss for Best Supporting Actress, beat out by the showier ingénue-of-the-moment in the "West Side Story" remake, writing that it was a loss for the art of acting. "Not performing, acting, which is synonymous with breathing."

Currently, on display at the University of California, Los Angeles' Hammer Museum is his curated exhibition "Joan Didion: What She Means" which collects a staggering number of contributions from artists to tell the life story of the West Coast's preeminent voice of New Journalism.

This month, Stair Galleries in Hudson, N.Y., hosted an online auction of the late writer's estate titled "An American Icon: Property From the Collection of Joan Didion." Most

Continued on next page

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Yehuda Hanani

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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Beethoven's Ghost

What spooky silhouette in the shadows of Shakespeare's stage is conjured by Ludwig van Beethoven's mournful crescendos and tremolos? The theatrical inspiration for Beethoven's Piano Trio No. 5 in D Major — nicknamed "The Ghost Trio" by the composer's Austrian pupil Carl Czerny — varies according to the source. In 1842 Czerny wrote that the second movement brought to mind the opening of Hamlet — that winter's night at Elsinore Castle as Horatio and the watchman witnessed the phantasm of the prince's father, the fallen King Hamlet, resurrected and roving the corridors. But Beethoven had also been briefly composing music for an opera based on "The Tragedie of Macbeth," and we can only imagine what he might have written for the tale of spilled blood and witchcraft in the Scottish Highlands. The piano trios and his unseen opera have since been conflated, but as James Keller wrote in



Hamlet's Vision by Pedro Américo

"Chamber Music: A Listeners," we may "discard as erroneous the oft-encountered claim that this movement of the Ghost Trio is a reworking of music Beethoven originally sketched as the Witches Chorus for his 'Macbeth.'" *Close Encounters With*

Music presents "Grand Piano Trios: Beethoven's Ghost and Archduke" performed by pianist Ieva Jokubaviciute, violinist Hye-Jin Kim and cellist Yehuda Hanani on Dec. 11 at Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Mass.

Listen: Revisiting O'Keefe Country

Circling back to an event at The Cornwall Library in November celebrating the birthday of American modernist Georgia O'Keefe as well as Roxana Robinson's 1990 biography "Georgia O'Keefe: A Life," The Metropolitan Museum of Art also acknowledged the painter's birthday. In an episode of the museum's podcast "Perspectives" titled "Revisiting 'O'Keefe Country'" Patricia Marroquin Norby, associate curator of Native American Art at The Met is joined by former Deputy Director at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture Matthew Martinez. The pair discuss examining O'Keefe's work through their Indigenous perspective and the branding of New Mexico's artistic output being attributed to this singular white vantage point. "What interests me is that O'Keefe aestheticized what in many ways was a traumatic history for local communities," Norby said.

Listen at www.metmuseum.com/perspectives

The Awkward Age

In 1899 Henry James wrote to Henrietta Reubell on the subject of his mid-career novel "The Awkward Age," originally published as serialized fiction in Harper's Weekly. "I had in view in the novel a certain special social (highly 'modern' and actual) London group and type and tone." Reubell herself held a special spot in society, painted by John Singer Sargent, portraitist to stars (or at least to the Edwardian elite), she is described by The Met as the hostess "of a lively salon of cosmopolitan expatriate artists and writers." James' wordy portrait of the end-of-century elite's twilight conveyed, as literary critic William F. Hall wrote of the novel in 1968, "the marks of the resultant society [as] leisure, an aimless pursuit of pleasure, and an inordinate preoccupation with wealth." The awkward age is, from James' observant American eye, both the clash of the aristocracy with the industrial boom and the innocence of his 18-year-old heroine at the center of it. Framed almost entirely in-scene, pages of dialogue without narrative intervention, the novel is not just a post-Mar-

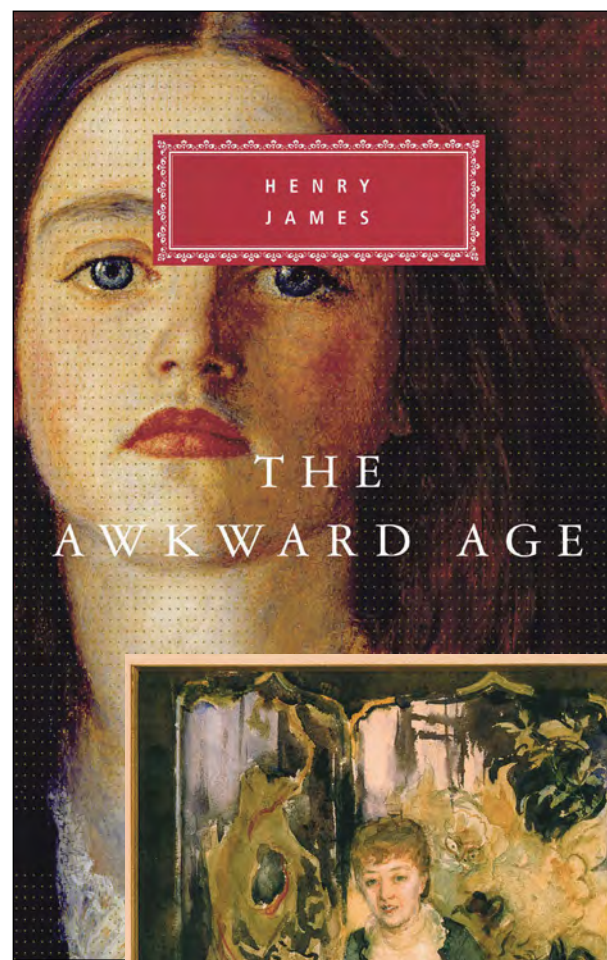


PHOTO COURTESY OF PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE



Henrietta Reubell by John Singer Sargent

riage Plot, but a sort of anti-Marriage Plot. The young heroine stands at the precipice of the next century, unmarried yet unblemished, simply

unsure of what the future will hold. *The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon's Tuesday Evening Book Group will meet on Zoom on Dec. 13.*

...instagram's oracle

Continued from previous page

widely reported? A pair of Céline faux-tortoise-shell sunglasses. When pioneering designer Phoebe Philo still helmed the French brand, an ever-present eyewear campaign starred a photograph of Didion at 81 by German fine art photographer Juergen Teller — wispy silver bobbed hair, a stark black crewneck, pursed raspberry-colored lips, and an expression entirely obscured by thick, oversized frames, the lenses impenetrably dark. Didion's pair sold at Stair's auction just weeks ago for a whopping \$27,000. Perhaps Hilton Als knows where they might be.

Hilton Als will discuss Manhattan in the work of American photographer Diane Arbus on Dec. 8 at The Clark Museum in Williamstown, Mass.



PHOTO BY ALI SMITH



COURTESY OF JENNIFER AND JOSEPH DUKE

Georgia O'Keefe by Alfred Stieglitz



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The performances are underwritten by Stephen Ketterer and Ignacio Ramirez. The Light Show is underwritten by an anonymous donor. For these concerts support has been provided to Crescendo from CT Humanities (CTH), with funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the Connecticut State Legislature.

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MET LIVE - THE HOURS: Dec. 10

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EDITORIAL

Gratitude ...
and giving

This is the time of year that makes us think about the things and the people in our lives for which we are grateful. We all have our problems, but we all have our blessings as well, and this has been the time to consider the balance between the two. As we spent Thanksgiving with family or friends, as we go into this winter of the triple threat of infections after two years of COVID restrictions, we should be more thankful than ever for the chance to gather for one more year.

This is also the time of year to look outside ourselves and see the challenges faced by our families, friends, neighbors and fellow humans. There are ways in which we can lighten their loads if we give it serious thought. Who knows? In so doing, we may just benefit ourselves as well.

One way to do that is to contribute to some of the many nonprofit organizations in the region, whose annual appeals are now being sent out all over the Tri-state region. Each day brings a new plea from another worthy nonprofit. As the different groups try to gather enough funding to make their way through the next fiscal year, it's a good time to think about what life here would be like without any one of them.

Which organization will suddenly become the most important in one's life? Perhaps you've never needed a visiting nurse before, but suddenly there is a family health emergency that makes such a personal service critical. How often do any of us think about the willingness of trained volunteer firefighters and EMTs to drop everything at a moment's notice and rush to help in an emergency? Not often, until the rare time in our lives when their service means everything. When we are at our most vulnerable, most in need of some fast and effective help, it is these volunteers who step in and give of themselves, day in and day out, to offer support to their neighbors.

Then there are the parents who depend on area child care centers to provide them with reliable and loving care for the most important people in their lives, their children. Or those who are struggling with difficult home lives that erupt in violence, or who suffer from any kind of illness.

We can't forget about those cultural groups that bring joy and entertainment to brighten our lives, or the scholarship funds for students who need help finishing their studies. The list goes on and on.

Now is a good time to thank volunteers at nonprofit organizations for the work they do to make life better for all of us. The simple acknowledgment of the sacrifices they have made in order to provide their services to the region can be enough to keep them going.

But it also helps to provide financial support, however much it is possible to give. Choose among those who have made a difference in your life or the life of someone you know, and send them whatever you can.

And now that The Lakeville Journal Foundation has joined the multiple nonprofits in the region and become a 501(c)(3), we will note that our appeal went out in this newspaper as of Thanksgiving week. We will emphasize that we are profoundly grateful for all the support we have received over the past three years from you, our readers. Our plan is to be here to serve our communities for years to come, with your continuing support and engagement with our mission.

We are here because of you.

Invasives need control

We on the Sharon Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission read with interest your recent article, "Why invasive species matter," and commend The Lakeville Journal for publishing this significant piece.

Our committee is particularly concerned about the threat invasive plants pose to sensitive wetland and watercourse areas, and how invasive species are negatively impacting water quality, habitat and bank stabilization.

We recently published a brochure detailing best practices for disposal of invasive plants. It is available at the Sharon Town Hall Land Use office as well as all of the local libraries.

James Krissel, Chairman

Sharon Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission Sharon

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

We accept gifts, grants and sponsorships from individuals and organizations for the general support of our activities, but our news judgments are made independently and not on the basis of donor support.

Accepting financial support does not mean we endorse donors or their products, services or opinions.



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

Sunset at Lake Wononscopomuc

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our caring hospital in Sharon

I am sitting by my wife in a Sharon Hospital room as she gently but inexorably comes to the end of our 72-year love affair, the last sixty enriched among our Litchfield Hills. The afternoon November sunlight streams over our hills through the room's southwest-facing windows.

She sleeps comfortably, tended lovingly and carefully by Nurse Bobbie Jo and her colleagues, surrounded by family, for we have been given one of the hospital's generously proportioned rooms on the second floor designed for such occasions. It is only yards from the room where she recovered from giving birth to our fourth daughter 58 years ago.

As I hold her hand, giving thanks for her love, our life together and the family we have made, I add thanks for the warm, personal care we receive from Bob Chase

and Kaki Schaefer-Reid, the volunteer ambulance responders to my 4 a.m. call for help, the sympathetic, caring Emergency and ICU nurses, doctors and staff who quickly eased her pain, treated her considerately and explained our options before moving her to the second floor staff and Hospice nurses who do all in their power to succor her and her family through our ordeal.

We are blessed to have a community hospital staffed with such humane, competent people. How very different is our reception here than in the impersonal mega-hospitals of big cities. It is no accident that Sharon Hospital puts personal care of neighbors first. It was created by local leadership, generosity and dedicated medical professionals over generations. It represents who we have been — and I hope — still are.

Recently, our hospital fell into the grasp of Nuvance, a medical industry invasive species which promised to "save" it financially but, once in control, threatens to jettison its tradition of care as wasteful, to scrap its maternity and ICU wards, and convert it into a moneymaking outpatient diagnostic center, with the top floor rumored to be converted from caring service to Nuvance's executive suite, its officers replacing patients where my wife is now receiving such loving care.

As Dr. Kurish, who has selflessly ministered to my wife, warns us, only we who live here, depend on and love our hospital can be trusted to save its caring, nonprofit mission.

Carr Ferguson

Lakeville

Financial causes Nuvance gives for closing Sharon Hospital's L&D

There are many good reasons for not closing Labor and Delivery ("L&D") of Sharon Hospital ("SH") but this letter will focus on the financial cost of maintaining it.

Nuvance Health's ("Nuvance") primary stated reason for closing L&D is their claim that they are losing \$3 million annually. We analyzed their financials, spoke to Nuvance's CFO in December, 2021, and several members of the professional staff. We found that:

1. For the past 3 years, Nuvance apparently hasn't collected all the money it is owed for pediatric care at SH, thus artificially lowering its revenue for L&D.

2. Nuvance is apparently billing L&D for all costs of keeping after-hours surgery open, even though we believe not all after-hours surgeries are L&D related.

3. Nuvance claims that "call payments" are made to general surgeons to assist the OBs delivering babies by cesarean sections after hours. However, to the best knowledge of the OBs delivering babies at SH, this has seldom happened in the last three years.

4. We understand that reimbursement for the OR staff and anesthesiologists were made (and charged to L&D) whenever they were present to do an after-hour surgery, even when they were performing non-L&D cases, such as gallbladder removals.

5. Stated direct costs are excessive. SH has had to pay absurd rates for travel nurses due to SH's premature

announcement that it was going to close L&D, which then prompted the full-time employed nurses to quit. This forced SH to recruit nurses, but their inability to recruit, resulted in SH employing travel nurses, using outside agencies. Thus, SH has been paying up to \$225/hour for each travel nurse vs. regular nurses at around \$45/hour.

We therefore contend that the L&D losses asserted by Nuvance are both inaccurate and overstated. Furthermore, Nuvance's FY2021 audited financial statements show, a positive gain of \$105.0 million (Excess of Revenue over Expenses), an increase in net assets of \$242 million and \$3.8 billion in total assets. Thus, the stated \$3 million operating loss for SH's L&D unit is neither significant nor material given the assets and earnings of Nuvance. Moreover, any loss is minimal compared to the major damage it will do to the future of our hospital and the community. L&D is a gateway for SH's many services as it is for many hospitals. If L&D is closed, the net negative financial impact will be much greater for Nuvance than keeping it open.

During our Dec. 13, 2021, meeting with Nuvance's CFO, Mr. Steven Rosenberg, I asked Mr. Rosenberg directly how the community could work with him financially to continue L&D. Unfortunately, there was no response to my question. We are open to all good-faith discussions with Nuvance and interested community parties to support L&D. With renewed

commitment and marketing, L&D's future can be assured.

Please participate in the Dec. 6 OHS public hearing and fight for our hospital! Thank you.

Victor Germack

Vice President,
Save Sharon Hospital,
Inc.

Sharon

*Deadline for letters
is Monday at 10 a.m.
Send to publisher@
lakevillejournal.com.*

More letters next page.

TURNING
BACK THE
PAGES
NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — 1922

The United States Civil Service Commission has announced an examination to be held at Lakeville on Jan. 18, 1923, to fill the position of rural carrier at Lakeville and vacancies that may later occur on rural routes from that post office. The salary of a rural carrier on a standard daily wagon route of 24 miles is \$1,800 per annum, with an additional \$30 per mile per annum for each mile or major fraction thereof in excess of 24 miles. The salary on motor routes ranges from \$2,450 to \$2,600 per annum, according to length. Separate examinations for motor routes and wagon routes are no longer held. Women will not be considered for rural carrier appointments unless they are widows of U.S. soldiers, sailors or marines, who are physically disqualified for examination by reason of injuries received in the line of military duty.

The ground was white with the first snow of the season on Friday morning.

Paul Cleaveland has started the building of a new cottage on Wells Hill.

50 years ago — 1972

Connecticut highway officials are prepared to break up any ice jams in the Housatonic River this winter before they damage the historic covered bridge at West Cornwall, District Engineering Manager Rowland Killingbeck told The Lakeville Journal this week. The covered bridge is now being reconstructed and a temporary span has been built just south of it. Area residents had cited a danger that the two piers for the temporary bridge might catch ice and cause it to back up so as to affect the covered bridge, which has a single pier in the middle of the river. Acknowledging the possible danger, Mr. Killingbeck said the contractor is keeping a crane with a clamshell bucket located below the two bridges at a point where it will be able to break up any ice or obstruction. Other steps such as the use of explosives also could be taken in an emergency, he added.

Mr. and Mrs. David O'Keefe of Oakland, N.J., have purchased the Sharon Motor Lodge on Route 41. The O'Keefes, new to the

Continued next page

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Thursday, December 1, 2022

Mission Statement

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

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TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

Continued from previous page

motel business, purchased the lodge through an ad in The New York Times.

Yesterday, Mrs. Aldo Beligni thanked the State Police and “people from all over Canaan” who assisted in the successful search for Richard Beligni, Christopher Strattman and David Ohler (all in their teens) who had been lost on Canaan Mountain Tuesday afternoon until 6 a.m. yesterday morning. The young men went hunting, it got dark very quickly, and they lost their way in the woods. The young men found their way home out of the woods at dawn.

Linda Gatti of Granite

Avenue in Canaan, and a student at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, has been chosen to participate in the 1973 Congressional Seminar in Washington, D.C.

25 years ago — 1997

Dr. Vincent J. Peppe has closed his office due to illness, ending 53 years of practicing veterinary medicine in Canaan.

Car buffs may be pleased to know the legendary Cunningham name has been resurrected and is turning out cars again. The Cunningham C-4R model sports/racer which just went into production at the Lime Rock Road garage, was originally built in

West Palm Beach, Fla., by the Cunningham Car Company.

Eating in a boathouse may not sound appealing to most people, but eating in The Boathouse, which is the name of the new restaurant coming to Lakeville, may. The Boathouse will be in the building formerly occupied by the Golden China on Main Street in Lakeville. Its menu will feature extra-large portions of meat and seafood. The atmosphere, said Daniel O'Brien, co-owner with his wife Wendy O'Brien, will be casual.

Cornwall resident Helen Coley Nauts, founder of the Cancer Research In-

stitute in New York City, is the recipient of the National Institute of Social Sciences' gold medal award for distinguished service to humanity. The honor was presented to Ms. Nauts last Wednesday at the annual NISS gold medal awards dinner at the Union League Club in Manhattan. The 90-year-old Ms. Nauts, who was born in Sharon in the house behind the clock tower near the Town Green, has been a summer resident of Cornwall since the 1940s.

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

May our differences lead us to civility, innovation, compromise, growth

Annually, it is an uplifting of good will. The holiday season in America commenced with Thanksgiving — gathering with others to be grateful for what is, what wasn't, and some surprises. Come COVID, severe political disagreements, world morass, the retirement of Roger Federer, Americans, as is their tradition, heartfully engage in being thankful, in gathering across the continent,

Remove all burning bushes

In a number of recent issues Dee Salomon's The Ungardener and the Nature's Notebook columns highlighted the issue of invasive plants and insects and the problems they cause. The invasive plants mentioned in recent issues include Norway maple, Russian olive, Japanese barberry, bittersweet vine, garlic mustard, multiflora rose, and Japanese knotweed. After this good reporting to educate everyone I was saddened to see that the Nov. 24th Compass included a photo titled “Last of the burning bush color”. This shrub, also called Winged Euonymus, is not one to be celebrated. It is a problem invasive that should be removed from everyone's property. It is recognized as an invasive species in 21 states.

This 6-10 foot shrub does turn bright scarlet in the fall which is attractive and why it is planted. However, Burning Bush or Euonymus alatus, has now spread from peoples yards throughout our forests by bird droppings. In the fall when the leaves turn brilliant red it is suddenly very easy to see how widespread it is as you drive by forested lands. I see it everywhere. This plant is an ecological threat because it forms dense stands in that out-competes and displaces native plants, reduces wildlife habitat and forage. The root system forms a dense mat just below the soil that makes survival of other plants impossible. Do not plant it and please remove any you have. There are many wonderful native alternatives such as Red Chokeberry, Winterberry, Ninebark, and Highbush Cranberry.

John Landon
Salisbury Association
Land Trust
Salisbury

huge masses moving, raising glasses, tossing a ball, transmitting Joy on the fourth Thursday in November.

The year 1621 has historically been celebrated as the first Thanksgiving in Plymouth — pilgrims with their neighboring Wampanoag tribe — a show of neighborly gratitude. Lincoln designated the holiday in 1863 amid the Civil War. Today folks may wrangle about the 1621 events — who, whether, why — but Lincoln, in 1863, did proclaim Thanksgiving Day as a national holiday celebrated in November. It is secular, it is American.

This year, 2022, I was

jubilant at Thanksgiving — buoyed by family, friends, and the state of the nation. I am robust with family, a granddaughter, health and mainly good will. For too many years I have felt bleak about the U.S. as a place and a people. Americans with whom I had for decades celebrated: Miracle on Ice, 1980 Olympics, planes, bars, living rooms packed with Americans sending spirit and strength to young men amazingly giving their all on 200 feet of ice; Americans with whom I worried over: our troops, astronauts, rescuers, disaster victims; Americans with whom I have joined in

vastly differing settings to chant USA, USA, USA were becoming unrecognizable.

I have always been proud of being American — but that exuberance had eroded of late — it is returning. I was uplifted by a restoration of a democratic show of campaigning, voting, accepting and conceding — not exemplary but not, as feared, massively overturned by promised violence.

In the 2022 as in the 2018 midterm, more voters turned out — historical highs. Americans gifted with the vote exercised it — at lower rates than other counties — but a big U.S. turn out.

Regardless of who voters supported, large numbers voted — turned out — and in some states they turned out to keep a firm grasp on their vote — not permitting renegade candidates to seize it. Pennsylvania and Michigan had two of the highest turnouts — their voters had an agenda — to stay voters. Extremism isn't gone, nor is it in charge.

We Americans raise our voices in large stadiums, at high school games, in conference halls, schools, churches. We raise our voices in song to our American way of life:

O beautiful for spacious skies...for purple mountain

majesty... America! America! Confirm they soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!

We proclaim together; “that star spangled banner yet waves over the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

May the spirit of our differences return us to a level of civility, to a level of innovation, to a level of argument and compromise, to growth for the nation and individuals.

Happy Holidays Land of the free and Home of the brave.

Kathy Herald-Marlowe
Sharon

Sharon Hospital is not closing, it is open for all patients

I am a member of the Sharon community, and a clinical navigator at Sharon Hospital. I am writing in support of Sharon Hospital's transformation plan, and to remind community members that Sharon Hospital is OPEN and welcoming all patients.

In 1993, I started working at Sharon Hospital on a temporary basis and never left. Sharon Hospital is an incredible place, and one that should be a part of our community for years to come.

The health-care system in the United States is changing,

and while all hospitals are affected, those in rural areas are particularly impacted. Adapting to these changes to best serve the needs of patients requires a tremendous amount of skill and fortitude by those in leadership.

I have watched this evolution of health care at Sharon Hospital over the past 29 years. So many changes over this time have been positive and are seen through clinical advancements — for example, 25 years ago, a hip replacement would keep a patient in the hospital for two weeks. Today, it's a few days

at most. These advancements are seen in so many services, and because of this, we are seeing the role of the hospital change.

We are also seeing rising costs and changing populations, which pose challenges for all hospitals. Despite our proudly held five-star status, Sharon Hospital is not immune to these challenges, and so I urge my community to understand that Sharon Hospital must adapt to survive this difficult time in health care.

I understand my community's feelings around closing

our Labor and Delivery unit. However, I have witnessed firsthand the underutilization of this service. At times, many days go by and our Labor and Delivery Unit sees no patients. I have also seen the vulnerability of our aging community and the changing health-care environment and our system's commitment to help our hospital meet those needs.

I have great respect for my neighbors who are passionate about making a change in our community. However, our community needs to come together to address

misinformation, which can have the unintended effect of hurting the hospital. We need to make it clear that Sharon Hospital is here, providing five-star care to the region 24/7/365.

Words matter. When the staff at Sharon Hospital formed a group in support of the hospital in the 1990s, we called our group “Friends of Sharon Hospital,” words that exude support without raising alarm. I urge my community to be forward-looking and positive as we come together to support the future of Sharon Hospital. This future may include tough choices, but I believe Sharon Hospital leadership is acting in the interests of our community.

Sharon Hospital is not closing. We are here for you.

With respect to all involved.

Jim Hutchison
Norfolk

More letters to the editor on the previous page.

Making tough choices at Sharon Hospital

As a member of the Salisbury community, I support Nuvance Health, Sharon Hospital, and their plan to preserve our region's health-care access by closing an underutilized and unsustainable service.

I'm in no way affiliated with the hospital. I heard about the proposed changes as a member of the community, and I want to use my decades of experience as a health-care leader — including leading rural hospitals — to help my neighbors understand the stark financial landscape that all hospitals have faced over the past 20 years.

I am impressed that the plan is comprehensive, forward-looking, and growth based. It didn't need to be this way — over 100 rural hospitals have closed in the last decade. When faced with the difficult choice between adapting to meet the challenges facing our industry or maintaining the status quo, most of them chose to maintain the status quo, forcing them to close their doors and jeopardize patients' access to

care. With maternity volume nowhere near sustaining the unit, keeping the department open jeopardizes the entire hospital, including services in high-demand. I have yet to see a viable plan to keep Sharon Hospital open in the long-term without service reductions.

Nuvance, like most hospitals in the U.S., is a nonprofit — meaning it has a mission of serving its patients and communities. Unfortunately, nonprofits face most of the same challenges and responsibilities as other businesses.

For example, a grocery store needs to pay its staff, electricity bills, and supply costs. If it does not make enough revenue to cover these costs, it will be forced to close. The same is true for hospitals. To remain open, they need to be able to pay the salary, benefits, and pensions of their workforce; fund necessary repairs and maintenance projects; and buy supplies and equipment. And like all businesses, hospitals grapple with inflation and a tumultuous job market.

So what is the difference

between nonprofit hospitals and other businesses?

First, they are funded differently. Most hospital funding comes from government and private insurers by way of patient revenue. In rural markets, much of this revenue comes from Medicaid and Medicare, which pay hospitals less than commercial insurers — well below what it costs hospitals to provide their services. This funding is supported by investments and philanthropy, but given market volatility and the instability of these sources in providing year-over-year revenue, hospitals rely less on these contributions to support operational costs.

The difference that inspired me to spend my career in nonprofit health care, though, is the benefit to patients when nonprofits thrive. For-profit entities keep “leftover” revenue, while nonprofits like Sharon Hospital invest it in programs that serve their mission. That is why Sharon Hospital leadership continues saying that by cutting a service that loses

millions of dollars each year, they can grow in other areas. This is a reality.

This tough decision will help Sharon Hospital serve our community for years to come. I urge our community to reflect on this and join me in supporting the hospital's transformation plan.

George Zara
Salisbury

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Sports

GNH gobbles up touchdowns at Turkey Bowl

By Riley Klein

WINSTED — The Gilbert/Northwestern/Housatonic Yellowjackets defeated the St. Paul Falcons 56-6 on Thanksgiving morning in their final game of the regular season.

GNH set the tone early as Isiah Sanchez sacked the St. Paul quarterback for a loss on the opening play of the game. The Yellowjacket defense was a brick wall as they blocked a punt, forced a fumble and denied the Falcons of a first down for the entire first

quarter. The GNH offense got to work early as well, scoring six unanswered touchdowns in the first half. Five of the scores came from Fred Calder-Camp; three rushing, one reception, and one interception that he returned 95-yards for a touchdown.

The Yellowjackets scored twice more in the second half for a total of eight touchdowns on the day. Kicker Daryl Sharack sent eight-of-eight extra points through the uprights to bring their total to 56 points.

St. Paul was held scoreless until the fourth quarter when they were able to find the end-zone on a 4th-and-goal 1-yard rush.

The victory secured GNH's first place position in Division 2 of the Naugatuck Valley League and qualified



GNH all-purpose star Fred Calder-Camp reels in a reception downfield as the Yellowjackets defeat St. Paul Catholic 56-6 on Thursday, Nov. 24.



PHOTOS BY SAVAGE FRIEZE

GNH runningback Aiden Avenia rushes past a convoy of blockers in the victory over St. Paul Catholic.

them for the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) Class SS playoff series.

GNH (8-2) will travel to

Willimantic to face Windham High School (9-1) on Tuesday, Nov. 29 for the first round of the playoff tournament.

This marks the first year since 2009 that the CIAC will be conducting six playoff series (expanded from four) with 48 participating teams.

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