



The Lakeville Journal

Small Business Spotlight, Page A3

TriCornerNews.com

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

Reported to be closing, independent Winsted Citizen finds buyer at the last minute

By Terry Cowgill

WINSTED — It's been quite the rollercoaster ride for the fledgling Winsted Citizen, but Thanksgiving weekend brought news that fans of the independent community newspaper can be thankful for.

After its editor, Andy Thibault, had indicated that the monthly paper would cease publication, an announcement was quickly made

that it had actually been bought out by a much larger media company.

Jedd Gould, a board member and spokesperson for Connecticut News Consortium Inc., which created the Winsted Citizen in January, announced Wednesday, Nov. 22, that the Citizen had been acquired by American Business Media (ABM) of Simsbury. The consortium said in a statement issued last Wednesday that it never intended

to close the paper permanently, but was seeking to change the current business model.

"We're delighted to turn this project over to someone who shares our vision, and has the media infrastructure to support and grow it," Gould said. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. The acquisition was effective immediately.

See NEWSPAPER, Page A10

Historic NWS weather station moves to Great Mountain Forest

By Jennifer Almquist

NORFOLK — The Icebox of Connecticut is the rather whimsical nickname of Norfolk, yet it is rooted in the fact that it is often the coldest town in the state.

In 1956, the record shows it snowed 175 inches in one winter in Norfolk. For the past 92 years, a daily record has been kept of the temperature, precipitation, and the water content of the snow on the ground at Great Mountain Forest (GMF), the 6,000-acre conservation area and woodland habitat that straddles Norfolk and Falls Village.

The official name of the weather station is Norfolk 2SW, because the station is 2 miles southwest of the Post Office in Norfolk. At 1,400

feet, GMF is one of the highest National Weather Service (NWS) station elevations in Connecticut.

The week of Thanksgiving, after nearly a century of steady weather reporting, Norfolk 2SW has officially been relocated by the NWS from its original location in Norfolk to a more prominent and accessible location at the working headquarters of GMF in front of the forestry office. This month, a three-man crew under the direction of Deanna Marks, lead NWS representative for this region, arrived from the Albany, New York, office. With the help of GMF staff, excavators and tractors, they dug new holes, trenches for coaxial

See STATION, Page A10



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST. Russell Russ, Weather Observer of Record at Norfolk 2SW in new location.

Colonial Theatre's 21st century comeback

By Kathryn Boughton

CANAAN — Back when movies were new, when a Saturday matinee or an evening show was an adventure for a rural town, Seth Moseley, a wealthy New Haven hotelier, built The Casino in Canaan as a fancy trinket for his young wife's birthday.

The entertainment center, purchased by the Boscardin family in 1929 and renamed the Colonial, soon became the entertainment hub for the community, featuring the brand-new "talkies," vaudeville shows, high school graduations, roller skating and community balls in the ornate upstairs ballroom.

In a day before cell phones, tab-

lets and large-screen televisions, the theater was packed on Friday nights and Saturdays, and there was even a town meeting to discuss whether the sanctity of the Sabbath could be disturbed by Sunday screenings. But that was long ago, and movie theaters have struggled over the intervening decades. The Colonial, once virtually derelict, has been shuttered since 1997 except for an extensive refurbishment and brief revival in the early 2000s.

Now the excitement is returning. In April, Lenore and Marc Mallett and David and Stacey Fiorillo, two Salisbury couples, purchased the old theater, rolled up their sleeves, and plotted a future designed to bring life and activity back to downtown Canaan.

See THEATRE, Page A10

Blumenthal inaugurates Cornwall officials

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) swore in Cornwall's newly elected officials at Town Hall Monday, Nov. 20.

"I'm here to say 'thank you.' Really, thank you to everyone who will serve in the next two years," said Blumenthal. "You answer to people about the most important needs that government performs in their lives."

Board by board, commission by commission, 15 of Cornwall's winners from the Nov. 7 election raised their right hands and swore an oath

See INAUGURATION, Page A8



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS. Tony Zunino, HVA president, left, with Jeet Sandhu of Ridgefield.

HVA auction nets record \$205K for the environment

By Debra A. Aleksinas

MORRIS — Sen. Richard Blumenthal made a big announcement at the 34th annual Housatonic Valley Association's (HVA) Auction for the Environment, held Sunday, Nov. 19, at South Farms.

"I am again selling myself," he told the sold-out crowd in a tongue-in-cheek nod to his annual donated auction item: a chance for a group of four to eight to join him on Capitol Hill, starting with breakfast in the Senate dining room, where the elite meet, followed by a visit to the floor of the Senate and a tour of the Capitol.

"It's on me, it's not on the taxpayers," he deadpanned, eliciting laughter from the crowd of about 130 supporters of the environment

who turned out en masse in support of HVA's climate-ready mission to restore and protect clean, cold waters and a sweeping woodland corridor across the entire Housatonic Valley.

Blumenthal's donation drew seven competitive bidders egged on by spirited auctioneer Sherry Truhlar. In increments of \$2,000 per bid, the senator "sold" for \$14,000.

"Fourteen thousand dollars in a few seconds is not bad," noted Lynn Werner, HVA's executive director, who later estimated that this year's auction netted a record \$205,000.

Actress Christine Baranski, who returned as the auction's host, credited Werner, the HVA board and

See HVA, Page A8

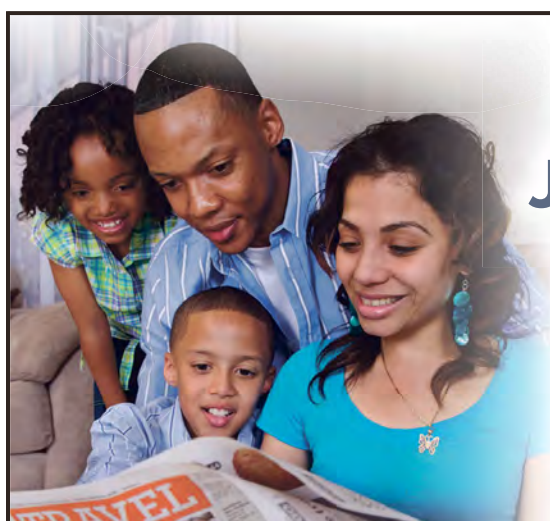


PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) shook the hand of Planning and Zoning Commission Chair Anna Timell at the swearing-in ceremony on Monday, Nov. 20.



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Our Towns

FFA holiday store open for business

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Housatonic Valley FFA holiday store at Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) opened Saturday, Nov. 25, and was busy from the start.

Agriculture education department chair Dave Moran said customers started arriving an hour before the official 10 a.m. opening time.

The FFA store ordered 825 Christmas trees this year, up 50 from last year.

And they were moving fast.

From about 11 a.m. to noon, a reporter counted seven trees being tied to car roofs and loaded in pickup truck beds, and he wasn't watching all the time.

One of those trees was bundled up by Riley Mahaffey of Amenia, as her father,



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Riley Mahaffey baled a Christmas tree for a customer Saturday, Nov. 25, at the Housatonic Valley FFA holiday store. The customer just happened to be her father.

Blake, watched.

The Mahaffeys run a cattle farm in Amenia, and Riley works there.

After considering the options, the Mahaffeys decided to send Riley to HVRHS specifically for the Ag-Ed

program.

"We raise and show beef cattle," said Blake Mahaffey. "We didn't have an appropriate program" in New York state.

"This is a huge stepping stone" for Riley and her college plans, he added.

Harold MacMillan, who used to run the Housatonic River Outfitters fly-fishing shop in Cornwall Bridge — and still offers a guide service — came bearing gifts. He donated 15 spinning rigs to the Ag-Ed program, hoping

to get students interested in angling.

He was accompanied by his son Lucas, an HVRHS graduate.

He bought his tree, and then came back in to ask if the cashiers could break a \$100 bill so he could tip the student who helped him.

Moran said tips go in the till as donations, and added "You just gave us 15 fishing rods. That's a donation."

MacMillan grinned and set off.

Meanwhile the shop was bustling, as students rang up purchases of poinsettias, wreaths and immense blocks of cheese.

Another face from the past, Cady Staats, said she traveled from her Westchester County, N.Y., home to get her holiday supplies because the pickings were slim at home.

The always-popular wreath production nights are Wednesday, Nov. 29, and Thursday, Dec. 7, from 7 to 9 p.m. On a typical night, a visitor can expect to encounter three generations of alumni pitching in to assemble holiday wreaths.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Virginia Bush Suttman hard at work on a hat during the Salisbury Handmade holiday market Nov. 25.

Salisbury market offers handmade creations

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The White Hart in Salisbury was bustling Saturday, Nov. 25, with the first of two holiday markets sponsored by the Salisbury Handmade group of artisans.

Karin Gerstel of Undermountain Weavers said, at about 1 p.m., that the first shoppers arrived before the 10 a.m. start time and the flow never stopped.

Virginia Bush Suttman, who had handmade winter hats of all descriptions for sale, was working on one when a reporter hove to. Distracted by the camera flash, she said "You made me drop a stitch!"

She swiftly remedied the error and then downed tools to assist a customer on the question of hat sizing.

The proceeds from Suttman's hats go to Kent Affordable Housing.

Alice Yoakum of Lakeville bought some fancy candles from Hawk Dance Farm of Hillsdale, New York. The proprietor advised putting them in a bag to guard against breakage. Then he helpfully stowed the bag away, to be picked up after Yoakum had browsed the other offerings.

Gerstel said the artisan group, formerly Salisbury Artisans, is now known as Salisbury Handmade to avoid confusion with another concern.

There were enough applications from vendors this year to warrant two holiday markets, with the second to be held Saturday, Dec. 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the White Hart.

Gerstel also noted that the White Hart asked Salisbury Handmade to make the check for the facility rental out to the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service.

Region One requests \$5.6 million for high school improvements

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Region One Board of Education will hold a public hearing Monday, Dec. 4 on borrowing \$5,600,000 for costs of the planning, design, acquisition, construction, furnishing and equipping of various capital improvements and renovations to Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

There will be a region-wide referendum vote on the project Monday, Jan. 8, 2024.

The hearing will be in Room 133 at HVRHS and

online.

See www.region1schools.org for agendas and login details.



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Our Towns

Closed since pandemic, Geer seeks new tenant for Lodge café

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — The café inside the Geer Village Senior Community Lodge, which served for decades as a popular community space for residents, families and the community, has been shuttered since the start of the pandemic.

Now, Geer officials are seeking a new tenant to lease the space and have the café up and running by the start of 2024.

"We had hoped to bring back the Railway Café, but it didn't work out" for the former owner, who has successfully relocated her business to Main Street in Winsted, noted Shaun Powell, Geer's acting CEO. "So we put out a request four weeks ago and we're actively searching for a third party to operate under some sort of similar format, hopefully by the first of the year."

Powell noted that the café's closing left a void that needs to be filled. It had been managed by four operators since the building opened in 2002 and had various types of menus and hours of operation.

The planned reopening of the café coincides with Geer Village Senior Community being honored on Nov. 16 by the state Office of Rural Health as Connecticut's 2023 Community Star.

"It was very popular. It's great for Geer and great for the community to have a gathering space," said Powell. Under past management, the café had served as a space where people would meet up for a light bite, order takeout or relax in the Lodge with coffee and the newspaper.

According to the Request for Proposals, the space is equipped with Geer-owned furniture and appliances, and all items will be available for use of the restaurant tenant and the tenant is permitted to provide outside catering using the leased space.

Hours of operation will be between the hours of 7 a.m. and 2 p.m. during designated days of the week, and preference is for healthy food choices along with takeout or ready prepared options.

Powell noted that while under the prior operation of Railway Café, business hours were 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.,

the hours of operation are negotiable.

"We're open to a scaled-back version to that. We just want someone to lease it," Powell said, noting that in addition to serving as a community gathering space, the café "will also bring people to our campus, to learn about it, so that's a good thing."

Geer named Connecticut's 2023 Community Star

The planned reopening of the café coincides with Geer Village Senior Community being honored Thursday, Nov. 16, by the state Office of Rural Health as Connecticut's 2023 Community Star.

In making the announcement in celebration of National Rural Health Day, Lori Fedewa, director of the Connecticut Office of Rural Health (CORH), noted that Geer's award is a "well-deserved honor for a partner who does so much for the community it serves in Northwestern Connecticut."

"Geer offers care across the aging spectrum, and provides independent, assisted, and skilled living facilities, low-income senior housing and transportation to the community as the area Dial-A-Ride provider and operator of Go Geer, the on-demand transportation service," said Fedewa.

CORH, based at Northwestern Connecticut Community College in Winsted, joined communities across the state and country in cel-

bration of National Rural Health Day, which the national organization has set aside as the third Thursday of November.

The annual event is an opportunity to celebrate the "Power of Rural" and honor the individuals and organizations dedicated to addressing the unique health care needs of people living in rural communities, said Fedewa.

"It's a time to recognize the great work that's happening in rural areas."

Geer Village Senior Community offers care across the entire aging spectrum to seniors in Litchfield County; Fairfield County; Berkshire County, Massachusetts; and Columbia County, New York, and values its position as a nonprofit leader.

Geer Lodge, where the café space is located, is an independent, assisted living and memory care facility that has 114 apartments, up to 120 residents, visiting family members, and is open to the public for events. The facility also houses a YMCA, which is a tenant and also has access to the café.

Geer's employees are rooted in the fabric of the communities it serves and volunteer for numerous nonprofit organizations, schools and town programs. According to officials, the senior living community spends over \$500,000 each year at more than 50 different local businesses.

Geer Lodge Executive Director Stacie Nicholas, who accepted the Community Star award at CORH on Nov. 16, is currently accepting applications for the café lease.

For further information, or to set up a tour, contact Nicholas at (860) 824-2618.



PHOTOS BY JOHN COSTON

Military veterans joined the second graders at North Canaan Elementary School Tuesday, Nov. 21, following a ceremony honoring 23 veterans in the school's gym.

NCES students honor veterans at ceremony

By John Coston

NORTH CANAAN — The North Canaan Elementary School honored 23 military veterans Tuesday, Nov. 21, at a school-wide assembly.

The gymnasium was filled to capacity with parents, grandparents, teachers, students, and veterans from five branches of the military.

Students read brief essays to the veterans, who were seated in a lineup in front of the stage.

The messages were full of thank-yous and reflected themes of admiration.

"You are our superheroes," said Autumn Ellison, a second grader.

"Thank you for keeping us safe," said Parker Dennis.

The essays, read aloud by 11 students, drew strong applause.

The second grade sang military songs from the stage as the veterans lined up in front. The familiar patriotic songs included: "Marine Hymn," "The Caissons Go Rolling Along," "Semper Paratus," "Anchors Aweigh," and "The Army Air Corps."

Three seventh graders — Mason Routhier, Julian Swanson and Justin Sorrell — read "In Flanders Fields," a World War I war poem.

Principal Alicia Roy introduced each veteran, who then came up to receive a certificate honoring their service. Each certificate was presented by a member of the second grade. One recipient, U.S. Marine Magnolia Zucco, appeared via Zoom because she was serving in North Carolina.

The ceremony concluded



Master Sgt. Andros Thomson III gives his second-grade daughter, Roslyn Thomson, a hug.

with more songs from the second grade, which were led by conductor Jeff Reed and was accompanied by Danielle O'Neill on the piano.

The students received a standing ovation.

Parade lights up North Canaan

NORTH CANAAN — The annual Parade of Lights drew a big crowd on Sunday, Nov. 26 with dozens of floats coursing through town, raining candy for the young set.

Even before the event began at 6 p.m. on a clear cold evening, parade watchers lined Route 44 and at the intersection at Route 7, securing favorite spots.

Hot chocolate and popcorn was provided for free, and Salisbury Band's Christmas Brass & Hot Chocolate Society played holiday favorites in the Pavilion next to Lawrence Field.

Santa waved to everyone from an antique fire truck, with the Grinch right behind. Fire companies from many regional towns participated in the event.

— John Coston



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

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DECEMBER 2023

Families @ Scoville

Friday, December 1, 3:45 PM
PARENT AND CHILD BOOK GROUP
The first book of this new program for children grades 3-5 and their caregivers is *The Tale of Despereaux*, by Kate DiCamillo. Upon registration, each child receives a beautiful copy of the book to add to their own library. Hosted by Miss Rita - This program will occur monthly.

Saturday, December 2, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
MERRY & BRIGHT CRAFTS
Stop by the library during Salisbury's Merry & Bright festival to create something fun and festive for the holiday season! Event will take place in the Wardell Room at the Library.

Wednesday, December 6, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
STORYFACES: AN INNOVATIVE STORYTELLING AND ART PERFORMANCE
Come by the library after the early dismissal from school to see Christopher Agostino paint the faces of audience volunteers to illustrate stories as he tells them.

Saturday, December 16, 10:30 am - 11:30 am
EXTRASPECIAL FABULICIOUS SATURDAY MORNING STORY TIME WITH MISS RITA!

COZY WINTER STORY TIME
Gather on the story time rug for a fun morning filled with cozy stories, rhymes, songs, games, and crafts. *Every Wednesday at 10:30 am beginning on December 13th.*

Activities for Adults

Saturday, December 2, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
BOOKS & BLING SALE!
It's time for the Friends of Scoville Library's Annual Books & Bling sale. Do your holiday shopping AND help support the library's programs. The sale includes an impressive collection of gently used jewelry, books, puzzles, and more.

Tuesday, December 5, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
SMALL BUSINESS SEMINAR: PITCH DESK DOJO
Learn how to pitch your business at this Small Business Seminar presented by the Entrepreneurial Center at CT State Northwestern. Registration Required. See the online events calendar or call the library for more information.

UPCOMING BOOK DISCUSSIONS:
Saturday, December 9, 4:00 PM - The Rabbit Hutch, by Tess Gunty

Saturday, January 6, 4:00 PM - Overreach, The Inside Story of Putin and Russia's War on Ukraine, by Owen Matthews. Led by Peter Kaufman.

Activities for Teens

Sunday, December 3, 2:00-4:00 PM
HUNTING THE FOREST SPIRIT: MYTHOLOGY AND ANIME
Anime is full of mythological themes. Come see how a new art form spins ancient stories. Led by Springfield City Library's Teen Librarian, Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe

For a complete listing of these and other ongoing activities, visit www.scovillelibrary.org or call us for more information!

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EDITORIAL

Saving Winsted's paper

Last week brought the news that the Winsted Citizen, a monthly newspaper with a goal to become a weekly and started by Winsted's own Ralph Nader, was throwing in the towel. It had produced nine issues starting in February. That was Monday. By Wednesday, it became a rescue story. American Business Media LLC, a Simsbury-based national media company, would acquire the Citizen newspaper.

The new owner publishes seven magazines across the country, largely focused on the banking and mortgage fields, numerous email newsletters and manages an events business as well as providing other services in the communications domain.

We celebrate the news that the Winsted community will continue to be served. (See story on Page A1.)

The Lakeville Journal knows about the challenges facing local journalism. A little more than six years ago, in August 2017, The Journal announced that it was folding its own Winsted newspaper — The Winsted Journal — into The Lakeville Journal. The decision came after more than 20 years of separate publication that began in 1996.

At the time, The Lakeville Journal reported: "Change is never easy...however, there has not been enough support from the Winsted area to sustain continued publication."

That news report from 2017 is another reminder of the chill across today's newspaper landscape. Veteran journalist Andy Thibault, who launched the Citizen with Nader, echoed that reality again last week when he noted that the operation never recovered from a shortfall in funding from almost its start as a nonprofit, called the Connecticut News Consortium.

We have reported several times about the death knell sounding for newspapers across the United States. We have described the so-called news deserts, where residents in more than half of America's counties now have little or no news coverage. And some say it's different coverage when a town has its own newspaper, compared to having a daily come in to cover an event.

According to a recent study by Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, the rate of newspaper closures has increased to an average of 2.5 per week from a rate of two last year.

Thanks to our own readers and supporters, The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News survive today to serve the Northwest Corner and Dutchess County.

Most newspapers that lose a paper don't get a replacement. Winsted won't be one of them!

CEO, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief Vincent Valvo of American Business Media has a strong journalistic track record. He has served on the board of directors of the Connecticut chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and was president of the Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information. In making the announcement, Valvo said that he has been cheering on the creation of the Winsted Citizen from the beginning.

Waterbury's family-owned Republican-American covers Winsted, and so does the Hearst-owned Register-Citizen in Torrington.

Now, once again, we can look forward to Winsted's future with a newspaper.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — November 1923

Philo Lyon of Lime Rock had an attack of acute indigestion and was on the sick list a few days the past week.

Mrs. Cantine is spending Thanksgiving at Senator Rudd's. On Friday she will go to New York where she will spend the winter.

About six inches of snow fell in the storm of Saturday night but little of it remains at the present time. It is said that fully 10 inches of snow covered the ground on Mt. Riga. For a starter winter gave us a bigger dose of snow than is usual at this time of the year.

50 years ago — November 1973

Close the public schools for a month, beginning Dec. 14? The proposal, offered Tuesday by Connecticut's acting education commissioner, brought quick and negative response from two Northwest Connecticut school superintendents. State Board of Education member Adela Eads of Kent also told The Lakeville Journal Wednesday that her first reaction had been that "There has to be a more logical way

of meeting the energy shortage.

Drivers in New York State and Northwestern Connecticut now find few filling stations open Sunday or in the evening. Even before President Nixon called for a voluntary halt to Sunday sales of gasoline beginning Dec. 1, area gas stations have been closed Sundays. Several have been closed for as much as three months due to the energy crisis. In an effort to help its readers share resources and save gasoline, The Lakeville Journal is inaugurating a free listing of car pools for distances of 50 miles or more. The listings will appear under "Car Pools" on the classified advertising pages.

Four accordion students from Gary Ross's Lakeville School of Music took honors recently in the Eastern Cup Accordion Championships in New York City. Three members of one family from Great Barrington, Mass., placed high in their respective age groups. Brenda Raimer took second place in the 7-year-old category; her brother James was fourth in the 9-year-old division and their older brother

John took first place among the 11-year-olds. John also came in second in an optional polka category. Another of Mr. Ross's students, Ronald Schurack of Southington, took second place in the 16-year-old division and in a polka category.

25 years ago — November 1998

In a scene devoid of politics and replete with shovels, Falls Villagers gathered Sunday at the Lee H. Kellogg School. At a few minutes past 1 p.m., Barbara Bornemann, a member of the original Kellogg school building committee of 1949, took a golden shovel and struck the dirt. Thus a long-awaited renovation project officially began.

AT&T Wireless Services, now armed with approval from Connecticut's Siting Council, has begun plans for construction of a telecommunications tower on Herb Road in Sharon. The site is on the ridge several hundred feet above the Housatonic River and Route 7, less than a mile north of the Kent town line.

In the 4 ½ years since Gregg and Nancy Tidd opened Canaan Valley Pet,

publicized for "security reasons." However, the group was presented as representing an interfaith voice of Salisbury. This is spurious given that the group was self-selected, with participants overwhelmingly representing one side. How many Arab-Americans or Muslims (not necessarily the same as Arab) were invited to this "interfaith" gathering? I suspect none. Perhaps the attendees don't want to accept that the vast majority of demonstrations throughout the world, including in the U.S., are against Israel's obvious genocide of Palestinians. I participated in an anti-war demonstration in front of the White Hart Inn in Salisbury last Saturday where signs were displayed stating Stop Palestinian Genocide, No More Occupation, Palestinian Lives Matter, Ceasefire Now, Stop Using My Tax Dollars to Fund Palestinian Genocide, We Will Not be Silent and Stop Bombing

Babies. Here are the results of my very informal "poll" of several hundred cars that passed by. About half the people in the cars reacted. The overwhelming majority of that half either made the peace V sign with their fingers or honked as if they were in favor. Only two parties gave the middle finger. I believe that this informal poll better reflects the sentiments of the people of Salisbury, the U.S., and the world.

I fear that antisemitism will only get worse due to the selfish, short-sighted objectives of Israel and their American government enablers. Maybe one should ask the interfaith vigil attendees how they might feel if they were locked up in an open-air prison all their lives and had their dignity stripped away as they endured abuse by a racist, apartheid regime. And then they were bombed to oblivion. Would they despise and want to kill their prison-keepers?

The objective of Israeli policy towards the Palestinians has been to expropriate the Palestinians' homes and land while treating them like and calling them "animals." The Israelis and their lobby accuse anybody who dares criticize them as being antisemitic. I guess that means if one criticizes the American government for their hegemonic policies (or any other

The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. each Monday. You may email letters to publisher@lakevillejournal.com.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vigil on Israel-Gaza hardly representative of Salisbury

er reason, for that matter), they are anti-American. Go figure.

The Israelis have been inflicting a slow death on the Palestinians for years, and now they are trying to exterminate and maim them via carpet bombing. Imagine that one out of every one hundred residents of Gaza have already been killed, and many more injured. That is the equivalent of killing 3.2 million Americans, or over one thousand 9/11's. The result of these actions will be to unfortunately create Hamas 2.0. The Israelis can do better than that towards their fellow human beings. After all, Judaism considers all life sacred.

Israel has the means to solve the conflict with their fellow neighbors by granting equal rights to all human beings living in Israel and the territories which they occupy or subjugate. They really can have peace if they want it, but a continued land grab and the inhumane treatment of Palestinians needs to end. Instead of unequivocally supporting Israel's policies, it is in everyone's interest if the attendees of the interfaith vigil were to have urged Israel to adopt more sensible and just policies aimed at a long-term resolution of conflict.

Lloyd Baroody

Lakeville

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

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Sports

GNH Yellowjackets ice St. Paul in 35-0 win

By Riley Klein

BRISTOL — Gilbert/Northwestern/Housatonic co-op football wrapped the 2023 regular season with a shutout victory against St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

Despite wintry conditions on McPhee Field, the GNH backfield was on fire. The Yellowjackets produced four rushing touchdowns and QB Nolan Risedorf connected with wideout Owen Riemer for an 80-yard pass touchdown.

St. Paul found considerable success passing and strung together several long drives. But GNH's ice-cold defense locked down the red zone and prevented the Falcons from getting on the board.

Temps hovered around 35 degrees throughout the game with intermittent torrents of sleet battering the field. Enthusiastic fans bundled up in coats and blankets beneath the protection of umbrellas to take in the final game of the season at St. Paul Catholic High School.

GNH got to work in a hurry, scoring twice in their first four offensive plays. On the opening drive, Evan Schibi rushed in a 17-yard touchdown. On the next possession, Risedorf launched a deep pass to Riemer, who went the distance for an 80-yard score.

Aiden Avenia took a 41-yard run to the house early in the second quarter. Just before halftime, Risedorf scrambled out of the backfield for a 10-yard rushing touchdown to put GNH up 28-0 at the break.

A shroud of freezing rain covered the field as the sec-



The Yellowjackets' offense could not be stopped in their final regular season game.

ond half got underway. With frigid fingers and a slick ball, both teams stuck to the ground game for the rest of the match.

The cold slowed the pace of play and third quarter came and went without a touchdown.

In the fourth, GNH chipped away at the clock with a long drive down field. Brett Maguire finished the game with a 5-yard rush to the endzone to bring the final score to 35-0.

The Yellowjackets' backfield combined for 299 rushing yards in the game. Aiden Avenia led the pack with 114 yards on nine carries and Evan Schibi totaled 101 yards on 10 carries.



Sleet battered McPhee Field in Bristol on Nov. 21.

GNH concluded the regular season with an overall record of 6-4, enough to qualify for the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) Class SS

tournament. St. Paul ended with a record of 1-9 this year. The Yellowjackets traveled to Tolland for the state tournament quarterfinal round on Tuesday, Nov. 28.



Cornerback Brett Maguire broke up a deep pass.



Jackson Haefner finished with eight tackles.



Evan Schibi rushed in one of GNH's five touchdowns.

PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Members of the public are invited to

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

State Project No. 0174-0451 Horizontal Curve Warning Signs on Local Roads

District 4

December 14, 2023, 6 p.m.

Register: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT0174-0451>

YouTube Livestream: <https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpimarchive>

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the community an opportunity to learn about the proposed project and allow an open discussion of any views and comments concerning the proposed improvements. A Q&A session will immediately follow the presentation.

The purpose of the project is to reduce the number of fatal and serious injury crashes on curves located on locally-owned and maintained roads. Enhanced horizontal curve delineation may be beneficial when: the curve radius is sharp; there is limited sight distance to and around the curve; or there are unexpected geometric features within the curve, such as an intersection or change in the curve radius. Improved horizontal curve delineation is recognized nationally as a low-cost proven safety countermeasure.

Right-of-way impacts associated with the proposed project are not anticipated.

Construction anticipated to begin Summer 2024. The estimated construction cost for this project is approximately \$305,000. This project is anticipated to be undertaken with 100% Federal funds.

Please register for the virtual public information meeting at <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT0174-0451>. Registration is required to participate. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the meeting.

Members of the public can submit comments and questions during the two-week public comment period following the meeting. Please direct comments and questions by December 28, 2023 to: DOTProject0174-0451@ct.gov and 860-594-2020 or Balazs Szoke, (860-594-2745; TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov).

ACCESSIBILITY

This meeting will also be livestreamed on YouTube, and closed captioning will be available. Non-English translation options will be available on Zoom and YouTube. The recording will also be available on CTDOT's YouTube Virtual Public Information Meeting playlist: <https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpimarchive>

Persons with limited internet access, use the call-in number 877-853-5257 and enter Meeting ID 817 0426 9388. Persons with limited internet access may also request that project information be mailed to them within one week by contacting Balazs Szoke (TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov).

Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS).

Language assistance may be requested by contacting CTDOT's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least five business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

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Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

MUSIC: ALEXANDER WILBURN

A little winter night music

Close Encounters With Music invites its audience to embrace the magic and mysticism of December's darkness with a thematic concert titled "Nocturne — Night and Dreams," held at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Mass., on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 4 p.m.

With selections that include Frédéric Chopin's "Nocturnes" piano solos and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's original composition of his ensemble chamber serenade "Eine kleine Nachtmusik" ("A little night music"), Close Encounters' artistic director and internationally acclaimed cellist Yehuda Hanani has organized an evening based around the connective poetry of these pieces.

"In one aspect, night represents the sun going down; there's quiet, and a sense of healing," Hanani said. "People draw close together, and you get a release from the brightness of the sun's heat. You get into the domain of the subconscious. So, this one aspect is soothing, peaceful, and full of fantasy and dreams. And then there is the other side, the 'dark side of night,' if you like. And that's when you get a sense of the sinister, the menacing, the terrifying, the unpredictable things that go bump in the night. There's a scary part of the night, and ancient mythology and artists all recognize this duality. The same is true for the moon, which represents rebirth, regeneration, and the lunar cycle,

but also presides over lunacy and death."

No night-themed concert would be complete without Ludwig van Beethoven's "Piano Sonata No. 14," later popularized in Germany as "Mondscheinsonate," or "Moonlight Sonata" in English. Famous for its melancholy opening *adagio sostenuto*, a ghostly, wordless chant, the sonata is both morbid and romantic.

"Moonlight Sonata" is, of course, a magical piece of music, and it starts with a hypnotic slow movement," said Hanani. "Beethoven was a classical composer. He started as a student of [Austrian composer Joseph] Haydn, but he had such a forceful personality and an amazing, audacious imagination. He bent the whole of music history. He started as a Haydn follower, and he ended up being a romantic hero."

The ensemble will include Hanani joined by pianist Fabio Bidini, violinists Kobi Malkin and Grace Park, violist Luke Fleming, and double bassist Lizzie Burns. Baritone John Viscardi, who has sung with the New York City Opera, will perform arias from Charles Gounod's French opera, "Roméo et Juliette." William Shakespeare's romantic tragedy has been adapted to music many times, including the oft-performed "Romeo and Juliet" ballet composed in 1935 by Russian pianist Sergei Prokofiev and an orchestral work by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Still, Gounod's opera, which



COURTESY OF CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH MUSIC
Opera singer John Viscardi

had its premiere at the Théâtre Lyrique in Paris in 1867, remains sweepingly passionate with its grand melodies.

In addition to arias and sonatas, Close Encounters With Music will display prints of a few evocative works to enhance the mood further. "The Sleeping Gypsy" by post-Impressionist French painter Henri Rousseau is an 1897 oil painting depicting a passing lion in a moonlit desert and a slumbering mandolin player, unaware of any danger. Rousseau was a self-taught artist who painted in the flat style of Primitivism, with simple, two-dimensional compositions. The other hanging work will

be "The Nightmare" by Swiss artist Henry Fuseli, who was a professor of painting at London's Royal Academy of Arts. Drawn to darkness and infatuated with the supernatural, Fuseli's 1781 oil painting is a memorable depiction of a midnight haunting, with a demonic incubus hunched over a woman restless in sleep. The painting was prominently featured in the 1986 period film "Gothic," a fictional account of Percy Shelley and Mary Godwin's fateful stay with Lord Byron at Villa Diodati. Hanini fittingly described Fuseli's beguiling work as "a pre-Freudian, psychosexual kind of terrible dream."

For tickets to "Nocturne — Night and Dreams" at Mahaiwe Performing Arts, go to www.cewm.org



PHOTO BY JANNA SILLER

"Animals Panic": Hope Lyon-Edwards, Autumn Lynch, Jane Wood, Meadow Reeve, Dutch Dekker, Odhron King.

THEATER: JANNA SILLER

Children's tales from around the world

A musical quartet featuring a donkey, a dog, a cat and a rooster whose screechy repertoire is so discordant, they startle a team of human bandits into abandoning their loot; a deer mouse so cunning she drives out a conquering army of tigers by convincing them the long, sharp quill of a porcupine is the intimidating whisker of her raja; a flock of birds who save themselves from the hungry tricks of a fox and a wolf with the tickle of a feather: These were some of the characters from global folk traditions that graced the stage of the Falls Village Children's Theater (FVCT) at the Center on Main last weekend.

"My kids love this podcast called 'Circle Round,' which shares folktales from all over the world," said "Folk Tails" director Amber Cameron of what inspired her to choose the script. Cameron, who choreographs for productions throughout the Northwest Corner and recently started Blue Studio Dance in Lakeville, wanted to bring global

voices to Falls Village's children in her second FVCT play.

The actors began the production of "Folk Tails" as themselves — local children with tales to tell but not tails, reminding us that storytellers are the ones who pass history, humor, entertainment and lessons down through the centuries.

They soon transformed into tailed characters from Indonesia and Germany. A colorfully painted map of the world hung behind them with stars highlighting the locations where the stories and music of the performance originated. The children made the backdrop themselves with the help of local artist Jaimie Sadeh.

The youths also wrote part of the script themselves, performing characters they chose and words they wrote. "We believe creativity isn't just what's happening on the stage but everything behind it as well," said "Folk Tails" musical director Brook Martinez.

Music was interspersed between the tales, including an American song that used cups for percussion and another from Brazil that involved jumping over moving bamboo rods. "Each song incorporated an element of play, movement and fun," said Martinez.

Martinez is also the creative administrator for the storied, stained-glass, high-ceilinged Center on Main, which houses the FVCT. "We want to serve our town as a beacon of community creativity, a hub for us to gather that fosters the joy of being together in creative ways."



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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH MUSIC

Nocturne

Night and Dreams

 Fabio Bidini	 John Viscardi	 Grace Park
 Luke Fleming	 Lizzie Burns	 Kobi Malkin
 Yehuda Hanani		

Sunday Dec. 3 4:00pm

At The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center
Great Barrington, MA

Tickets: \$52 / \$28
mahaiwe.org or cewm.org

Logos for Close Encounters With Music, Mass Cultural Council, and Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center.



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

Kathy Plessner, at left in the foreground, and Amy Singer peruse books on Ruth Orkin's work, sold at the gallery for Oblong Books. In the background, from left, Mary Engel, Lisa Aiba, Richard Block and Steve Aresty are deep in their respective conversations.

FILM: DEBORAH MAIER

Orkin & Engel at Mad Rose

A crowd of about 70 aficionados gathered at The Moviehouse in Millerton on Saturday, Nov. 18, for a screening marking the start of the new Orkin/Engel exhibit at Mad Rose Gallery.

Gallery owner Neal Rosenthal thanked audience members and The Moviehouse for the opportunity to recognize the significance of Ruth Orkin's contribution to both filmmaking and photography, and to enhance the meanings and references in the photographs in the gallery show. He then introduced filmmaker Mary Engel, the daughter of Ruth Orkin and Morris Engel, whose 18-minute Sundance Film Festival-accepted documentary was shown first.

"Ruth Orkin: Frames of Life" is a tribute to the younger Engel's

mother, by all accounts an extraordinary woman from a remarkable family. In 1939, 17-year-old Ruth bicycled across the United States, using her 2 1/4-inch Pilot 6 camera to document street life along the way and to form her unique style. The trip, and a handsome catalogue of those photos, is currently featured at the Cartier-Bresson Foundation in Paris. The documentary features luminaries Mary Ellen Mark and Cornell Capa, among others, extolling Orkin's eye and discussing what makes photography art or not.

The original 80-minute "Little Fugitive," available on Kanopy and other streaming services, is compelling for its story of a small boy on the loose in New York City subways and at Coney Island, and visually rich

with its black and white compositions that are clearly, as Rosenthal pointed out, the work of a consummate photographer. Orkin was responsible for the editing and other uncredited work on the film, and present in some cameos.

In a post-film Q&A, Mary Engel addressed "questions people always ask" and others. Though casting was done in the usual way by approaching professionals and schools, the young hero Joey was played by 7-year-old Richie Andrusco, who was discovered on the carousel in Coney Island. Andrusco's mother permitted her child to take part, with the proviso that she would not pay for it. "We'll pay you, and take him off your hands for a month", she was told by the producers. Now 77, Andrusco never acted again, but did buy his family a house in Queens.

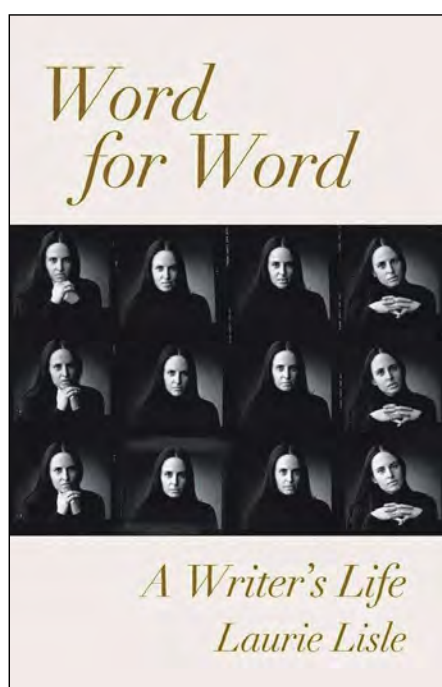
As to who directed the film, the astonishing answer was the young Andrusco himself, who was plied with treats and allowed to follow his wishes. One of the pleasures of the film is the perspective of the shots as seen through the eyes

of someone not yet 4 feet tall. A sea of naked legs and hips with the more modest swimwear of the 1950s is almost everywhere he turns in the crowded beach scenes.

The nostalgia value was high for the audience of both films and photos, and differences between mores of the 1950s and now, were instructive. The "child alone in public" concept was one; also, as physician Neil Hoffman of Millerton pointed out, obesity was nearly absent in the crowd scenes. We are now "slightly taller, and much heavier," according to the CDC.

Other astounding facts were the film's budget — a paltry \$35,000 — and the fact that its entire sound track was recorded in post-production, from its raucous carnies to its haunting harmonica riffs and boisterous child bickering.

At Mad Rose Gallery, Morris Engel's photos taken in Harlem are particularly riveting, and seeing Orkin's famed "American Girl in Italy, Florence," with model Jinx striding chin up through a crowd of leering men, is a treat. The 33 images on view range in price according to whether they are Vintage or Lifetime, Signed or Stamped, by either Orkin or Engel. The Gallery show extends until Sunday, Dec. 31.



BOOKS: MIKE COBB

Pen to paper

A small group gathered to hear Laurie Lisle speak in the great hall of the Norfolk Library on Thursday, Nov. 16.

Addressing the audience in front of the library's grand stone fireplace, library director Ann Havemeyer introduced Lisle and welcomed her to the podium.

Lisle read passages from her memoir "Word for Word: A Writer's Life" (Artemis Editions, May 2021). She cited morality, liability and veracity as three major factors to consider when writing a memoir.

"My feeling now is that it's best to discuss your work with your subject. It can lead to new and deeper understanding," she said.

Lisle explained how liability is another factor and that the First Amendment gives authors latitude. But she advised caution and recounted how she had a lawyer review her first memoir. "Luckily there were no problems," she said.

Speaking of the importance of veracity, Lisle said, "Facts are easier than memories and perception, which is freeing."

Sharing insight into independent publishing, Lisle described some of the challenges of working with established publishers. "They often give unwanted edits or even try to change the cover design," she said.

Platforms like Amazon.com have made things easier for independent authors. Lisle has used the Alliance of Independent Authors and spoke highly of the organization.

Addressing why people write memoirs, Lisle reflected on nearing 80.

"I began looking back at my life, and realized that memoir was a powerful form of self-expression to tell my own story. I read the obituaries of friends. I started thinking about my remaining time," she said.

Looking inward was powerful but painful. Lisle had a violent phys-

ical reaction and ended up in Sharon Hospital, which she attributed to reliving painful memories.

"It wasn't always easy," she said. "My present self saw the dark side of my past self. But it helped me gain clarity and develop deeper relationships with my father and my first husband, which gave me a sense of forgiveness and peace. Memoir writing is a kind of literary alchemy. You can't change the past, but you can deepen your understanding of it."

In researching herself as a subject, she read her school report cards; walked her hometown of Providence, Rhode Island; read newspapers from the early '70s to capture the flavor of the era; and transcribed 40 journals and digitized the data.

"I realized that my essential nature had changed little," Lisle said. "Continuing with the memoir felt adventurous. But I didn't want the past to ruin the present. My husband Robert encouraged me to 'write the white flame of my heart.' Remembering became less painful through organizing paragraphs. It was hard but deepening. I found my way back to the happiness of the early years of my life."

Reading passages from Word for Word, Lisle portrayed an inspirational trek along the Continental Divide Trail in New Mexico overlooking the vast valley and high desert landscape where Georgia O'Keefe painted, and spoke of how she evolved from a teller of other women's stories to telling her own, giving up the third person for the first.

Enthralled, the audience asked questions about her process and if she would have been able to write "Word for Word" without her handwritten journals.

"The pace is different, and there's been a lot of research done on the benefits of hand-brain connection. I also like that no one else can read it," she said.

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What an exquisite time of year.

The stripped-back landscape draws attention to the trees that are reluctant to let go of their leaves. As with beeches, oaks can retain their leaves throughout the cold months; this trait is called “marcescence.” It is the time of year when I can best assess the number of young oak trees; an indication of a healthy woodland. These are now silvery half-tones of maroon, umber and apricot, colors that humans would be hard-pressed to reproduce.

This year was critical for the oaks. On our property, almost a dozen of the largest oak trees succumbed to the spongy moth infestation of the past two years. This year’s rains were essential to the recovery of the remaining oaks compromised by past seasons’ drought and pestilence. While the hickory and northern cherry trees had mast years, producing an abundance of seeds, I suspect that next year — barring a catastrophe — will be the oak trees’ turn at producing a mast year of acorns.

In contrast to the orange-red shades of the oaks, the blue-red leaves of burning bush stand proud in this muted palette, making them easy targets — same for the yellow-green of the remaining nonnative honeysuckle. Invasives tend to not only blossom earlier than native plants in the spring but lose their leaves later in the fall. We are working quickly to pull and cut them before they lose all their leaves and again become camouflaged next to their naked neighbors.

The animals for whom, in part, we have created this patch of native habitat are trying my patience. Beavers have had their way with several small trees



PHOTO BY DEE SALOMON

The Ungardener
Dee Salomon

in the river garden. A witch hazel and a white birch were among the casualties. Both had been flourishing after we transplanted them a couple of years ago from crowded stands in the woods. The beavers do a tidy job — now you see it, now you don’t.

A small woodpecker that I was admiring from the kitchen window has just about girdled the Florida dogwood it was feeding on. I have now wrapped it — the tree, not the bird — with tree tape and have fitted plastic tree protectors around some of the small bank-side tree trunks to deter the busy beavers. Then there are the voles who have dug under and through the remaining lawn as if to mock my environmentally sensitive efforts to even have such a thing as a lawn. Yet our habitat also includes Scout, who lives for playing fetch. Our lawn is for her and for our joy playing together.

Thanksgiving is over; the ground is starting to firm up, which is the sign that certain tasks, such as weeding, will need to be resumed in the spring. Other tasks such as seed planting need to be quickly wrapped up. Over the past few years, I

have spread the collected seeds of native plants without much thought and was not able to monitor any seed growth except to note that there has not been much germination of new seed. Could it be that the invasive jumping worms have so degraded the soil that germination is more difficult? According to a white paper by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, “Many native trees and plants (including garden plants) cannot germinate or develop in this altered soil.”

This year I made sure to tamp down the crumbly worm-chewed soil before sowing the seed, but that may not be enough to do the trick. I have made a list of the places where the seeds were sown so that I can monitor any spring success. I have also repurposed empty plastic milk jugs and salad containers, filling them with potting soil and adding seeds. And I have sown the seed of my favorite native perennial — *Silene regia*, or royal catchfly — in the stone-surrounded beds at the side of the house.

There is joy. There is frustration. Creation and destruction. It is a privilege to witness Nature and to participate where and when it is needed.

Dee Salomon “ungardens” in Litchfield County.

FOOD: PAMELA OSBORN**Carolina cheese bits**

When I was in high school, one thing we read was “Oedipus Rex.”

The main message seemed to be that whatever was coming thundering down the road might be going to roll right over helpless you, regardless of any illusory thoughts about personal choices that you may have had — pretty much an idea that chimes in pretty well with teenage angst, I now think. Anyway, I liked it and so, a few years later, I signed up for a class in Greek drama.

The teacher, a true scholar, was also head of the ancient Greek language department, and had translated a lot of the works we read himself. Sometimes he would point out errors made in other translations and sometimes, he said, these wrong choices had perverted the original author’s work — go ahead, roll your eyes to the back of your head. It was interesting, but I wasn’t planning to go on “Jeopardy!” one day and it has all slipped away. I do remember one thing, though, which was his answer to his own question: What is a tragedy?

“Well,” he said, “Joe tells his wife he’s going out to buy a pack of cigarettes and off he goes. Unbeknownst to him, thieves on the third story of a building down the block have been unable to open a safe. ‘I know,’ one said, ‘let’s push it out the window, we can take it home and take our time with it.’ So they did, and when they got down to the sidewalk, they found the safe and Joe under it. They loaded up the safe and tossed Joe into the nearby river,



PHOTO BY PAMELA OSBORN

and when he surfaced a few weeks later, the newspapers headlined his tragic end. But what happened to Joe was not a tragedy, our teacher said, because Joe Never Knew What Hit Him.

And so I offer you these simple words: Plan ahead; be prepared. But the holiday juggernaut is about to roll over all of us and, despite what I’ve just said, controlling every event and outcome is unlikely. It doesn’t hurt to have a few things in your back pocket to make some days a bit less frantic, however, and here is one, handy for drop-ins.

CAROLINA CHEESE BITS

1 cup flour
8 ounces shredded cheddar — I buy a block of Cabot sharp cheddar
1 stick unsalted butter
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper. I use a heaped 1/2 teaspoon. For a double recipe, which is what I always make, I use a heaping teaspoon.

1 cup fairly finely chopped pecans. (See the photo to get an idea of the size.)

Put everything except the pecans into a bowl. Mix together with your washed hand.

Add the pecans and mix them in. Form the dough into logs; I make them about the size of a 50-cent piece. If the dough is too warm this will be more difficult, so chill it a bit if you need to.

I find it’s easier to form the rolls using the flat of my hand on wax paper. Wrap each roll in wax paper and refrigerate until ready to bake; a day or two is okay.

Slice the rolls into 1/4-inch, or slightly thicker, coins. Bake on ungreased baking sheets (mine are not nonstick) at 325 to 335 degrees. Use 10 to 15 minutes as a guide — it will depend on your oven, the heaviness of your baking sheets, etc. In my big oven, on a heavy sheet, it takes about 19 minutes.

Do not brown; your first batch will be instructive. They’re still good if lightly browned, but better if not. Cool on racks. A single recipe makes about 100. A great thing about these is that they can be frozen for months, separated in layers with wax paper in tins. Make them now for the coming winter holidays; you’ll be glad you did.

Pam Osborn keeps her kitchen in Sharon.



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