

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFING

New Canaan faces a colder-than-average stretch as a frigid air mass settles in. Friday, January 17, will see partly sunny skies with a high of 38°F, while Saturday brings rain and breezy conditions before clearing by evening. Sunday ushers in a mix of rain and snow, with temperatures plunging to 17°F as arctic air tightens winter's grip. Monday and Tuesday mark the coldest days, with highs of 25°F and 20°F, and lows dropping to 6°F and 7°F, respectively. A gradual warming trend begins midweek, with highs climbing to 33°F by Friday. Residents should prepare for icy roads, protect homes and pets, and check on vulnerable neighbors. Heating centers and emergency resources are available through the Town of New Canaan.

TOWN HALL

PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET FOR 2025-26

A \$114.2 million budget was proposed for the 2025-26 school year, a 4.6% increase driven mostly by salaries and benefits. The plan includes \$5 million in capital expenses, such as a \$903,000 PA system upgrade at the high school, while deferring larger projects like the Saxe Intermediate School roof repair. No major staffing changes are planned.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS

MALLORY WIEDEMANN VISITS THE INN



The Inn at Waveny featured artist Mallory Wiedemann for a discussion about her work on display in the lobby. She spoke about her background in engineering, business, as well as how her sons' creativity influences her art. Wiedemann also highlighted her focus on learning and self-expression through her work. Photo credit: Waveny LifeCare Network Instagram.

ROTARY CLUB SPEAKER



At their first meeting of 2025, the Rotary Club of New Canaan welcomed representatives from the Norwalk River Valley Trail. Planned since the 1990s, the 30-mile trail will stretch from Norwalk to Danbury. Once completed, it will pass through Wilton, Ridgefield, and Redding. Photo credit:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

COLUMN



Edith at West Point

Building a Better World: Spotlight on GetAbout

By GERRI RHOADES

For many of us, it's hard to imagine being unable to leave our homes and get into our cars to go where we need to. However, for a growing number of seniors, individuals with short- or long-term disabilities, and disadvantaged residents, this is a daily reality, particularly in suburban areas with limited public transportation options.

In the early 1980s, nearly every community in Fairfield County, except New Canaan, provided transportation for the elderly and disabled for medical and other essential needs. Nancy Nickerson, the founder of Barrier Free—a national organization dedicated to helping the handicapped—led local efforts to establish this service for New Canaan residents.

Over the past 40 years, GetAbout has evolved from the dream of a few civic-minded individuals into a vibrant organization that provided nearly 10,000 rides and delivered over 5,000 meals in partnership with Meals on Wheels in 2023.

Whether shopping for groceries or medications, visiting a friend or spouse at Waveny Care Center, seeing a doctor, or picking up a book at the library, GetAbout provides transportation to those in need.

The "Medi-Rides Program" offered by GetAbout accounts for nearly 40% of all rides and extends services to the neighboring towns of Darien, Norwalk, Stamford, and Wilton. This program is a lifeline for many, especially for those in our community undergoing chemotherapy, radiation, or dialysis treatments. Many riders become family; a notable example is 102-year-old Edith Linger, one of GetAbout's long-term patrons.

GetAbout is more than just a transportation service; it fosters connections and community among its riders and showcases the remarkable stories of individuals like Edith.

I would like to share a memorable ride Edith received, but first, I need to tell you the story of Taylor and Edith.

During the pandemic, Taylor Flowers, a New Canaan High School student, participated in a program at St. Mark's Church that paired youth group members with elderly parishioners to combat senior isolation. The Church encouraged the youth to become pen pals with the seniors. Taylor wrote a letter to Edith, introducing herself and hoping for a reply. When Edith responded, Taylor was amazed to learn that Edith was ninety-nine years old. Their correspondence quickly evolved into phone calls, and as the pandemic eased, they visited each other in person.

Edith soon became a part of Taylor's family, sharing dinner with them weekly. Despite their age difference, they discovered many shared interests as their friendship blossomed. Edith, a World War II veteran who served in the 1st Women's Division of the U.S. Army, and Taylor, who planned to apply to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, formed a strong bond. Taylor was later accepted into the West Point class of 2028.

Taylor completed her Cadet Basic Training and, on Saturday, November 16th, was to officially join the Corps during the Acceptance Day Parade. This parade would feature the entire brigade of 4,400 cadets.

Edith, being a proud veteran who rarely misses the New Canaan Memorial Day parade, wished she could attend the ceremony and participate in Taylor's special day. While not food, medicine, or a doctor appointment, gratitude for Edith's service, and admiration for her love and commitment to Taylor, GetAbout board members Scott Barnard and Bill Post asked if anyone was available. One of the GetAbout drivers, Dan Vesciglio, offered to give her a ride.

Edith was recognized as one of the oldest World War II veterans during the event. She received heartfelt congratulations and gratitude for her service from everyone, ranging from Plebes to Generals, with many requesting photos with her. GetAbout is more than just a transportation service; it fosters connections and community among its riders and showcases the remarkable stories of individuals like Edith.

Transportation services are available Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM. Please call (203) 972-7433 to arrange a ride. <https://getaboutnc.org/>



A GetAbout Vehicle

Christmas 'Tree-Cycle' Complete



Service League of Boys (SLOBs) volunteers Nico Caruso, Niko Grubelic, Tyler Bleil and Eli Kremer standing by some of the 800+ Christmas trees collected at the Steve Benko Pool parking lot. Not pictured are volunteers Erik Johnson and James Dunkin.

The annual Christmas "Tree-Cycle", sponsored and run local sustainability charity Planet New Canaan (www.planetnewcanaan.org), with support from co-sponsors the Exchange Club of New Canaan (www.newcanaanexchangeclub.com), a civic charity group whose major fundraiser is its Christmas tree and wreath sale at Kiwanis Park, and New Canaan's Department of Public Works (DPW) and Parks Department, was completed last weekend. More than 800 trees were collected at the Steve Benko Pool parking lot, with much welcome labor provided by members of the New Canaan High School Service League of Boys – the SLOBs (www.newcanaan.slobs.org) a local student/parent philanthropic group.

These trees, which were collected beginning the weekend after Christmas, will be chipped, with the chippings brought to the New Canaan Nature Center (www.newcanaanature.org) for several months of composting, during which the fine needles will compost. Come Spring, these chippings will be spread on the Nature Center's trails – returned to the Earth.

The mountains of composting chips – called Christmas Tree Hill -- are beloved play spots for children in the Nature Center's preschool. One year the preschool's Little Explorers class made sachets from the chips. "This is an excellent developmental

experience for the children," says Judy Gilroy, one of the program's preschool teachers. During their play the children roll down the hill, climb up the hill and then run down the hill. "The children develop their senses and muscles."

Many post-season Christmas trees are not sustainably recycled like this, but rather end up in landfills. "Putting old Christmas trees in landfills makes no sense," notes Planet New Canaan's president Robin Bates-Mason. To avoid this, and to generate woodchips to support trail maintenance, Planet New Canaan, and its partners, devised this sensible, sustainable solution several years ago. "Planet New Canaan and its partners are grateful for the broad support – and trees -- from the New Canaan community that have generated the success of this initiative," says Ms. Bates-Mason.

People with larger properties can recycle their trees on site by simply leaving the tree in an appropriate area of their property. Nature will take it from there.

In addition to Christmas tree recycling, Planet New Canaan partners with DPW in running the food waste composting program at the town's Transfer Station, as well as the popular Swap Shop, where new or gently used items are free for the taking to reduce waste and keep items out of landfills.

Putting old Christmas trees in landfills makes no sense.

COLUMN

The Marriage Castle

By JILL S. WOOLWORTH, LMFT

We build our invisible marriage castle together on a patch of bare ground beginning on our wedding day. The building blocks are the traditions from our childhood, our behaviors, our routines, and the people we decide to welcome inside. It's important to talk about people and behaviors that we don't want in our castle, too.

Our relationships need to be defended and protected against invasion. The old images of marriage as a garden or a safe haven aren't strong enough. Demanding work schedules, the Internet, in-laws, and extended time apart are just a few of the challenges that are lobbed regularly into our castles. We need strong drawbridges to close the door for family time. We need to stock the moat with piranha to protect against unwelcome guests.

Everett and Priyaboth grew up in difficult families. They were afraid of committing to a long-term relationship. Designing their castle



Illustrated by Wajih Chaudhry

helped them intentionally build walls against yelling and excessive alcohol use that had hurt them as children. They included things that they wished they'd had as kids such as family dinners and community service projects.

Excerpted from Jill Woolworth's book, *The Waterwheel*, available at Diane's Books, Dogwood Bookstore, Amazon, and barnesandnoble.com. Jill is a therapist at the Center for Hope & Renewal.

NEW CANAAN
Behavioral Health
ALLIANCE

COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELL-BEING SURVEY

SURVEY RESULTS
Shared at Public Forum
Monday, January 27 6:30 - 8pm at
New Canaan Library, Bartlett Auditorium
RSVP at:
newcanaanbha.org



Now May Be the Best Time to Sell!
Are you Ready? The Engel Team is!



COLUMN

Best Bites: New Canaan



BY PAUL REITANO

MJ Wynne is the type of person who thinks about dinner during lunch, which is to say; she is wonderful. She runs the children's program at Trinity Church in New Canaan. It's a remarkable church and my kids are particularly eager to see MJ each Sunday. I am too. In life, I've found that the people willing to discuss fresh mozzarella before noon; these are the best people. MJ is one of them. We sat down together at the New Canaan Butcher Shop - home to many outstanding sandwiches, and we ate MJ's favorite as we talked about life, God, and chicken cutlets.

Q: How did your career teaching children at Trinity start?

A: I was churchless for years, working at the library in Old Greenwich, and it was just fate. I knew the Pastor's daughter quite well and she invited me one week. It's been my home for seven years. I've taught children my entire career, but these have been some of the most rewarding moments of my life. God led me there. I truly believe that.

Q: But children, they're - how do I say this - so annoying.

A: Learning how to work with kids and love kids isn't something you do overnight. I want kids to know and love Jesus. I teach them that they have to love God and love one another.

Q: My daughter is learning to play Three Blind Mice on the Viola. It makes me very angry.

A: Don't be angry. She's lovely. Look, God sent his son here to tell us how to live, how to act.

Q: Fair. So, when you're not

thinking about God - are you thinking about food?

A: Yes. My entire day revolves around it. Can I go to Westport market to get the bread I like? When can I go back to Arthur Avenue to get the good grated cheese I want? It never ends.

Q: Being obsessed with food - it's a gift or a burden?

A: It's a gift because I know good food. I love it, I relish it, I appreciate it. It's a burden because bad food makes me angry.

Q: Interesting. So, if someone gave you a sandwich with bad bread - what would happen?

A: I would want to throw it on the floor and step on it.

Q: Even more interesting. To demoralize the bad bread?

A: No, I'd probably just open it up, eat the insides, and give the bread back for them to toast it.

Q: If Jesus had a favorite pasta sauce, what would it be?

A: A fresh marinara, with tomatoes from the garden. A quick cook, not too long, and then some good crusty bread.

Q: You think Jesus was a crusty bread guy?

A: Oh, definitely. And everything had to be fresh, everything from the garden.

Q: Do you think God wants us to eat well? And by well, I mean only the good stuff?

A: I'm not sure there's much of that in the Bible.

Q: Does that explain all the bad restaurants in Connecticut?

A: Possibly. It's not on his priorities list.

Q: What do you love about the New Canaan Butcher Shop?

A: The food is all very good. It's well seasoned and balanced. Paul Paris, who owns and runs it, thinks

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The J.P. Morgan - Chicken cutlet, prosciutto, fresh mozzarella, tomato, roasted red peppers, arugula, balsamic vinaigrette glaze on baguette



about all the right things. Talk to him about how he makes his chicken cutlets. That's a religious experience all by itself.

Q: How does he make his chicken cutlets?

A: He does the egg wash in a certain order - he's using half breadcrumbs, half panko. This guy cares.

Q: Good bread?

A: The best. He gets it from Terranova in the Bronx. That's as good as you can do.

Q: You're familiar with Terranova?

A: Of course. My father used to wake us up at 7am on Sunday Mornings to go get fresh bread from the Bronx at Terranova. This is the best place.

Q: Well, I'm sold. And your

favorite sandwich?

A: The J.P. Morgan. It's a fantastic Chicken cutlet, thick prosciutto, fresh mozzarella, tomato, roasted red peppers, arugula, and a balsamic glaze. It's one of the best sandwiches I've had in a long time.

Q: MJ, you are the oracle of bread and mozzarella. It has been an honor.

A: See you on Sunday.



humanity in architecture film festival

january
24-25

© Dean Kaufman

A weekend of films celebrating architecture's impact on people and communities.

Strange and Familiar:
Architecture on Fogo Island
Tokyo Ride
Biocentrics
Beyond Zero
Charlotte Perriand,
Pioneer in the Art of Living

Five Seasons:
The Gardens of Piet Oudolf
Frank Gehry: Building Justice
Moriyama-San
Perception
Sitting Still with Laurie Olin
Unfinished Spaces

presented by:



Grace Farms | 365 Lukes Wood Road New Canaan, CT



Hobbs speaks on the power of geothermal



The New Canaan Men's Club will learn about geothermal energy's potential as a source of green energy in remarks Jan 17 by Skip Hobbs, the founder of a petroleum and mining geotechnical consulting firm based in town and a well-known advocate for energy conservation.

In a talk entitled, "Harnessing Vulcan's Might – An Overview of Geothermal Energy," Hobbs refers to the Roman god of fire to describe the geology of hydrothermal resources, ways to develop the resource, the technical and economic barriers and the difference between traditional and newer technologies.

The Men's Club meets at Morrill Hall in St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 111 Oenoke Ridge, beginning at 10 a.m. with Hobbs expected to speak around 10:40 a.m.

Hobbs is managing partner of Ammonite Resources, an international consultancy on petroleum and mineral resources, comprised of a staff of 24 geologists, geophysicists, engineers and analysts.

Previously, he served as president of the American Geological Institute and on the Council of Scientific Society Presidents. He has a master's degree in petroleum geology from Imperial College London and a bachelor's degree, also in geology, from Yale University.

The Men's Club welcomes new members. For information about joining, email ncmens@ncmens.info.

Silvermine Guild New Members Exhibition



Paul Landesman, Squares and Circles No. II

Silvermine Arts Center welcomes 25 new members into its historic Guild of Artists, with an exhibition presenting innovative work in a variety of mediums and styles. The exhibition will run from through Feb. 6.

In addition to compelling works in painting and sculpture, several of Silvermine's new Guild members explore innovative processes and materials.

The Guild's new sculptors draw on both natural and mythical forms. Tini Pinto's biophilic ceramic works are as joyful as they are skillfully crafted. Irja Boden describes her stacked forms, which are both embossed and layered, as abstract works that convey a narrative. Aleksandra Scepanovic explores displaced identities and finds a certain human resilience in the theme of wholeness through fractured forms.

Since its inception, Guild membership has been a selective peer jurying process. As a result, the Guild has held its membership to high standards. Many members have work represented in permanent collections of some of the world's most prestigious museums, as well as prominent private and corporate collections. This exhibition offers visitors an opportunity to engage with the newest members of this dynamic community of professional artists and learn about their works.

New Members of the Silvermine Guild of Artists:

- Irja Boden – Ghent, NY
- Serena Buschi – Bedford, NY
- Kelly Duffield – Bedford, NY
- Liz Alpert Fay – Sandy Hook, CT
- Karen Fisher – Superior, CO
- Susan Hoffman Fishman – West Hartford, CT
- Chrissanth Greene-Gross – North Salem, NY
- Lisa Hess Hesselgrave – Branford, CT
- Barbara Hocker – Bolton, CT
- Marc Kemeny – Fairfield, CT
- Amy Kupferberg – Bedford, NY
- Paul Landesman – Rye Brook, NY
- Linda Lowry – Boulder, CO
- Michael Perry – Durham, NC
- Tini Pinto – Stamford, CT
- Bonnie Ralston – Brooklyn, NY
- Susan Richman – Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
- Susan Rollins – Guilford, CT
- Gloria Ruentiz – Stamford, CT
- Aleksandra Scepanovic – Woodstock, NY
- Colin Smith – Baltimore, MD
- Leslie Sobell – Ann Arbor, MI
- Lynn Ubell – New York, NY
- Eric Urquhart – Danbury, CT
- Janet Warner – New Haven, CT

Three nationally acclaimed musicians at Chamber Music Program Feb. 6 & 7

Orion Weiss, one of America's most sought-after virtuoso pianists, will return to New Canaan to dazzle with his passionate, lush sound on February 6 and 7. Weiss will join two other nationally recognized musicians, Andrew Armstrong, virtuoso pianist and Artistic Director of New Canaan Chamber Music, and gifted young guitarist Mak Grgi .

The concert is Thursday, February 6 at 3 pm and Friday, February 7 at 7:30 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in New Canaan at 173 Oenoke Ridge, and includes favorite composers George Gershwin, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Gabriel Fauré. Tickets are available at www.newcanaanchambermusic.org

Weiss is widely regarded as a "brilliant pianist" (The New York Times) with "powerful technique and exceptional insight" (The Washington Post). He has performed with dozens of orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Chicago Symphony, Boston Symphony, and at Carnegie Hall, and New York's 92nd Street Y.

Armstrong, Artistic Director and Founder of New Canaan Chamber Music, is praised by critics for his passionate expression and dazzling technique. He has delighted audiences worldwide, performing at Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center,

London's Wigmore Hall, the Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, and Warsaw's National Philharmonic.

New Canaan Chamber Music audiences can again "Anticipate the Unexpected" when, for the first time, the program will include a classical guitarist, Grgi , who is a two-time Grammy nominee. In constant demand, he averages eighty-five performances a year – nearly two bookings per week. Highlights of the 24-25 season include appearances with the American Composers Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, the Pacific Symphony, Charleston Symphony, and others.

Weiss and Armstrong will perform Gershwin's famous "An American in Paris," in an arrangement exploiting the expressive and virtuosic possibilities offered by two fantastic pianists playing together on one piano. Grgi will perform Joaquín Rodrigo's "Concierto de Aranjuez," one of the most famous and beloved pieces in the classical guitar repertoire.

In just four years, New Canaan Chamber Music has become a thriving new addition to the concert scene. It also provides growing and inclusive programs of outreach with the Children's Concerts and programs during the year that bring great music to seniors, youth orchestras, and local schools in New Canaan, Stamford, and Norwalk. NCCM is a 501c3 non-

profit organization.

THE PROGRAM

"Americans in Paris"

Orion Weiss, piano

Andrew Armstrong, piano

Mak Grgi, guitar

Chaconne from Partita in D minor, BWV 1004 (1720) by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Dolly Suite, for piano 4-hands, Opus 56 (1896) by Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

• Berceuse • Mi-a-ou • Le jardin de

Dolly • Kitty-valse

• Tendresse • Le pas espagnol

Laments, Dances, & Lullabies, Vol. 1 for solo guitar (2008) by Miroslav Tadi (b. 1959)

• No. 5: Chicho • No. 4: Jovka • No. 3:

Walk Dance

INTERMISSION

Transcendental Etude, Opus II, No. 10, 'Legshinka' (1905) by Sergei Lyapunov (1859-1924)

Adagio, from Concierto de Aranjuez, arr. for guitar and piano (1939) by Joaquin Rodrigo (1901-1999)

An American in Paris (1928), by George Gershwin (1898-1937) arr. for 4-hands piano by

Alessandra Gelfini

Orion Weiss, one of America's most sought-after virtuoso pianists, will return to New Canaan to dazzle with his passionate, lush sound on February 6 and 7.

199 ELM STREET



PRIME OFFICE SPACE IN A PREMIUM LOCATION

Located in the heart of downtown New Canaan, this pristine 2,210 square foot commercial space offers a prime location directly across the street from the New Canaan Metro-North train station and just 300 feet from the retail center. The space is bright, street-facing, and features six exterior offices with stunning floor-to-ceiling windows, two interior offices, an open workspace, and a kitchenette area. Previously used by a hedge fund and financial management firm, this turnkey office space is ready for immediate occupancy and offers the perfect setting for your business. Just a short walk to the village center, this is an ideal location for those seeking a prestigious, accessible downtown address.

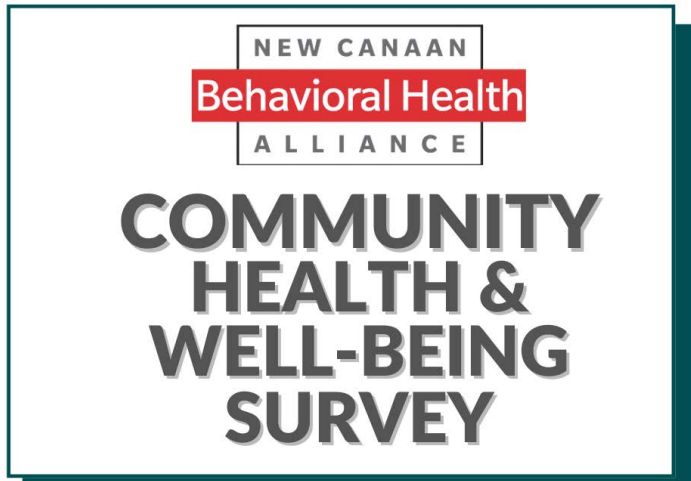
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Residents Invited to Public Forum on Community Health & Well-Being Survey Results

New Canaan Community Foundation Receives \$13,200 from Cross Private Client Team at National Chubb Charity Challenge



SURVEY RESULTS
 Shared at Public Forum
 Monday, January 27 6:30 - 8pm at
 New Canaan Library, Bartlett Auditorium
 RSVP at:
newcanaanbha.org

The New Canaan Behavioral Health Alliance invites all residents to a special public forum to unveil the results of the Community Health & Well-Being Survey. This event will take place on Monday, January 27th, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the New Canaan Library, Bartlett Auditorium.

The survey, conducted in October 2024, received responses from over 1,490 residents sharing their insights on key issues impacting health, mental health, and well-being in New Canaan. The findings provide a significant snapshot of our community—its strengths, areas for improvement, and opportunities to enhance resources and services.

Why Attend?

This forum is your chance to:

- +Hear the Big Picture: Gain an exclusive first look at the survey results and the trends shaping health and well-being in New Canaan.
- +Explore Key Findings: Learn about the community's biggest challenges, including concerns around stress, access to care, and the role of prevention programs.
- +Be Part of the Solution: Join the discussion on how these insights will guide future initiatives and funding opportunities to support the evolving needs of residents.

Lauren Patterson, President & CEO of the New Canaan Community Foundation, shared: "This survey marks an important step in understanding and addressing the needs of our community. We look forward to engaging residents in a thoughtful discussion about how we can move forward together."

Save the Date:

What: Public Forum on Community Health & Well-Being Survey Results

**When: Monday, January 27, 2025
 Time: 6:30-8:00 PM**

**Where: New Canaan Library, Bartlett Auditorium
 RSVP: NewCanaanBHA.org**

About the New Canaan Behavioral Health Alliance

The New Canaan Behavioral Health Alliance (NCBHA) is a coalition of more than 30 local organizations dedicated to raising awareness of behavioral health resources, advocating for critical causes and initiatives, and improving access to services for all residents. The alliance was convened by the Town of New Canaan, Silver Hill Hospital, and New Canaan Community Foundation, and it fosters collaboration among community members and professionals to address behavioral health needs.

NCBHA's first community-wide project, the Community Health & Well-Being Survey, will gather comprehensive insights from residents to guide decisions about community health, well-being and resources. Broad participation may also unlock opportunities for federal and state funding to enhance local behavioral health services. For more information, visit: www.newcanaanbha.org.

Cross Private Client Insurance's New Canaan office recently secured a \$13,200 donation for the New Canaan Community Foundation (NCCF) through their participation in the Chubb Charity Challenge, an annual golf tournament raising funds for charities across North America.

Representing Cross Private Client Insurance, Alex Reinman and Tim Brown teamed up with Jon Pensa, Branch Manager for Chubb Insurance, Adam Casella, and Brendan Reich to compete. After winning the Connecticut regional event at TPC River Highlands, home of the PGA Travelers Championship, the team advanced to the national tournament at the Omni PGA Frisco Resort in Texas. Among 54 teams from the U.S. and Canada, they placed 26th, earning this generous contribution for NCCF.

"We are thrilled that Cross and Chubb came together to support the New Canaan Community Foundation—an organization doing

tremendous work for New Canaan and surrounding communities," said Meredith Bach, Director of Marketing at Cross Private Client Insurance.

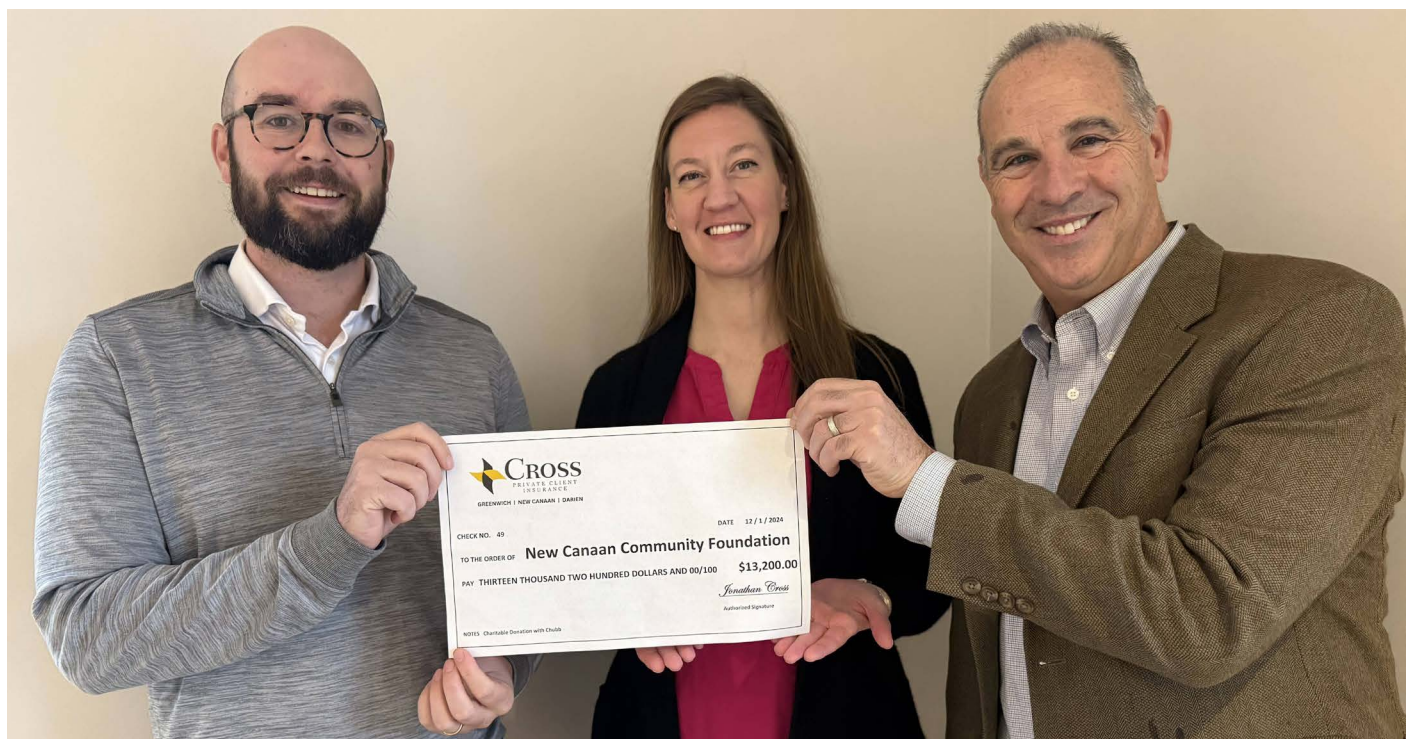
Now in its 25th year, the Chubb Charity Challenge unites agents, brokers, and clients to compete for the benefit of local nonprofits. The initiative has distributed over \$1 million annually to charities, exemplifying Chubb's dedication to community giving.

"Chubb Insurance has created an incredible opportunity with this tournament," said Alex Reinman. "It's not only a fun and competitive event but also a powerful way to provide meaningful support to charities making a difference. We're proud to have contributed to NCCF's mission."

The New Canaan Community Foundation expressed gratitude for the donation, which will help expand its support for local initiatives and address critical community needs.



Team Members included Alex Reinman and Tim Brown of Cross Private Client Insurance, Jon Pensa of Chubb Insurance, Adam Casella and Brendan Reich.



Alex Reinman of Cross Private Client Insurance (Left) and Jon Pensa, Branch Manager for Chubb Insurance. (Right) present a check to Lauren Patterson, NCCF President & CEO.

Release party for Onyx Storm by Rebecca Yarros

Elm Street Books in New Canaan will open its doors after hours on January 20, 2025, for an exciting release party celebrating Onyx Storm, the third installment in Rebecca Yarros's highly anticipated Empyrean Series. The event begins at 9:00 PM at the bookstore, located at 35 Elm Street.

Fans of Yarros's bestselling series can look forward to a festive evening of shopping and mingling with fellow readers. Admission to the event is \$20 per person to attend or \$36 per person, which includes a copy of Onyx Storm as well as complimentary snacks.

Space is limited, and advance registration is required to attend.

The Empyrean Series has captivated readers with its vivid world-building and compelling characters. Onyx Storm is expected to continue the high-stakes action and emotional depth that fans have come to love.

For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Elm Street Books by phone at (203) 966-4545 or email Events@elmstreetbooks.com. Additional details about the event can also be found on the bookstore's website at Elm Street Books Event.



Blossom Hill For the Love of a Child

Blossom Hill will hold its annual Valentine's event, For the Love of a Child, on January 13, 2025 from 12 - 2 pm at the New Canaan Playhouse. All proceeds will support its mission - education for peace - to transform the lives of displaced and at-risk children and youth globally.

Start your Valentine's week with purpose at our cherished annual fundraiser. Drop in with your galentines for an afternoon of connection and giving, featuring:

- Tea Bar
- Flower Bar
- Chocolate Bar
- Charm Bar
- Sparkling wine Bar
- Lite healthy lunch
- Everyone goes home with a prize

What: Blossom Hill's For the Love of a Child
Where: New Canaan Playhouse, 93 Elm Street, New Canaan, CT
When: Thursday, January 13, 2025, 12 - 2 pm
Tickets: <https://blossomhill-foundation.org/galentine/>

Blossom Hill is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in New Canaan, CT. Founded in 2009, it has been on the forefront of the refugee crisis, working tirelessly to create positive change and uplift communities. Its mission is to implement innovative programs that empower children affected by conflict in the Middle East. To date, Blossom Hill has reached over 130,000 children and youth in 25 countries, as well as right here in CT, with multiple initiatives through a Fellowship Program for Social Entrepreneurs. This model provides a multi-layered impact on both our fellows' growth and development and positive change in displaced communities.

GATHER YOUR GALENTINES FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FRIENDSHIP

Indulge in a lite lunch, custom tea blends, decadent chocolates, fresh flowers, signature cocktails, and purposeful shopping for a cause.

FEBRUARY 13 | 12 - 2 PM **New Canaan Playhouse**
 \$100 per person **93 Elm Street**
 Door prizes with each ticket **New Canaan, CT**

www.blossomhill-foundation.org/galentine

He Saw More Than Most

Frank Gallo's column, "Ed's Count," calls us back to a central truth: the virtues of diligence, humility, and stewardship are timeless. It is a story not only of one man's dedication but of the enduring values that make communities thrive. In recounting the quiet work of Ed Shove, Gallo reminds us of the importance of seeing the world as a gift to be cherished, nurtured, and preserved. In his own words, Ed "saw more than most," a tribute to the depth of his observation and his ability to notice what others might overlook.

Ed Shove's commitment to the annual Christmas Bird Count stands as an exemplar of responsibility and perseverance. Rising before dawn to tread the cold marshes of New Haven's Quinnipiac Marsh, he carried with him the tools of his trade: binoculars, a notebook, and a deep sense of duty. His work was not glamorous. It was hard, often thankless, but profoundly meaningful. Ed's unwavering resolve to document each bird, to observe and record the delicate interplay of nature, was his way of serving a higher purpose.

In "Ed's Count," we see the value of steadfastness in the face of change. Gallo describes how Ed's once-beloved owling grounds were replaced by a movie theater—a stark reminder of how "progress" can encroach upon the natural world. Yet Ed persisted. He adapted, not with bitterness but with a sense of duty, continuing to serve the larger cause of conservation. His work reminds us that progress must be tempered with prudence, that development can coexist with preservation.

What "Ed's Count" offers us is a lesson in character. Ed's journey through the marsh, enduring frost and wind, is a portrait of quiet faith.

Gallo's vivid imagery invites us into Ed's world, where the biting wind of a December morning cannot dampen his resolve. The startled flight of herons, the "Po-ta-to-chip" call of goldfinches, and the fleeting glimpse of a green-winged teal—each moment captured in Ed's notebook speaks to a discipline of attention and care. These details are not mere observations; they are acts of reverence for creation, a reminder that beauty is often found in the smallest and quietest corners of life.

What "Ed's Count" offers us is a lesson in character. Ed's journey through the marsh, enduring frost and wind, is a portrait of quiet faith. He did not count birds for recognition or reward but out of love for the natural world and a sense of obligation to future generations. His work is a testament to the power of ordinary virtues to create extraordinary legacies.

To bear witness to the world as Ed did is an act of faith. Gallo's reflection on Ed's ability to see more than most underscores this truth—bearing witness is not just about recording facts but about recognizing their deeper meaning and value. It is a declaration that what we observe matters, that the details of life—however small or fleeting—are worth preserving. This is the work of newspapers as well: to record, to document, to bear witness to the world so that others may see and reflect. Ed Shove's meticulous notes and enduring dedication remind us that bearing witness is not passive; it is an active, purposeful endeavor that honors the beauty and fragility of life.

Ed's meticulous records and his enduring dedication demonstrate that even the smallest acts, done consistently and with purpose, can make a lasting impact.

The New Canaan Sentinel is grateful to Frank Gallo for sharing this inspiring story. It was one of the most beautiful columns we have received. Although the 2024 Christmas Bird Count has concluded, the lessons of "Ed's Count" endure. Readers can find Gallo's full column at (<https://www.newcanaasentinel.com/2024/12/05/eds-count/>).



"And the teddy bear needs a separate wakeup call?"

LETTER

Committee Rejects Nursing Home Staff Proposal (December 26, 2024)

Dear Editor:

We commend the state's General Assembly's bipartisan Regulation Review Committee for their prudent decision to postpone implementing new staffing metrics for skilled nursing facilities until a thorough analysis can be conducted and its recommendations fully vetted. This careful approach demonstrates an understanding of the complexities inherent in healthcare regulation and the potential unintended consequences that could impact Connecticut's most vulnerable populations, not merely its cost implications.

Healthcare is not a static environment; it requires a nuanced understanding of the causal relationship between staffing levels and quality outcomes, the differing challenges faced by nonprofit versus for-profit facilities, and the interplay between federal and state reimbursement rates. Financially motivated regulatory changes risk creating operational instability without achieving the desired improvements in patient care.

Terms like "managing care" and "advantage" often mask a focus on cost containment through reimbursement cuts and rigid service restrictions rather than delivering true value—defined as the highest quality care at the lowest cost. As the "grey wave" of aging impacts the state's economy, even minor regulatory adjustments can have oversized effects. According

to CTData analysis, Connecticut's population aged 65 and older is projected to increase by 57% between 2010 and 2040, while the working-age population will grow by less than 2%. These demographic shifts will necessitate revisions to the state's appropriation models to ensure sustainability.

The recent closures of skilled nursing facilities across the state have rightly raised concerns about

frequent methodological changes in reimbursement. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) already publish metrics on staffing levels and quality outcomes. Aligning reimbursement with these metrics could create financial incentives for underperforming facilities to improve.

Raising minimum standards is undeniably beneficial for the healthcare market and, most

Healthcare is not a static environment; it requires a nuanced understanding of the causal relationship between staffing levels and quality outcomes, the differing challenges faced by nonprofit versus for-profit facilities, and the interplay between federal and state reimbursement rates.

geographic accessibility to care. Other contributing factors—such as the increase in the state's minimum wage, the ongoing loss of affordable workforce housing, extended commuter times, and the lasting effects of healthcare workforce shortages post-pandemic—deserve equal attention. These issues collectively strain the healthcare economy and further challenge the industry's ability to provide high-quality care.

We support a "pay-for-performance" model that incentivizes measurable staffing levels and care quality metrics on a consistent basis without provider's concerns over

importantly, for the patients and families served. Let us ensure that these changes are thoughtfully implemented to sustain and strengthen the healthcare system for our constituents. Such reforms, however, must be carefully structured to account for the complexities of healthcare market dynamics with the understanding of the federal dollars seniors bring to their local and state economies.

*Russell Barksdale, Jr., PhD, MHA/
MPA, FACHE
President and CEO
Waveny LifeCare Network.*

LETTER

Swap Shop Thank You and Winter Hours

Dear Editor,

Planet New Canaan could not be more thankful to the Town of New Canaan and residents for their continued support of the New Canaan Swap Shop. We are incredibly lucky to have our amazing volunteers and the Transfer Station staff - Don, Mark, Mike and Eric, who are always lending us a helping hand.

As we officially enter the Winter season, the hours at the Swap Shop will vary. While typically open Wednesday through Saturday from 9am to 1pm, during the Winter season, Friday hours are 9am to 12pm. This allows the Highway Department to safely access the salt shed, located next to the Swap Shop. The Swap Shop is also closed during inclement weather to allow the Highway Department to access the Salt Shed to keep our roads safe.

Swap Shop closings will be posted on the Swap Shop

We are incredibly lucky to have our amazing volunteers and the Transfer Station staff - Don, Mark, Mike and Eric, who are always lending us a helping hand.

Instagram page: @newcanaanswapshop as well as on the Planet New Canaan Facebook and Instagram pages. Residents can also call the Transfer Station at 203- 594-3702. The Swap Shop is open to all New Canaan Transfer Station pass holders. For more information about the Swap Shop please go to planetnewcanaan.org.

*Sincerely,
Robin Bates-Mason President Planet New Canaan*

<https://www.newcanaasentinel.com/letter-to-the-editor/>

Boys Hockey

New Canaan scored four goals in the final 10 minutes to secure a 4-2 victory over Darien in a closely contested rivalry game at the Darien Ice Rink. Junior forward Rogan Lowe led the Rams with a hat trick, helping the team maintain their unbeaten record at 8-0 overall and 4-0 in FCIAC play.

Darien opened the scoring early in the second period when James Troy capitalized on a rebound. The Blue Wave held their 1-0 lead until New Canaan's power play ignited in the third period. Lowe tied the game with 9:52 remaining, assisted by Brayden Robie and Bauer Gammill.

Darien briefly regained the lead when Jack Marisca scored off a rebound, with assists credited to Alexander Rentz and Troy. New Canaan responded quickly, leveling the score once more with a power-play goal by sophomore Jack Thompson, assisted by Bryce Lyden and Robie.

A defensive lapse by Darien proved decisive as Lowe intercepted a turnover in front of the net and scored, putting the Rams ahead with just over three minutes left. He added an empty-net goal in the final minute to secure the win.

New Canaan's disciplined play and offensive persistence in the final period highlighted their strength as contenders. Darien, now 5-2 overall and 2-1 in conference play, showed resilience but fell short in key moments. Both teams remain strong competitors with potential for further matchups later in the season.

Boys Basketball

New Canaan fell to 4-3 after a hard-fought 66-58 loss to Fairfield Warde in an intense FCIAC boys basketball game. The Rams, known for their physicality and defensive strength, showcased their resilience against the Mustangs, who improved to 7-1.

Trailing 18-8 early, New Canaan turned the momentum late in the first half with a 16-5 run. Blue Vertin led the charge, hitting four three-pointers on his way to a 16-point performance. The Rams' defensive adjustments, led by Simon Tchakarov and Sai Akavaramu, helped neutralize Warde's early dominance, giving New Canaan a 36-34 lead at halftime.

The second half saw New Canaan struggle offensively against Warde's shift to man-to-man defense. After the Mustangs opened the third quarter with a 7-0 run, the Rams were held to just seven points in the period. Tchakarov's physical presence and contributions on defense kept the game competitive, but New Canaan couldn't regain control.

The Rams rallied late in the fourth quarter, narrowing the deficit to four points, but were unable to complete the comeback. Despite the loss, New Canaan continues to demonstrate its competitiveness, having played close games against strong teams like Staples and Ludlowe earlier in the season.

New Canaan will look to rebound as they prepare for upcoming matchups, aiming to refine their offensive consistency while maintaining their defensive intensity, which has kept them competitive throughout the season.

Girls Hockey

The girls hockey team is on a winning streak as of January 15, with a season record of 9-1-0 so far.



Game Wrap Ups

Team	Date	Opponent	Result
Boys Basketball	1/8	Bassick	Win (51-22)
Boys Basketball	1/10	Fairfield Ludlowe	Loss (53-NA)
Boys Hockey	1/8	Ridgefield	Win (2-0)
Boys Hockey	1/11	Darien	Win (4-2)
Boys Hockey	1/14	Fairfield Prep	Win (3-1)
Girls Hockey	1/8	Hamden	Win (3-2)
Girls Hockey	1/10	Avon	Win (1-0)
Girls Hockey	1/11	Kingston High School	Win (3-1)
Girls Hockey	1/13	Fairfield Ludlowe	Win (8-0)
Girls Basketball	1/10	Fairfield Ludlowe	Loss (32-49)
Girls Basketball	1/14	Fairfield Warde	Win (51-47)
St. Lukes Ice Hockey	1/8	Harvey School	Win (7-0)
St. Lukes Ice Hockey	1/14	Greenwich Country Day School	Win (5-3)
St. Lukes Squash	1/8	Greens Farms Academy	Loss (2-5)
St. Lukes Basketball	1/10	Masters School	Win (79-61)
St. Lukes Basketball	1/14	Greenwich Country Day School	Loss (55-76)
St. Lukes Girls Squash	1/9	Rye High School	Loss (2-5)
St. Lukes Girls Basketball	1/13	Greenwich Country Day School	Win (72-59)

Upcoming Rams Sports Schedule

17	JAN, FRI	● 3:30 – 5:30pm	Boys Varsity Swimming vs Westhill 564 South Avenue, New Canaan CT 06840
		● 4 – 5:30pm	Girls Freshman Basketball vs Greenwich High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		● 4 – 5pm	Boys Freshman Basketball @ Greenwich High School 10 Hillside Road, Greenwich CT 06830
		● 5:30 – 7pm	Girls JV Basketball vs Greenwich High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		● 5:30 – 6:30pm	Boys JV Basketball @ Greenwich High School 10 Hillside Road, Greenwich CT 06830
		● 6 – 7:45pm	Boys JV Hockey vs Darien High School 604 Frogtown Road, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		● 7 – 8:30pm	Boys Varsity Basketball @ Greenwich High School 10 Hillside Road, Greenwich CT 06830
		● 7 – 8:30pm	Girls Varsity Basketball vs Greenwich High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
18	JAN, SAT	● 9 – 11am	Boys Varsity Wrestling @ Notre Dame-West Haven One Notre Dame Way, West Haven CT 06516
		● 9 – 9:30am	Boys Varsity Track - Indoor @ Wilton High School 395 Danbury Rd, Wilton CT 06897
		● 9 – 9:30am	Girls Varsity Track - Indoor @ Wilton High School 395 Danbury Rd, Wilton CT 06897
		● 1 – 2:30pm	Girls JV Basketball vs Weston High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		● 2:45 – 4:15pm	Girls Varsity Basketball vs Weston High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		● 4:30 – 6pm	Boys JV Basketball vs Career Magnet 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		● 5:30 – 6:45pm	Girls Varsity Hockey @ Mercy High School 6 Progress, Cromwell Connecticut 06416
		● 6:15 – 7:45pm	Boys Varsity Basketball vs Career Magnet 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
● 7 – 8:45pm	Boys Varsity Hockey vs Greenwich High School 55 Old Kings Highway North, Darien Connecticut 06820		
20	JAN, MON	● 6 – 8pm	Boys Varsity Hockey vs Fairfield Warde 55 Old Kings Highway North, Darien Connecticut 06820
21	JAN, TUE	● 3:30 – 5:30pm	Boys Varsity Swimming @ Wilton High School 564 South Avenue, New Canaan CT 06840
		● 4 – 5:30pm	Boys Freshman Basketball vs Wilton High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		● 4:15 – 4:45pm	Girls JV Basketball @ Wilton High School 395 Danbury Rd, Wilton CT 06897
		● 4:30 – 6:15pm	Girls Varsity Hockey @ Greenwich High School 1 Sue Merz Way, Greenwich Connecticut 06830
		● 5:30 – 7pm	Boys JV Basketball vs Wilton High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
		● 5:45 – 6:15pm	Girls Varsity Basketball @ Wilton High School 395 Danbury Rd, Wilton CT 06897
		● 7 – 8:30pm	Boys Varsity Basketball vs Wilton High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840
22	JAN, WED	● 4 – 5:30pm	Boys Varsity Swimming @ Wilton High School 404 Danbury Rd, Wilton CT 06897
		● 7 – 9pm	Boys Varsity Wrestling vs Ridgefield High School 11 Farm Rd, New Canaan Connecticut 06840

YOUR NEWS BRIEFING CONTINUED From Page 1

Rotary Club of New Canaan.

SCHOOLS

KINDNESS PROJECT UNITES STUDENTS



Second graders from South School partnered with New Canaan High School Photoshop students on a kindness-themed project. The elementary students created illustrated posters about what kindness means, which the high school students transformed into digital designs. The final creations are now on display in the South School Hall Lobby. Photo credit: New Canaan Public Schools.

SLS STUDENTS INNOVATE



Students from St. Luke's Engineering with Electronics course are creating adaptive devices for residents at Waveny LifeCare Network. After meeting with residents to identify needs, they developed and are now building prototypes in the designLab. The devices will be presented to residents at the end of the semester. Photo credit: St. Luke's.

SLS DEBATE TEAM QUALIFIES



Recently, the St. Luke's Debate Team earned multiple bids to nationals at a Minneapolis tournament, securing their place in the upcoming championship. Senior Dash Gilrain-Lennon won the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Round-Robin and

advanced to the Sweet 16 in the invitational. Juniors Maeve Welch and Salman Memon also qualified for nationals by reaching the Round of 32 in Public Forum debate. Photo credit: St. Luke's.

JULIA MATREJEK VISITS SLS



During St. Luke's Middle School Art Week, illustrator Julia Matrejek introduced students to the art of cartooning and comic strip storytelling. As a Teaching Artist at The Aldrich, she shared her journey as a professional artist. Students then explored their creativity by designing original characters and developing their own comic strips. Photo credit: St. Luke's.

SEAVER EARNS NATIONAL YOUNGARTS AWARD

Sophie Seaver '28 of St. Luke's School has won a 2025 National YoungArts Award in the Voice/Singer-Songwriter category. The award offers professional development opportunities to support her artistic growth.

SAXE TEACHER ALYSSA IWANSKI PASSES

New Canaan Public Schools announced the sudden passing of Saxe Middle School art teacher Alyssa Iwanski last weekend. Superintendent Bryan Luizzi shared that counselors would be available to support students and staff during this difficult time. No additional details have been provided by the district.

ACROSS CT

FROM HARTFORD

CARVANA SETTLEMENT FOR CONNECTICUT CONSUMERS

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong announced a \$1.5 million settlement with Carvana following hundreds of consumer complaints about delays in vehicle registration, payment issues, and misrepresented car conditions. The settlement includes \$1 million for customer restitution and a \$500,000 penalty, with terms requiring Carvana to comply with state laws and improve customer service processes. Consumers affected by Carvana's practices since 2019 may be eligible for compensation and can file claims via email.

PROTECT PETS DURING COYOTE SEASON

Connecticut residents are advised to protect pets during coyote mating season from January to March, as coyotes become more territorial and aggressive. DEEP recommends keeping pets indoors or supervised, securing outdoor spaces, and removing food attractants to reduce risks. Coyotes remain active year-round, with heightened risks during pup-rearing in spring.

CONNECTICUT STUDIES

CONNECTICUT'S GUN LAWS RANK THIRD IN STRENGTH NATIONALLY

Connecticut has the third strongest gun laws in the United States, based on a study by High Rise Legal Funding using Giffords and CDC data. From 2014 to 2023, the state

experienced a 19.32% increase in gun-related deaths per 100,000 people. California holds the top rank for strictest gun laws, while Wyoming is ranked 50th. Wyoming also reported a 40.63% increase in gun death rates over the same period. The study used Giffords' Gun Law Strength rankings and CDC data to analyze state gun legislation and firearm mortality rates.

CONNECTICUT RANKS THIRD FOR DENTAL HEALTH IN THE U.S.

Connecticut has been ranked as the third-best state for dental health, scoring 77.20 out of 100 in a study. The study evaluated factors including dentist availability, smoking rates, e-cigarette usage, and online interest in oral hygiene. Connecticut has 73.6 dentists per 100,000 residents, the ninth-highest rate nationally. Additionally, 5.6% of adults use e-cigarettes, and 10% smoke cigarettes, among the lowest rates in the country. Full methodology and rankings are available at snus.online.

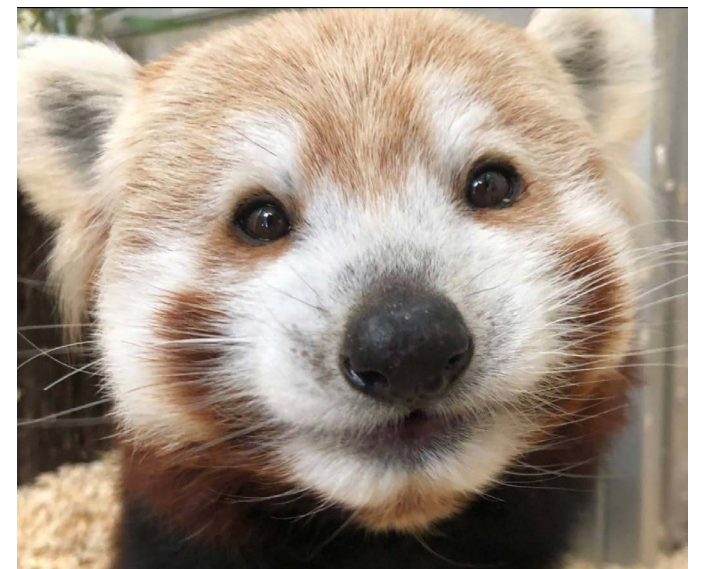
NATIONAL WINNIE THE POOH DAY



Tomorrow, January 18th, is National Winnie the Pooh Day, honoring the birthday of A.A. Milne, author of the Winnie the Pooh stories. See our Winnie the Pooh series in our second section.

OUR NEIGHBORS

BEARDSLEY ZOO MAYOR PASSES AWAY



Berry, a 14-year-old red panda and Mayor of the Beardsley Zoo, passed away after complications recovering from a veterinary procedure. Exceeding the typical lifespan for his species, he played a significant role in educating visitors about red panda conservation. His loss is deeply felt by the zoo community. Photo credit: Beardsley Zoo.

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Obituaries



BARBARA WELLSHELEN LUDWIG

Helen D. Ludwig, a lifelong resident of New Canaan, CT passed away on Jan. 10. Helen was born on Oct. 13, 1934 in Stratford, CT to Helen Traverse Drury and Eugene Drury.

Helen graduated from New Canaan High School and worked as a bookkeeper, then at the Silvermine Tavern in Norwalk until its closure in Feb. 2009. She then enjoyed working at the Norwalk Library where her coworkers became instant friends.

Helen is survived by daughter Susan and son in law Daniel Russo of Norwalk, CT, son James Dubay of New Canaan, CT and granddaughter Cara Russo of Norwalk, CT. Also surviving her are siblings Clifford Webb Jr. (Jean), Dorothy Williamson (Alan), June Ewald and many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her son Jeff Dubay, parents Clifford and Dorothy Webb, sisters Lily Clough and Louise Treamer.

Helen loved dogs and cats and pet sat for her many friends and could often be seen walking pets in the Silvermine area and beyond.

Her funeral service will be celebrated at Community of Christ Church, 2 Mills St. Norwalk, CT on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 11 a.m. Memorial donations can be made to the CT Humane Society, Westport, CT



MAUREEN TRACY

April 3, 1946 – January 9, 2025

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Maureen Howell Tracy, 78, of Darien, CT, on January 9, after a valiant battle with Alzheimer's Disease.

Maureen was born on April 3, 1946, in New York City, to Elsworth Seaman Howell and Elizabeth Roper Howell. She grew up in Darien, where her kindness, intellect, and enthusiasm for life began to shine. Maureen attended the Dana Hall School and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1968.

Throughout her life, Maureen dedicated herself to serving others with empathy and compassion. As the Program Director of the Elder Care Program at Columbia Presbyterian's Emergency Department, she recruited, trained, and supervised volunteers, providing critical support to families and patients during times of need. Her dedication also extended to positions with the Hall-Brooke Foundation in Westport, the Mid-Fairfield Hospice in Norwalk, and the Rape and Sexual Abuse Crisis Center in Stamford. Maureen continued her service as a volunteer at The Den for Grieving Kids in Greenwich and Project Friendship at the Family and Children's Agency in Norwalk.

Maureen's warmth and creativity found expression in her love for singing and acting. She performed with the Martin Luther King Jr. Gospel Choir in Norwalk and graced local community theater stages. She was also her daughter Nicole's biggest fan, cheering passionately for all of Nicole's athletic pursuits, including her varsity sports at New Canaan High School and the University of Pennsylvania.

Maureen was a devoted member of St. Luke's

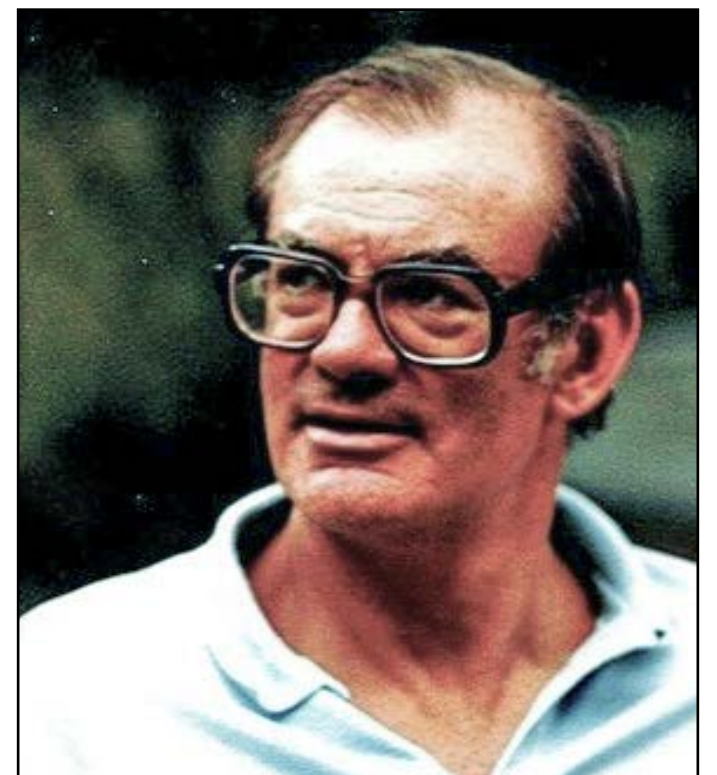
Episcopal Church in Darien, where she found solace and community throughout her life.

Those who knew Maureen before her struggle with dementia will remember her as an adoring mother, gifted singer and actor, and loving person who lit up every room she entered. She will be sorely missed.

Maureen is survived by her cherished daughter, Nicole Lindsay Snow of New York City; her beloved sister, Jean Howell, of Paradise Valley, Arizona; and her adored nieces, Janine Salembier Murphy, and Catherine Salembier Epperson, both of Sacramento, California. She is also remembered fondly by her significant other John Wink, of Norwalk, CT.

A funeral service will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 18, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Darien, CT, with a graveside service immediately following at Lakeview Cemetery in New Canaan. A reception will be held at 2:30 p.m. at Ten Twenty Post, 1020 Post Road, Darien.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Maureen's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Connecticut Chapter, at www.alz.org/ct.



RICHARD AHERN

Richard Lane Ahern, a New Canaan resident since 1972, passed away on January 2.

Richard, an entrepreneur in the paper industry, lived a full, vibrant and vigorous life. He loved his family, Catholic faith, friendships locally and those forged in his extensive business trips.

Richard is survived by his wife Gail, children Keelin Kirt, Brendan Ahern, Ashling Besgen, nine grandchildren and his sister Susan Ahern.

A mass will be celebrated at St. Aloysius on Saturday, January 18th at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the College of the Holy Cross track program or the Old Faithful Antique Fire Engine Company.

The Sentinel

January 17, 2025

National WSJ News Aggregate | Weather

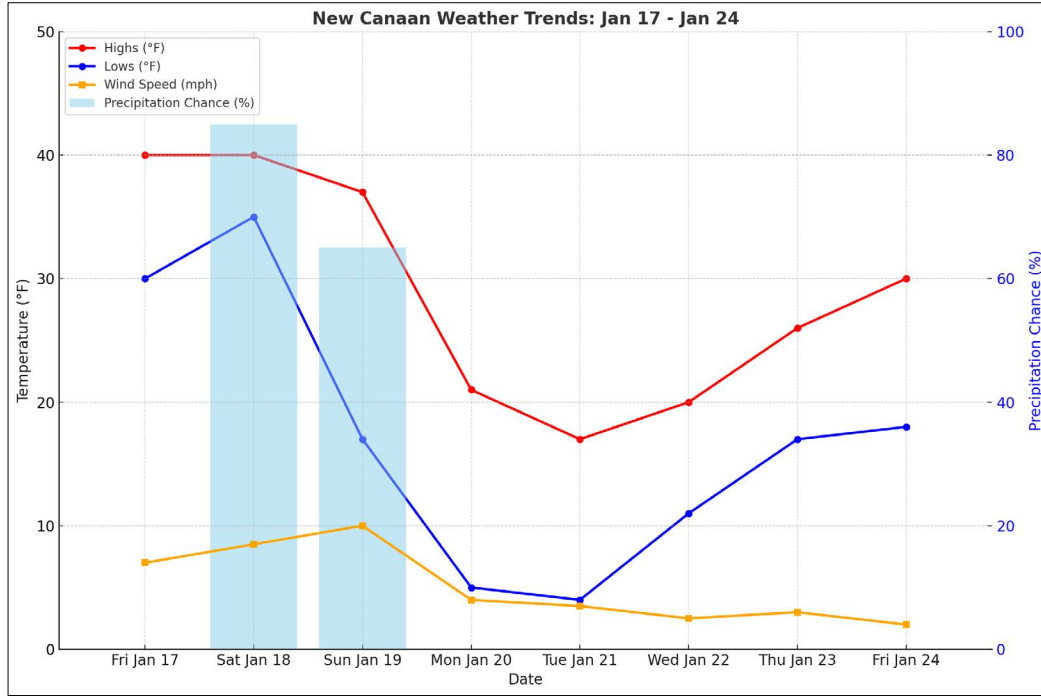
Local Weather: Prep for Frigid Temps in The Week Ahead

By Emma Barhydt

New Canaan is wrapping up the week on a warmer-than-average note. Friday, January 17, will bring partly sunny skies with a high of 38°F and a low of 31°F. Winds will remain manageable, with gusts staying under 15 mph.

Saturday, January 18, takes a turn for the dreary, featuring overcast skies and a breezy afternoon rain. Highs will again reach 42°F, with the rain tapering off by evening as temperatures settle at 32°F. Wind will be a bit stronger today with gusts maxing out at 27 mph.

Sunday, January 19, continues the warmer trend with a high of 38°F, but the day will be marked by rain, flurries, and a chance for snow accumulation in the afternoon. Exercise caution while driving. By evening, a blast of arctic air will roll in, sending temperatures plummeting to 17°F and bringing a renewed chance for snow as winter tightens its grip for the week ahead.



A deep trough of frigid air descending from Canada, “that’s going to set the stage for the coldest air we’ve seen all season for a lot of us,” says meteorologist Ryan Hall. The week will be generally clear and sunny with wind gusts maxing out at 25 mph, but generally forecasted to have wind speeds in the single digits.

When temperatures drop, residents can stay warm at designated heating centers in New Canaan.

Monday, January 20’s high of 25°F will be accompanied by clear skies and steady winds averaging 8 mph, with occasional gusts reaching 24 mph. Overnight, the mercury will plummet to 6°F under mostly clear skies.

Tuesday, January 21 will deliver the harshest cold of the week, with daytime highs just making it to 20°F and nighttime lows dipping to a chilling 7°F. Wind speeds will slightly ease, and the day will be bright and sunny.

Temperatures are on the rise, with a steady warming trend expected

through the end of the week. **Wednesday** will feature clear skies, a high of 21°F, and a low of 14°F. **Thursday** ushers in more sunshine, with temperatures climbing to a high of 29°F and a low of 20°F. By Friday, the warming continues under sunny skies, reaching a high of 33°F and a low of 20°F. Each day will bring a noticeable boost in warmth as the week progresses.

These temperatures are significantly below the seasonal average for New Canaan. The coldest day this year is expected to be 13°F colder than the historical average, marking an unusually harsh January cold snap. The national weather service recommends to, “Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing, and a hat. Mittens, snug at the wrist, are better than gloves. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs from extreme cold. Try to stay dry and out of the wind.”

To protect your home during extreme cold,

insulate exposed pipes and allow faucets to drip to prevent freezing and potential pipe bursts. Check on elderly or vulnerable neighbors to ensure they have adequate heat and essential supplies. A quick visit or phone call can make a significant difference in their safety and comfort. Don’t forget about your pets—bring them indoors to keep them safe from the harsh temperatures. With temperatures this low, roads can become icy even without precipitation. Drive cautiously, avoid sudden braking, and keep an emergency kit in your car, including blankets, a flashlight, and snacks.

For additional assistance, residents can contact the New Canaan Police Department’s non-emergency line at (203) 594-3500. Heating center updates and further resources will be shared on the Town of New Canaan website. If you are experiencing an emergency please call 911.

Nationally: The Week Ahead

By Emma Barhydt

Beginning on Friday January 17th, we will be seeing a small ridge of warm air traveling across the United States which will give way to bitterly cold temps beginning in the evening on January 19th. This coming week, we are going to see some of the coldest air all season for many across the United States.

NORTHEAST: Saturday and Sunday, January 18 and 19 will see temperatures that are slightly warmer than average for the region before quickly dropping in the evening on Sunday, leading to deep freeze temps through the rest of the week following the national trend of incredibly cold temps. An Alberta clipper passing through the great lakes region January 18 will bring some lake effect snow to New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Northern Maine. Saturday will also see some moisture coming up from the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in rain for the

southern portion of the Northeast.

SOUTHEAST: Saturday and Sunday, January 18 and 19 will see temperatures that are slightly warmer than average for the region. East of Houston through western Georgia and Florida may even see temps of 10 degrees above average. Saturday will also see some moisture for the area, likely resulting in some Thunderstorms in Louisiana and Mississippi before moving west and dropping heavy rain over much of the Southeast. Some of the incredibly cold temps will be moving towards the Southeast as early as Sunday evening. The coldest air will begin to touch the panhandles of Oklahoma and Texas beginning Monday, this arctic air will move into the southern region of Texas by the end of the day on Tuesday. Midweek will see snow and a wintry mix from Texas through the Carolinas. Temps will rise midweek but continue to be extremely cold through

the end of the week.

MIDWEST: Saturday, January 18 will see temperatures that are slightly warmer than average for the region and a small Alberta clipper move through the area. These temps will move through quickly, touching the Ohio River Valley region Saturday and Sunday January 19 before giving way to the trough of arctic air moving through. Montana, Minnesota, and the Dakotas will begin to feel the effects of the arctic blast beginning on Saturday with temps likely as low as -20 degrees. The coldest air will set up in the midwest on Monday. Temps will rise midweek to average temps for the region.

SOUTHWEST: The Southwest will see below average temperatures beginning on Sunday, January 19. The region will not be experiencing significant wind or precipitation events during this time.

NORTHWEST: The Northwest will see temperatures significantly below average beginning on Saturday, January 18. Temps will begin to return to normal by the end of the day on Tuesday, January 21. The region will not be experiencing significant wind or precipitation events during this time.

WEST COAST: Most of the West Coast will see temperatures slightly below average beginning on Saturday, January 18 excluding western Nevada and much of California. Over the course of the weekend and through this coming week, we are starting to see the major wind storms die down that have been afflicting much of California. Eastern Colorado is forecasted to see some of the lowest temps of its entire season during this cold snap. Alaska, however, will be seeing temps significantly above average at this time.

According to the Wall Street Journal

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AGGREGATED NEWS FROM WSJ.COM & ECONOMIST

Getty Museum Withstands Wildfires with Advanced Preparedness

According to the *Wall Street Journal’s* Kelly Crow, the J. Paul Getty Museum has successfully defended its two campuses—Getty Villa and Getty Center—from encroaching wildfires in Los Angeles. Utilizing fire-resistant architecture, advanced sprinkler systems, and dedicated staff patrolling the grounds, the museum safeguarded its art collection and facilities from significant damage despite flames reaching within six feet of the Getty Villa.

Both campuses have remained secure due to the museum’s \$9.1 billion endowment-funded precautions, which include concrete walls, fire-resistant roofs, and a robust water tank system for emergencies. See full story here: https://www.wsj.com/arts-culture/fine-art/getty-museum-los-angeles-fires-villa-center-1f600dae?mod=trending_now_news_1

Israel and Hamas Agree to Temporary Ceasefire in Gaza Strip

According to the *Wall Street Journal’s* Summer Said and Carrie Keller-Lynn, Israel and Hamas have reached an agreement to pause fighting in the Gaza Strip. Arab mediators and Israeli officials confirmed the deal, which begins with an exchange of hostages for Palestinian prisoners, with broader negotiations to follow. https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/israel-hamas-ceasefire-deal-gaza-hostage-release-cdf9ba32?mod=Searchresults_pos6&page=1

Chinese Hackers Exploit U.S. Infrastructure, Cyber Networks

According to the *Economist*: Officials say a Chinese hacking group dubbed Salt Typhoon compromised at least eight of America’s telecoms networks. The intruders stole the call-record metadata of a “large number” of Americans. They gained access to the wiretap requests of security agencies—meaning they could work out if any Chinese spies or agents were under American surveillance. And they targeted phones used by officials and politicians, reportedly including Donald Trump, J.D. Vance and members of the Biden administration and the Harris-Walz campaign. Read the full story online here: <https://www.economist.com/china/2024/12/12/chinese-hackers-are-deep-inside-americas-telecoms-networks>

Tulsi Gabbard’s Intelligence Nomination Draws Mixed Reactions from Senate Republicans

According to the *Wall Street Journal’s* Vivian Salama, former Hawaii Representative Tulsi Gabbard’s nomination as director of national intelligence has raised concerns among Senate Republicans regarding her qualifications and understanding of key national security issues. Private meetings revealed instances where Gabbard struggled with details of surveillance laws, including conflating elements of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). Read the full story online here: https://www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/tulsi-gabbard-national-intelligence-senate-confirmation-concerns-a42bd35f?mod=trending_now_news_3

FDA Bans Artificial Dye Red 3 From Food Products

According to the *Wall Street Journal’s* Roshan Fernandez and Jesse Newman, the FDA banned the use of Red No. 3 in food and ingested drugs due to its links to cancer in animals. The move affects thousands of products, requiring reformulation by 2027. Consumer-advocacy groups petitioned the FDA to revoke approval of Red 3, citing studies linking the dye to cancer in rats. Despite the FDA’s position that the risks don’t extend to humans, the ban aligns with growing scrutiny on artificial additives. The dye is banned in most European products. For the full story, visit online: https://www.wsj.com/health/healthcare/fda-bans-artificial-dye-red-3-from-food-26c9c0e1?mod=latest_headlines

Elite M.B.A. Graduates Face Lengthy Job Searches

According to the *Wall Street Journal’s* Lindsay Ellis, 23% of Harvard Business School M.B.A. graduates from 2024 were still seeking employment three months after graduation, a significant rise from previous years. The challenging job market reflects reduced recruiting from major employers like Amazon, Google, and McKinsey, which have scaled back hiring due to changing business needs. https://www.wsj.com/lifestyle/careers/harvard-mba-employment-rate-job-hunt-difficulty-addfc3ec?mod=trending_now_news_4

U.S. Tightens Chip Restrictions on Chinese Companies

According to the *Wall Street Journal’s* Liza Lin and Asa Fitch, the Biden administration introduced new rules requiring non-U.S. chip makers like Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. to obtain licenses for shipping advanced semiconductors to China. The restrictions aim to limit China’s use of artificial intelligence for military and technological advancements. https://www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/u-s-further-tightens-chip-restrictions-adds-chinese-firms-to-blacklist-d7ff3a8?mod=latest_headlines

South Korea Arrests Impeached President Yoon

South Korean authorities detained former President Yoon Suk Yeol following his controversial declaration of martial law last month.

U.S. to Remove Cuba From Terror List in Prisoner Deal

The Biden administration announced plans to remove Cuba from the state sponsors of terrorism list as part of an agreement to release political prisoners.

FDA Proposes Front-Label Rule for Food Packaging

The FDA introduced a proposed rule mandating that food manufacturers display certain nutritional information prominently on the front of product packages.

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Little Red Schoolhouse: Still Teaching Us



BY JOHN KRIZ

Resting quietly near the north end of Carter Street, close to the New Canaan Mounted Troop horse barn, is the Little Red Schoolhouse, which was the last operating one room schoolhouse in New Canaan, and one of the last in Connecticut. Now owned and maintained by the New Canaan Museum & Historical Society (www.nchistory.org) the schoolhouse provides a welcome glimpse into educational history and local society.

According to Stephen Gravereaux, a student at the school from the mid-1940s to the early 1950s and a former board member of the Historical Society, whose family stretches back to the Hoyts, who settled in the area in the 1600s, "the original school building was a log cabin building that was dragged up Carter Street by a team of oxen from the corner of Carter and Silvermine Roads and Canoe Hill. I don't think it had been a school before that, but it was a building that was turned into a school building on a third of an acre that my great great grandfather sold to the town for \$50 in 1850 or thereabouts. And they dragged the school up and it lasted there for a few years, and they tore it down in 1855, I believe, and built a school similar to the one that's there now. But that burned on February 21, 1864,

-- burned to the ground -- and they rebuilt the school there that same year."

MISS KELLEY

The last teacher at the Little Red Schoolhouse was Mary Kelley, who taught there from 1910 to 1957. When Miss Kelley started teaching at the school it covered grades 1-8, but over time shrank to just the primary grades. Mr. Gravereaux notes that the town kept it open for her, and closed it when she retired. She had also been a pupil there, and lived a few doors down the road.

"She was the boss," remembers Mr. Gravereaux. "We tended not to be bad. We knew what was right and what was wrong, and we tried not to cross Miss Kelley." He goes on to say that "if there was something that was bad, your parents found out about it, too." Corporal punishment was not unusual in those days, but it did not happen at this school, though Mr. Gravereaux notes that he'd gotten his knuckles rapped a couple of times.

What made attending the Little Red Schoolhouse special, according to Mr. Gravereaux, was "knowing the same teacher for all those years and her knowing us. I think that was the best thing. It was really the teacher that made it very special." As to educational quality, he says he

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

"got absolutely the best," and when he went to South School for sixth grade "it was just a breeze. I had basically done all the work in math and history and it was just simple. The work was not difficult compared to what Miss Kelley pushed through. She had us work at our own pace basically, and she pushed us as far as we could go." Continues Mr. Gravereaux, "Everybody loved her (Miss Kelley)." And the parents? "The parents especially. She worked very closely with the parents and you'd get her report cards and if parents wanted to discuss it, she'd readily be available." His biggest educational challenge was riding his bike to school past "a house that had a big German Shepherd that just hated me."

SCHOOL DESIGN

As you enter the Little Red Schoolhouse there are two open storage areas to the right and left for coats, books and equipment. Materials that students collected for science class, including birds' nests and a turtle, are also displayed. In the middle of the classroom sits a cast iron potbelly stove, fueled by wood and coal -- the sole heat source. In the late 1940s some of the children installed and painted a metal screen to go around the stove for safety as the stove was very hot. However, it could get cold in the room's corners, Mr. Gravereaux notes. To help him cope with the cold, his grandmother, Mary Hoyt Hollingsworth, who was also a former pupil, would knit him "scratchy wool stockings that went up to the knees because she knew that my feet would get cold in the school."

There were two overhead lights in the classroom area, plus a desk lamp for Miss Kelley, which was plugged in to the sole outlet. Behind the school were two outhouses. In front were bins to store wood and coal, and a manual water pump over a hand dug 22 foot deep well lined with

stone. The desks and other items in the school are as they were left when the school closed.

The wonderful artwork that adorns the school's walls are reproductions (the originals are housed at the Historical Society) of art created by Justin Gruelle, a Silvermine art colony artist, under the Works Progress Administration, a New Deal agency, during the 1930s. His brother John was the creator of Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls, as well as a writer and illustrator.

SCHOOL LIFE

"We would arrive in the morning and come with our lunch pails or buckets or lunchboxes or bags, whatever, and we'd leave those on the front step," recalls Mr. Gravereaux. "Miss Kelley would be inside in the colder weather having built a fire and making the school warm. And right at 8:30 she'd come out and she had a hand bell, which she would then ring. We'd all gather around, boys on one side and girls on the other side in a line, and we'd have one of the older boys put the flag up and then we'd say a pledge of allegiance. And then we'd march into school, taking our lunches with us and putting them on the shelf in one of the two little side rooms."

The school's children, which numbered up to thirty, had chores at the school. The older boys would ensure that the coal and wood bins were kept full, and the younger children would sweep the floors, empty the trash, wash the blackboards and clap the chalk dust off the erasers. The oldest children often ate lunch on "table rock," a flat stone built into the stone wall at the border to the property. Some children would climb on the coal box and eat their lunch.

And there were games, which Miss Kelley was adept at inventing. Mr. Gravereaux recalls one being a type of hide and seek. Another was called Puff Ball,

which consisted of two groups on either side of the long metal stove flue tossing a light cotton ball over the flue. If you hit the ceiling you were out, and if you hit the flue you were dusted with soot, and were also out. Mr. Gravereaux also recalls Miss Kelley playing Sousa marches on the Victrola, and the children would march around the school, up and down the rows of desks. Sometimes for posture Miss Kelley would make them put a book on their heads so they'd stand up straight. There was also kickball, and all sorts of word games such as 'Refrigerator Door,' when a child would say he or she found asparagus, and the next child butter -- A, B, C. You had to continue down the alphabet, repeating the prior ones.

During Christmas there was a tree in the corner. The children would make chains out of paper for decoration and hang tinsel.

School life today is much different, but also the same. The one room schools that used to populate New Canaan are gone, but the focus on top quality education remains. Says Matt Wexler, a current New Canaan Board of Education member, "At its core it's still about giving our children the very best education, and passing along the values of our town."

The Little Red Schoolhouse holds periodic open houses. It is also open by appointment. For more information on the school, a booklet compiled by Robert W.P. Cutler M.D. entitled "Mary J. Kelley and the Little Red Schoolhouse: Student Recollections" is available at the Historical Society's office.

OTHER ONE ROOM SCHOOLS

There used to be tens of thousands of one room schools in the country, but virtually all have closed. The few that remain are generally in small, isolated communities. However, many of the old school buildings still

exist. Some are maintained by local charities (such as the Little Red Schoolhouse) whereas others have been repurposed.

Other one room schoolhouses in the area include:

- The Rock School on the New Canaan Museum and Historical Society campus. It was originally sited near Laurel Road and Canoe Hill as the First District School, and opened in 1799. In the 1970s the school building was in danger of being demolished, and New Canaan High School's AP History class led a campaign to save it, raising money and generating community support to move and restore it for all to enjoy.

- The Peter Parley Schoolhouse, built in the mid-1800s at the corner of West Lane and South Salem Road (CT35) in Ridgefield.

- The circa 1872 Branchville Schoolhouse, in the Branchville section of Ridgefield. Listed on the Connecticut State Register of Historic Places, it is under renovation.

- The circa 1789 red brick Umpawaug Schoolhouse in Redding.

- The 1834 Hurlbutt Street School in the Cannondale section of Wilton. It is on the National Register of Historic Places.

- The Stone Jug Schoolhouse, on the Bedford Green in Bedford NY, built in 1829.

- In Stamford and Greenwich, several of these school buildings have been incorporated into residences, or are used by civic or religious groups. One such near New Canaan -- the North Stamford School -- was moved across Cascade Road and it is now the Guild House of the North Stamford Congregational Church.

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Proverbs 4:7

John J Kriz is a 30+ year resident of New Canaan. The opinions expressed are his own.



Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

February 6

Americans in Paris-Night One

3 PM at the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan
Orion Weiss, one of America's most sought-after virtuoso pianists, will return to New Canaan to dazzle with his passionate, lush sound. Weiss will join two other nationally recognized musicians, Andrew Armstrong, virtuoso pianist and Artistic Director of New Canaan Chamber Music, and gifted young guitarist Mak Grgi. Tickets are available at <https://newcanaanchambermusic.org/tickets/>.

February 7

Guided Tour & Lunch at New Britain Museum of American Art

11 AM-1:30 PM hosted by Carriage Barn Arts Center
Spend a day visiting CT's New Britain Museum of American Art and meet Director and CEO Brett Abbott who juried the 2025 Photography Show at the Carriage Barn. After the tour, the group will enjoy lunch at the museum café before returning home. Tickets are \$65/members, \$80/non-members, and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/guided-tour-lunch-nbmaa/>. For more information about where to meet, call the Carriage Barn at (203) 594-3638.

Americans in Paris-Night Two

7:30 PM at the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan
Orion Weiss, one of America's most sought-after virtuoso pianists, will return to New Canaan to dazzle with his passionate, lush sound. Weiss will join two other nationally recognized musicians, Andrew Armstrong, virtuoso pianist and Artistic Director of New Canaan Chamber Music, and gifted young guitarist Mak Grgi. Tickets are available at <https://newcanaanchambermusic.org/tickets/>.

February 8

Pruning 101

11 AM at Grace Farms
Understanding when and how to prune is critical to the health of small trees and shrubs. Learn the basics of pruning, including proper tool use and care, in order to champion sustainable and eco-conscious values in gardening. Tickets are \$20/person and available at <https://tickets.gracefarms.org/events/019234f3-dfa6-adde-8781-abe432067c22>.

February 12

Meditation Class

9 - 9:45 AM at the Lapham Center
Sign up for this free meditation class that recharges, settles and soothes, while enhancing the feeling of deep peace that occurs when the mind is silent. For more information and to register, call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

10 AM - 3 PM at the Lapham Center
IRS trained and certified AARP Tax Counselors will provide free, income tax preparation on Wednesdays, February 5th through April 9th. There will be a focus on adults aged 50+ with a low to moderate income.

AARP membership is NOT required. You can choose to have an IRS-certified volunteer prepare your taxes for you or provide guidance, so you can prepare them yourself. This program is by appointment only. Information about scheduling appointments will be available in mid-January. For more information, please call (203) 674-9336.

Photography Talk with Jane Beiles

6-8 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Join in the gallery for a discussion covering creative inspirations and expressions and the photographic process with some of this year's exhibiting photographers. Tickets are free for members, \$15/non-members, and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/2025-jane-beiles/>.

February 14

Health Talks with Shannon and Ellen

11 AM at the Lapham Center
Meet up with Shannon and Ellen from the Health Department for coffee, conversation and snacks. Free event. For more information and to register, call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

Afternoon Tea

3 PM at Grace Farms
Join a traditional English Afternoon Tea service. Enjoy a pot of ethically- and sustainably-sourced tea, and a seasonal assortment of tasty English and Japanese-inspired bites created by Grace Farms Pastry Chef Leah Jones. Registration closes the Sunday before the event. Tickets are \$30/person and available at <https://tickets.gracefarms.org/events/9109c140-da5c-72cd-3bb9-bf157745ef46>.

February 19

Transitioning from Hospital to Subacute Care: Key Questions and Essential Information

12 PM at the Lapham Center
Join this lunch and learn. Know what to expect, what questions to ask and what information to gather to ensure a smooth transition when being discharged from a hospital to a skilled nursing facility for rehab. Presented by Kathy Collins, LMSW.

February 21

Move with Grace Farms x lululemon | Yoga with Jane Krantz

10:30 AM at Grace Farms
Join instructor Jane Krantz for a fluid yoga class centered on moving through transitions with grace and finding stability in order to move with freedom, awareness, and expression. Starting with grounding breathwork, Jane will guide you through movement that will ignite a little bit of heat and a lot of joy, ending in a restful savasana. Tickets are \$20/non-members, \$16/members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org/event/move-with-grace-farms-x-lululemon-yoga-with-jane-krantz-2>.

Opening Night- Terra Nova

7:30 PM at the Town Players of New Canaan
In the winter of 1911-12, five Englishmen and five Norwegians raced each other to the bottom of the Earth. Only the Norwegians returned. Terra Nova is the story of Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole. Tickets are \$35/adults, \$30/

seniors, and available at <https://www.onthestage.tickets/show/town-players-of-new-canaan/6683833d63f94a0e4061a23a/tickets/>.

March 22

NC Color Drop

10 AM at Waveny Park
A helicopter will release 2,000 golf balls over a target at Waveny Park. Each ball will be numbered individually and the participants whose golf ball(s) land closest to the target will win one of the grand prizes below! 100% of proceeds will be donated to need-based college scholarships for NCHS graduates. Spectators are welcome. Golf balls are \$100/each and available to purchase at <https://www.nchs-sf.org/colordrop>.

BLOOD DRIVES

Friday, January 17

Stamford Church of Christ
1264 High Ridge Road
Stamford, CT 06903
8:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Norwalk Hospital
34 Maple Street
Norwalk, CT 06856
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Saturday, January 18

New Canaan Community YMCA
564 South Ave
New Canaan, CT 06840
8:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Sunday, January 19

Temple Sholom
300 East Putnam Avenue
Greenwich, CT 06830
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Monday, January 20

First Presbyterian Church
Stamford
1101 Bedford St
Stamford, CT 06905
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Tuesday, January 21

VFW
465 Riverside Avenue
Westport, CT 06880
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Friday, January 24

Wilton Library
137 Old Ridgefield Rd.
Wilton, CT 06897
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Support Services & Meetings

January 22

Alzheimer's Support Group with the Waveny LifeCare Network

2-3 PM at New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
Family members, caregivers, and friends are invited to meet for informative and supportive group sessions to help navigate changes related to memory loss and cognitive decline. This event will be facilitated by Chris DiElsi, a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) and an Alzheimer's Navigator at Waveny LifeCare Network. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-dementia-support-group-93004>.

January 29

Family Wellness Made Simple

11 AM at New Canaan Country School, Carver

Dining Hall
Dr. Raquel Harrison, a double-board-certified ER physician, Lifestyle Medicine expert, and New Canaan mom, will share actionable tips for achieving balance through better sleep, nutrition, exercise, and more. You will walk away with actionable insights to support your tween or teen's well-being. This event is free of charge. Register at www.newcanaancares.org.

February 19

Transitioning from Hospital to Subacute Care: Key Questions and Essential Information

12 PM at the Lapham Center
Know what to expect, what questions to ask and what information to gather to ensure a smooth transition when being discharged from a hospital to a skilled nursing facility for rehab. This free lunch and learn will be presented by Kathy Collins, LMSW.

Every Friday

AA Speaker Meeting
Wheelchair Access
Fridays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan
23 Park St, New Canaan

Every Saturday

AA Meeting-Sober Citizens Group
Saturdays at 9:15 AM
First Presbyterian Church
178 Oenoke Ridge Rd., New Canaan

AA Meeting-Laundry and Dry Cleaning Group

Saturdays at 10:30 AM
First Presbyterian Group
178 Oenoke Ridge, New

Canaan

Lost Then Found NA Meeting

Wheelchair Accessible
Saturdays at 7 PM
United Methodist Church (back entrance) 165 South Avenue, New Canaan

Every Monday

AA Meeting
Wheelchair Access
Mondays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan
23 Park St, New Canaan

Adult Child Al-Anon Meeting

Mondays at 12 PM
St. Mark's Church, Youth Room
111 Oenoke Ridge Rd., New Canaan

Every Tuesday

Adult Child Alanon Meeting
Tuesdays at 12 PM
St. Mark's Parish House, Conf. Room
111 Oenoke Ridge Rd., New Canaan

Every Wednesday

AA Step Meeting
Wheelchair Access
Wednesdays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan
23 Park St, New Canaan

Al-Anon Parent's & Newcomer's Mtg.

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM
Silver Hill, Jorgenson House
208 Valley Rd., New Canaan

Every Thursday

AA Big Book Meeting.

Wheelchair Access
Thursdays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan
23 Park St, New Canaan

New Canaan Parent Support Group

7- 8:30 PM
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
New Canaan

Our Neighbors

February 4

New York Philharmonic String Quartet

7:30 PM at the Ridgefield Playhouse
Attend the New York Philharmonic String Quartet in Ridgefield. The Quartet is comprised of four Principal musicians from the Orchestra: Concertmaster Frank Huang; Principal Second Violin Group Qianqian Li; Principal Viola Cynthia Phelps; and Principal Cello Carter Brey. Tickets are \$65 per person and available at <https://shorturl.at/UjTuS>.

February 23

Greenwich Town Ice Skating Competition

9 AM at Dorothy Hamill Rink, Greenwich. This year's competition promises events tailored for skaters of all levels. Categories include Snowplow Sam, Aspire, Well-Balanced, Excel, and many more, providing opportunities for participants to shine and compete for medals and special honors. Register at <https://comp.entryeeze.com/Home.aspx?cid=535>.

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CHAPTER IV

IN WHICH A Search Is Organdized, and Piglet Nearly Meets the Heffalump Again

One day when Pooh was thinking, he thought he would go and see Eeyore, because he hadn't seen him since yesterday. And as he walked through the heather, singing to himself, he suddenly remembered that he hadn't seen Owl since the day before yesterday, so he thought that he would just look in at the Hundred Acre Wood on the way and see if Owl was at home.

Well, he went on singing, until he came to the part of the stream where the stepping-stones were, and when he was in the middle of the third stone he began to wonder how Kanga and Roo and Tigger were getting on, because they all lived together in a different part of the Forest. And he thought, "I haven't seen Roo for a long time, and if I don't see him today it will be a still longer time." So he sat down on the stone in the middle of the stream, and sang another verse of his song, while he wondered what to do.

The other verse of the song was like this:

I could spend a happy morning
Seeing Roo,
I could spend a happy morning
Being Pooh.
For it doesn't seem to matter,
If I don't get any fatter
(And I don't get any fatter),
What I do.

without thinking ... until suddenly he found himself at his own front door again.

And it was eleven o'clock.

Which was Time-for-a-little-something...

Half an hour later he was doing what he had always really meant to do, he was stumping off to Piglet's house. And as he walked, he wiped his mouth with the back of his paw, and sang rather a fluffy song through the fur. It went like this:

I could spend a happy morning
Seeing Piglet.
And I couldn't spend a happy morning
Not seeing Piglet.
And it doesn't seem to matter
If I don't see Owl and Eeyore
(or any of the others),
And I'm not going to see Owl or Eeyore
(or any of the others)
Or Christopher Robin.

Written down, like this, it doesn't seem a very good song, but coming through pale fawn fluff at about half-past eleven on a very sunny morning, it seemed to Pooh to be one of the best songs he had ever sung. So he went on singing it.

Piglet was busy digging a small hole in the ground outside his house.



"Hallo, Piglet," said Pooh.

"Hallo, Pooh," said Piglet, giving a jump of surprise. "I knew it was you."

"So did I," said Pooh. "What are you doing?"

"I'm planting a haycorn, Pooh, so that it can grow up into an oak-tree, and have lots of haycorns just outside the front door instead of having to walk miles and miles, do you see, Pooh?"

"Supposing it doesn't?" said Pooh.

"It will, because Christopher Robin says it will, so that's why I'm planting it."

"Well," said Pooh, "if I plant a honeycomb outside my house, then it will grow up into a beehive."

Piglet wasn't quite sure about this.

"Or a piece of a honeycomb," said Pooh, "so as not to waste too much. Only then I might only get a piece of a beehive, and it might be the wrong piece, where the bees were buzzing and not hunnying. Bother."

Piglet agreed that that would be rather bothering.

"Besides, Pooh, it's a very difficult thing, planting unless you know how to do it," he said; and he put the acorn in the hole he had made, and covered it up with earth, and jumped on it.

"I do know," said Pooh, "because Christopher Robin gave me a mastershalum



seed, and I planted it, and I'm going to have mastershalums all over the front door."

"I thought they were called nasturtiums," said Piglet timidly, as he went on jumping.

"No," said Pooh. "Not these. These are called mastershalums."

When Piglet had finished jumping, he wiped his paws on his front, and said, "What shall we do now?" and Pooh said, "Let's go and see Kanga and Roo and Tigger," and

Piglet said, "Y-yes. L-lets"—because he was still a little anxious about Tigger, who was a Very Bouncy Animal, with a way of saying How-do-you-do, which always left your ears full of sand, even after Kanga had said, "Gently, Tigger dear," and had helped you up again. So they set off for Kanga's house.

Now it happened that Kanga had felt rather motherly that morning, and Wanting



to Count Things—like Roo's vests, and how many pieces of soap there were left, and the two clean spots in Tigger's feeder; so she had sent them out with a packet of watercress sandwiches for Roo and a packet of extract-of-malt sandwiches for Tigger, to have a nice long morning in the Forest not getting into mischief. And off they had gone.

And as they went, Tigger told Roo (who wanted to know) all about the things that



Tiggers could do.

"Can they fly?" asked Roo.

"Yes," said Tigger, "they're very good flyers, Tiggers are. Stornry good flyers."

"Oo!" said Roo. "Can they fly as well as Owl?"

"Yes," said Tigger. "Only they don't want to."

"Why don't they want to?"

"Well, they just don't like it, somehow."

Roo couldn't understand this, because he thought it would be lovely to be able to fly, but Tigger said it was difficult to explain to anybody who wasn't a Tigger himself.

"Well," said Roo, "can they jump as far as Kangas?"

"Yes," said Tigger. "When they want to."

"I love jumping," said Roo. "Let's see who can jump farthest, you or me."

"I can," said Tigger. "But we mustn't stop now, or we shall be late."

"Late for what?"

"For whatever we want to be in time for," said Tigger, hurrying on.

In a little while they came to the Six Pine Trees.

"I can swim," said Roo. "I fell into the river, and I swam. Can Tiggers swim?"

"Of course they can. Tiggers can do everything."

"Can they climb trees better than Pooh?" asked Roo, stopping under the tallest Pine Tree, and looking up at it.

"Climbing trees is what they do best," said Tigger. "Much better than Poohs."

"Could they climb this one?"

"They're always climbing trees like that," said Tigger. "Up and down all day."

"Oo, Tigger, are they really?"

"I'll show you," said Tigger bravely, "and you can sit on my back and watch me." For of all the things which he had said Tiggers could do, the only one he felt really certain about suddenly was climbing trees.

"Oo, Tigger, oo, Tigger, oo, Tigger!" squeaked Roo excitedly.

So he sat on Tigger's back and up they went.

And for the first ten feet Tigger said



The sun was so delightfully warm, and the stone, which had been sitting in it for a long time, was so warm, too, that Pooh had almost decided to go on being Pooh in the middle of the stream for the rest of the morning, when he remembered Rabbit.

"Rabbit," said Pooh to himself. "I like talking to Rabbit. He talks about sensible things. He doesn't use long, difficult words, like Owl. He uses short, easy words, like 'What about lunch?' and 'Help yourself, Pooh.' I suppose really, I ought to go and see Rabbit."

Which made him think of another verse:

Oh, I like his way of talking,
Yes, I do.
It's the nicest way of talking
Just for two.
And a Help-yourself with Rabbit
Though it may become a habit,
Is a pleasant sort of habit
For a Pooh.

So when he had sung this, he got up off his stone, walked back across the stream, and set off for Rabbit's house.

But he hadn't got far before he began to say to himself:

"Yes, but suppose Rabbit is out?"

"Or suppose I get stuck in his front door again, coming out, as I did once when his front door wasn't big enough?"

"Because I know I'm not getting fatter, but his front door may be getting thinner."

"So wouldn't it be better if——"

And all the time he was saying things like this he was going more and more westerly,

happily to himself, "Up we go!"

And for the next ten feet he said:

"I always said Tiggers could climb trees."

And for the next ten feet he said:

"Not that it's easy, mind you."

And for the next ten feet he said:

"Of course, there's the coming-down too. Backwards."

And then he said:

"Which will be difficult ...

"Unless one fell ...

"when it would be ...

"EASY."

And at the word "easy" the branch he was standing on broke suddenly, and he just managed to clutch at the one above him as he felt himself going ... and then slowly he got his chin over it ... and then one back paw ... and then the other ... until at last he was sitting on it, breathing very quickly, and wishing that he had gone in for swimming instead.

Roo climbed off, and sat down next to him.

"Oo, Tigger," he said excitedly, "are we at the top?"

"No," said Tigger.

"Are we going to the top?"

"No," said Tigger.

"Oh!" said Roo rather sadly. And then he went on hopefully: "That was a lovely bit just now, when you pretended we were going to fall-bump-to-the-bottom, and we didn't. Will you do that bit again?"

"NO," said Tigger.

Roo was silent for a little while, and then he said, "Shall we eat our sandwiches, Tigger?" And Tigger said, "Yes, where are they?" And Roo said, "At the bottom of the tree." And Tigger said, "I don't think we'd better eat them just yet." So they didn't.

By and by Pooh and Piglet came along. Pooh was telling Piglet in a singing voice that it didn't seem to matter, if he didn't get any fatter, and he didn't think he was getting any fatter, what he did; and Piglet was wondering how long it would be before his haycorn came up.

"Look, Pooh!" said Piglet suddenly. "There's something in ... one of the Pine Trees."

"So

there is!" said Pooh, looking up wonderingly. "There's an Animal."

Piglet took Pooh's arm, in case Pooh was frightened.

"Is it One of the Fiercer Animals?" he said, looking the other way.

Pooh nodded.

"It's a Jagular," he said.

"What do Jagulars do?" asked Piglet, hoping that they wouldn't.

"They hide in the branches of trees, and drop on you as you go underneath," said Pooh. "Christopher Robin told me."

"Perhaps we better hadn't go underneath, Pooh. In case he dropped and hurt himself."

"They don't hurt themselves," said Pooh. "They're such very good droppers."

Piglet still felt that to be underneath a Very Good Dropper would be a Mistake, and he was just going to hurry back for something which he had forgotten when the Jagular called out to them.

"Help! Help!" it called.

"That's what Jagulars always do," said Pooh, much interested. "They call 'Help! Help!' and then when you look up, they drop on you."

"I'm looking down," cried Piglet loudly, so as the Jagular shouldn't do the wrong thing by accident.

Something very excited next to the Jagular heard him, and squeaked:

"Pooh and Piglet! Pooh and Piglet!"

All of a sudden Piglet felt that it was a much nicer day than he had thought it was. All warm and sunny—

"Pooh!" he cried. "I believe it's Tigger and Roo!"

"So it is," said Pooh. "I thought it was a Jagular and another Jagular."

"Hallo, Roo!" called Piglet. "What are you doing?"

"We can't get down, we can't get down!" cried Roo. "Isn't it fun? Pooh, isn't it fun, Tigger and I are living in a tree, like Owl, and we're going to stay here for ever and ever. I can see Piglet's house. Piglet, I can see your house from here. Aren't we high? Is Owl's house as high up as this?"

"How did you get there, Roo?" asked Piglet.

"On Tigger's back! And Tiggers can't climb downwards, because their tails get in the way, only upwards, and Tigger forgot about that when we started, and he's only just remembered. So we've got to stay here for ever and ever—unless we go higher. What did you say, Tigger? Oh, Tigger says if we go higher we shan't be able to see Piglet's house so well, so we're going to stop here."

"Piglet," said Pooh solemnly, when he had heard all this, "what shall we do?" And he began to eat Tigger's sandwiches.

"Are they stuck?" asked Piglet anxiously.

Pooh nodded.

"Couldn't you climb up to them?"

"I might, Piglet, and I might bring Roo down on my back, but I couldn't bring Tigger down. So we must think of something else." And in a thoughtful way he began to eat Roo's sandwiches, too.

Whether he would have thought of anything before he had finished the last sandwich, I don't know, but he had just got to the last but one when there was a crackling in the bracken, and Christopher Robin and Eeyore came strolling along together.

"I shouldn't be surprised if it hailed a good deal tomorrow," Eeyore was saying. "Blizzards and what-not. Being fine today doesn't Mean Anything. It has no sig—what's that word? Well, it has none of that. It's just a small piece of weather."

"There's Pooh!" said Christopher Robin, who didn't much mind what it did tomorrow, as long as he was out in it. "Hallo, Pooh!"

"It's Christopher Robin!" said Piglet. "He'll know what to do."

They hurried up to him.

"Oh, Christopher Robin," began Pooh.

"And Eeyore," said Eeyore.

"Tigger and Roo are right up the Six Pine Trees, and they can't get down, and——"

"And I was just saying," put in Piglet, "that if only Christopher Robin——"

"And Eeyore——"

"If only you were here, then we could think of

something to do."

Christopher Robin looked up at Tigger and Roo, and tried to think of something.

"I thought," said Piglet earnestly, "that if Eeyore stood at the bottom of the tree, and if Pooh stood on Eeyore's back, and if I stood on Pooh's

shoulders——"

"And if Eeyore's back snapped suddenly, then we could all laugh. Ha ha! Amusing in a quiet way," said Eeyore, "but not really helpful."

"Well," said Piglet meekly, "I thought——"

"Would it break your back, Eeyore?" asked Pooh, very much surprised.

"That's what would be so interesting, Pooh. Not being quite sure till afterwards."

Pooh said "Oh!" and they all began to think again.

"I've got an idea!" cried Christopher Robin suddenly.

"Listen to this, Piglet," said Eeyore, "and then you'll know what we're trying to do."

"I'll take off my tunic and we'll each hold a corner, and then Roo and Tigger can jump into it, and it will be all soft and bouncy for them, and they won't hurt themselves."

"Getting Tigger down," said Eeyore, "and Not hurting anybody. Keep those two ideas in your head, Piglet, and you'll be all right."

But Piglet wasn't listening, he was so agog at the thought of seeing Christopher Robin's blue braces again. He had only seen them once before, when he was much younger, and, being a little over-excited by them, had had to go to bed half an hour earlier than usual; and he had always wondered since if they were really as blue and as bracing as he had thought them. So when Christopher Robin took his tunic off, and they were, he felt quite friendly to Eeyore again, and held the corner of the tunic next to him and smiled happily at him. And Eeyore whispered back: "I'm not saying there won't be an Accident now, mind you. They're funny things, Accidents. You never have them till you're having them."

When Roo understood what he had to do, he was wildly excited, and cried out: "Tigger, Tigger, we're going to jump! Look at me jumping, Tigger! Like flying, my jumping will be. Can Tiggers do it?" And he squeaked out: "I'm coming, Christopher Robin!" and he jumped—straight into the middle of the tunic. And he was going so fast that he bounced up again almost as high as where he was before—and went on bouncing and saying, "Oo!" for quite a long time—and then at last he stopped and said, "Oo, lovely!" And they put him on the ground.

"Come on, Tigger," he called out. "It's easy."

But Tigger was holding on to the branch and saying to himself: "It's all very well for Jumping Animals like Kangas, but it's quite different for Swimming Animals like Tiggers." And he thought of himself floating on his back down a river, or striking out from one island to another, and he felt that that was really the life for a Tigger.

"Come along," called Christopher Robin. "You'll be all right."

"Just wait a moment," said Tigger nervously. "Small piece of bark in my eye." And he moved slowly along his branch.

"Come on, it's easy!" squeaked Roo. And suddenly Tigger found how easy it was.

"Ow!" he shouted as the tree flew past him.

"Look out!" cried Christopher Robin to the others.

There was a crash, and a tearing noise, and a confused heap of everybody on the ground.

Christopher Robin and Pooh and Piglet picked themselves up first, and then they picked Tigger up, and underneath everybody else was Eeyore.

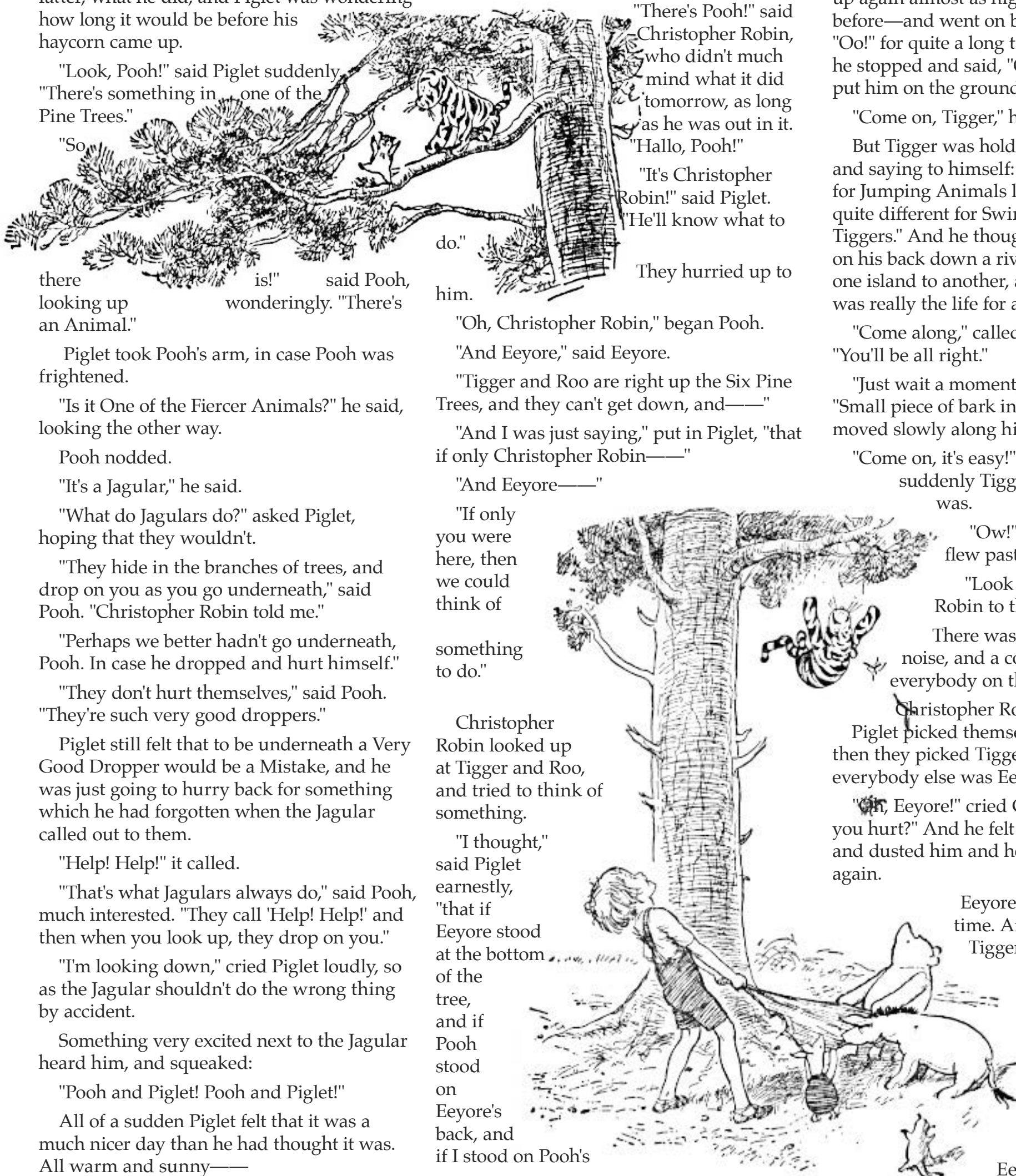
"Oh, Eeyore!" cried Christopher Robin. "Are you hurt?" And he felt him rather anxiously, and dusted him and helped him to stand up again.

Eeyore said nothing for a long time. And then he said: "Is Tigger there?"

Tigger was there, feeling Bouncy again already.

"Yes," said Christopher Robin. "Tigger's here."

"Well, just thank him for me," said Eeyore.





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Sudoku for Kids

	2		4	4			3	3		1					3
3		1	2		3	4			4		3	4		2	
	1	4			2		4	4	1				2		4
	3		1	3		1	2		3	4		3		1	

SUDOKU

Each row, column, nonet can contain each number only once. Answers below.

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

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

Very Hard								
				1				
		5		2		7		
	2	9	3			1	8	
						6		
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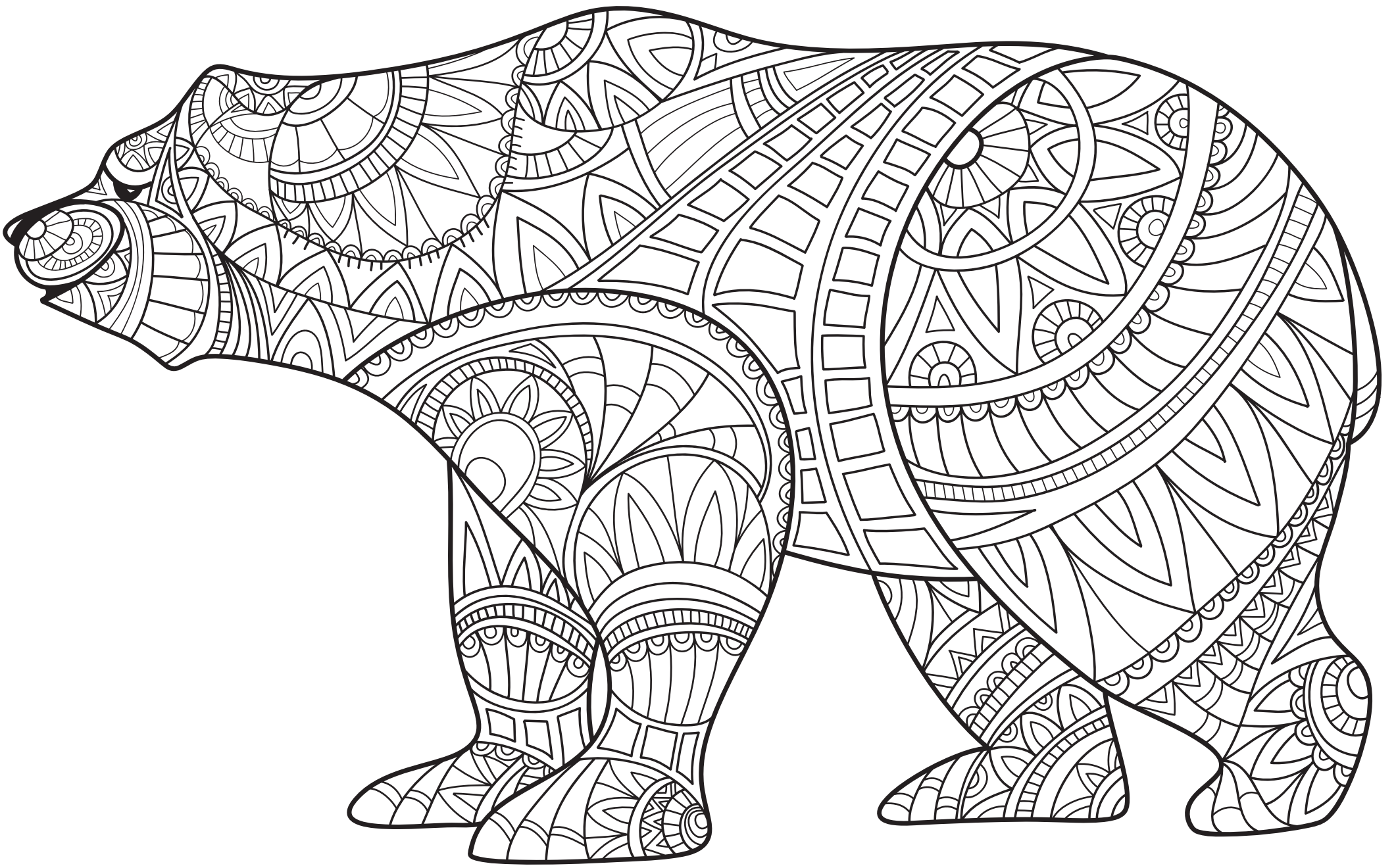
Easy								
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Hard								
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Very Hard								
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Sudoku answers

Bottom row - Very Hard	4 8 5 9 2 1 3 6 7	Bottom row - Hard	5 9 8 7 6 2 1 3 4	Bottom row - Easy	3 6 8 7 5 9 4 1 2	Top row - Very Hard	7 8 4 9 1 6 3 5 2	Top row - Hard	7 3 9 6 4 5 2 8 1	Top row - Easy	4 8 2 5 3 6 7 9 1
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Fill in the blanks with correct prepositions from the box

on near next to behind under



The owl is _____ the bed.
 The ball is _____ the table.
 The gift is _____ the dog.
 The dog is _____ the table.
 The ball is _____ the bag.
 The cat is hiding _____ the bed.
 The bag is _____ the table.



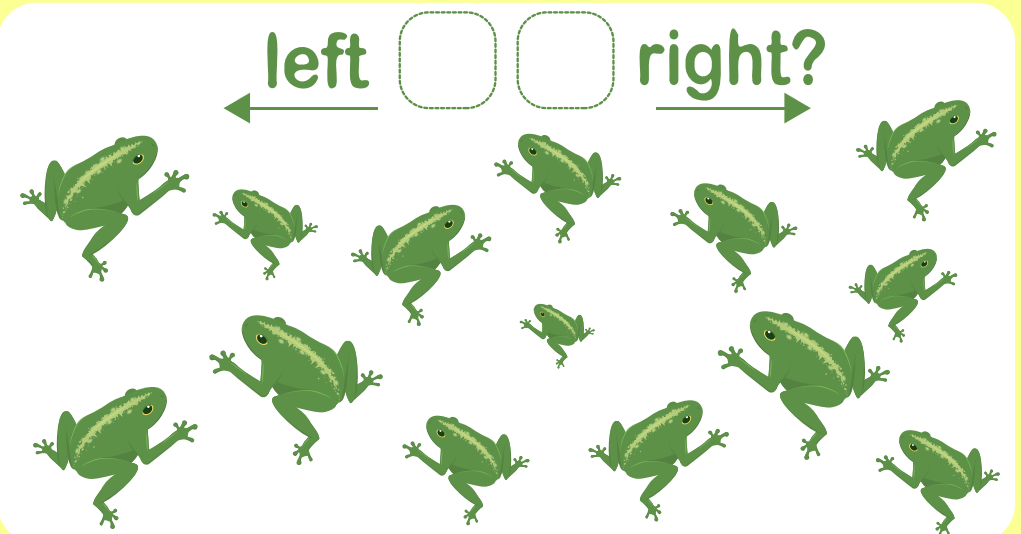
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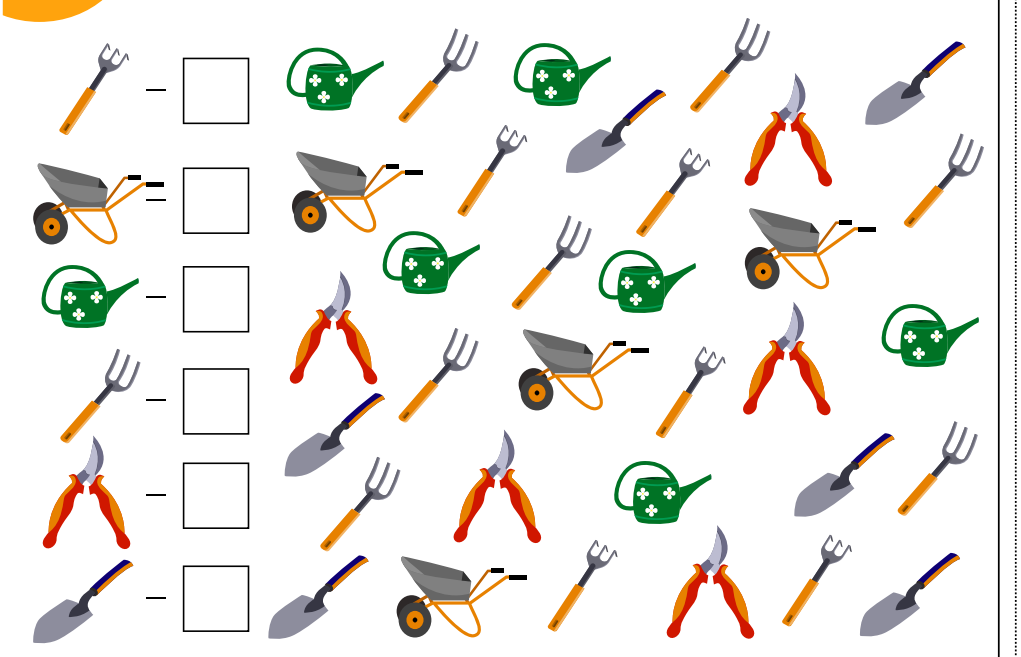
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A=1	F=6	K=11
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E=5	J=10	O=15
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Q=17	Y=22	
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S=19	X=24	
T=20	Y=25	

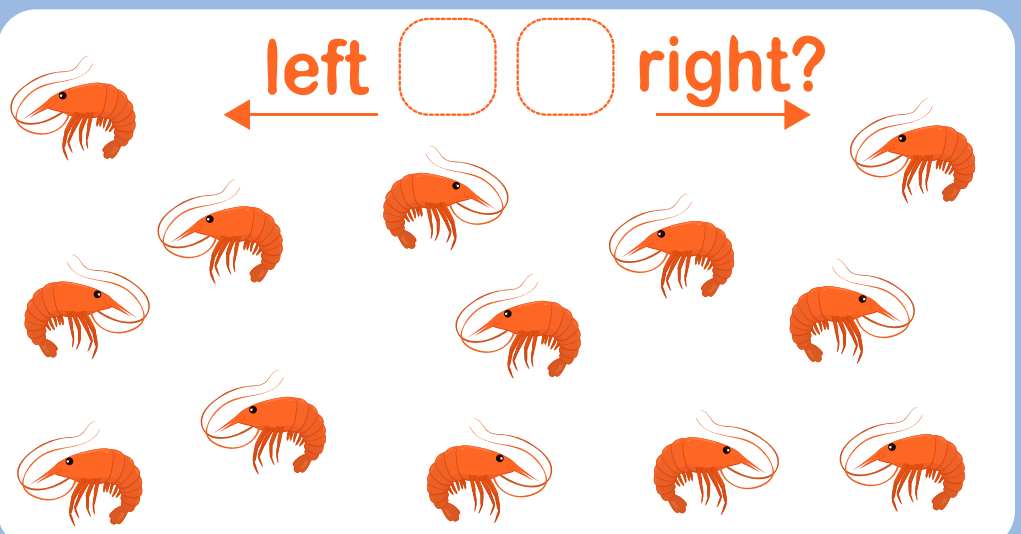
How many to the left? How many to the right?



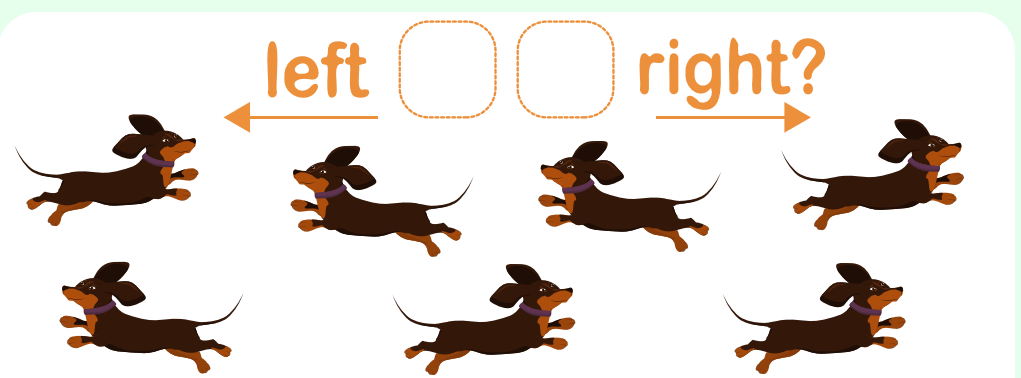
for kids HOW MANY?



How many to the left? How many to the right?



How many to the left? How many to the right?



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Inauguration

What Happens During a Presidential Inauguration?

The presidential inauguration is an exciting day when a new President of the United States officially begins their job. This special ceremony happens every four years on January 20 and has a long history dating back to the first U.S. President, George Washington, in 1789.

What Is an Inauguration?

An inauguration is like a big welcome party where the new president takes an oath, or promise, to lead the country the best they can. The words of the oath come from the U.S. Constitution and are always the same. The president promises to "faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States" and to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution."

Once the president says these words, they officially take office. Whether it's a grand event or a simpler one during tough times, the inauguration always marks the beginning of a new chapter for the nation.

A Tradition Full of History

The first inauguration happened in New York City, which was

the capital of the United States in 1789. George Washington stood on a balcony and took the oath in front of cheering crowds. He began a tradition that has continued for over 230 years.

Some inaugural speeches are so powerful that their words are remembered forever. In 1865, Abraham Lincoln gave his second inaugural address during the Civil War, saying, "With malice toward none, with charity for all... let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds."

In 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke to a nation suffering from the Great Depression. He reassured Americans with the famous line, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

John F. Kennedy's 1961 inaugural speech inspired the nation when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

In 1981, Ronald Reagan's address emphasized hope and unity, stating, "We are too great a nation to limit ourselves to small dreams."

Barack Obama, in his 2009 inaugural address, reminded the country of its strength, saying, "Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America."

The Ceremony Today

The modern inauguration happens on the steps of the U.S.

Capitol in Washington, D.C., and millions of people watch it on TV or online. After taking the oath, the president gives a speech to share their plans for the future. There is often a parade, musical performances, and celebrations like an inaugural ball.

Even when the nation faces challenges, like a pandemic or political disagreements, the inauguration is a time for Americans to come together and celebrate democracy.

What to Expect This January

On January 20, the next president will take the oath of office, just as every president has for over 230 years. The event will include speeches and possibly performances from famous musicians, but some changes might happen to keep everyone safe.

You can watch the inauguration with your family on TV or online. It's a chance to see history in action and learn about how our country welcomes new leaders.

Why It Matters

Inauguration Day is about more than one person—it's about the peaceful transfer of power and the country's commitment to democracy. As Ronald Reagan once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." The inauguration reminds everyone, even kids, that leadership is an important responsibility and that every generation has a role to play in shaping the future.

CODEBREAKER WORD PUZZLE

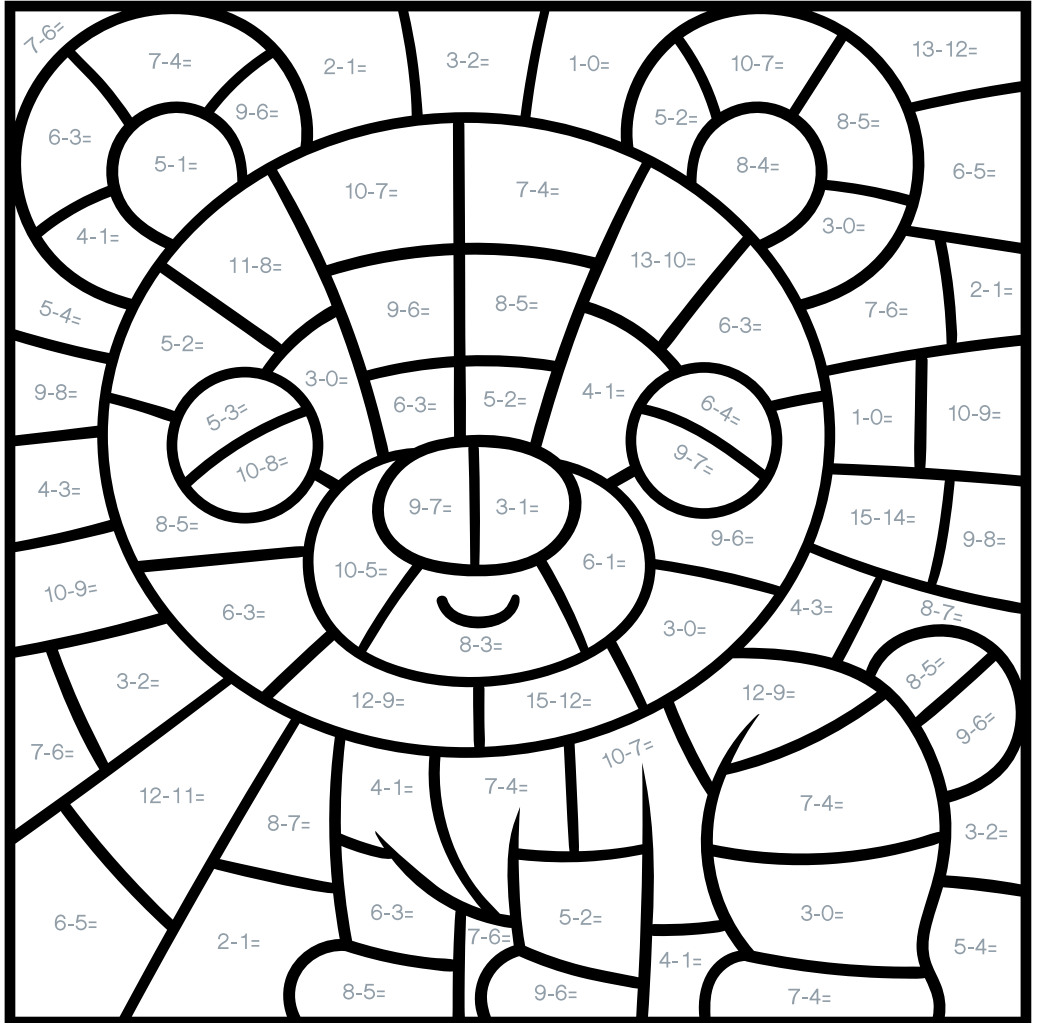
The same number represents the same letter. Crack the code and fill the grid. To help you get started some words are already in place.






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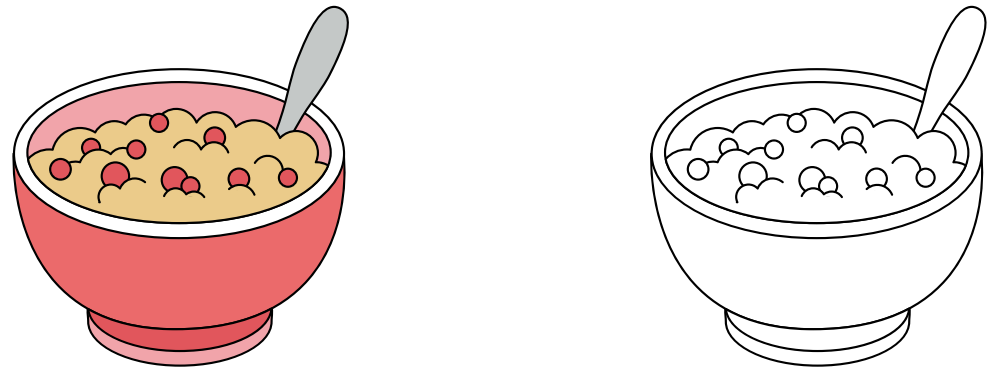
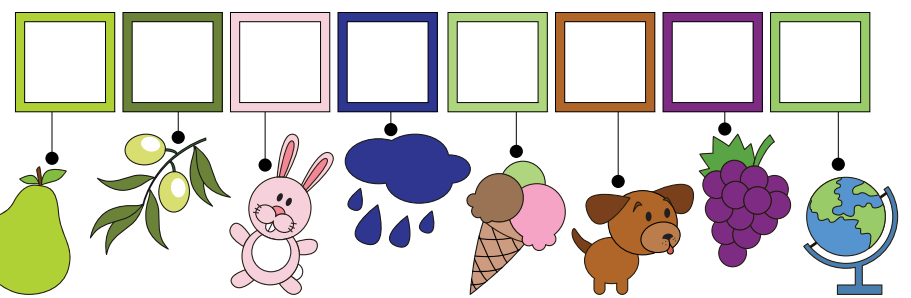
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

ANSWER: 1=A, 2=M, 3=M, 4=B, 5=P, 6=S, 7=E, 8=N, 9=L, 10=L, 11=L, 12=G, 13=R, 14=H, 15=C, 16=J, 17=T, 18=K, 19=W, 20=D, 21=X, 22=Z, 23=F, 24=U, 25=Y, 26=Q.

COLOR BY SUBTRACTION



 BLUE = 1	 BROWN = 3
 BLACK = 2	 PINK = 4
	 WHITE = 5



WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

MINI GAME FOR KIDS

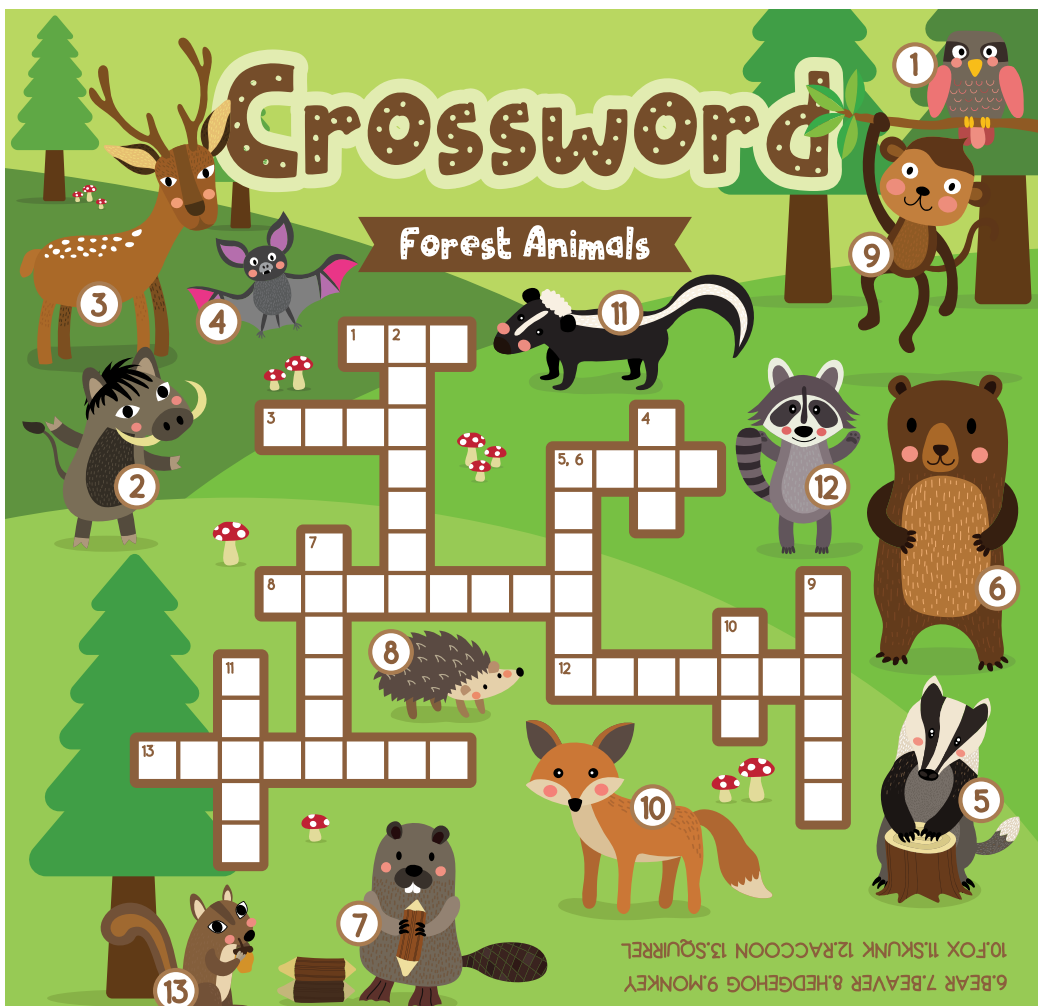
FOREST ANIMALS



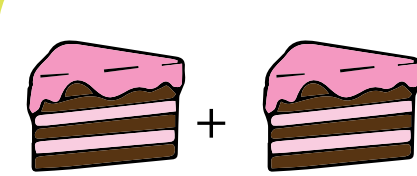
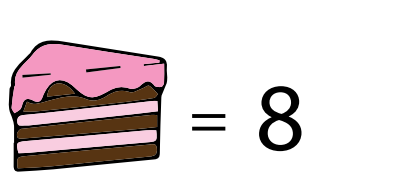
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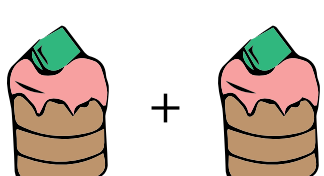
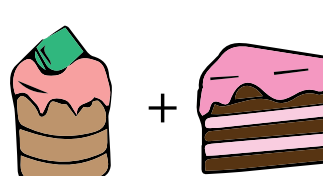
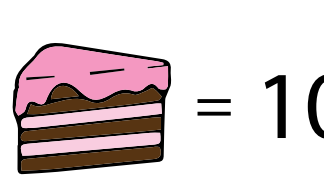
Crossword



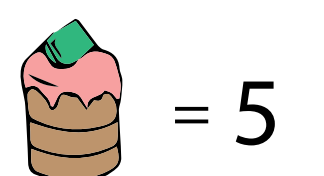
Forest Animals

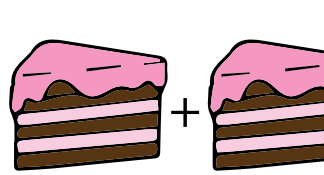
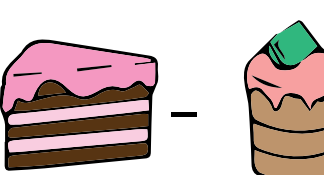
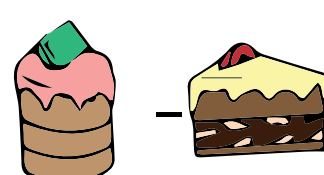
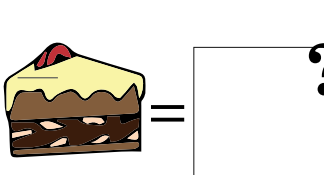


LOWL 2WARTHOG 3DEER 4BAT 5BADGER
6BEAR 7BEAVER 8HEDGEHOG 9MONKEY
10FOX 11SKUNK 12RACCOON 13SQUIRREL

 +  = 8

 +  +  = 10

 +  +  = 5

 +  -  -  = ?

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg

- ACROSS 1 In unison 6 Indonesian tourist destination 10 Salon sound 14 E-cigarette user 15 "Die Hard" actor Rickman 16 Lounge around 17 Geographic area around the South Pole 20 "Really?!" 21 Crash investigators? 22 Dream Team jersey letters 23 Polo shirt brand 25 Fitting 27 Outfielder's highlight reel play 33 Palindromic Indian flour Chimpanzee, e.g. 37 In ___ of (replacing) 38 Blameless person's feeling 42 Feathery fashion statements 43 Pop star Rita 44 Concert hall section 45 Its door always opens at 9 a.m. 49 ___ Kosh B'gosh 50 Reliably profitable product

- 28 Waterway through Panama 29 Shipping company 30 Instant, briefly 31 Gospel's Winans 32 Color 33 Baseball's Moises or Felipe 34 Pot covers for afternoon socials 35 To-do list items 38 Network with national "Hockey Night" broadcasts 39 Sound from a baby or dove 40 "The Lord of the Rings" menace 41 Varieties 46 "Crazy to run into you here!" 47 Atlantic and Pacific, for two 48 Math class after trig 51 Kosher : Judaism :: ___ : Islam 52 Santa ___ (man with a prominent list) 53 Offer a take 54 "I'm Every ___" (Chaka Khan hit) 55 Ponzi scheme, say 56 Name hidden in "Her Majesty" 58 Tennis server's stat 59 Zilch 60 Whole lot 63 Explosive letters 64 Exec focused on money

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

Grid with previous puzzle answers: MADRID, SLAB, ETC, ARIANA, CANE, SHH, CROW, NROASTS, CEO, HON, SKIRSTEAKS, OWNS, LSD, ELLIE, SEEMLY, RADIANT, TEA, AOL, TKO, FASHIONPLATES, SON, LUGORE, TREERATTWEEPS, EMC, EELAH, SIPS, WEDGES, SALADS, GIN, PRO, BOWTIEPASTA, ALT, OREO, EASTER, NYE, KEDS, MRHYDE

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Fore-sees by Drew Schenner

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-70 indicating starting points for clues.

Horoscopes

This week, Mercury in Capricorn sextiles Venus in Pisces on Sunday, creating a harmonious atmosphere for social gatherings, celebrations, and creative pursuits. This alignment enhances opportunities for meaningful connections. As the Sun enters Aquarius on January 19th, it ushers in a period of innovation and intellectual exploration.

Aries - Aries, for you, this week marks a period of heightened potential for planning and envisioning the future. Aries may find this an opportune time for focused reflection and goal setting.

Taurus - The sun moving into Aquarius marks a four-week period favorable for career advancement and business growth, Taurus. This shift provides opportunities to secure a promotion, transition to a better role, or expand a business.

Gemini - The sun moves into Aquarius, is initiating a four-week period focused on exploration and learning for you, Gemini. This is an ideal time for intellectual pursuits, as new interests or subjects may capture attention.

Cancer - Cancer, the sun moving into Aquarius brings you opportunities for financial growth, including business income, investments, and family gifts. Over the next four weeks, it's a good time to review your financial portfolio.

Leo - The sun entering Aquarius marks a four-week period that may present opportunities to expand social and professional networks, Leo. During this time, there may be chances to connect with influential people, potential business partners, and possibly romantic interests.

Virgo - This week emphasizes the benefits of social connections and personal progress. The sun entering Aquarius this week marks a four-week period for addressing challenges, improving habits, and making meaningful strides in well-being.

Libra - On Sunday, January 19, the sun moves into Aquarius, beginning a four-week phase that encourages creativity and strengthens connections with family, especially children.

Aquarius - This week you welcome the sun in your sign, Aquarius! This move marks the beginning of a four-week period focused on exponential growth through new experiences.

Pisces - The sun shifting into Aquarius this week could provide a time for personal growth, clarity, and the opportunity to release past negative emotions and limiting beliefs.

FAMILY TIME Crossword The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Parker

- ACROSS 1. Grooves to pop music 5. (K) ___, Crackle and Pop (Rice Krispies mascots) 9. (K) Receive ownership of 12. (K) Region 13. (K) Throw a baseball with force 14. (K) Produce an egg 15. Any lived-in home 17. (K) Biblical flood vessel 18. Funky dance 19. (K) Part of a suitcase 21. (K) Sound enhancer for an electric guitar 22. Envy or pride, for example 23. Talk 26. Cancel a choice 31. It can cause one's head to swell

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle? Finish to a singles match? Look for the answer in next week's paper.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER grid with solutions: HUSBAND, UNTO, GOAL, ENRICH, SEED, SEED, IRRESPECTABLE, PASTOR, CREDIT, ALPHABET, MOOSE, MAPPING, ONE

Previous riddle answer: It can be well-placed? 29-A) PAIL

11x11 crossword grid for Family Time puzzle with numbers 1-31 and the words HUSBAND, UNTO, GOAL, ENRICH, SEED, SEED, IRRESPECTABLE, PASTOR, CREDIT, ALPHABET, MOOSE, MAPPING, ONE.

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

- CLUES 1 intense (9) 2 largest deer family member (5) 3 casual outfit (9) 4 hive workers (9) 5 following a crooked path (10) 6 takes a break (8) 7 tool for "plumbing" (5)

Word bank grid with letters: LEV, STR, FUL, GZA, UIT, EYB, ING, ATS, ES, MOO, ESS, SE, GG, ESS, ZI, SWE, EL, EES, HON, REC

Previous Answers: 1. BOMBING 2. SEARED 3. RENEGADE 4. INGRAINED 5. GLIMMERING 6. ANTIBODIES 7. PROPOSAL 8/24

The answers to this week's puzzles can be found in next week's issue. www.GreenwichSentinel.com/subscribe www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/subscribe

The Sentinel Educational Pages

COLUMN | WILDLY SUCCESSFUL: THE AMERICAN BLACK BEAR

We Should All Nap Like the American Black Bear

By JIM KNOX

As we reflect on all of that calorie-rich holiday food, and shiver at the mere thought of the mercury plunging outside our windows, we feel the beckoning of the couch and a long-awaited winter's nap. If this notion appeals to you—I'm right there with you, and... we're not alone. In fact, someone who likely shares our view, is a fellow Connecticut resident and periodic Greenwich guest star, the American Black Bear.

The American Black Bear, *Ursus americanus*, is Connecticut's only bear and the sole representative of the bear family in the Eastern United States. Reaching lengths of 6.5 feet and weights of up to 650 pounds (with some huge males far exceeding this range), the Black Bear is no lightweight. Though classified as a carnivore, these bears are highly opportunistic omnivores and accordingly thrive throughout The Nutmeg State. Stocking up on calories, shunning winter's frigid grasp and snoozing through the lean months is more than a pleasant notion, it's a proven survival strategy which has served bears well for 30 million years.

While many of our resident species such as Red-tailed Hawks and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds migrate great distances to access plentiful food resources over the sparse New England winter months, Black Bears—lacking the ability to “take wing”, have adopted a highly-efficient survival strategy of their own. These bruins undergo a cold weather rest phase we colloquially call hibernation. Specifically, the bears enter a particular form of hibernation known as torpor. This enables them to vastly slow their metabolism to conserve precious energy released from accumulated energy-storing fat. With respiration rates as low as one breath per minute and heart rates as low as three beats per minute, we're talking slow here.

Yet this remarkable physiological phenomenon is only possible through several key adaptations. At the conclusion of their all-consuming (I mean that literally), calorie-stocking foraging known as hyperphagia, Black Bears defecate and then groom their fur, consuming



Black bear getting ready to hibernate.

This amazing metabolic survival strategy is all predicated on one premise, gathering enough food to fuel to the process.

the fur along with indigestible plant roughage from their bedding such as leaves, bark and grasses. This roughage forms what is known as a fecal plug (nature's road to efficiency often takes a detour through “gross”). This plug prevents the bear from fouling itself within its den during its long winter slumber. In practice, if the bears can forage well enough to build sufficient fat layers, and can find a denning location which affords them seclusion and some degree of shelter, they can enter the astoundingly deep sleep of torpor for months to come—without the need to eat, drink, or pass waste. When the weather warms sufficiently and food abounds, the bears awake and immediately resume foraging to once again sustain their huge

bodies. This amazing metabolic survival strategy is all predicated on one premise, gathering enough food to fuel to the process. Mother Nature has equipped bears with the overriding instinctual drive to forage, or search for food items utilizing their senses—especially their legendary sense of smell. I tend to think of bears as stomachs, equipped with teeth and claws, steered by a nose. A Black Bear's sense of smell is so keen it can detect the nutritious honey and bee brood of a beehive from more than a mile away, and apples ripening in an orchard up to five miles away! I'm proud when I can detect my wife's Toll House cookies baking from two rooms away.

Due to the protection and regrowth of our Connecticut forests and the maturation of their nut production, known as mast, wildlife populations in The Nutmeg State have rebounded. When Gray squirrel and Wild turkey populations expand, our state's top land predator reaps the rewards. Further bolstered by improved land use and conservation practices statewide, the bears have responded. As

a child, I desperately hoped to see a bear during meadow hikes at Greenwich Audubon or beneath the Hemlocks of Mianus River Gorge. Extirpated, or extinct throughout their former range in Connecticut for decades, the Black Bear population has grown from a handful of bears in the 1980's to a conservative 800 bruins in 2020. As a key species which provides essential ecological

balance, this is good news. Yet this good news comes with the challenge and the responsibility of coexisting peacefully with these magnificent creatures. Bear awareness keeps both humans and bears safe, and it takes many forms. From feeding your pets inside, to restricting bird feeding to bear hibernation months, to knowing how to react when encountering a Black Bear in the wild, or in your yard, bear awareness is essential. For more information on bear awareness in Connecticut, access the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's website: www.ct.gov/deep.

Nature constantly offers us lessons. They're invaluable, they're free and they don't expire. In the American Black Bear, we have a creature which accesses resources as they become available, conserves energy in times of scarcity and adapts its behavioral patterns to be in concert with the world around it. At its essence, this is a strategy which has served a fellow species quite well for 30 million years. I believe it's worthy of a closer look, and perhaps, a little emulation.

Jim Knox is Curator of Education at Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo where he directs education and conservation initiatives to advance the protection of wildlife in Connecticut and beyond.

