



The Lakeville Journal

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



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Housatonic Valley Regional High School salutatorian Alexa Meach, left, and valedictorian Ibbey Sadeh.

Sadeh and Meach named valedictorian, salutatorian at HVRHS

By Ruth Epstein

scholastic honors.

FALLS VILLAGE — The top-ranking students in the class of 2026 at Housatonic Valley Regional High School attribute a great deal of their success to the dedicated teachers they've had over the last four years.

Valedictorian Ibbey Sadeh and salutatorian Alexa Meach emphasized during a recent interview the important role many of the educators played in helping them achieve

"We had great teachers," said Sadeh, 17. "They were very approachable." Sadeh, of Falls Village, and the daughter of Jaimie and Shamu Sadeh, is an alum of Lee H. Kellogg School, graduating in a class of nine. "It was definitely a weird transition coming into a class of 85, but all the freshmen teachers were so nice."

She also said surrounding

See HOUSATONIC, Page A12

POCKETS OF POVERTY Many Northwest Corner households struggle despite region's affluence

By Debra A. Aleksinas

Janet Lynn has lived her entire life in Lakeville.

At 84, the lifelong resident carefully plans her errands around trips outside the Northwest Corner — driving to Torrington, where groceries and gasoline cost less, and stretching each tank of gas long enough to refill it when she visits her daughter in Harwinton.

"People don't understand," Lynn said. "The prices here are geared to the rich."

Like thousands of residents across Northwest Connecticut, Lynn falls into a category economists call ALICE — households that earn above the federal poverty line but still struggle to afford the basic cost of living.

ALICE — short for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed — describes households whose incomes are too high to qualify for many public benefits but still too low to reliably cover necessities such as housing, food, transportation and health care.

Lynn was born at Sharon Hospital and has spent all her 84 years in the Lakeville section of Salisbury, on property once owned by her parents.

"But I'm struggling to stay here,"

See POVERTY, Page A12

Pockets of Poverty: A Northwest Corner Series

Poverty in the Northwest Corner doesn't define an entire town. Instead, it exists in quieter pockets — apartments above storefronts, income-restricted housing and older homes where seniors and working residents struggle to keep pace with rising costs.

Pockets of Poverty is a series examining where financial hardship exists in Region One towns, what is driving it and how communities are responding.



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Volunteers Letitia Garcia-Tripp and her son, Silas Tripp, a senior at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, unpack boxes of produce at The Corner Food Pantry in Lakeville as dozens of cars line up before the nonprofit pantry opens on a recent frigid Saturday morning.

Lakeville Journal earns top honors at New England newspaper awards

By Christian Murray

of remembrance.

The Lakeville Journal earned several top honors at the New England Newspaper and Press Association's annual spring conference on March 16 for its work in journalism, community engagement and audience outreach.

Among the awards, the organization received first place in the Community and Audience Engagement category for its high school journalism program. The program, launched in April 2025 with funding support from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, 21st Century Fund and individual donors, teaches professional journalism to students at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and launched the student newspaper HVRHS Today.

The paper also earned first place in the Human Interest category for Natalia Zukerman's story, "Bearing Witness at Auschwitz," a personal account examining the legacy of the Holocaust and the importance

Additional honors included second place for Fundraising Strategy, second place for Outstanding Newsletter for the paper's "What To Do" newsletter, and second place for Newspaper Event for the community Street Fair.

Publisher James H. Clark said the awards reflect the organization's belief that strong local news is the foundation of a strong community.

"These honors recognize the strength of our local reporting, our commitment to meaningful engagement and the deep connection we have to the communities we serve," Clark said. "I'm proud of the work our team does every day to serve our readers and keep our communities connected."

The high school journalism initiative was designed as a bottom-up program that gives students broad latitude to shape the publication's voice, design and coverage. A team

See AWARDS, Page A12

Lakeville bot-builder gears up for regional competition

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — During his spring break, William Sellery, a senior at Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania, spent hours inside the Methodist Church hall in Lakeville testing and troubleshooting a competition robot.

Sellery, the captain of Mercersburg's robotics team, was preparing for the Eastern Pennsylvania Regional competition — a key qualifying event for the international championship scheduled for April in St. Louis.

On Thursday, March 12, he put the robot through its paces on a practice course that filled most of



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

William Sellery, of Lakeville, tests his robot ahead of the Eastern Pennsylvania Regional competition scheduled for April.

the church hall.

He directed the robot to a structure holding brightly colored, multi-sided objects slightly smaller than a softball.

The robot first gathered the balls

using a complicated system of wheels.

"And a lot of rubber bands and zip ties," Sellery said.

The robot then moved to the

See ROBOTICS, Page A12



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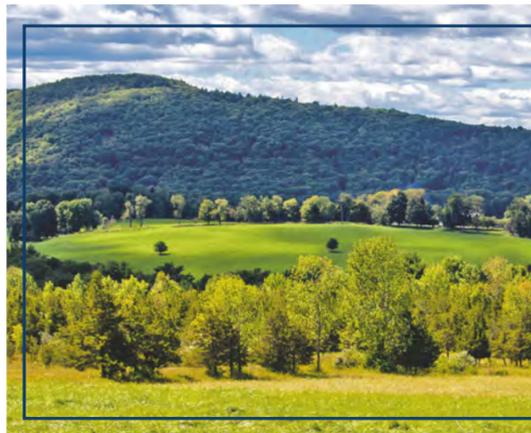
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Our Towns

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Online This Week

Bingo benefits Sharon Center School class trip
Approximately \$1,900 was raised March 13.
More at lakevillejournal.com

POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

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

Protective Order Violation

On March 10, troopers arrested Nicholas Plouffe, 36, of Sharon, on an active warrant charging him with violating a protective order. Plouffe was released on a \$25,000 cash bond and was scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court the next morning for his arraignment.

The Lakeville Journal will publish the outcome of police charges. Send mail to P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039, Attn: Police Blotter, or send to editor@lakevillejournal.com

North Canaan smoke shop owner arrested on drug charges

By Alec Linden

NORTH CANAAN — The owner of the smoke shop Smoker's Choice was arrested on March 11 for allegedly selling recreational marijuana products without a license from his East Main Street store.

Town Resident Trooper Spencer Bronson, who coordinated the enforcement effort, shared an official Facebook post on March 14 announcing that Mohammad Rahman, 47, of Litchfield had been taken into custody.

The arrest follows an investigation into the business that began with an unannounced search of the store on Jan. 16 which yielded several pounds of illegal cannabis products.

The charges against Rahman are for possession of illicit substances of over 1 kilogram with intent to sell, and for operating a drug factory — the statutory term for any place where drug packaging products are found.

The initial investigation was reportedly instigated due to complaints from residents that illegal merchandise was being sold on the premises, as well as concern that age identification was not being adequately checked.

Multiple "high THC" products, exceeding the legal limit of the psychoactive



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

The storefront of Smoker's Choice, which sits between Stateline Wine and Spirits and Family Dollar within the North Canaan East Main Street shopping center.

substance for an unlicensed establishment in Connecticut, were seized during the search, including vapes, edibles and cannabis flower totaling just over 5 pounds, according to the arrest warrant.

Rahman was held on a \$100,000 surety bond and faced arraignment the same day as his arrest.

The legal retail of recreational cannabis products in North Canaan narrowly passed a town vote in 2023, but state statute only allows for licensed dispensaries to sell high THC products. Smoker's Choice does not possess such a license.

Sharon median home prices up

By Christin Bates

SHARON — The 12-month trailing median price for a single-family home, excluding condos, in Sharon increased to \$720,000 for the period ending Feb. 28, 2026.

The figure marks a 36% increase from the \$530,000 median recorded for the 12 months ending Feb. 28, 2025, and 14% from \$655,000 for the comparable period ending Feb. 28, 2024.

The unit sales of single-family homes in Sharon on a 12-month rolling basis remained within historic range. A total of 40 single-family homes were sold in the 12 months ending Feb. 28, 2026, compared with 42 sales in the period ending Feb. 28, 2025, and 40 sales for the 12 months ending Feb. 29, 2024. Historically, sales of single-family homes in Sharon typically range between 35 and 45 transactions a year.

Inventory in all categories remains limited and stable. As of March 13, there were 13 single-family homes on the market. Of those, 12 were listed above \$1 million and no residential properties were listed below the current \$720,000 median price. Ten parcels of land are listed for sale on the MLS ranging from \$139,000 to \$995,000. Summer furnished rentals account for six out of the 10 rental listings.

Condo prices rise, though sales remain limited

Though relatively few in number, condos remain a factor in the Sharon residential market. The 12-month trailing median price for a condo in Sharon increased to



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

15 Sharon Valley Road, a home built in 1860 that is in need of renovation work, sold for \$380,000 on Jan. 27, 2026.

\$307,000 for the period ending Feb. 28, 2026. This level marks a \$50,000 increase from the \$257,000 median recorded for the 12 months ending Feb. 28, 2025, and from \$250,000 for the comparable period ending Feb. 28, 2024.

The total number of condos sold in each year remained low with a total of two units sold in the 12 months ending Feb. 28, 2026, compared with four sales in the period ending Feb. 28, 2025, and three sales for the 12 months ending Feb. 29, 2024. Two multi-million-dollar condos remain available at Great Elm.

February transactions

34 Jackson Hill Road — 3 bedroom/2.5 bath renovated house on .83 acres sold by TVC Funding IV REO LLC to Karen and Todd Saxe.

15 Sharon Valley Road — 3 bedroom/1.5 bath home built in 1860 on 1.5 acres sold by Leonard Morrison Jr. to 15SVRenovations LLC for \$380,000.

48 Keeler Road — 3 bedroom/3 bath rustic home built in 1918 with a 1 bedroom/1 bath studio, and garage on 39.89 acres sold by Keller Road Holdings LLC to 381 Vinyard LLC for \$1,130,000.

4 Upper Main Street, Unit 3 — 2 bedroom/2 bath condo built in 1973 sold by Sandra and Peter Oliver to Claire Marianne Legeard for \$325,000.

12 Lucas Road — 4 bedroom/3 bath renovated ranch built in 1964 on 2.73 acres sold by Scott and Stacy Gordon to Shay Alster, Cristina Shapiro-Alster, and Dror and Irit Anna Price for \$750,500.

8 Upper Main, Unit 14 — 2 bedroom/2 bath condo built in 1973 sold by Heather Jolicoeur to Darryl Peck for \$289,000.

* Town of Sharon real estate transfers recorded between Feb. 1 and Feb. 28, 2026, provided by Sharon Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS and market statistic from Info-sparks. Note that recorded transfers frequently lag sales by a number of days. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty.

Sharon Town Hall's Stan MacMillan Jr. and Jamie Casey to retire

By Alec Linden

SHARON — Two longtime municipal employees will retire at the end of June, bringing more than six decades of combined experience at Town Hall to a close.

Stanley MacMillan Jr. and Jamie Casey submitted resignation letters that were read by First Selectman Casey Flanagan at the Board of Selectmen's regular meeting on March 10. Both will step down effective June 30.

In her resignation letter, Casey wrote that she and MacMillan Jr. had worked closely together throughout their years at Town Hall and had decided to vacate their positions at the same time.

MacMillan Jr. has served as the town building inspector and fire marshal for over three decades.

Casey has held many roles at 63 Main St. since beginning as wetlands secretary in 1991, including assistant town clerk, secretary to the building inspector and fire marshal, health department sanitarian, and, most recent-

ly, land use administrator. She stated in her letter that she is confident Nikki Blass, current land use assistant, is well suited to replace her in the role.

Flanagan offered the following statement of gratitude for the Town Hall veterans:

"Stan and Jamie have been pillars of our town government for decades. Their knowledge, integrity and unwavering commitment to Sharon place them among a truly exceptional group of public servants. It is impossible to overstate the impact they have had on our community through both their professional work and their extensive volunteer contributions. We are profoundly grateful for their service and wish them every happiness in their well-earned retirement."

Sharon seeks input for POCD

SHARON — A community survey has been launched to gather resident feedback as Sharon updates its Plan of Conservation and Development.

The POCD serves as the town's long-range planning document, outlining goals and priorities for the next decade. Connecticut law requires municipalities to

update the plan at least once every 10 years.

As work begins on Sharon's next POCD, the survey is intended to help officials better understand community priorities, explore opportunities, and identify the town's strengths and challenges. For more information, contact landuse@sharonct.gov.

Kindergarten registration in Cornwall set for April 30

CORNWALL — Cornwall Consolidated School will hold kindergarten registration for the 2026-27 school year on Thursday, April 30.

Enrollment is open to children born in 2020, as well as those born between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31, 2021.

Parents are asked to call the school office at (860) 672-6617 to schedule a time for their child to visit the school. On the day of registration, parents should bring the child's current immunization records, birth certificate, and proof of residency.

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• A+ Detailing

Our Towns

Salisbury School pedestrian tunnel proposal under review

By Alec Linden

SALISBURY — Town officials are reviewing plans for a pedestrian tunnel beneath Route 44 at Salisbury School.

The underground walkway would provide a safe connection for students and staff between the school's main campus south of the highway and the sports fields and boathouse between the road and Washinee Lake.

At the March 9 meeting of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, engineers representing the school outlined the proposal, which would place the tunnel just west of the pedestrian sidewalk currently in use. As the tunnel construction would displace 700-square feet of wetland soils, the project requires the Commission's signoff to move forward.

The engineers clarified that the disturbed area, while technically containing wet-



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

The proposed tunnel would be installed just beyond the current crosswalk, providing a safer way for Salisbury School students and staff to cross the busy roadway.

land soils, is a grassy lawn that is mowed and maintained by Salisbury School staff.

Commissioners agreed that they need more information before they can ren-

der a decision, and asked the applicant to return for the IWWC's next meeting on March 23.

In the interim, Vice Chair Larry Burcroff and commissioner Russ Conk-

lin said they would perform an informal site visit, and the engineers representing the project promised to review the plans directly with the town engineer Tom Grimaldi for his signoff.

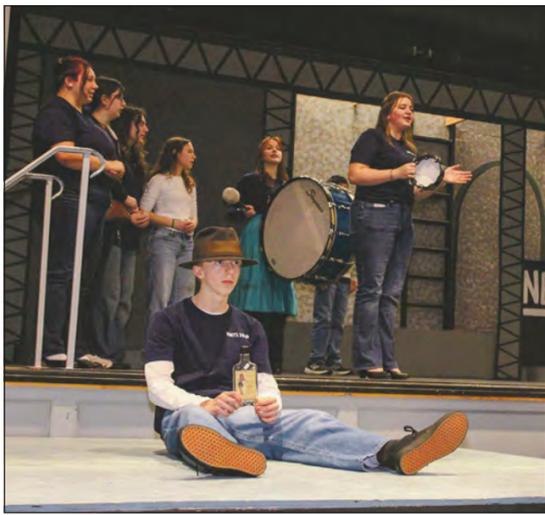


PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The cast of 'Guys and Dolls' rehearses March 12.

'Guys and Dolls' premieres at Housy March 19

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The cast of "Guys and Dolls" ran through the entire show for the first time during rehearsal Thursday, March 12, ahead of the production's March 19 opening.

The performers were not yet in costume — aside from a few hats.

Choreographer Amber Cameron, however, sent most of them back to retrieve their "show shoes."

Cameron, Director Christiane Olson, Music Director Tom Krupa and Assistant Production Manager Micah Conway watched closely during the opening scenes, occasionally offering prompts or conferring over stage directions.

The Housatonic Musical Theatre Society production opens at Housatonic Valley Regional High School on

Thursday, March 19, at 7 p.m., with additional performances Friday, March 20, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, March 21, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tickets will be available at the door.

Chicken dispute prompts review of farm rules

By Alec Linden

SHARON — New regulations are out for review after a neighborhood dispute surrounding chickens late last year highlighted a lack of clarity in the town's zoning code regarding farms.

Sharon Valley Road residents Letitia and Brian Brascene brought a complaint to Town Hall in the fall of 2025 about nuisance chickens on a neighboring property. Central to the complaint were questions about what constitutes a "farm" in the town's

zoning regulations.

Following months of deliberation and rewrites, the Planning and Zoning Commission voted at its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 11, to forward its draft revisions of the farm regulations for review by the commission's attorney Steven Byrne and the Northwest Hills Council of Governments.

In the current regulations, farms are allowed as of right in any zone for a parcel of three acres or greater, so long as manure or other "offensive material" is stored at least 100

feet from property lines and no commercial slaughter — except for animals raised on the property — may occur.

The draft amendment keeps the existing language but adds a series of conditions that primarily regulate the construction of buildings on farm properties. Under the proposed language, any construction on such properties will require a zoning permit that includes a "Farm Use Statement" detailing a site plan for the property and the intended usage of the land and/or any structures.

Also included in the changes is a stipulation that chickens, rabbits or ducks may be kept on properties under three acres in residential zones, with a number of conditions: the lot must be at least three-quarters of an acre; residents may keep no more than six chickens or rabbits and no more than four ducks; and free-range husbandry will not be allowed. Coops also must comply with established setbacks.

The current code does not address the issue of owners of small parcels keeping these

types of animals, and the addition to the zoning regulations is meant to directly address that gap.

Other fowl, including roosters, guinea hens, peacocks, geese and pheasants are expressly prohibited in the rewrite.

Casey said the draft language is subject to change based on the reviews from Attorney Byrne and the NHCOC. P&Z will bring finalized drafts to a public hearing and an eventual town vote before the changes can be adopted.



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PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Two "Ranch" style homes sit side by side below the slopes of Haystack Mountain.

Soon-to-be homeowners tour new development as completion date nears

By Alec Linden

NORFOLK — The Northwest Corner is set to receive 10 new affordable homeownership opportunities before summertime as construction at the Haystack Woods development nears completion.

The Foundation for Norfolk Living hosted its third open house for the new development on March 14, seeking to draw applications for the remaining unclaimed properties.

Five of the houses have already received applications, though none of the sales will close until after construction finishes, anticipated for early May.

The development, which sits below the forested slopes of Haystack Mountain approximately half a mile from downtown Norfolk, broke ground last May with the promise of a homeownership model that is both sustainable and affordable. The homes will be powered entirely by solar panels set on the broad roofs of two carport structures, which will be equipped with a parking bay, storage unit and electric vehicle charging port for each house. The Foundation has described Haystack Woods as a "Net Zero" community as it will power its own energy needs.

Foundation Chair Kate Johnson, who was greeting prospective buyers as they drove up on Saturday afternoon, said that the energy model requires residents to pay a monthly hookup fee — "\$10, plus or minus a few" — but nothing further. She estimated homeowners at Haystack Woods will save approximately \$5,000 in energy each year.

"It's going to enable people who live at Haystack Woods to manage their bud-

gets," said Foundation Vice Chair Avive Meehan, who also helped guide tours of the almost complete homes. "They won't be seeing the spikes in heating like the rest of us do."

Johnson gestured at the array of structures, emphasizing that the "shells" of the buildings were also designed to be energy efficient, meaning residents also won't be using as much in the first place.

There are three home styles on offer at Haystack Woods, all single-family: a single story, two-bedroom "Ranch" design, a two story, three-bedroom "Cape" house and a broad two story, three-bedroom layout called the "Two Story." Pricing, which ranges from \$159,000 to \$261,000, will be based on design and the homeowner's income.

Applicants for any of the homes must earn below 80% of Litchfield County's Area Median Income, known as the AMI, while some units are reserved for those who make under 60% of the AMI. Anyone in the household must also have not owned a home in the past three years, and the home must be a primary residence.

The Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity, a region-wide affordable housing advocacy group, is supporting applicants as they navigate early homeownership, including with financial planning and considerations.

The complex, which is arranged across two cul-de-sac style lanes, is built on a 39-acre plot that once housed a gravel pit. Over half of the parcel has been dedicated as conserved land, and is currently under permanent protection by the Norfolk Land Trust.

NEWTOWN — George Laurence "Larry" McGowan, 82, died on Feb. 28, 2026. A man of integrity and long-standing friendships, Larry leaves behind a legacy of professional achievement and a family who loved him dearly.

Born on Nov. 27, 1943, in Brooklyn, New York to George Laurence and Grace Harding McGowan, Larry grew up with a foundation of faith and education.

He attended St. John's Preparatory School (Brooklyn, New York) and Garden City (New York) High School before graduating from Niagara University.

After graduation, Larry completed his ROTC training and became a first lieutenant in the United States Army.

Following additional specialized training, he was stationed in Vilseck, Germany, on the Czech border, where he led a missile unit for most of his military service. He was immensely proud of his time spent in the military and spoke of it often.

Upon returning to civilian life, Larry dedicated his professional career to Real Estate Development and Construction. His work left a tangible mark across the Northeast, and he remained committed to it, actively engaging in projects until his courageous battle with pulmonary disease led him to retire two years ago. He was known by colleagues for

his expertise and his commitment to the projects that shaped the local landscape.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Larry was a husband, loyal friend, and cherished family member.

He is survived by his wife, Brigid Mary Hutchinson McGowan; his sister, Kathleen McGowan Metz of Longboat Key, Florida and Sharon, Connecticut; his nephews, James Thornton Metz (Victoria) and Robert Harding Metz (Robin); and his nieces, Alicia Harding Metz, Lauren Harding Simons, Kathryn Metz Helm (Lloyd), and Margaret Thornton Metz.

Larry was a proud

great-uncle to nine grand-nieces and nephews, all of whom held a special place in his heart.

Larry also shared a close and affectionate bond with Aldina Vazão Kennedy and Ana Monica Vazão. He valued lifelong friendships, particularly those formed during his years at Garden City High School and found immense joy in nurturing those connections, especially through their annual golf outings he so enjoyed organizing and attending.

A Mass of Christian Burial with military honors will be celebrated at 11 a.m. June 6, 2026, at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia. The interment at Calvary Cemetery will be at a later date.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



Ralph Henry Stanton Jr.

CANAAN — Ralph Henry Stanton Jr. of Canaan, passed away on March 7, 2026, after a prolonged battle with his heart. He leaves behind his wife Patricia, twin sons Thomas and Wyatt and grandson Gunner Stanton.

Visiting hours are 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2026, at the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home, 118 Main Street, Canaan, CT. Ample parking is available in the town parking lot behind the library. Burial will be private

at Mountainview Cemetery in Canaan when weather permits.

A more complete obituary will be forthcoming. A celebration of life is being planned for June. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ralph's memory to the North Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Corp, Inc., 15 Main Street, P.O. Box 178, Canaan, CT 06018 and/or the Canaan Fire Company, 4 East Main Street, P.O. Box 642, Canaan, CT 06018.

Mary "Molly" Hinchman

WEST CORNWALL — Dr. Mary "Molly" Hinchman, 78, passed away on March 12, 2026, at Noble Horizons following a brief illness. She was the beloved wife of Russell E. Guerin for 33 years.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts on May 4, 1947, she was the daughter of the late John and Catharine (Sellew) Hinchman.

Molly was a devoted and compassionate psychologist for over 40 years. She received her MSW and her Ph.D. in Psychology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She went on to complete her postdoctoral internship in Family Therapy and received her license for independent practice in 1981.

Throughout the years, Dr. Hinchman was dedicated to and worked with many people including children and families in residential treatment and partial hospital programs, adults and couples through her private practice and specialized in the treatment of substance abuse and addiction.

Molly enjoyed teaching at St. Joseph College and Northwestern Connecticut Community College where the focus was centered on

families and their cultures. For the last 30 years, Molly has been a student and presenter at the Jean Baker Miller Advanced Training Institute where she worked with her colleagues to incorporate Cultural/Relational Theory into her clinical work.

In addition to her husband, Russell, Molly is survived by her siblings, Betsey Polglase and Joan Hinchman; two nieces and three stepchildren.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 20, 2026, at the United Church of Christ in Cornwall, 8 Bolton Hill Road, Cornwall, CT 06753. Burial will be private. Calling hours will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, at Thurston Rowe Funeral Home, 283 Torrington Road, Litchfield.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to United Church of Christ in Cornwall, 8 Bolton Hill Road, Cornwall, CT 06753 or to Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County, 32 Union Street, Winsted, CT 06098

To send the family an online expression of sympathy kindly visit www.thurston-rowefuneralhome.com



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To send the family an online expression of sympathy kindly visit www.thurston-rowefuneralhome.com

Send obituaries to obituaries@lakevillejournal.com

Worship Services Week of March 22, 2026	
<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>	<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>	<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p> <p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH Is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, April 12 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>Congregation Beth David A Reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates!</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>
<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>	<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 8:00AM - Worship Service 2nd & 4th Sunday "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>

BRIEFS

Republican candidates visit White Hart March 26

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Republican Town Committee is hosting GOP candidates for statewide

and congressional offices at the White Hart in Salisbury Wednesday, March 26, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

'No Kings' gathering in Salisbury March 28

SALISBURY — There will be a No Kings rally in Salisbury at the intersection of routes 44 and 41 Saturday,

March 28 at 11 a.m. There will be speakers and live music. The rally will proceed rain or shine.

Maple Weekend tours held in Falls Village March 21-22

FALLS VILLAGE — Falls Village will hold free Sugar House tours on Saturday and Sunday, March 21-22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in conjunction with the statewide Maple Weekend.

Participating producers are Jody and Jean Bronson of Wangum Valley Maple

Syrup; the Jacobs Family of Whiting Brook Farm; Matt Gallagher of Acer Creek Farm; Kent Allyn; Adamah Farm and the Falls Village Saw Mill. Maps are available at Jacobs Garage and Off The Trail Cafe in Falls Village. For more information, call 860-824-5861.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Hayden Bachman runs a fast break in the Berkshire League quarterfinal against Northwestern Feb. 24.

Basketball teams mark scoring records

By Hannah Johnson

The Housy girls basketball team ended their season 9-11 with the boys team ending their season 5-14. Despite the lackluster season records, both teams have been making Housatonic history.

On Feb. 2, the boys team beat Oliver Wolcott Technical High School 91-59, putting up 90 points for the first time since 2009 with seniors Anthony Labbadia, Owen Reimer and Anthony Foley each putting up double digit points to secure the victory.

The following week, Oliver Wolcott left housy after another loss with the girls team beating them 100-17. This was a historic accomplishment becoming the second time in school history a basketball team hit triple digits, the first being the boys back in 1977. With only 8 girls on the bench, the team was left with three subs and limited ways to dial back their momentum.

Other notable accomplishments include seniors Anthony

*Basketball
Continued on page A6*

Senior lounge closed indefinitely after reports of misuse

By Mia DiRocco

As of Monday, March 10, Housatonic's Senior Lounge has been closed indefinitely. The lounge, which is a space for seniors to go during free periods, was shut down by Vice Principal Steven Schibi after reports of students cutting class, problematic language, and the room being kept unclean.

According to the email sent out to the senior class by Schibi, "I am disappointed to have to close this room as I have not had to do this for a long period of time," he stated. "We want you to have privileges but they need to be earned." The ban was effective the following day.

The decision was made in hopes to improve the social environment within the lounge, and keep students from skipping classes in the room. "We're noticing there's more infractions coming from seniors, and we find them in the senior lounge," Schibi said. He said the ban is an attempt to reinforce positive behaviors.

The closing of the lounge is temporary, Schibi said, but he didn't offer a timeline for its return.

The decision has been controversial among Housatonic's senior class. Senior Marc Hafner strongly disagreed with the decision to remove the lounge. "The space

History teacher joins rank of authors among Housatonic teachers

By Anna Gillette

Housatonic social studies teacher John Lizzi recently added a new title to his list of accomplishments: published author. On Feb. 3, Lizzi released his first book, "Connecticut Son: Oliver Wolcott Jr.," a political biography that explores the life and career of an important figure in early American history.

Lizzi self-published the book, which is now available on Amazon. "You just put in my name or the title and it should come up," he said.

The project originally began as part of Lizzi's doctoral work. While completing his PhD, he wrote his dissertation on Wolcott Jr. "When I finished that, I essentially had a draft, at the very least, of a book," he said. "It required some modification and revising, of course, but I had written 70,000 words already and I almost felt that it would have been a waste not to try to publish it when I'd gone that far."

Balancing the writing process with teaching and family life was not easy. Lizzi completed his doctoral program online which allowed him to work on research and writing whenever he could fit it into his schedule. "The ability to be able to find an hour here, an hour there, early morning, late at night—even during the school day when I have a planning period—was critical," Lizzi said. "So not a lot of sleep, but a really supportive family."

Although the work was demanding, Lizzi never doubted his ability to finish. Still, the project pushed him in new ways. "The stamina required for the amount of research and writing you have to do is something else," he said. "I had never written something that was 100s of pages long before." Breaking the project down into smaller pieces helped make it more manageable.

Rather than pursuing a traditional publishing deal, Lizzi chose to self-publish to avoid a lengthy



PHOTO BY ANNA GILLETTE

John Lizzi, left, celebrated this year the publication of his first book, a political biography on the life of Oliver Wolcott Jr. Peter Vermilyea, right, has a new book called "Litchfield in the Revolution" hitting shelves on March 31.

approval process and significant changes from editors. Based on research and people he'd spoken with, Lizzi found that the process can take multiple years and rejections. "Having spent so much time on this topic from my dissertation and now turning it into a book, I didn't want to spend another three years with it," Lizzi said.

Instead he used Amazon's self-publishing tools which allowed him to upload and format the manuscript himself. "They have their own program—it's all free—where you upload a manuscript and you can play with the margins and the font," he said. "You can see how it looks before you actually order it to be print-

ed." The book is available as a hardcover, paperback, and on Kindle.

Lizzi credited fellow Housatonic teacher and author, Peter Vermilyea, as a source of inspiration. Lizzi said seeing Vermilyea's success as a historian and writer helped show him what the publishing process could look like. "I feel very fortunate and lucky that I get to work with him," Lizzi said.

Vermilyea himself has written several books about local history, beginning his writing career online. "All over all of our towns are these little monuments and markers, and this tree dedicated to so and so," Vermilyea said. Being curious, he started a blog focused on hidden stories behind historical markers around the region.

That blog eventually led to a publishing opportunity. A representative from History Press noticed Vermilyea's work online and reached out to him about turning his work into a book. His first book, "Hidden History of Litchfield County," was published in

2014 and uncovers lesser-known stories about the history of the region.

The success of that book led to another project. In 2016, Vermilyea published "Wicked Litchfield County." "The first book was about what our founding fathers wanted us to remember," he said. "The second is more about what they want us to forget — crime and punishment and slavery, things like that."

Vermilyea's first and second books each took less than a year to write and publish. His third, "Litchfield County in the Revolution," took seven. "The difference is that the first two books were works of synthesis," Vermilyea said. "I took a lot of things that were already out there and brought them together to tell one coherent story." He did all original research for "Litchfield County in the Revolution." "I was in the state archives in Hartford, in the Litchfield historical society, in the Salisbury historical association," Vermilyea said. It took a year just to edit.

His newest book, "Litchfield County in the Revolution," will be released March 31 and continues to explore local history. Vermilyea enjoys writing about the region because people are naturally interested in stories that connect with their own communities. "There's plenty of people who don't like history, and that's okay. But most people like local history. They like to know what was going on in their backyard," Vermilyea said.

Outside of writing, Vermilyea frequently gives public talks about history and his research. He estimated having done about 250 presentations since the publication of his first book and continues to speak at libraries and historical societies. Lizzi who plans on following suit by doing similar talks said it seems like he does 10 a week. "It's great fun," Vermilyea said. "It's a terrific opportunity to talk to people about history."

For students interested in writing or publishing work of their own, Vermilyea offered the same advice he does to many students in class: "If you want to become a better writer, write," he said. "Find any outlet for it. There's so many outlets and you never know what's gonna happen."



PHOTO PROVIDED

Students lead an impromptu jam session in the senior lounge. Senior lounge privileges were revoked on March 10.

has served as a cornerstone of senior community — a place where students could decompress, connect, and foster bonds during their final year of school," he said. He said he hopes administrators will repeal the decision soon.

For many students, the lounge provides a space for social connection. Senior Arianna Gold said the lounge fosters connection among students. "It's 100% a community," she said. "I see kids from all backgrounds go in there. We're all such different people, yet coming together for the same purpose." She felt that taking away the lounge takes away a safe space for many students.

Other students had differing views of the lounge. Senior Hannah Johnson said that closing the senior lounge is promoting

a better school environment. "Students were using the senior lounge as an inappropriate way to express their beliefs in a school setting that wasn't being monitored — including hanging up Trump flags, swearing, and leaving trash — that was affecting others in the building," she said. "I would say most of the senior class, if not many of the senior class, didn't want to go because of how it was being treated." Johnson faced criticism from other students and accusations of theft after she took down a pro-Trump flag hanging in the lounge and stowed it in a cabinet away from view.

Administrators have emphasized that students must work to maintain a cleaner and less disruptive environment to earn the senior lounge privilege back.

HVRHS *today*

www.lakevillejournal.com/hvrhs-today

Mia DiRocco, Cornwall
Shanaya Duprey, North Canaan
Anna Gillette, Lakeville
Hannah Johnson, North Canaan
Ibby Sadeh, Falls Village
Peter Austin, Kent

Nathan Miller, Lakeville Journal Program Lead
Caitlin Hanlon, Lakeville Journal Production

The HVRHS Journalism Program

Last spring, The Lakeville Journal launched a journalism initiative at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Through this program, students work with Lakeville Journal editors throughout the school year to report on what's important and interesting to them and their community.

For more information about the program, please contact Lakeville Journal Publisher, James Clark, at publisher@lakevillejournal.com.

The Lakeville Journal

Berkshire Taconic
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Academic Bowl team celebrates second place in national tournament

By **Ibby Sadeh**

This year, Housatonic's academic bowl team has had the biggest success that they have had in years.

Peter Vermilyea, a history teacher at the high school and faculty advisor for the team, said this year was the first national second place finish the team has had since he started working at the school nearly 30 years ago.

"I started academic bowl here my first year here, that was 1995, 1996, and we've had 7th place, 6th place, and 4th place finishes in the country, but in the November Tournament we finished 2nd in the country," Vermilyea said. Senior Silas Tripp, who competes on the team, said he was amazed with the success. "To get to watch some of these kids answer questions that I don't even know where to start is honestly a humbling yet eye opening experience," Tripp said.

Housatonic's success at November's national competition, known as the Knowledge Master Open, earned the team a spot in the World Academic Championship. Out of the 107 questions asked, Housatonic answered 95 correctly. "That was in a smallish tournament about 50 schools, and

in December we finished 21st in the country but in a tournament of about 500 schools," said Vermilyea.

For the last few years, the team, whose members shift every year as seniors graduate and younger students join, has been first in Connecticut and first in New England.

Junior team member Danny Lesch said everyone is welcome on the team. "My experience is that anyone can bring value to the team even if they think they don't have the knowledge to contribute," he said. "This attitude from the team had led to our high finishes in New England and the country."

Also participating on the team are seniors Hannah Johnson, Tenzing Sherpa and Silas Tripp; juniors Jon DeDonato, Jonas Johnson, Daniel Lesch, Finn Malone and Meadow Moerschell; sophomores Bridger Rinehart and Owen Schnepf, and freshman Alastair Schnepf. "We've got a lot of people, COVID was really bad for a lot of things but it was really good for academic bowl because it created a digital environment to play that didn't really exist before COVID," Vermilyea said.

"The whole interface of the game has changed, instead of

just playing New Milford, or Terryville, or maybe we are going to be adventurous and play E. O. Smith High School from Storrs, now we are playing teams from all over the country." Now, the team can play in five to seven online tournaments. Students will even play teams internationally later this year in a tournament that the Housatonic team qualified for.

Tripp said the online competitions bring less pressure than in-person matches.

"Most of these competitions are online because of Covid, which honestly can be more fun because it decreases the pressure, but sometimes I wish we had more in person competitions," Tripp said. "Overall, it's given me many new relationships and taught me how to be confident when you believe you know something."

Tripp has been on the team for the past three years. "It's been far better than I could have imagined," Tripp said. "Verm really makes sure everyone is welcome no matter if you answer every question or none."

Lesch agreed that the team is a good opportunity, "We've steadily improved throughout the season," Lesch said. "Picking up new players and encouraging anyone who wants to come."



PHOTOS BY SHANAYA DUPREY
Above, "pinch bowls" created by Lilly Rand's ceramics class. Left, a dish with ornate circular designs.

New ceramics class garners strong support in first year

By **Shanay Duprey**

Housatonic prides itself on its large and expansive Arts Department — which just brought a new experience to Housy students through a ceramics course.

The class was brought to life by Lilly Rand, one of the art teachers and the current ceramics teacher.

The new class gives students opportunities to work with clay and ceramics in school for the first time since elementary school for many students. "I noticed that while ceramics was taught in the elementary schools, there was a major curricular gap once students reached high school," Rand said "I worked closely with the administration to bridge that gap and build the program back up so students could continue developing those skills."

The ceramics class is taught next to the school barn in the Science and Technology Center, a space the class shares with many diverse other courses. Rand said the space had its benefits and its drawbacks.

"An advantage to using the STC is that it gets foot traffic so that students who may not have known what the ceramics class was can now look over and see what we are doing," Rand said. "Because we are sharing the STC, all of our materials and projects have to be meticulously put away to keep them safe, and tools that would normally be stationed in one spot have to be moved into the pottery 'cage' at the end of every day. The students have to be incredibly organized and plan ahead when moving projects and materials back and forth."

While there are struggles that come with the space, the class seems to be a favorite amongst students. Tenzing Sherpa, a senior who took the class during its first semester last fall, speaks highly of it. "I wish it was a full year course because it is a great way to relax and enjoy your time in the school building and a full year would allow for more experience and experimentation," Sherpa said.

The class's popularity is shown in the numbers as well. "The student interest is clearly there, as 68 students signed up for ceramics this year, and seeing the work they are producing is proof that this program was a missing piece of our curriculum," Rand said.

The class focuses on the basics of ceramics, a historic art form. "I try to balance foundational hand-building skills," Rand said. "I believe in the philosophy often attributed to Pablo Picasso: 'Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist.'"

This class serves as an opportunity to experiment, and especially to learn ceramics skills. Rand said she rediscovered a passion for ceramics after college and learns more about the art form even today.

"My journey with clay started in college... About 15 years later, while teaching at Sharon Center, I rediscovered that passion," said Rand. "I am currently using a new clay body and mixing all of my own glazes from raw materials. It's been a significant learning curve, but I've actually discovered a fascination with the chemistry behind glaze mixing and I'm eager to dive deeper into that science."

Even students with past experience still learn from Rand's instruction. "I had done ceramics previously so I knew most of the fundamentals we learned in class," Sherpa said. "I think the most valuable thing that I learned in the class was how the glaze we had available to us worked and how to apply it so it didn't end up a mess."

Rand said it was challenging to encourage original creations from students. "A big challenge right now is encouraging original thought; many students immediately look to Pinterest or their phones for inspiration," Rand said. "My goal is to teach them how to look at the world around them—or their own experiences—for ideas." Sherpa echoed that sentiment. "The biggest struggle for me was figuring out what I even wanted to make." Sherpa said.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Peter Vermilyea's junior U.S. History class watches a classmate give a presentation in a temporary classroom after a malfunctioning heater caused Vermilyea to shuffle classrooms this winter.

Broken heaters trigger classroom shuffle

By **Ibby Sadeh**

Housatonic teachers and students returned from winter break this year to classrooms with no heat, prompting teachers to shuffle rooms to accommodate their classes.

Science teacher Elizabeth Din-

neen and history teacher Peter Vermilyea were forced to relocate in other rooms as the cold became unbearable and unworkable.

The heat was still non-functioning after January's blizzard, which prompted Housatonic to have a snow day on Monday, Jan. 26, and a delay on Tuesday, Jan.

27. Vermilyea, who primarily teaches U.S. history to juniors, came back to broken heat for the rest of the week.

He said he was told a part had broken in the school's heater and had yet to be delivered. In the meantime, his classes would be assigned to whatever room is available at the necessary time, so classes ended up meeting in six different rooms.

"I was in Dr. Lizzi's room, Ms. Messina's, Ms. Melino's, Ms. Jones's, Mrs. O'Reilly's, and room 133," said Vermilyea. Jeff Lloyd, Housatonic Facilities Manager played a key role in returning Vermilyea and his students back to their classroom. Vermilyea said Lloyd came in over the weekend to repair the heater. "The part was supposed to come in on Thursday but it didn't, it came in either after school on Friday or on Saturday," Vermilyea said. "But Mr. Lloyd came in here on Sunday to work on it and fix it so I could be back in my room on Monday."

Dinneen's issues with the heat were less prolonged. "It initially broke about two weeks before winter break," she said. "It was fixed the next day, but a few days later the heat kept increasing before dropping again." The unreliable heat became a bigger problem for Dinneen.

During Dinneen's wait for parts, temperatures in her room reached a low of about 39F during

Heaters
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Basketball
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Foley and Maddy Johnson making the Berkshire League second team and senior Olivia Brooks making Berkshire League first team. Maddy Johnson was also named CT Insider's Athlete of the week on March 10. Athletic Director Anne McNeil said this year the girl's team "got a lot more recognition outside our league."

Captain Maddy Johnson said the team's unnoteworthy record is due to the group's overall inconsistency. "Our playing level varies," she said. "One game we can go out there and pretty much do everything but then the next game it looks like it's the beginning of the season all over again."

Although the boys team had a less successful season the integration of new head coach Bobby Chatfield has been a transition likely to cause future success. "Bobby has been a really good jumping off point for the coming years," MacNeil said. Although the team is losing eight seniors, there is hope that the promising underclassmen can improve with the consistency of a strong coach.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Wes Allyn dunks it to start the game against Gilbert on senior night Thursday, Feb. 26.

School spirit surges after students lead basketball pep rallies

By Hannah Johnson

With the introduction of winter sports a new appreciation for school spirit entered Housatonic's halls. Led by a few students keen on improving student involvement, student sections have grown immensely in both size and spirit compared to former years.

Before the school's rivalry basketball games against Lakeview High School, seniors Silas Tripp and Chris Crane worked with the Student Government Association to plan a pep rally in order to get students excited and increase game attendance. Athletic director Anne MacNeil expressed support for their efforts. "I can't thank Chris and Silas enough," MacNeil said.

"I am at almost every home sport event and even travel to some away basketball games," Crane said. He said in general student attendance at games "had strong participation with people going more all out than ever before."



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Game analysts talk things over during a break in the back-to-back basketball games Friday, Feb. 13.

Girls Basketball captain Madly Johnson believes the players have also influenced this positive change. "We have a higher spirit than other teams, we really push

ourselves," she said.

With such strong leadership exhibited from seniors, many fans worry about the sparse underclassmen involvement. MacNeil

said she hopes the momentum started by Crane and Tripp carries forward in the coming years. "I hope that they've started something really really good."

Heaters
Continued from page A6

the school day.

Assistant principal Steven Schibi and Principal Ian Strever relocated Dinneen's classes to the science discussion room primarily, with some classes moving to science teacher Sarah Braun's room when lab tables were needed. Dinneen said the principals, science chair Letitia Garcia-Tripp and the other teachers in the department were very helpful in the period with no heat.

The move required flexibility. The small tables in the discussion room proved inappropriate for working in groups as Dinneen's students were used to the larger lab tables in her room.

Dinneen returned to her classroom on Jan. 7 after winter break. She thanked Housatonic's custodians, Jeff Lloyd and Benjamin Brown for their work to repair the heat. "Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Brown were instrumental in getting this fixed," Dinneen said.

Winter athletes lead charge for more spectator support

By Anna Gillette

At Housatonic Valley Regional High School, winter brings packed bleachers, ecstatic student sections, and distinctive energy for basketball season. The team culture and overall energy result in a large turnout at the home games. But beyond basketball, other winter athletes endure long practices and tough competitions — often with far less recognition.

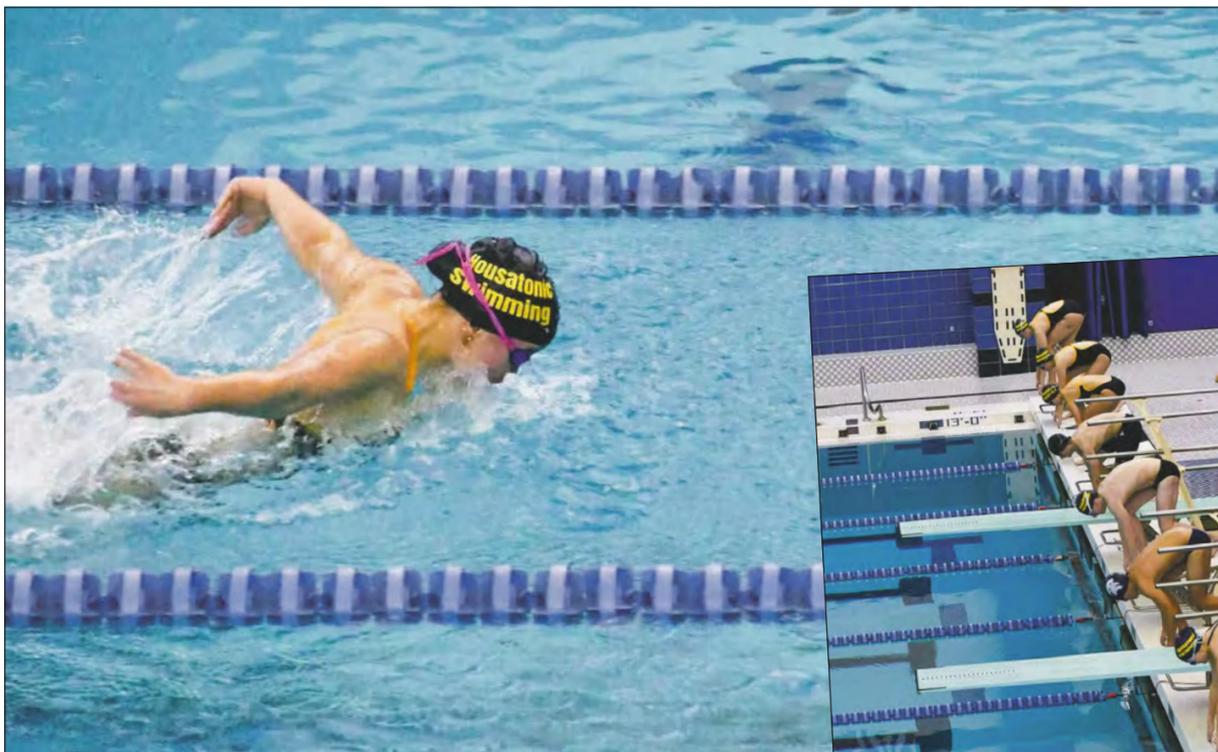
While basketball tends to draw large crowds and headlines, sports like swim, ski, indoor track, and hockey compete in front of much smaller audiences. Other than the students directly involved, many people in the school community are unaware of when these teams compete, who their standout athletes are, and how they perform throughout the season.

Part of the difference in involvement comes down to location and the nature of the sports themselves. "It's much easier to walk into the gym than it is to walk onto a ski course," athletic director Anne MacNeil said. Basketball is a team oriented sport played in the school gym, making attendance easy. New traditions like rival night and themed games also increase excitement. MacNeil explained that when the ice hockey team used to compete at Hotchkiss, the games were widely attended. Many winter sports are also more individual based, making it harder to build hype around one race or run than a team competition.

Beyond the challenge of drawing spectators, the teams themselves are also limited in size. Housatonic's small enrollment contributes to smaller rosters, especially in nontraditional sports. Cost and access also make some winter sports harder for students to become involved with. "You have to be introduced to skiing. You have to be introduced to hockey," MacNeil said. "If you look at what it takes to play those sports, there's a money factor involved."

For the swim team, the difference in team culture is notable. Senior Katie Crane played basketball her freshman year before fully committing to the swim team. "When I played basketball, we weren't just showing up for our team, we were showing up for the student section too," she said. "For swim, what fueled our energy was just the team itself."

Swim meets rarely draw big crowds, but some competitors said that reduced the pressure. "I love swim because there isn't that competitiveness and pres-



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Housatonic Valley Regional High School's varsity swim team hosted a meet against Shepaug Valley High School on Wednesday, Jan. 21. Shepaug's team was notably larger, putting forth four relay teams to Housatonic's one relay team.

“
What a lot of people don't realize is that probably the most successful students we have at their sport have been our best skiers.”

Junior Danny Lesch

sure," Crane said. "I just showed up and I would race, but I was racing for myself." Swimmers said their teammates and coaches were supportive, even if a big audience wasn't there to cheer them on.

The lack of visibility can also be frustrating. "It definitely feels like I put up big performances without it getting noticed because I made Berkshire League first team and no one knows," freshman Phoebe Conklin said. "For basketball and soccer, it's this huge deal when you make first team."

The ski team faces similar struggles. "It's actually a fun spectator sport," said junior Danny Lesch. Because races are largely individual, standout performances don't always translate into team wins, even though the team has many accomplished athletes. Lesch said the individual athletes then get less recognition

despite high levels of personal success. "What a lot of people don't realize is that probably the most successful students we have at their sport have been our best skiers," Lesch said.

Despite the recognition gap between basketball and other winter sports, athletes and community members have recently made larger efforts to improve visibility. "That's always been an area that I have struggled to do better in," MacNeil said. "In the last two years, I've really focused on our Instagram account and trying to spotlight people." While trying her best to equally represent each sport, MacNeil also relies on athletes themselves to send photos and stats. "I can't be everywhere at once," she said.

Looking ahead, the future of other sports at Housatonic may depend on overcoming challenges tied to the school's small enrollment. "I just had to cancel girls' lacrosse," MacNeil said. Increasing visibility and community support can help keep teams active and competitive. Greater recognition can help spark student interest, increasing participation and reminding the community that success exists across sports with less publicity. For members of the ski team, even small efforts can help make a difference. "What we hope for is one of the races next year, we get a crowd, get people to come, just one race," Lesch said.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Winter Cheney sports three gold medals after a victorious performance in the Berkshire Hills Ski League championships Wednesday, Feb. 18.

Students rank political division low in new survey

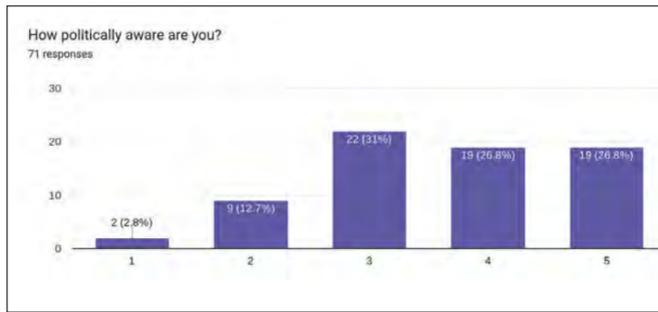
By Peter Austin

Housatonic junior Sophia Fitz organized a schoolwide protest on Friday, Jan. 30, in which students were invited to wear black or take a vow of silence to show their support for the Minnesota ICE protests.

The demonstration highlighted the political divides inside the school, prompting questions about division among the student body.

Over 70 students responded to a survey asking them to rank their political awareness and how politics affected them in school. The results show that, of the respondents, Housatonic students generally rank themselves as having high political awareness and generally care more about politics, but are more divided on how they feel within school.

Students were asked to rank things like political awareness,



ILLUSTRATIONS BY PETER AUSTIN

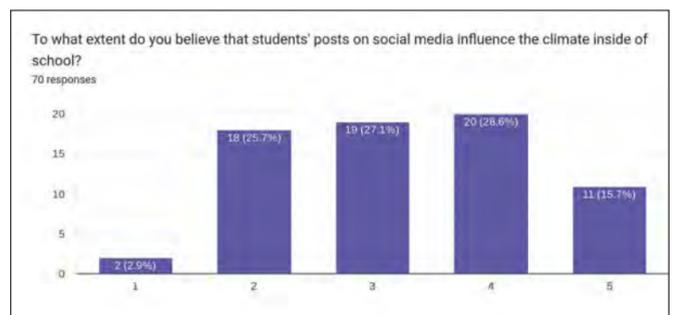
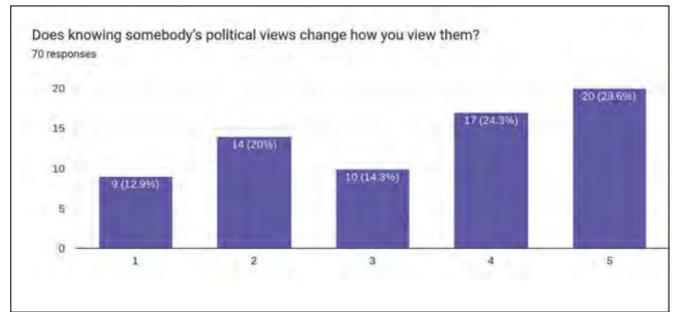
engagement, and how they feel affected by politics in school and on social media.

The first questions asked respondents to rank political awareness and how much they care about politics, with most students responding with a 4 or a 5.

One anonymous surveyor says, "I think people who think that politics should be kept com-

pletely out of school are using that as justification for ignoring having difficult conversations. It is our duty to make people aware of these types of things, even if they disagree."

Next, students were asked how much other students' posts on social media influence the political climate inside school, and whether this was generally more positive or negative.



The responses are relatively equal, and students that ranked influence as a 4 or 5 generally believed its influence to be much more negative than those that ranked it as a 3 or less.

Students were asked to rank the extent to which they felt that political issues affected the learning environment and their relationships with their classmates. Students generally feel like the learning environment is not very affected while remaining mostly neutral on whether it affects their relationships with their classmates.

"Teachers should be talking about politics more with all their students to make them aware," says one anonymous responder.

The last question asked students if knowing somebody else's political views changed how they viewed them.

These responses have the highest variability by far, with over 50% of responses greater than 3 and over 30% less than 3.

One anonymous respondent says, "I know some people's lives [revolve] entirely around politics and refuse to be friends or associ-

“

I think people who think that politics should be kept completely out of school are using that as justification for ignoring having difficult conversations.

Anonymous surveyor

ate with anybody with a different political view and I'm like dude it's not that deep. I don't care as long as someone's agenda isn't pushed into my face."

Although it can sometimes be difficult to gain an understanding of a political climate, analyzing student actions and running surveys can give a good insight. Students at Housatonic are generally aware of political issues in the world, and these issues often influence how we interact both inside and outside of school.

Faculty question effectiveness of detention in combating AI use

By Mia DiRocco

Detention at Housatonic has changed little over the past few years, but new issues such as the use of artificial intelligence to cheat on assignments have prompted some students and teachers to ask if it's time for disciplinary strategies to change.

From flex period detention to car privilege suspension, the impact different disciplinary actions have on student behavior varies. For some students, detention was simply an inconvenience.

After exceeding a certain amount of tardies, senior Hunter Conklin had his car parking privileges suspended for a week, along with an afterschool detention. "I ended up being more late to school every day, and I had no way to get to work after school," he said.

When it comes to punishment for more common problems, the school administration sees detention as highly effective. According to Vice Principal Steven Schibi, "We don't have too many repeat offenders. About 90% of the students who get issued detention for tardiness usually don't have any more infractions." Since having detention, Conklin noted his tardies to school have been less frequent.

For small scale issues, detention along with other methods of punishment is fairly effective. But as the use of AI becomes increasingly frequent, it raises a crucial question to Housatonic's disciplinary practices: does a new problem require a new solution?

Senior Cohen Ceccinato has gone to detention for plagiarism three times. He said he wasn't sure if the discipline was effective or not, but said detention didn't feel like much of a punishment.

"I haven't had one [a detention] since the third one, so maybe it got to me," he said. "I think other forms of punishment would be better, because you weren't really being punished." Ceccinato has not plagiarized in over a year since his last detention.

Detention rates for plagiarism are rapidly rising, teachers said. English teacher Damon Osora has been running after school detention for about eight years. He said he's noticed the use of artificial intelligence becoming a more serious issue. "In the humanities classes, AI is behind a majority of the referrals that teachers in those departments make," he said.

With a problem so new, administrators have had to find a way to respond to the issue al-

most overnight. And as artificial intelligence use continues to grow, administrators are wondering if strategies need to change. Schibi said administrators are expected to discuss the issue soon.

"It's something I think we are looking at for next year," he said.

Osora said the use of artificial intelligence is an academic problem as opposed to a behavioral one, and that it requires a different approach than detention or typical discipline strategies.

"It makes what I think is an academic problem look like a behavioral problem. Detention should not be used in response to problems that are academic in nature," Osora stated. "I don't think we should treat it as a thing that needs to be punished. I think we need to work on educating people about it."

How students beat boredom in the cold winter months

By Peter Austin

As the cold, dreary months of winter melt away, Housatonic students continue to participate in the activities that keep them from the grips of winter boredom. A survey sent to students asked about their favorite activities, and the results show a great diversity within the student population.

In the survey, participants were asked to check any box that applied, and were invited to offer their own specific response at the end of each question, which many chose to do.

The most popular activities were in 'Entertainment', where over 80% of respondents indicated that they watched movies, about 60% saying they use social media or YouTube, and about 50% saying that they play video games or read.

Many also said they worked at some job, with babysitting, service, and agriculture gaining the most responses. Specific student responses included healthcare, church volunteering, lifeguarding, and junior firefighting.

Despite the cold weather and unrelenting snow, students were not discouraged from spending time doing outdoor sports, with

hiking, and skiing or snowboarding gaining about 25% of responses each. Other popular sports include swimming, basketball, weightlifting, or running, while about 30% indicated that they participated in no winter sports. Other specific responses include esports, gymnastics, wrestling, tennis, or horseback riding.

While about 40% of students indicated that they participated in no creative activities, the ones that did expressed a great diversity in their interests.

Drawing, painting, photography, writing and journaling, and writing, playing, or recording music all gained above 20% of student responses, showing that students often participate in a large number of creative activities. Film, theater, dance, and singing all received around 10% of responses, and specific responses include knitting and crocheting, crafts, sewing, and baking.

Throughout the cold winter months, it can often be difficult to stay busy and entertained when confined to the indoors. However, students at Housatonic often find unique ways to fill their time and represent a diverse array of hobbies and interests in the school.

Our Towns

Kent explores National Register designation for Swift House

By Ruth Epstein

KENT — The committee studying the future of Kent's historic Swift House is considering pursuing National Register of Historic Places designation as part of its effort to determine how the deteriorating town-owned building might be preserved and used.

The group, established by the Board of Selectmen, has been given until April 30 to provide a report outlining recommendations for the structure that dates back to the 1700s. The building is located on Maple Street, just east of Route 7.

The former farmhouse has been the subject of discussion for several years, with concerns raised about its poor condition and whether the town should retain or sell it.

A previous task force conducted a survey that generated 144 comments, with 26 expressing negative opinions about the town keeping the building. That group also had the firm Silver Petrocelli prepare an estimate on the cost to renovate the building and bring it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The figure given was \$2 million.

At the committee's meeting Tuesday, March 10, member Christine Adams, executive director of the Kent Historical Society, reiterated her previous push to hire a consultant to prepare an application for National Register designation. With finances always a concern, Adams said if a building is listed on the register, there would be many opportunities for grants. She estimated such a consultant would cost about \$2,500 to \$3,000.

She also recommended the town have an attorney draw up a preservation easement at the same time the designation is being sought.

Committee chairman James Anderson said he had recently toured the building and saw the many challenges it faces. "As it stands now, it has no purpose. We need to accelerate the process of finding solutions for its use."

During the meeting, members suggested a variety of possible uses for the building. William Reihl echoed what several others favored: creating a town welcome center.

"That would be a perfect place for it," Reihl said. "It can become a gathering center for the community."

His other ideas included creating an ongoing arts and culture festival and renting out space to provide a source of revenue for the town. He said he does not see the building as a place for municipal offices, a possibility that had been discussed during the earlier task force's tenure.

Adams said she knows of other historic buildings where faculty apartments have been created. Since there are several private schools in Kent, that might be an option for the second floor. "The downstairs would remain a public place."

Margie Austell said she would like to focus on the building's historic perspective. Marge Smith, who at the last meeting said local attorney Anthony Palumbo

had expressed interest in purchasing the building, added, "He would go along with many of these ideas."

Jason Wright, the Board of Finance's representative on the committee, said he did not think the group should get too specific yet. "We need to come up with a template... We need to come up with the financial issue. We just don't have the resources."

Selectman Lynn Harrington said the committee should concentrate on the first floor and leave the upstairs for further discussion.

When the talk turned to finances, Wright said, "A \$2 million commitment from my perspective is not realistic. Since the town is revenue-strapped, I think \$2 million is high. We need to push for some more creativity." He wondered if some local craftsmen might be willing to take on the work for a reduced rate.

Harrington said she thought the Silver Petrocelli report was reliable, "but I'm not sure we have to do all of it."

The town currently budgets \$19,600 per year for the Swift House. When Joyce Kearns, the selectmen's administrative assistant, was asked whether the town might be able to use some of that appropriation to pay for the consultant, she listed several upcoming expenses before adding,



PHOTO BY SIMON MARKOW

Skylar Brown, front, leads the ensemble of "Moana Jr." at Cornwall Consolidated School March 13.

Cornwall students dazzle in opening night of 'Moana Jr.'

By Simon Markow

CORNWALL — The Cornwall Consolidated School opened its musical production of 'Moana Jr.' Friday, March 13, with a full house.

The play was based on the 2016 Disney film 'Moana,' with music and lyrics by Lin Manuel Miranda. Orchestrations were adapted and arranged by Ian Weinberger.

The cast started rehearsal in November and persevered through winter weather and sickness.

On premiere night, the crew overcame some technical difficulties early on. This hiccup was soon forgotten as the young performers took the stage and dazzled with musical numbers.



PHOTO BY SIMON MARKOW

The cast performs "Moana Jr." amid captivating set designs.

Falls Village selectmen review town projects, trash options

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — At the Board of Selectmen's meeting on March 9, the selectmen reviewed several ongoing matters of interest in Falls Village.

Monica Zinke's yoga studio is expected to open in early April in the town-owned building at 107 Main St., the space formerly occupied by Furnace: Art on Paper. First Selectman Dave Barger said the town will provide a gallon of paint to touch up the interior before the studio opens.

Barger said the selectmen will consider joining the Northwest Regional Resource Recovery Authority at a special meeting in the near future. Joining the NRRRA, a regional organization that helps municipalities manage trash disposal and recycling, would require a town meeting vote on an ordinance.

Barger said the ordinance would be worded to avoid any financial liability should the town ultimately decide not to join.

He noted that the state recently decided to close the Torrington Transfer Station at the end of the fiscal year, one year earlier than expected.

The facility serves several Northwest Hills towns for trash disposal, and its early closure could force communities to find alternative arrangements. Barger said the Northwest Hills Council of Governments is reviewing the unexpected decision.

Town infrastructure projects are proceeding. The "compost containment structure" — a shipping container — has arrived at the transfer station, and a concrete pad will be installed when the weather allows.

Meanwhile, work continues on the pool house and

two new trucks are now in service.

The selectmen voted unanimously to approve the road closures and use of town

property for the Falls Village Car and Motorcycle Show Sunday, July 12.

Barger said "It ends at 3 p.m. and by 3:15 you

wouldn't know anyone had been here.

"Except for the outhouses, and they get picked up the next day."



THE SALISBURY FORUM

Where Ideas Matter

EXPLORING AMERICA'S FOUNDING

Author Russell Shorto in conversation with Peter Vermilyea and Rhonan Mokriski



Historian and best-selling author Russell Shorto is joined by award-winning history educators Peter Vermilyea from Housatonic Valley Regional High School, and Rhonan Mokriski from Salisbury School and Troutbeck Symposium, to discuss Shorto's *Revolution Song: The Story of America's Founding in Six Remarkable Lives*.

This program is presented by the Salisbury Forum in partnership with the Salisbury Association, Troutbeck Symposium, and Scoville Memorial Library in connection with Salisbury Commemoration 250 and CT 250.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026 • 7:30 P.M.
Housatonic Valley Regional High School
Falls Village, CT

Admission is free. Please register online.



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PHOTO PROVIDED

Salisbury musicians participate at regionals

Salisbury Central School students, from left, Jackson Magyar, Evelyn Adkins, Noah Tencer and Kellan Lockton (mixed chorus) and Annabelle Bunce (band, not pictured) participated in the Connecticut Music Educators Association Northern Region Middle School Honors festival March 6 and 7.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Save our National Lands

We have seen the government gutted of personnel, but we can rebuild it.

The universities have been attacked and public money for research withheld, but we will be able to restore health research.

Law firms who defended the law against government corruption have been attacked, but those firms can be restored to favor.

Money to the states for SNAP, which gives food help to the needy, has been cut, but we can restore that.

They have started a war in the Middle East, but hopefully we can soon withdraw from that.

Attacks to the environment and our public lands, however, can never be restored. Selling off public lands, which belong to the American people, can never be repurchased. Permitting oil companies to drill in our

National Parks in the Arctic creates terrible pollution which cannot be cleaned up. Creating miles of roads at our expense through our National Forests opens the wilderness to exploitation, such as removing timber, but it will take a lifetime to restore those forests. Letting mining companies drill in our National Parks leaves huge open pits in the ground, which can never be restored. Compromising the Endangered Species Act could eliminate the existence of many species of animals, birds and plants forever.

We must stop the destruction. We must stop the attacks on our public lands. Our National Forests and our National Parks belong to us - the people - and we want it left to our children and for all the generations to come.

Lizbeth Piel Sharon

Harlem Valley Rail Trail accident is horrifying

I was horrified to read about the bicycle accident on the Rail Trail, resulting in a fractured vertebra and a long healing process for someone who was enjoying a ride on a path specifically built for that purpose.

I am an active cyclist who rides 150+ miles per week in warm weather. I occasionally ride parts of the Rail Trail, almost always during the week when there is little activity, and only to connect to a road.

The Rail Trail is NOT for serious cyclists. Whenever I approach walkers I call out well in advance and coast my bike past them at a slow speed. If they don't turn around, I stop. I would never pass another cyclist, especially a casual rider, on any of the elevated wooden walkways. It is infuriating that an accident like this is

completely foreseeable, yet happened anyway.

I don't walk the Rail Trail but if I did I would be very vocal (but friendly) in telling cyclists to slow down and, if on a walkway, to dismount. It is for their safety as well. The woman who was injured could have just as easily turned into the cyclist, which could have put them both in the hospital.

I was strongly tempted to suggest litigation here, but I am sure friends long ago offered that advice. As warm weather approaches you might consider an article about local bike safety, perhaps focused on the Rail Trail. The tiny silver lining here is that the article is not about a small child being hit by cyclist.

Terry Vance Sharon

For another letter, see Page A11.



PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

Snowdrops



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Are predictions markets displacing crypto trading?

THE RETIRED INVESTOR BILL SCHMICK

The introduction of prediction markets such as Polymarket and Kalshi are exploding in popularity. At the same time crypto currency trading seems to be falling off a cliff. Are the two connected?

"Crypto is so yesterday," said one Gen Z trader, in response to my question. Younger investors are turning their attention to platforms where users can trade contracts on the outcome of future events. Today, one can bet on everything from the outcome of the mid-term elections to when the next Fed interest rate cut will occur. Not only can you bet on political or cultural events but increasingly on sports and real-world events.

I suspect that economic conditions may be behind Gen Z's shifting preferences. The average salary for a Gen Z is under \$40,000. Speculating in Bitcoin has become an expensive proposition with the price around \$63,000 per coin. It has traded as high as \$124,000. That is a far cry from the days of \$15,000 or less.

That doesn't mean the younger generations are completely abandoning crypto currencies but are instead changing the way they speculate. In addition, the narrative has changed. The number of HODLs "Hold on for dear life" have declined as dreams of a \$1 million Bitcoin seem less feasible. Prediction markets offer a simpler, cheaper and more scalable alternative.

You can still bet on the future price of crypto, along with individual stocks, bonds, gold, or whatever. "Why buy Bitcoin when you can buy a cheap contract that offers you the same chance to profit?" argues another Gen Z trader. The simplicity of the prediction market structure is also appealing. There are no research reports, promises of gains or losses based on scenarios or schedules. The price you pay reflects a bet on a simple yes or no, to happen or not to happen. It appeals to a generation increasingly skeptical

of project promises.

However, the prediction market uses cryptocurrency infrastructure to underpin their platform. Custody, settlement and payment processes run on block chain technology. With the support of stablecoins. Bitcoin contracts are still one of the most active speculative markets.

Another encouraging development is that prediction market platforms are regulated by the Commodity Futures Reading Commission. As such all prices are set by buyers and sellers and not by "the house." In many ways, prediction market contracts are like trading futures contracts. You are essentially buying or selling a financial derivative when you invest in prediction contracts.

In 2025, this prediction markets saw trading volume expand to more than \$27.9 billion. Open interest, which is the total value locked in contracts broke \$1 billion. These contracts are both liquid and easy to trade. One can pay for them in both crypto currencies and regular currencies.

Supporters argue that these platforms represent a new frontier for fintech. Their platforms innovation has combined the blending of capital markets, crypto, prediction-economics and sports betting into one. The rapid growth in this new avenue of investment, speculation, or just plain gambling depending upon your view, has attracted outside investment. Several institutional players believe this new technology has enormous potential. The retail brokerage firm, Robin Hood, as well as Coinbase Global are entering the market. No surprise there, but some of the largest exchanges and financial institutions in the world are also embracing these betting

platforms.

In October 2025, The New York Stock Exchange parent company, Intercontinental Exchange (ICE), purchased a \$2 billion stake in prediction leader, Polymarket. The S&P Down Jones Indices also announced a partnership with another fintech company, Dinari, to create a crypto-focused index. DraftKings and Flutter Entertainment, two sports betting operators, entered the prediction markets in December 2025. Flutter joined hands with the CME Group, to launch FanDuel Predicts in five U.S. states and plans to go nationwide this year.

Supporters argue that these platforms use innovation financial technology tools that allow traders to better discover efficient pricing of event risk. Yet prediction markets today are sitting astride several industry faultlines. Including sports on their platforms, for example, are encroaching on already established regulatory domains.

Many states are in an uproar as a result, predicting that these new markets make it easier for coaches, players, or referees to bet on matches they may be able to influence. The wave of recent betting scandals in 2025 makes regulator's fears that much more immediate.

Rather than new investment alternatives, many regulators see them as an easy avenue toward further corruption.

This week two congress representatives Blake Moore (R-UT) and Salud Carbajal(D-Ca) jumped into the fray by introducing legislation that would prohibit the listing of contracts for sale related to terrorism, assassination, war, gaming (sports or athletic competitions), or illegal activity. Betting on certain outcomes in the U.S./ Iran conflict may have sparked this bipartisan effort to reign in the prediction markets when it comes to what they deem to be threats to public safety and national security risks.

In my opinion, trying to stem the flow of this new prediction market arena in the age of AI is futile. Over the next ten years, the sector is projected to reach a market size of \$95 billion, with a growth rate of 47%. Even an old codger like me, is already monitoring the betting on any number of events from war in Iran to the earnings on Nvidia. I suggest you do the same.

Bill Schmick is a founding partner of Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires. Bill's forecasts and opinions are purely his own and do not necessarily represent the views of Onota Partners, Inc. (OPI).

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL (USPS 303280)

An Independent Connecticut Newspaper Published Weekly by LJM Media, Inc. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; Dan Dwyer, Chair 64 Route 7 North, Falls Village, CT 06031 P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039-9989 (860) 435-9873 • lakevillejournal.com • editor@lakevillejournal.com

Volume 129, Number 33 Thursday, March 19, 2026

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Subscription Rates - One Year: \$120.00 in Litchfield County, \$147.00 outside county Known Office of Publication: Lakeville, CT 06039-1688. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Lakeville, CT 06039. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to LJM Media, Inc., PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039-1688.

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Viewpoint

Cruelty has become a defining feature of second term

President Trump's second term has been a coming out party for cruelty, whether in casual pronouncements or formal policies. Amidst a cascade of international aggressions, and what looks like an expanding War in Iran, I fear for Cuba, which has been receiving U.S. threats that its centralized economy structured to ensure fairness and equality, values that many Americans also hold dear, must be given way to the excesses of free enterprise.

It may seem too long ago to remember that for decades USAID was a key component of America's soft power. Early in his second term, the Trump Administration peremptorily ended USAID funding, partly to help balance a budget constrained by GOP tax breaks to corporations and billionaires, but also to clarify the Administration's contempt for international decency, generosity and caring. Without Congressional discussion or approval, the U.S. summarily eliminated maternal and child healthcare for 95 million people, and created food

ON REFLECTION
CAROL ASCHER

insecurity and malnutrition, which threatened to increase forced migration even as hundreds of thousands have already died. The end of USAID also meant the cancellation of 390 education projects effecting 23 million children, with vulnerable children and girls especially effected. And, in a final Trumpian twist, the end of USAID left millions of dollars of unused food grown by U.S. farmers spoiling in warehouses.

In fact, President Trump's attitude toward ordinary Americans has also been uncaring, if not cruel. The Administration has threatened to cut as much as \$900 million in transportation funding within the U.S. and withhold over \$1.3 billion in disaster relief funding to four Democratic-led states. It has also attempted to punish states whose policies it disagrees with by stripping funding, including to those

states that refuse to support the President's inhumane mass deportation agenda.

Although many Americans voted for Trump because of his promise to end the disasters of war, within the first year of his second term, his administration has authorized military strikes and bombing operations in Iraq, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen. The U.S. also bombed nuclear facilities in Iran in June 2025, and a facility in Venezuela in late 2025. Early in 2026, it also collaborated with Israel in a widening war with Iran.

Pete Hegseth, our Secretary of the renamed Department of War, has epitomized the Administration's cruelty and disdain. Aiming to sound bellicose, tough and vengeful, Hegseth has said that, "We fight to win. We unleash over-whelming and punishing violence on the enemy." We also don't fight with "politically correct" or "stupid rules of engagement." That is presumably why no effort was made to rescue the 180 Persian sailors left in the water when their warship was torpedoed by a U.S. sub-

marine in the Indian Ocean, 2,000 miles from Iran. And why there has been no apology or even acknowledgment for the 175, mostly children, killed when a U.S. bomb mistakenly hit the Shajarah Tayyebah elementary school building in Teheran.

Finally, in our own hemisphere, more than 157 people have been killed in 46 separate bombings of small boats in the Caribbean that were supposedly delivering drugs. Moreover, since Secretary Hegseth had directly ordered that everyone on board should be "killed," this tally includes two men who had survived the bombing of their boat and were clinging to its destroyed pieces when they were directly targeted, a war crime by international rules of engagement. And the dramatic seizure of President Nicolas Maduro and his wife in Caracas included the murder of 47 Venezuelan soldiers, along with 32 Cuban security personnel acting as bodyguards, for which there has been no formal expression of condolence.

Unfortunately, this refusal by Trump and Hegseth to

give the deaths of Americans the dignity of an apology or acknowledgment extends to both soldiers and people killed by government agents on U.S. soil. As President Trump made clear in his State of the Union address, he considers it unpatriotic to worry about immigrants seeking asylum, Green-card holders, or even American citizens either violently rounded up by ICE, or held in one of the new mega-detention centers, without access to families or an attorney. And this morning Donald Trump used a photo of himself in a "dignified return" of a soldier killed in the Middle east to sell his private security briefings.

All of which make me especially worried about the Administration's bellicose attitude toward Cuba, whose people have lived under a U.S. embargo throughout its 67 years of socialism. In January, 2026, President Trump urged Cuba to "make a deal, before it is too late." At the same time, the Administration cut off all oil that Cuba had been receiving from Venezuela, its major supplier. Moreover, Trump's threat to impose tariffs on any country that provides oil to Cuba resulted in Mexico closing off its shipments, leaving Cubans with dwindling available oil. And Trump has made clear that Cuba needs to open its economy to capitalism if its people want to survive.

As of March 2026, Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, whose parents left for the United States soon after the Revolution, is said to be in contact with the Cuban

leadership, including Raul Castro's grandson. While supposedly "squeezing" the regime, he is offering to roll back sanctions if Cuba implements the privatization sought by the Trump Administration. However, given the paucity of private companies currently in Cuba, this process is likely to be slow. And since American philanthropic organizations like USAID no longer exist to offer food, medicine and electricity in the meantime, there will be more suffering for Cubans, including longer blackouts, more scarcity and ongoing migration.

A March 13, 2026 article in the New York Times by Frances Robles, a seasoned reporter on the Caribbean, notes that experts say, "Any meaningful deal with the Cuban government" would also have to include such important changes as "an end to the criminalization of dissent," and "a restoration of basic civil liberties including freedom of speech and the press"—important reforms, if we want Cuba to become a democracy. However, these are exactly the freedoms that Trump and his supporters find threatening in the United States and are working to remove. Perhaps the experts hope that our island neighbor, 90 miles south of Florida, will be there as a beacon of democracy in years hence to remind us of all we carelessly gave away.

Carol Ascher, who lives in Sharon, has published seven books of fiction and nonfiction, as well as many essays and stories. She is trained as a spiritual director.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago —
March 1901

Master Roscoe Brinton sprained his wrist one day the past week so badly while playing at school, as to require Dr. Skiff's services.

Did you ever observe that we have what may be called submarine sidewalks.

Dr. Coley, whose summer home is in Sharon, contemplates having a hospital in town where he may care for his patients during the summer months.

I.W. Sanford has been busy surveying ground and arranging plans for the new milk bottling plant to be erected by the Borden Co. at Canaan. The building is said to be of wood, 50x150 feet.

The new iron trestle being erected by the railroad company is being rapidly put together by a force of workmen. The first span is already in place. The whole number of sections will be three and when finished will be a great improvement over the old wooden one.

100 years ago —
March 1926

LIME ROCK — Lawrence Belter went to Hartford Monday for treatment on his throat. Friends of Mrs. Belter are glad to hear she is improving slowly.

The blue birds have been postponed on account of the weather.

LIME ROCK — Miss Doris Athoe who is training to be a nurse in the Hartford hospital, spent Sunday with her parents.

Col. Charles H. Ball has installed a radio at his home.

50 years ago —
March 1976

Gov. Ella Grasso announced Tuesday the appointment Tuesday of Patsy Van Doren of Cornwall to the governor's Council on Voluntary Action. Mrs. Van Doren said she is "very pleased" with the appointment and is looking forward to working with the council. The Council on Voluntary Action, a 12-member body, coordinates volunteer activity, initiates programs, consults with private agencies using volunteers, assists in fundraising and tests new methods of coordinating volunteer programs.

The move to provide better "sex education" at Hous-

atonic Valley Regional High School got a strong boost this past week from four physicians. The doctors vigorously urged a HVRHS board-appointed committee to pursue and expand its plans for developing new programs.

Caring for the President's skis when he vacations at Vail, Colo., is the job of Gunnar Jansen, son of Karine Jansen of Salisbury. Jansen, who was photographed with President Ford during the First Family's Christmas holiday, is the Rossignol Ski Company's representative in Colorado.

CANAAN — Lester Gochey Jr., 40, of the Greenacres section of Canaan, was drowned Sunday night after his snowmobile crashed through the ice on Lake Pleasant at Northville, N.Y. Douglas A. Parker, undersheriff of Hamilton County, N.Y., said that Gochey was snowmobiling on the lake with Kenneth Demming of Ashley Falls, Mass., when the accident occurred. Gochey's snowmobile was ahead of Demming's when it went through the ice and into about 12 feet of water. Gochey was a mechanic for the Riva Equipment Co. in Canaan. He lived on Housatonic Avenue with his wife Anita and two children, Raymond and Michele. A snowmobile rally will be held on Dave Carlson's farm in Canaan

Valley Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Gochey family.

25 years ago —
March 2001

CANAAN — The Environmental Protection Agency has filed an administrative complaint against MINTEQ International stemming from an oil spill last year that released a small amount of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) into the environment. PCBs are considered by the EPA to be "probable carcinogens." The federal agency is alleging six violations relating to the spill — classified as an "unauthorized disposal" — and inadequate storage of PCBs. Penalties for the complaints total \$192,000.

CANAAN — Molly Toomey brought her imperishable style to Pittsfield last Saturday and brought home the regional spelling bee championship. The seventh-grader also made history, becoming the first North Canaan Elementary School student to achieve the title in the 21 years of the regional competition.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Able-bodied' does not mean 'able-minded'

I am writing in response to Ruth Epstein's article about the League of Women Voters' breakfast with six local CT representatives. Representative John Piscopo (R-76) made an unfortunate statement about wanting "able-bodied" people to go to work.

He thereby embodied an all-too-common misperception about the poor/folks receiving state assistance who appear to be "able-bodied". He has apparently never noticed the distinction between "able-bodied" and "able-minded".

He has undoubtedly never spoken to a person who is receiving welfare benefits. I spoke to many during my decades as a Family Physician in both rural and inner city Medicaid clinics. They include the people who are still illiterate because their dyslexia was never discov-

ered during their school years, people who fall well below the average IQ on the classic normal distribution curve of such things, people with mental health disorders of multiple types, many inheritable and others caused by stress.

There are people whose childhoods were so marred by physical, psychological and sexual abuse that they will never be able-minded, and far too many of them are substance abusers as a result.

They all belong to our society, we have failed to prevent what happened to them, and, in my opinion, we owe them at least a square meal on their tables.

Representative Piscopo needs to rediscover his potential for empathy, something all humans possess but some never bother to use.

Anna Timell, MD
Cornwall

For more letters, see Page A10.



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Hedgelaying is the historical art of creating living hedgerows around fields that are impenetrable by livestock, last up to 50 years and provide shelter for wildlife. Hedgelaying's stronghold is in Great Britain, but it has a growing following here in New England. For more information, please visit www.hedgelaying.org.uk. For an instruction manual of just how to go about this, please visit: www.gardensillustrated.com/garden-design/how-to-lay-a-hedge. Finally, when you feel you have mastered this skill, there are competitions in England on who is the best at laying a hedge. To see who were the champions in 2025, please go to: www.hedgelaying.org.uk/championships/2025-national-hedgelaying-championship-2/



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Associate Broker with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
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Kent Falls

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Riley Klein

Managing Editor

rileyk@lakevillejournal.com

Patrick L. Sullivan

Senior Reporter

patrick@lakevillejournal.com

Alec Linden

Reporter

alecl@lakevillejournal.com

...

Sandra Lang

Subscriptions/Billing

circulation@lakevillejournal.com

Roxanne Lee,

Mary Wilbur

Advertising

advertising@lakevillejournal.com

James H. Clark

Publisher, CEO

jamesc@lakevillejournal.com

POVERTY

Continued from Page A1

she said.

To stretch her limited budget, she regularly visits the local food pantry and carefully limits spending to essentials. Her daughter pays for her cell phone as part of a family plan.

Lynn's experience reflects a broader reality across the region.

In the Northwest Hills Planning Region, which includes the Region One towns of Salisbury, Sharon, Kent, Cornwall, Falls Village and North Canaan, about 36% of households fell below the ALICE threshold in 2023, according to United Way data.

Statewide, about 40% of Connecticut households fell below the ALICE threshold, including 11% living in poverty and another 29% classified as ALICE.

In the Northwest Hills region, roughly one in four households — about 13,000 families — fall into the ALICE category, meaning they are above the poverty line but struggle to cover everyday expenses.

Rising housing costs have been a major factor driving the region's affordability challenges. Median home prices in several Northwest Corner towns range from \$700,000 to \$1 million, fueled in part by second-home buyers and limited housing supply.

At the same time, rental options remain scarce, and rents have risen with property values, with monthly rentals reaching into the thousands of dollars.

Federal poverty statistics often fail to capture that reality.

The federal poverty line is about \$15,000 for a single person, yet a single adult earning between \$15,000 and \$38,000 a year in northwest Connecticut falls below the ALICE budget threshold.

For a family of four, the federal poverty line is about \$30,000, yet households



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Jocelyn Ayer, Jo Loi and Erica Cohn, volunteers at The Corner Food Pantry in Lakeville, bag groceries and other items as a steady stream of patrons pick up their weekly supplies.

earning between \$30,000 and \$116,000 in the region can still fall short of covering the region's basic cost of living, according to ALICE measures.

A quiet lifeline in Lakeville

Across the Northwest Corner, residents facing financial strain often rely on support networks to make ends meet.

One of those lifelines is The Corner Food Pantry, located in a modest white building behind St. Mary Church in Lakeville.

The church leases the building to the pantry for a nominal \$1 per year, said Holly Kempner, co-president of the nonprofit with Amanda Halle.

"We couldn't run the pantry without their help."

Support also comes from local businesses, volunteers and community partners. La-Bonne's Market in Salisbury helps supply fresh produce, and a massive container filled with dozens of eggs recently came from the nonprofit Tenmile Farm Foundation in Dover Plains, N.Y.

Referrals are also submitted electronically from local

social service agencies, including from the town of Sharon, as well as Project SAGE, which is a nonprofit domestic violence agency serving Northwest Connecticut and nearby communities in New York and Massachusetts, Kempner explained.

Hardship is often hidden, Kempner said.

"It's hard to know who is struggling and who isn't. It's not as obvious as in the city where you have a lot of hard-core stuff going on."

On a recent Saturday morning, cars filled the church parking lot across Wells Hill Road and stretched up the driveway leading to the pantry a half hour before opening.

The vehicles reflected the income disparity in the Northwest Corner — luxury SUVs alongside aging sedans and well-worn jalopies.

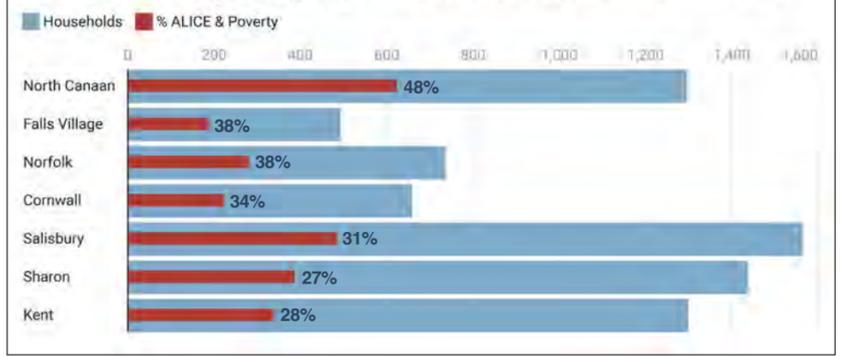
Volunteers worked with practiced efficiency, unloading produce and filling grocery bags.

Among the volunteers was Jo Loi, 85, a retired educator who taught in Cornwall for three decades.

"This is really important," Loi said as she unpacked fro-

Households At and Below ALICE

ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed — households that earn more than the federal poverty level but still fall short of the basic cost of living in their county. Households below the ALICE threshold, including those in poverty, cannot afford essential expenses in their communities.



SOURCE: UNITED WAY OF NORTHWEST/CREATED WITH DATAWRAPPER

zen chicken and pork chops. "This is something I can really do at age 85."

Working at the pantry has also made her reflect on how quickly circumstances can change.

"I was thinking, what would my husband and I do if we lost our home? Where would we go? We could no longer afford to live here."

Loi worries that rising costs are gradually pushing longtime residents out.

"When people can't afford to stay, you lose the fabric of the community," she said. "You're losing institutional memory."

The social toll

Beyond financial strain, some residents say there is also a growing sense of isolation.

Lynn said the community she once knew has changed as longtime residents move away.

"I've lived here my whole life, and I don't know anyone anymore," she said. "You feel invisible."

That sentiment was echoed by Sharon resident Linda Swenson, whose financial and social challenges became more apparent after the recent death of her husband.

Swenson was raised in Indiana before relocating to New York. She and her late

husband, both graphic designers, eventually moved to Sharon to open a studio.

"One of the things I love about this area is that people accept others as you are and are very respectful of each other," she said.

Still, she said social connections can be harder to maintain after becoming single.

"Couples have all kinds of options, but for a single woman, it can be difficult to feel connected."

Swenson believes rural Northwest Corner towns could do more to help residents living alone build stronger social ties.

"That's something this community can really work on," she said.

Impacts on families and children

Lisa Ferris, executive director of the United Way of Northwest Connecticut, said the organization focuses heavily on supporting ALICE households.

"Many are working two or three jobs to cover basic living expenses and still have a hard time putting food on the table," she said.

Ferris also worries that changes to federal SNAP regulations could make it harder for some residents to receive food assistance.

"People may have to prove they have a part-time job or show volunteer hours to qualify for benefits," she said. "But we're here to give them a leg up. We don't want them to fall into poverty or homelessness."

Health providers working with children say financial pressures on low-income families are also showing up in schools.

Rebecca Malone, a prima-

ry care provider with Community Health & Wellness Center in North Canaan, serves students through school-based health centers in the Region One School District, including Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

"Hunger is an across-the-board challenge for families in the Northwest Corner," Malone said.

Food insecurity often remains hidden, she noted.

"People may have neighbors forced to choose between paying for health insurance, or filling their refrigerators, or paying rent," Malone said.

Often, multiple families are living under one roof to make ends meet.

Limited budgets frequently push families toward cheaper foods with little nutritional value.

"Many kids are eating empty calories — junk food that lacks nutrition," Malone said. "It's not through a lack of caring. Parents are trying to feed an entire family with a very limited amount of money."

In response, a food closet has been set up at the high school where hungry students can help themselves to healthy food and snacks.

Seasonal employment can make the situation worse.

"A lot of families work in seasonal jobs, landscaping and outdoor work," Malone said. "Those jobs shut down for winter and people get laid off," creating financial stress that can spill into the home.

"We can't expect excellence from children until we fill their needs," she said. "Without a safe and secure shelter, and food, nothing else matters."

ROBOTICS

Continued from Page A1

structure — an elevated, narrow rail — and deposited the balls.

Using an arm extending from the side, the robot pushed the balls along the rail and back to the floor.

Satisfied with the maneuver, Sellery turned to a laptop, explaining that he was fine-tuning the code that allows the robot to function autonomously.

Sellery said each team has four members. The drills last a couple of minutes, and team members have specific tasks — such as calling out directions

to the person controlling the robot about where it should go next.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Regionals Sellery had been preparing for were held last weekend. Sellery said the competition "is the last stop before the international competition."

Sellery also detailed the inner workings of the robot. He had an array of batteries charged and ready to go, each lasting about four minutes of nonstop use. "There are eight motors in the robot, so the batteries go

pretty fast," he said.

The robot also includes two pneumatic devices that require air pressure. Sellery used a small, handheld air compressor to charge them to 100 pounds per square inch (psi).

Sellery said judges closely monitor the pressure. Going over the 100 psi limit results in disqualification.

Sellery has been interested in robotics since participating in a Salisbury Recreation LEGO robotics event at Town Hall in 2015.

He said the competition gets

hectic, and that's fine with him. "The most stressful moments I enjoy the most."

Sellery reported Sunday evening, March 15, that the team's performance at the regional competition was "not amazing."

"We ran into some mechanical problems" and placed 40th overall.

But there was some good news.

"We also got an interview from a major YouTube channel," FUN Robotics, and the team found out they received a judges award after they left.

AWARDS

Continued from Page A1

of five to six students plan each issue, pitching story ideas and reporting the articles independently.

Nathan Miller, managing editor of The Millerton News and program lead, said the recognition is shared with the students.

"The program's success would not be possible without the amazing students who worked for the past year to create HVRHS Today," Miller said.

Zukerman said she was grateful to see her work recognized. "I'm honored that this piece was recognized," Zukerman said. "It documents not only a historic commemoration, but a deeply personal reckoning. For me, remembrance is not passive. In this time of rising authoritarianism and multiple ongoing genocides, I feel



PHOTO BY MELISSA FERRICK

Left to right, Christian Murray, Executive Editor; Nathan Miller, Managing Editor of The Millerton News; Natalia Zukerman, Arts & Lifestyle Editor; Thomas K. Carley, Chief Operating Officer; and James H. Clark, CEO/Publisher receive awards at the New England Newspaper and Press Association spring conference in Portsmouth, NH.

an unyielding responsibility to remember and to speak."

The annual NENPA awards recognize excellence and innovation among news-

papers and media organizations across New England, honoring work in reporting, audience development and community service.

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PHOTO BY KEVIN GREENBERG

Melissa Gamwell, hand lettering with precision and care.

Melissa Gamwell's handmade touch

By D.H. Callahan

In an age of automation, Melissa Gamwell is keeping the human hand alive.

The Cornwall, Connecticut-based calligrapher is practicing an art form that's been under attack by machines for nearly 400 years, and people are noticing. For proof, look no further than the line leading to her candle-lit table at the Stissing House Craft Feast each winter. In her first year there, she scribed around 1,200 gift tags, cards, and hand drawn ornaments.

Each piece makes a gift, a note or even a Christmas tree seem more personal, more considered, and more connected to humanity. Since then, demand

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

ART

'Quilts of Many Colors' opens at Hunt Library

By Robin Roraback

In honor of National Quilt Day, a tradition established in 1991, Hunt Library's second annual quilt show, "Quilts of Many Colors," will open Saturday, March 21, with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. The quilts, made by members of the Hunt Library Quilters, will be displayed through April 17. All quilts will be for sale, and a portion of each sale goes to the library.

At the center of the exhibit is a quilt the Hunt Library Quilters collaborated on called the "Quilt of Many Colors," inspired by Dolly Parton's song "Coat of Many Colors." Each member of the Hunt Library Quilters made two to four 10-inch squares for the twin-size quilt, with Gail Allyn embroidering "The Green Man" for the center square. The Green Man, a symbol of rebirth, is also a symbol of the library, seen carved in stone

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

NATURE

Robin Wall Kimmerer urges gratitude, reciprocity in talk at Cary Institute

By Aly Morrissey

Robin Wall Kimmerer, the bestselling author of "Braiding Sweetgrass" and a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, urged a sold-out audience at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies on Friday, March 13, to rethink humanity's relationship with the natural world through gratitude, reciprocity and responsibility.

Introduced by Cary Institute President Joshua Ginsberg, Kimmerer opened the evening by greeting the audience in Potawatomi, the native language of her ancestors, and grounding the talk in a practice of gratitude.

"Gratitude is the doorway to reciprocity," Kimmerer said.

Kimmerer, also a mother, botanist and professor, said that Indigenous wisdom does not have to be at odds with Western science, but rather it can help humans reframe the way they understand the Earth.

She also reflected on the personal journey that led to her lifelong commitment to promoting a lens of Indigenous wisdom in Western science. As a young woman entering the field of botany — then largely dominated by men — she said her path in academia was not always welcoming as a female Native scientist.

"It has been a lifelong journey," she said. "I was born a botanist."

Throughout the lecture, Kimmerer described how Indigenous ecological knowledge — rooted in observation, experience and ethical responsibility — can complement scientific inquiry and help solve today's



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Robin Wall Kimmerer inspired the audience with her grassroots initiative "Plant, Baby, Plant," encouraging restoration, native planting and care for ecosystems.

environmental crises.

She pointed to global data showing that about 80 percent of the planet's remaining biodiversity is found on lands stewarded by Indigenous peoples, many of whom remain under threat from continued colonization and development.

A central theme of the evening was the concept of the "Honorable Harvest," a code of practical ethics that governs what humans take from the natural world. Its principles include never taking the first one, always asking permission, taking only what is needed, min-

imizing harm and giving something back.

"Science is a great way to listen for the answer," Kimmerer said, referring to the practice of asking permission of the natural world and paying attention to ecological limits.

By the end of the talk, Kimmerer turned to the question she said she hears most often: "What can I do?"

Her answer included a call to reciprocity and action. She urged audience members to consider their own "human gifts" and how those gifts might be used in service of the Earth.

For example, Kimmerer said she uses her own gift of storytelling to distill complex information and inspire people to think differently about the living world.

"The Earth asks us to change," she said.

Kimmerer left the audience with a call to action through her latest initiative. In contrast to the slogan "drill, baby, drill," she said she has helped launch "plant, baby, plant," a grassroots initiative that encourages people to support the living world through restoration, native planting and care for ecosystems.

THEATER

Regional 7 students bring 'The Addams Family' to the stage

By Natalia Zukerman

Nearly 50 students from across the region are helping bring the delightfully macabre world of "The Addams Family" to life in Northwestern Regional School District No. 7's upcoming production. The student cast and crew, representing the towns of Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford and Norfolk, will stage the musical March 27 and 28 at 7 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee on March 29 in the school's auditorium in Winsted.

Based on the iconic characters created by Charles Addams, the musical follows Wednesday Addams, who shocks her famously eccentric family by falling in love with a perfectly "normal" young man. When his parents come to dinner at the Addams' mansion, two very different families collide, leading to an evening of secrets, surprises and unexpected revelations about love and belonging.

For director Ann DeCerbo, the show's mix of humor, spectacle and heart made it an ideal choice for a high school production.

"It's funny and a little spooky, but underneath that it's really about family, acceptance and learning to embrace what makes us unique," she said.

The large cast and crew also made the musical a good fit for the school's thriving theater program.

"What's impressed me most is the level of commitment," DeCerbo said. "These students are balancing school, sports, work, family, lessons, driver's ed. The list goes on and on. But they show up ready to work and to support each other."

Senior Gustavo Zurita stars as Gomez Addams opposite Ivy Wallace as Morticia. The cast also includes Kaileigh Grant as Wednesday and Domonic Salz as her love interest Lucas Beineke,

along with Maribelle Roach as Uncle Fester, Violet Swanson as Alice Beineke, Levi Swanson as Mal Beineke, Krystal Janak as Grandma Addams, Lorelai DeCerbo as Pugsley Addams and Juan Pablo Urbina Labarrere as Lurch.

Behind the scenes, students are also responsible for set construction, lighting, sound, costumes and stage management,

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

INSIDE

SPORTS

Salisbury ski jumping team competes in Lake Placid

OUR TOWNS

Suzan Scott on wonder and seeing



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... Melissa Gamwell

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

for her personalized, hand-lettered tags, ornaments and cards has only grown, appearing in mailboxes across the region and at shops like the Cornwall Whale and Marton & Davis in Chatham, New York. Her precision is remarkable, and to watch her create these one-of-a-kind pieces is an art all unto itself.

In recent months, we've seen a deluge of stories on digital replacement. Data managers, bankers and even therapists are being replaced by computer programs in mass waves of layoffs. But what many still find surprising about the proliferation of nonhuman competitors in the job market is how it's affecting the arts. Illustrators, animators, photographers, musicians and even on-screen actors are being supplanted by bots touted as "artificial intelligence agents."

But calligraphy — and handwriting in general — has been in the crosshairs of mechanical progress for centuries. There was a time, if you can believe it, when writing anything required ink, paper and sometimes even a living, breathing human scribe. No typewriters, no word processors, no voice-to-text programs.

Then came Gutenberg's printing press. Sure, it changed the world for the better, ensuring a greater distribution of ideas, and helping spark some of the most important political movements in history. But it also marked one of the first moments when technology replaced the artistic work of the human hand. Over the centuries, printers, designers and technologists have continued to innovate. Today, with Photoshop or Illustrator, an entire universe



PHOTO BY KEVIN GREENBERG

Melissa Gamwell, crafting custom Valentine's Day cards in her office in Cornwall.

“There is no better feeling than working through something with your own brain and your own hands

MELISSA GAMWELL

of alphabets exists, from ornate and embellished to precise and futuristic — all designed to replace the human hand.

Yet, despite this centuries-long assault from technology, Gamwell has found her own way to thrive. Largely self-taught, she combines her drawing and industrial design background with an old-school New England childhood in

Maine that involved “very tangible, hands-on, creative problem-solving using many materials.” Raised by “parents who loved antiquarian books, often filled with hand-written dedications,” hers was the kind of upbringing in which “traditional practices were cherished and flaunted” — a time and place with “hand-painted lettering on churches, street signage, the stones in beautiful churchyard cemeteries, and log books.”

Those early impressions have stayed with her, heightening her appreciation of sometimes overlooked details.

“There’s so much ephemera floating around with traces of beautiful handwriting to see everywhere, even now in Con-

necticut,” she said.

Even in a digital age, she keeps technology at a distance.

“You will not find ChatGPT on my phone, and you will usually not find my phone on me,” she said. Instead, she opts for a notebook, a scrap of paper or the back of a receipt. Sometimes, she goes even further, gathering black walnuts from trees on her property to make the specialized ink for her practice.

Gamwell’s approach to her craft is also philosophical. “There is no better feeling than working through something with your own brain and your own hands, even if you find it less exemplary than you would hope. And it only uses the water you’re already consuming. Do you need to convey an idea? Draw it, however horrific or childish. Write it, even if you never learned proper grammar — because you’ve always had programs do it,” she said.

“Sometimes I think that everything I like is ‘historic’ but it’s really that I just find more value in the traditional methods, which are still alive and well, and desperately in need of stewards for the future.”

After nearly 400 years of pressure, it’s encouraging to see handwriting — an art form that once seemed destined for obsolescence — still thriving, one careful stroke at a time. And thanks to Gamwell, perhaps there’s a new generation of observers, collectors and future calligraphers ready to carry it forward.

D.H. Callahan is a voice actor, creative director and trail steward. He lives with his wife, artist Lane Arthur, in West Cornwall, Connecticut.



PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN

Detail of “Specimen 42” by Catherine Latson at KBFA

ART

New in at Kenise Barnes Fine Art

By D.H. Callahan

Since 2018, Kenise Barnes Fine Art in Kent has been displaying an impressive rotation of works across a range of artists and mediums. On Saturday, March 14, art enthusiasts arrived to see a new exhibition at the gallery featuring a wide variety of new pieces.

Large-scale paintings by David Collins and Melanie Parke alongside small 3-by-3 inch oil-on-panel works by Sally Maca.

An intricate woodcut print by Eve Stockton and the organized chaos of Margaret Neill’s abstract drawings dazzled the eye. But much of the show’s distinctive texture came from its sculptural works.

Catherine Latson’s wire structures, tightly wrapped in hand-dyed threads, bring to mind pastel-hued sea anemones and become more impressive upon closer inspection. Translucent, hanging cast-resin vampire bats by Tristan Fitch blend into the ceiling until viewed up close, when they become an inescapable presence.

An intriguing sculpture by Julie Marren features acorn caps affixed to the wall, filled with vibrant, shimmering colors.

Paintings and a sculpture crafted from reclaimed wood by Maine-based artist Matt Barter demonstrated the range of mediums represented by a single artist.

While some of the works are already spoken for, all are on view through late April.

For more information, visit kbfa.com

... ‘The Addams Family’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO BY MONIQUE JARAMILLO

The cast of “The Addams Family” from Northwest Regional School District No. 7 with Principal Kelly Carroll from Ann Antolini Elementary School in New Hartford at Botelle Elementary in Norfolk.

essential elements in creating the Addams family’s famously eerie home.

“We started by really embracing the color palette for the show,” said DeCerbo. “Black and white with very purposeful pops of color. This is the biggest set we’ve had on the NWR7 stage in as long as I can remember.”

While the story is packed with humor and gothic charm, DeCerbo said its message res-

onates strongly with teenagers.

“High school can be a time when people feel pressure to fit in and meet external expectations,” she said. “This show does a great job of showcasing how much we all have in common while also celebrating individuality.”

That spirit, she added, is part of what makes theater such an important space for students.

“One of the things I appreci-

ate most about theater is that it offers a really welcoming environment where students feel comfortable being exactly who they are,” she said.

Ultimately, DeCerbo hopes audiences come ready to laugh and leave with a reminder that every family has its quirks.

“First and foremost, I hope they have fun,” she said. “But beyond that, I hope audiences leave with a reminder that fam-

ilies and communities don’t have to look the same to work. There’s a lot of joy in celebrating what makes people unique.”

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Holly Aragi is a local artist and dairy farmer from Sheffield, MA. Her goal as a painter is to encourage the appreciation of ordinary things and to represent the beauty and blessings of everyday life. Explore the quiet in a loud world and view her peaceful perspective.

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BOOKS

Trailblazing divorce attorney Harriet Newman Cohen to speak at Norfolk Library

By Jennifer Almquist

Harriet Newman Cohen weathered many storms in her five-decade-long journey to become one of the nation's most celebrated divorce attorneys. Voted one of the top 100 attorneys in New York for many years, Cohen served as president of the New York Women's Bar Association and has been a champion of divorce reform. She and her co-author, journalist David Feinberg, will give a book talk about her memoir, "Passion and Power: A Life in Three Worlds," at the Norfolk Library on Sunday, March 22 at 2 p.m.

What began as a personal record of her life, intended for her family, grew into a memoir that journalist Carl Bernstein describes in his endorsement as "wise and riveting." Born in 1932 in Providence, Rhode Island, to parents who immigrated in 1920 from Ukraine and Poland, Cohen traces the arc of her life and the challenges she faced entering a legal profession that was overwhelmingly male at the time, leading to her success as a maverick divorce attorney fighting for women's



Harriet Newman Cohen

PHOTO PROVIDED

rights and equity in the law. She received her Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Brooklyn Law School in 1974, one year after Roe v. Wade was decided. She is a founding partner of Cohen Stine Kapoor LLP in New York City, a family and matrimonial law firm she formed in 2021, at

age 88, with her daughter Martha Cohen Stine and Ankit Kapoor.

Cohen writes fearlessly, with a good dose of wry humor, about her own struggles balancing marriage and divorce, raising four daughters, entering Brooklyn Law School in 1971 at age

38, and her ensuing legal career. According to Bernstein, "Passion and Power" is as much about the reshaping of American cultural norms as it is about one remarkable woman's role at the forefront of legal and social transformation.

Cohen's work in the legal profession has been pivotal to social change. A 2021 HBO documentary, "Nuclear Family," directed by Ry Russo-Young, chronicles the landmark custody struggle of Russo-Young's parents, a queer couple who hired Cohen as their lawyer.

Cohen is an honest storyteller, unflinching in admitting her mistakes and rightly

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

... quilts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO BY ROBIN RORABACK

Garth Kobel, Art Wall Chair, Mary Randolph, Frank Halden, Ruth Giumarro, Project Chair, Maria Bulson, Barbara Lobdell, Sherry Newman, Elizabeth Frey-Thomas, Donna Heinz around "The Green Man."

at the library's entrance. One hundred percent of the sale of this quilt benefits the library.

Ruth Giumarro, who led the Hunt Library Quilters in this project, explained that the quilting group started last year with the theme "Playing With Art," which was inspired by children's book illustrator Eric Carle. Giumarro said, "We had so much fun last year that everyone said, 'Let's do it again!'"

"This has been exciting," said Giumarro. "We started off small with seven people. This year more people came, and there are more who want to come." The range of experience varies from none

to years of sewing and quilting. All are welcome; be a resident of Falls Village is not required.

"It's all practice," explained Giumarro, who has been sewing since she was in seventh grade. "Getting a straight line is hardest."

On March 6, the quilters gathered at Hunt Library to bring their own creations for the show and admire the finished "Quilt of Many Colors." After looking at each other's quilts and pricing them, they celebrated with cake.

The Hunt Library is located at 63 Main St. in Falls Village. More information is available at huntlibrary.org

MUSIC

Harlem Line Band concert to benefit Jane Lloyd Fund

by Aly Morrissey

Donna Lloyd Stoetzner and Ram Miles have been friends since kindergarten. With decades of shared memories stretching from grade school through high school, the two have spent a lifetime in each other's orbit. Today, they both work at Indian Mountain School, just a short distance from where they grew up.

On Saturday, March 28, Miles and his band, The Harlem Line Band, will perform their seventh semi-annual concert at the White Hart Inn in support of the Jane Lloyd Fund, a grassroots organization that helps local families facing cancer-related financial hardship. The night promises live music, dancing and friends gathering for a cause deeply personal to Stoetzner.

Miles and Stoetzner grew up attending the same local schools. Their families knew one another, and music was always in the background.

"We've known each other since kindergarten," Miles said. "I knew the whole Lloyd clan."

In high school in the late 1970s, Miles was already playing rock and roll in local bands, performing at house parties across the tri-state region. "We'd show up and there'd be 100 kids at a house party," he recalled. "Once the homeowner came out with a shotgun and everybody ran for the cars. The drums were rolling down the hill."

Stoetzner remembers those days well, especially the dancing. Her sister, Jane Lloyd, whose memory now inspires the fund, was a regular at Miles' shows. "Jane was always up for something — moonlight walks up the mountain, skating on a pond, music festivals. She loved it all," Stoetzner said.

When Jane was diagnosed with breast cancer at 34, the community rallied around her. One of the



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Ram Miles and Donna Lloyd Stoetzner.

first fundraisers was held at the White Hart Inn, with Miles' band performing for a packed crowd. More than 300 people attended, raising roughly \$6,000 to help cover Jane's medical bills. After her death, the community's support inspired Stoetzner and others to create the Jane Lloyd Fund, formally established in 2006.

Since then, the organization has quietly helped hundreds of local families, providing financial assistance for medical bills, utilities, gas and other basic needs during treatment. Stoetzner estimates the fund has distributed more than \$1.3 million in grants. "It's bittersweet," she said. "It's so gratifying that we have it — but you wish people didn't need it." Applications are submitted anonymously through social workers and reviewed by a volunteer advisory board.

That same spirit keeps the Harlem Line Band concerts going. The band formed 16 years ago when Miles assembled a group

of Indian Mountain School parents for a school auction and stuck together long after their children graduated.

"Every one of the band members has been touched by cancer in some way," Stoetzner said. "They could be making big money playing somewhere else, but they do this for us for free."

For Miles, the night is more than music. "It's like a reunion," he said. "Everyone's there because they want to be — to dance, listen to great music and support a great cause."

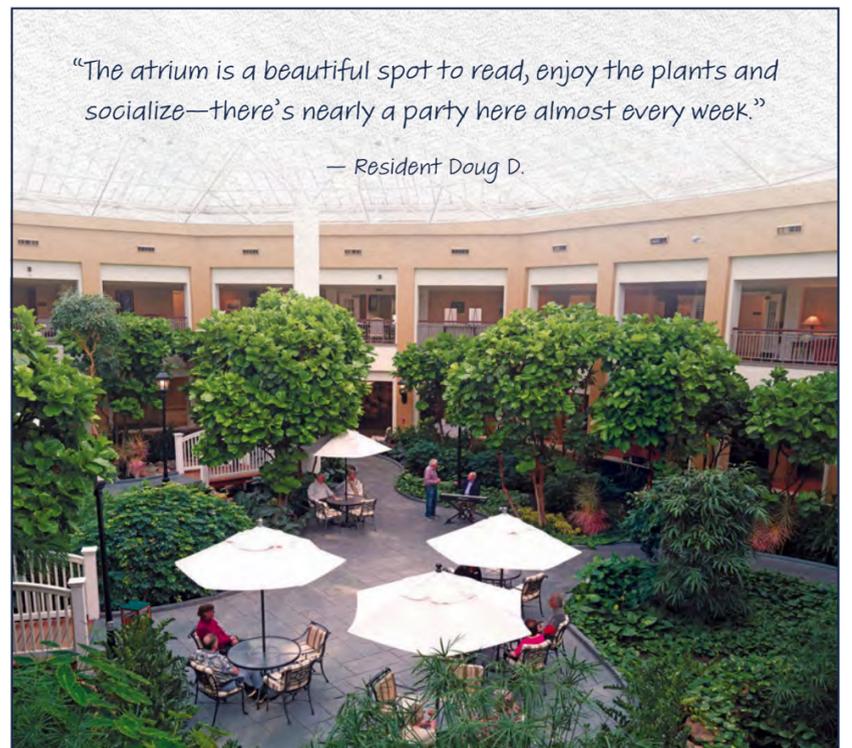
During the set, the band always performs "Sweet Jane," a tribute that brings the crowd together on the dance floor.

The event will take place Saturday, March 28, at the White Hart Inn in Salisbury. Music begins at 8 p.m., with \$20 donations accepted at the door benefiting the Jane Lloyd Fund.

"It's just a beautiful night," Stoetzner said. "Great music, great people, and a lot of love in the room."

"The atrium is a beautiful spot to read, enjoy the plants and socialize—there's nearly a party here almost every week."

— Resident Doug D.



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PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Rebecca Serle (right) and novelist Jessica Anya Blau shared laughs and literary secrets during a lively conversation about Serle's new novel "Once and Again" at the The White Hart Inn in Salisbury on Wednesday, March 11. Serle is the bestselling author of "In Five Years," "One Italian Summer" and several other novels beloved for their emotional twists and reflections on fate and second chances. The talk was part of the White Hart Speaker Series presented with Oblong Books and the Scoville Memorial Library.

... Cohen

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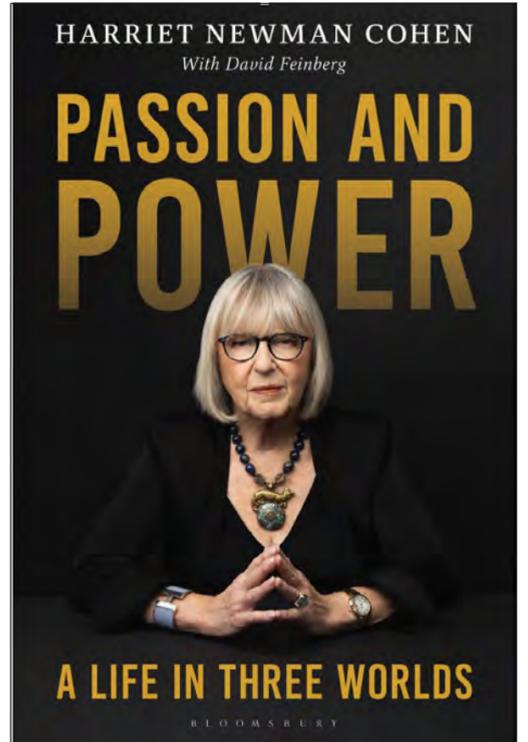


PHOTO BY PROVIDED

proud of her accomplishments. Her story ranges from tales of her father's fortune made producing the Hula-Hoop to her memory of schoolmate Kiki Bader — Ruth Bader Ginsburg — as a cheerleader waving pom-poms in Brooklyn. She also writes of her deep love of family, the stultifying suburban life of her first marriage, mentorship by legal icon Louis Nizer and riding the wave of social revolution that buoyed her

career. Norfolk author Gillian Linden writes of her step-grandmother, "Harriet Newman Cohen is a funny, edifying guide — precise, curious, warm. Entirely unsentimental. Marriage and its many paths is rich territory. This book is filled with the strange, glamorous, desperate and sadistic characters you hope to meet in the very best novels." For details, visit norfolklibrary.org

Tri-Corner Calendar

MARCH 19

Policy Potluck: Why Are Tick-Transmitted Infections Spreading?

Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn. James Shepherd explores how land use, invasive plants and biodiversity loss are fueling Lyme disease and other zoonoses, and shares habitat strategies to reduce risk. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Free. Ages 16+. Registration required at act.audubon.org.

16th Annual Empty Bowls Event

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 837 Charles St., Torrington, Conn. 5 to 7 p.m. Cost: Meal only: \$10; Meal with bowl: \$20

Empty Bowls is an international grassroots initiative focused on addressing food insecurity. The Community Kitchen of Torrington is having its 16th Annual Empty Bowls event to raise awareness and support to combat hunger in our greater Litchfield Community. All proceeds benefit the Community Kitchen of Torrington. For any questions, please contact Marilyn at (860) 482-0356.

MARCH 20

Poetry Workshop with Sally Van Doren

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org Write poetry from 2 to 4 p.m. in an immersive workshop of writing, reading and listening led by Sally Van Doren. Inspiring poems and guided prompts help unlock imagination and generate new work. No previous experience required. Registration required at scovillelibrary.org.

Lasagna Dinner

Falls Village Fire Department, 188 Route 7 S. Falls Village, Conn. Support LHK Schools 8th grade trip to Washington DC. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. \$15 per adult, \$10 per children aged 5-10. Children under 4 are free. Meat or veggie options. Salad, bread and dessert included.

Laura Zarougian and Little Tree Band

The Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. Laura Zarougian and the Little Tree Band present an evening of folk and Americana, woven with stories from Zarougian's songwriting life and her experience as an

Armenian cowgirl in the Hudson Valley. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

MARCH 21

Artist Talk: Alan Prazniak and Kati Gegenheimer

Geary Gallery, 14 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. Artist Alan Prazniak will discuss his solo exhibition "Earth Tones" in conversation with artist Kati Gegenheimer at 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served. RSVP encouraged info@gearynyc

Quilts of Many Colors

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org Celebrate National Quilt Day with a reception and exhibit featuring more than a dozen quilts by local makers, including a community quilt inspired by Dolly Parton's "Coat of Many Colors." Meet the artists; quilts available for purchase to benefit the library. Reception 5-7 p.m.; exhibit on view through April 17 during library hours. Free. 860-824-7424 or huntlibrary.org/art-wall.

AMERICA250: Get to Work - Telling Your Story Workshop

American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. As part of its AMERICA250 initiative, American Mural Project hosts a daylong personal storytelling workshop led by master storyteller Terry Wolfisch Cole, exploring stories of work and labor through writing, feedback, and practice performance.

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration required; fee includes workshop and museum admission. Details at americanmuralproject.org/america-250.

MARCH 22

Learn How to Make Ricotta

Tri Corner FEED Market, 56 S. Center St., Millerton, N.Y. Join Peter Berely from 1 to 2 p.m. to learn more about how to make fresh ricotta and how it can be transformed into a delicious dish — ricotta gnocchii! RSVP in store or email blake@tricornfeed.org

Darrah Carr Dance

Stissing Center for Arts & Culture, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. Championship Irish step dancers of Darrah Carr Dance take the stage with live fiddle and accordion for a high-energy celebration of traditional and contemporary

Items appear as space permits.

Submit calendar items to editor@lakevillejournal.com.

Irish dance. Audience volunteers may join the fun. 3 p.m. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

Introduction to Natural Dyes at Shop BES

BES, 50 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. 11 a.m.

Dye cotton handkerchiefs and napkins using logwood chips, osage sawdust, ground madder root and cochineal to create a range of yellows, pinks, oranges and purples. Pre-registration required at www.shop-bes.com/classes

MARCH 25

Death Cafe

Tri Corner FEED Market 56 S. Center St., Millerton, N.Y. 6 p.m.

Join a volunteer-led Death Cafe at 6 p.m. for an open, peer-to-peer conversation about death over tea, coffee and cake. This is a discussion group — not grief counseling or therapy — with no set agenda, themes or objectives. Limited to 20 participants; cake provided by Mudgetown Chocolate. Advance registration required at eventbrite.com.

MARCH 26

Russell Shorto in Conversation with Rhonan Mokriski

Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Road, Amenia, N.Y. Historian and author Russell Shorto joins Troutbeck Symposium co-founder and educator Rhonan Mokriski for a conversation on narrative history and how storytelling can transform the way students learn about the past. Drawing on Shorto's "Revolution Song" and other works, the discussion explores how history comes alive through the lives of real people. Free with RSVP. 5 to 6 p.m.

Tarot for Beginners

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org Sonya Reeve leads an introduction to tarot, exploring the major and minor arcana, the

Last week's WoTW

H	O	R	S	E
R	E	A	D	Y
T	R	E	A	T
A	F	T	E	R
W	A	T	E	R

Word of the Week

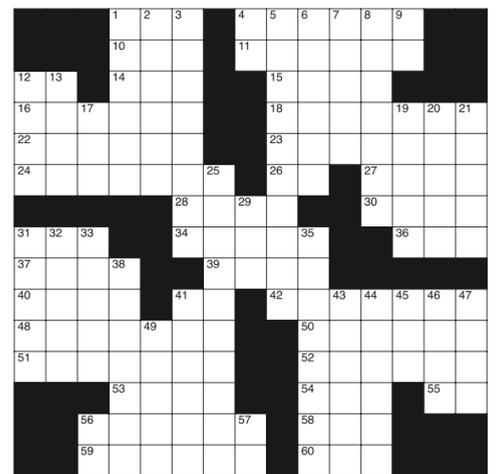
Hints relate to adjacent five-letter words. Solve to reveal correct letters. Green tiles indicate correctly placed letters in the Word of the Week. Yellow tiles indicate a correct letter in the wrong place. Uncolored tiles indicate letters that do not appear in the WoTW.

1. Quivered projectile for a bow
2. Glide on ice
3. Low-cost; frugal
4. A joust's spear
5. Take steps in the right direction

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Inclined to do
4. Sketches
10. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
11. Atomic #58
12. Dorm official
14. Small Eurasian deer
15. Southern constellation
16. Workers' groups
18. Former
22. Excellent
23. Romance language related to Spanish
24. Reference
26. Equally
27. Dirty towels
28. A cargo (abbr.)
30. Ammunition
31. You get one in summer
34. Slang for trucks with trailers
36. Swiss river
37. Exchange rate
39. British School
40. College teacher
41. Foreign Service
42. Horse gear
48. Cost to fly
50. A salt or ester of boric acid
51. Mocking
52. One who bird-watches
53. Concluding passage
54. A major division of geological time
55. Sodium
56. A way to produce
58. Soak
59. Laughed loudly and harshly
60. Affirmative



9. Atomic #62
12. Genus of evergreen shrubs
13. Flowering plant of the legume family
17. Inches per minute (abbr.)
19. Tropical fruit
20. Hot fluid beneath the earth's crust
21. James __, painter
25. Popular dessert
29. Payment (abbr.)
31. Cuisine style
32. Genus of true flies
33. City in western France
35. Arrogance
38. One holding a position of command
41. Weekday
43. An evening party
44. Print errors
45. Not good
46. Egyptian Sun god
47. East German town
49. Olfactory property
56. Atomic #37
57. "Pollock" actor Harris

March 12 Solution

D	A	O	T	A	M											
D	I	S	T	E	M	P	E	R	E	D						
F	R	A	N	C	I	S	S	I	N	A	T	R	A			
L	A	T	T	I	C	E	P	A	P	A	Y	A	S			
A	D									A	N	A	R	I		
P	I	C	T	A	B	C	T	H	E	S	E	S				
S	O	A	Y	D	R	A	T	O	A	K						
S	T	P		C	A	B	A	L	S	O	T					
C	A	D		E	B	L	A		E	D	A	M				
S	C	H	L	E	P		Y	A	M	S	A	N	A			
C	A			C	U	B										
I	N	D	W	E	L	L		P	R	A	I	R	I	E		
T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	I	S	L	A	N	D			
O	B	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	L							
B	E	D														

Sudoku

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

March 12 Solution

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



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Our Towns

Many Region One students can access school health care if enrolled

By Patrick L. Sullivan

Community Health and Wellness (CHWC), based in Torrington, operates three school-based health centers (SBHC) in Region One schools, giving students access to medical health services during the school day. However, medical staff cannot treat students unless their families enroll them in the program.

Becca Malone, a nurse with the program, urged parents during an online discussion Wednesday, March 11, to sign their children up. She emphasized that participation in the SBHC program does not replace a child's pediatrician. "It's just another layer of support."

CHWC currently operates centers at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, North Canaan Elementary School and Sharon Center School. Both medical and behavioral health services are available at the high school and North

Canaan. Sharon currently offers behavioral health only.

There are 276 children enrolled in Region One.

Malone said she believes the school-based model is especially effective "because I get to see the students in their natural habitat."

When families enroll, anything from routine health procedures to emergencies can be dealt with promptly at school.

Malone said this takes pressure off parents, who otherwise have to miss work in order to get their children to and from medical appointments that often involve a lengthy drive. A prompt response can also preclude an expensive visit to the emergency room at a hospital.

The in-school staff can also coordinate quickly with the school nurse, administrators and teachers.

Raneem El-Ayoub, a licensed clinical social worker, spoke about how the school-based team can respond to signs that a student is experi-

encing a behavioral problem.

"Are they withdrawn, flat and sad? Or are they acting out, being verbally or physically aggressive?"

With behavioral health, parents tend to react when "something big" happens.

The in-school team can act before the problem gets to that point.

Malone said in the last couple of years she has seen more eating disorder cases at HVRHS than in 15 years at an outpatient facility.

Catching it early is critical. "By the time the parents bring the child to the pediatrician they're really sick. With school-based health my kids are able to be honest about it so much earlier in the disease process."

One young woman was in trouble with an eating disorder. Malone was able to get the student to open up about it, and set up a schedule for a twice-weekly check-in.

After six months of that, the frequency changed to once a week, and then once

every other week. The child completed an intensive outpatient course of treatment as well.

All of this was done in coordination with the parents, the child's primary physician, and the high school staff.

"If we hadn't caught it, it would have been much worse."

Malone offered another case, that of a young woman who got hit on the head playing volleyball.

She said she saw the child an hour later for what was "an obvious concussion."

"The whole thing happened quickly and collaboratively," with the parents, pediatrician and school nurse all involved.

And for follow-up, the pediatrician, who was going on vacation, asked Malone and her team to provide the follow-up.

"We are able to assess a situation and create a safety plan. The child is seen and heard. And we can do it all in a couple of hours."



PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO

Suzan Scott discusses color, words, wonder and seeing at the Hunt Library on March 12.

Suzan Scott on wonder and seeing

By L. Tomaino

FALLS VILLAGE — Painter Suzan Scott's comparison of words to colors explained the visual language she has developed over many years. "I love the thesaurus." When she chooses a color, it is like finding a word in the thesaurus. And to her "words have color, and tone, and weight. Finding the right word, is like finding the right color."

Attendees at her talk looked with interest through a notebook she passed around, a kind of catalog of color, two or three rectangles on each page which she painted in solid, subtle tones using gouache. This was one of her books of visual syntax, demonstrating how sets of colors come together into an image the way words do in a sentence. "My language is line and color and shape. They are my voice made visible."

How has she built her visual language? She remembers her delight when, as a child she finally was given "a pad, a book of blank paper." "All of this is very personal to me." "I paint wonder. It's really a landscape, but I paint wonder."

"There is so much more here than what we can see, if I can step back, maybe not try to name things but just experi-

ence them."

She will often start a canvas in orange, her color for the earth under the grass. Her process becomes a meditation "about layers under the hill, layers of time, life lived there", by "digging holes into hills with color." And about clouds, trees, the seasons, weather, and the night sky. She has created a series of paintings on each. When she arranged in sequence 365 paintings she had done one year, she saw the sweep of color of the sky and earth over time.

She spoke of the artist Sol Lewitt with whom she had contact while organizing slides as Assistant to the Curator of the LeWitt Collection in Chester, Connecticut. She described him as a gentle, approachable man whose work with sequences, minimalism, and conceptual art deepened her realization of what can be represented in her work, "simplifying to get the essence of a thing."

"Wonders are there — we just have to look. Each one of us has a specific view. Individual vision is a gift."

Her show at Hunt Library, in Falls Village, This Beautiful Place, ended on March 13. Her website is www.suzan-scott.com. Hunt Library: www.huntlibrary.org

Read Aloud Day comes to Salisbury Central

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — "Woo Hoo! You're Doing Great!" was the theme when members of the community came to Salisbury Central School for Read Aloud Day Friday, March 6.

The phrase is also the title of Sandra Boynton's 2024 children's book. Boynton, a bestselling children's book author, led a school assembly in the afternoon.

Boynton also provided swag: t-shirts, bookmarks and stickers. The "Woo Hoo! Go SCS!" logo on the shirts was also on a banner hanging

outside the middle school.

Janet Neary, a Salisbury resident, started off telling her group about Boynton's early career making greeting cards with funny slogans like "Hippo Birdie Two Ewe."

Peter Becket kidded around with his students before settling in with the book.

The event was scheduled for March 3 but was snowed out, so not all of the readers listed were able to make it. The readers were: Neary, Becket, David Valcin, Alex Harney, Lauren Brown, Lee Sohl, Kyla DeRisi, Elyse Harney Morris, Deb Orup, Rita Delgado, and Lou Bucceri.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Peter Becket reads at Salisbury Central School Friday, March 6.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republican electors of the Town of Cornwall Bridge on March 26 at 7:00pm at The Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St, Cornwall, CT to select delegates for various Republican conventions.

03-19-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DAREL S. MILLER Late of Sharon (26-00098)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated March 3, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciaries are: Aiden Miller 66 East Main Street Salisbury, CT06068 Evan Miller 66 East Main Street Salisbury, CT 06068

Megan M.Foley Clerk 03-19-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF THEODORE NED DRUMM

Late of Sharon (26-00043)

The Hon. Jordan M.

Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated February 24, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciaries are:

Linda Ryan c/o Janie Loraiene Mcdermott,

Carmody Torrance Sandak Hennessey, LLP, 50 Leavenworth St, P.O. Box 1110, Waterbury, CT 06721 Terrence W. Ryan c/o Janie Loraiene Mcdermott,

Carmody Torrance Sandak Hennessey, LLP, 50 Leavenworth St, P.O. Box 1110, Waterbury, CT 06721 Megan M.Foley Clerk 03-19-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

JOSEPH W. KILLMER Late of Sharon (26-00054)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated February 2, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:

Helen J. Killmer 173 Knibloe Hill Road Sharon, CT 06069 Megan M.Foley Clerk 03-19-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF ROBERT A. WEBER Late of Salisbury (26-00056)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated February 26, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is: Eric C. Weber c/o Stephen K Gellman Shipman & Goodwin, LLP

One Constitution Plaza Hartford, CT 06103 Megan M.Foley Clerk 03-19-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF JILL M. SCOTT Late of Salisbury AKA Jill Marguerite Scott (26-00045)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated February 26, 2026, ordered that all claims must be

presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is: Edward E. Downey c/o Douglas KO Connell Howd Lavieri & Finch, LLP 682 Main St., Winsted, CT 06098

Megan M.Foley Clerk 03-19-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL WALSH

Late of Salisbury AKA John M. Walsh (26-00086)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated March 5, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is: Kathleen S. Walsh c/o Laura Rose Capon, Burnham Capon & Wimer, LLC, 124 Hebron Avenue, Suite 2-C, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Megan M.Foley Clerk 03-19-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF ANDREA M. BARGABOS

Late of Canaan AKA Andrea Bargabos (26-00062)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated February 26, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is: Deryl D. Godshall c/o Michael Peter Citrin Drury, Patz & Citrtin, LLP 7 Church Street, P.O. Box 101 Canaan, CT 06018

Megan M.Foley Clerk 03-19-26

TAX COLLECTOR TOWN OF SALISBURY CT LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to Sec. 12-145 of the Connecticut State Statutes, the taxpayers of the Town of Salisbury are hereby notified that the fourth installment on the Grand List of October 1, 2024 is due and payable on April 1, 2026. Payments must be received or postmarked by May 1, 2026. If said Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are not paid on or before May 1, 2026,

interest at the rate of one and one half percent (18% per year) will be added for each month or a fraction thereof which elapses from the time when such tax becomes due and payable until the same is paid. Minimum interest charge is \$2.00.

Pursuant to Section 12-173 of the Connecticut State Statutes, unpaid Real Estate tax on the Grand List of October 1, 2024 will be LIENED on JUNE 3, 2026. Payment must be received by 12:00 p.m. on June 3, 2026 to avoid a Lien. Tax Office is open Monday, Wednesday 9am-4pm, Friday 9am-3pm. Closed 12:30 pm-1:30 pm.

Taxes can be paid by mail addressed to: Tax Collector, P.O. Box 338, 27 Main Street, Salisbury,

CT 06068. There is a drop box in the vestibule of the Town Hall which is available during normal Town Hall hours as well as a 24-hour drop slot at the rear of the building adjacent to the parking area. The Town is urging taxpayers to mail checks or use the option of paying by credit card or E-Check. Please see the Town website salisburyct.us for additional information. Dated at Town of Salisbury, CT this 6th day of March 2026.

Jean F. Bell, CCMC Tax Collector Salisbury CT 06068 03-19-26 04-02-26 04-23-26

Kent P&Z approves scaled-back High Watch changes, Lane Street housing conversion

By Alec Linden

KENT — The Kent Planning and Zoning Commission resolved two long-pending applications at its regular meeting Thursday, March 12 — approving a scaled-back request from High Watch Recovery Center to amend its special permit and granting approval for a housing conversion on Lane Street.

After months of deliberations and heated public hearings, the commission approved just two changes to High Watch Recovery Center's 2019 special permit, far fewer than the seven modifications the treatment facility initially requested.

P&Z Chair Karen Casey said Thursday evening that High Watch emailed the town in late February withdrawing two proposed changes — the controversial installation of a new lecture hall and a condition that would have allowed the facility to accept patients after hours.

Other previously withdrawn elements of the original application included an expansion of two beds in the detox center, a proposal to allow the facility to admit patients who are in

custody or court-mandated to treatment, and a request to remove a condition limiting use of the facility's PA system.

Two changes were ultimately approved unanimously by the commission.

First, the commission added a note acknowledging that while the facility is expected to notify authorities if a patient leaves unexpectedly, federal privacy laws may prevent it from doing so in some cases.

Second, the commission removed a requirement that the center sign a contract with a private emergency response company for situations that do not require a 911 call.

The Kent Volunteer Fire Department has said it does not expect the facility to place an undue burden on its ambulance service. The commission also reserved the right to reimpose the private emergency response requirement in the future if needed.

"Those are the two things," Casey said after outlining what remained of the application. "Very simple, very straightforward — no big deal, in my opinion."

High Watch, a substance

use disorder treatment facility on Carter Road, approached the commission last fall seeking to modify several conditions attached to its special permit. CEO Andrew Roberts argued the requirements were unnecessary, cumbersome or in some cases conflicted with the law.

The proposal drew push-back from neighbors. A small group of residents spoke out at public hearings, on the town's Facebook page and in circulated fliers, arguing the changes would represent an expansion of an already disruptive institution.

Throughout the hearing process, Roberts said he believed the organization had been misrepresented by members of the public. In a February letter, he claimed that High Watch had been treated unfairly by the commission.

Lane Street housing conversion approved

A decades-old zoning issue that had prevented John and Diane Degan from converting an old industrial building on their property into their primary residence was also resolved at the March 12 Planning and Zoning Commission

meeting.

An application initially presented to the commission late last year was simplified through the joint efforts of Jay Klein, attorney for the Degans, and Michael Ziska, the commission's attorney. The two identified a zoning regulation that allows one nonconforming use of a property to be changed to another nonconforming use, as long as the change is not detrimental to the neighborhood.

"The regulation is tailor made for this situation," Klein said Thursday evening. "We think this is a move in the right direction — it's something that is endorsed by the community."

During several rounds of public hearings on the proposal, neighbors voiced strong support for the Degans' plan, saying they preferred to see the building used as a residence rather than return to commercial use.

Over the years, the structure has housed an auto body shop, an aquarium store and a sign production facility, among other businesses.

The commission voted unanimously to approve the Degans' proposal.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Heidi Whitney moves bins of items into the Bargain Barn temporary headquarters at the Sharon American Legion Post 126.

Sharon thrift shop begins move to new location

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON — The Bargain Barn is on the move.

The popular thrift shop has been housed in a building off Low Road for decades. The property was purchased by Low Road Foundation, which has plans to raze the structures. The Bargain Barn will be moving to a site now under construction just north of the shopping center owned by Brian Murtagh. But until those premises are complete, the operation will be housed temporarily at the American Legion Hall Post 126 behind the Sharon Volunteer Fire Department's firehouse on West Main Street.

The origins of the operation go back to when it was the Nightingale Shop run by auxiliary volunteers out of the Sharon Historical Society building. Eventually it became the Bargain Box and Barn and when it was about to close 10 years ago, Marshall Miles and Jill Goodman of Tri-State Public Communications took it over.

Offering a wide variety

of items, including clothing, shoes, jewelry, housewares, DVDs and books at reasonable prices, the Bargain Barn provides an important resource for people. "It's a new cool thing to be thrifty," said manager Heidi Haskell, and the barn fits that bill. "The prices are right and there's something for everyone. We see people furnishing their first house, kids going off to college or mothers outfitting their children."

But it's more than just a shop. Haskell said, calling it "a cool community place." Regulars come to check out the inventory as well as meet up with friends.

Plans called for opening at the American Legion Hall on March 17, with hours Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donations of two bags or two boxes will be accepted from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. She said the selection may be smaller while in the temporary spot because of the smaller space. "I want to give a big thanks to all those who helped us move, and for everyone's patience and support," said Haskell.

Salisbury reviews spending plans for 2026-27

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Board of Finance received preliminary budget proposals for 2026-27 from the Board of Selectmen, Salisbury Central School and Region One during an online meeting Thursday, March 12.

The current draft budget for town spending totals \$9,618,325, an increase of \$413,223, or 4.4%. First Selectman Curtis Rand said there will be a third draft and possibly a fourth before the finance board's next meeting Thursday, March 26.

Rand said salaries for unionized employees at Town Hall and the town garage are up 4%. Some employees are getting additional pay for extra work, such as reviewing the town's ordinances, many of which are outdated, and providing ad-

ditional tech support.

Rand added that the lines for the registrar's office are up in anticipation of primary elections this year, as well as the cost of early voting.

The legal line is up "because we never know where that ends up," Rand said.

Health insurance for town employees is down \$195,200 (18%) because the town switched to a state insurance plan.

Salisbury Central School (SCS) Principal Stephanie Magyar presented the town's education budget proposal.

The spending plan calls for a total of \$7,236,676, an increase of \$339,528, or 4.92%.

Magyar said 81% of the increase is from existing contracts with teachers and staff. She said there are "no new things" in the spending plan.

Region One Business

Manager Sam Herrick also presented the current Region One budget proposal. He said the plan is very much a work in progress, with the regional school board's budget committee scheduled to meet two more times before the public hearing Thursday, April 9.

The current Region One budget draft is up 6.2%, or \$1,146,478, for a total of \$19,631,686. Herrick said this is the biggest increase he has seen in his 26 years at Region One.

The Region One budget has three components: Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS), Pupil Services (which includes special education), and the Regional Schools Services Center (aka the Central Office).

The six Region One towns pay a percentage of the total

based on how many students they send to HVRHS, except for the superintendent's salary, which is shared equally by the towns.

Herrick said the biggest increase is in Pupil Services. Specifically, out of district placements for qualifying students and the transportation costs associated with them are up significantly. The Pupil Services line is currently at \$8,205,920, an increase of \$683,364, or 9.08%.

Herrick's numbers show Salisbury's share of Region One at \$4,825,659, an increase of \$44,566, or 1.07%. The SCS budget draft has that figure slightly lower, at \$4,813,638 (plus \$32,545, or 0.68%).

The Board of Finance will meet again Thursday, March 26 to receive final budget proposals and vote on sending them to a public hearing.

Kent selectmen present annual spending plan

By Alec Linden

KENT — Municipal operating costs were anticipated to increase by nearly 6% after the Board of Selectmen's first presentation of its budget to the Board of Finance.

The BOS presented its budget draft, which is subject to change as budget season progresses towards the town hearing and vote in May, to the BOF at its regular meeting on March 11. The bottom line total for the next fiscal year was \$5,309,163, marking a 5.7% increase from the amount budgeted for this year.

The two town boards discussed the expenditure draft, noting where the most marked increases lay.

As in other towns in the Northwest Corner, insurance costs for hiked, increasing for Town Hall employees under a state plan by close to 13% per person. Treasurer Barbara Herbst noted that the state had announced that premiums would not be hiked as

much as anticipated, so that number could end up lower.

The Selectmen's own budget line is marked at a 22% increase from 2025-2026. First Selectman Eric Epstein explained that the difference is largely due to a proposed new social media specialist position for Town Hall. The new part-time role, if filled, would add \$23,400 to the BOS's expenditures.

Much of the meeting was dedicated to discussing Lake Waramaug, primarily due to a plan to combat the invasive waterweed hydrilla that was recently formulated between the lake's three governing towns of Washington, Warren and Kent.

Kent is currently set to contribute 20% of the total staffing costs of \$100,000

for a new decontamination station at the New Preston firehouse.

BOF member Jason Wright voiced his support for acting quickly against the aggressive plant, but advised that the various commissions and municipal groups in charge of the lake should figure out how to diffuse the costs away from Kent taxpayers, most of whom aren't putting boats into Lake Waramaug.

During public comment at the meeting's end, resident Donna Hayes felt that Kent residents were being treated unfairly by being forced to contribute such a sum to a lake many aren't even able to use due to access restrictions and costs. She voiced her desire to "get something for our

money" in future deliberations surrounding expenses for the lake.

The next stage in Kent's budget proceedings will occur on March 25, when the Board of Education presents its drafted contribution to the yearly municipal budget

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Sports

Salisbury ski jumping team competes in Lake Placid

By C.E. Tripler

The Salisbury Winter Sports Association's ski jumping team travelled to Lake Placid, NY, the weekend of Saturday, March 8, in a multi-club jump competition.

Ten athletes from SWSA joined a field of 20 other ski jumpers from across New York, New England and Canada.

Competitors jumped in one of two heights, the 10-meter and 20-meter jumps. Additionally, athletes competed in a cross-country ski racing event, in which competitors skied a half-kilometer course at the bottom of the ski jumps.

Athletes completed two

to six laps covering a distance from one to three kilometers in distance depending on their specific competition group.

Ski jumpers competed in their age classes with the youngest jumpers in the 10 years and younger group jumping first.

SWSA's Bodhi Thomas of Falls Village jumped to a gold medal in the U10 boys with a distance of 26 feet.

In the U12 division, Charlotte Milner of Lakeville jumped to a silver medal with a distance of 44 feet for the girls.

Wyeth Taylor of Somersville, Massachusetts and Salisbury took the gold medal jumping 48 feet and Henry Sheil of Lakeville took the bronze



PHOTO BY C.E. TRIPLER

SWSA 2026 Ski Jumping Team in Lake Placid for the Lion's Club Ski Jump Competition.

medal with a distance of 44 feet.

In the open category, Augustus Tripler won gold with a jump of 51 feet on the large hill.

Aerin Sheil of Lakeville skied to a bronze medal finish in the U10 girls Nordic combined with a time of 6:15 in the 1K. Mather Eckert of Lakeville took second place for U10 boys with a time of 7:07.

In the longer distance categories Wyeth Taylor grabbed silver with a time of 9:56 and Henry Sheil earned bronze with a time

of 12:41 for the 2K distance U12 boys category.

In the open category, Augustus Tripler finished in second earning his second medal of the day.

While conditions were less than ideal with the warm air and strong sun, all the jumpers seemed to be having fun. One of the younger jumpers, Oona Mascavage, 7, from Lakeville said "It was great! I had a lot of distance on my jump" and Francesca McLoughlin was happy with the overall event saying "I had a lot of fun!"



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

The winners of the 3-on-3 championship game were, from left, Georgie Clayton, Anthony Foley and Peyton Bushnell.

3-on-3 basketball benefits Housy's junior class

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE — A miniature version of March Madness was held at Housatonic Valley Regional High School Tuesday, March 10.

Seven teams entered the double-elimination basketball tournament to benefit the Class of 2027. The teams of three were co-ed and had to include at least one non-varsity player.

Each squad was given a name of a prominent college basketball program. The team names were UConn, Florida, UNLV, 'Bama, UCLA, Duke and Syracuse.

Teacher Deron Bayer got things started. "Ready, set, basketball!"

The teams were afforded two losses before being

eliminated. The half-court games required rebounds to be taken behind the arc before beginning a new offensive possession.

UNLV, including Anthony Labbadia, Olivia Brooks and Jaxon Visockis, entered the championship game undefeated. The trio knocked out UCLA, including Anthony Foley, Peyton Bushnell and Madeline Mechare, in the semifinal.

UCLA battled back through the losers bracket for a rematch against UNLV in the final.

Mechare had to leave early, so UCLA subbed in Georgie Clayton. The team proceeded to beat UNLV twice in a row and claim the title.

The event raised more than \$100 for the junior class.

Hotchkiss boys win NEPSAC tournament

By Riley Klein

LAKEVILLE — The Hotchkiss School's boys varsity basketball team claimed the 2026 New England Prep School Athletic Conference Class A title last week.

The Bearcats defeated Phillips Academy Andover 66-54 in the championship game Sunday, March 8. The tournament final was played

in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Hotchkiss entered the playoffs as the 5th seed in Class A. The boys defeated Milton Academy 57-54 in the first round Wednesday, March 4, and went on to defeat Phillips Exeter Academy 69-52 in the semifinals Saturday, March 7.

The last time Hotchkiss won the boys Class A tournament was in 2022.

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Members of the public are invited to

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

State Project No. 0125-0131
Replacement of Bridge No. 00421
Carrying Route 4 over Guinea Brook in Sharon
Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 6:30 p.m.
Register: portal.ct.gov/DOTSharon0125-0131

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

The project involves replacing the bridge with a new structure to address the structural and hydraulic deficiencies of the existing bridge. The proposed work includes realigning the East Street to Route 4 to accommodate the new bridge and improve the intersection site lines.

Right-of-way impacts associated with the proposed East Street realignment include partial takes, slope easements, and possibly other rights or construction easements that will be determined during subsequent design phases.

Construction is expected to start in 2029, depending on funding, right-of-way acquisition, and permits. The estimated cost is \$8 million, with 80% federal funds and 20% state funds.

The public can submit comments and questions during the two-week public comment period following the meeting. Direct your comments and questions by Wednesday, April 8, 2026, to DOTProject0125-0131@ct.gov, (860) 594-2020, or to Francisco Fadul at Francisco.Fadul@ct.gov or (860) 594-2078. Please reference State Project No. 0125-0131 in the email or voicemail.

ACCESSIBILITY

Non-English language closed captioning will be available on Zoom. The recording will also be posted following the meeting in CTDOT's public meeting playlist at portal.ct.gov/ctdotVPMarchive.

For limited internet access, call (877) 853-5257 with Meeting ID 823 7732 0648. Project information can be mailed within one week by contacting Francisco Fadul at Francisco.Fadul@ct.gov or (860) 594-2078.

For hearing/speech disabilities, dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). Request language assistance from CTDOT's Language Assistance at (860) 594-2109 at least five business days before meeting.

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