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# The Lakeville Journal

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THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026 \$3.00

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



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Becky Hurlburt, Cornwall's social services director, oversees the town's food pantry, which she said is serving a high volume of residents seeking assistance amid rising need.

## POCKETS OF POVERTY

# Hidden hardship grows across Northwest Corner as demand for support surges

By Debra A. Aleksinas

Behind the Northwest Corner's image of rural affluence, demand for basic support is rising sharply.

At the Community Health & Wellness Center, the region's only federally qualified health center, patient visits climbed to about 37,000 in 2025, serving 7,212 individuals — roughly 600 more patients than the year before.

At the Corner Food Pantry in Lakeville, the number of families served jumped from 6,218 in 2024 to 7,798 in 2025, while the num-

### 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.

ber of individuals served rose from 27,442 to 35,703.

Taken together, the numbers point to a quieter crisis unfolding across the Region One towns, where working families, seniors and long-time residents are increasingly relying on town social services offices, food pantries and health clinics to cover gaps in housing, food, health care and energy costs.

On a typical weekday, that informal safety net is already at work.

Municipal social services offices often serve as the first point of contact for residents seeking help. In Sharon, social service agent Melia Hill said the people coming in are

often working households or retirees on fixed incomes.

"South Main Street is lined with mansions," Hill said, "but poverty is here and it's prevalent."

Hill said requests for assistance — particularly for groceries and basic needs — have risen sharply in recent years. In response, she has expanded coordination with The Corner Food Pantry, helping residents who are unable to access it during regular hours.

Hardship in Sharon, she said, is not concentrated in one place, but is spread throughout the community.

See POVERTY, Page A8

## Former Kent School IT worker avoids prison in case involving students' private photos

By Alec Linden

WATERBURY — A former Kent School employee arrested in 2024 for accessing the private photos and sensitive files of 81 students and staff will avoid prison under a plea agreement reached Monday, March 16.

Daniel Clery, 49, of Brookfield, a former IT staff member at the boarding school, agreed to a plea

deal that includes a 10-year suspended sentence, five years of probation and a requirement to register as a sex offender for 10 years.

Clery pleaded no contest to two counts of first-degree computer crime. Superior Court Judge Corinne Klatt found him guilty and accepted the terms of the agreement.

See DANIEL CLERY, Page A8

## Region One to explore school consolidation

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Region One officials are beginning to explore possible consolidation of its K-8 schools, as declining enrollment and shifting cost burdens prompt renewed discussion across the district's six towns.

At its March 18 meeting, the All Board Chairs Committee (ABC) of the Region One Board of Education unanimously directed Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley to develop a proposal for an organizational study examining potential consolidation scenarios.

The study would focus on the region's K-8 schools and include input from board chairs before being presented to the individual town boards.

Brady-Shanley said she has received multiple inquiries about

consolidation in recent months and wanted to formally bring the issue to the committee.

"This allows the conversation to move forward transparently," she said, noting she did not want the effort to appear as though it were being driven solely by her office.

During the discussion, committee members floated several possible models, including merging smaller schools — such as Falls Village's Lee H. Kellogg School with North Canaan Elementary — or creating a regional middle school while maintaining local elementary schools serving grades K-5.

Pat Mechare of Falls Village cautioned that the regional middle school concept has faced resistance in the past.

"The last time that came up,

See SCHOOLS, Page A8

## Kent reexamines food trucks

### Local crepe vendor presses for approval

By Alec Linden

KENT — A local crepe chef and food truck owner is fighting to find a place for his business in Kent despite a series of rulings in 2022 by the Planning and Zoning Commission as well as the Board of Selectmen that ostensibly banned mobile food businesses from town.

French-born, eight-year Kent resident Gregoire Pye appeared before the Board of Selectmen for

See FOOD TRUCK, Page A4



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PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Cast members perform during Housatonic Valley Regional High School's production of *Guys and Dolls*.

## 'Guys and Dolls' draws big crowds for HMTS

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Housatonic Valley Regional High School's Musical Theatre Society drew enthusiastic audiences with its production of "Guys and Dolls" across four performances last week, March 19-21.

Elizabeth Forbes played the lead role of Sarah Brown on Friday evening, March 20, and at the Saturday matinee on March 21.

Meanwhile, Sara Ireland took on the part during the Thursday and Saturday evening performances.

Victoria Brooks delighted audiences as Miss Adelaide, and Richie Crane brought comic relief to his

portrayal of Nathan Detroit.

Jackson Olson gave a strong performance as the unflappable Sky Masterson, keeping a straight face amid the chaos of crap games and nightclub fights. Alex Wilbur and Aiden Krupa also earned plenty of laughs as Nicely-Nicely Johnson and Benny Southstreet, respectively.

Sydney Howe, appearing in multiple roles, displayed notable talent and stage presence throughout.

The show was co-directed by Christiane Olson and Tom Krupa, with choreography by Amber Cameron.

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## Local Matters

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## In The Journal this week

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## Online This Week

### How to get help in the Northwest Corner

Organizations across the region provide support for residents facing food insecurity, housing instability and financial hardship. Learn 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.

### Car rolls on Route 63

On the morning of March 13, Xavier Lewis, 27, of Wolcott, Connecticut was traveling south on Route 63 in Cornwall when he struck the right embankment, causing the car to roll over into the southbound lane. Lewis was uninjured, but was issued an infraction for operating an unregistered vehicle.

### Warrant served for domestic dispute

On March 16, troopers arrested Jamie Duryea, 35, of North Canaan for an active arrest warrant relating to a domestic incident on Feb. 16 of this year. Duryea was processed for threatening in the second degree and disorderly conduct at the Troop B barracks before being released on a \$5,000 non-surety bond. She was scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court the next day.

### Truck breaks train crossing signal arm

On the afternoon of March 16, troopers responded to an accident involving an Estes Express Lines commercial truck at the North Canaan Railroad Street track crossing. The truck had come to a stop under the lowering warning signal arm, jamming it and causing it to separate from its base. The driver, Henry Bodon, 34, of Holyoke, Massachusetts, was uninjured but was issued a warning for improper railroad crossing.

### Assault

Troopers responded to a call of an active disturbance at a Salisbury residence on Main Street on the evening of March 17, eventually arresting Shannon Budds, 55, of Colchester, Connecticut.

Budds was placed under custody and charged for third degree assault and disorderly conduct. She was held on a \$7,500 cash bond and was ordered to appear at Torrington Superior Court the next day.

### Icy slide out on Route 44

On the morning of March 17, Josiah Rodriguez, 22, of Bristol, Connecticut was driving east on Route 44 near the Blackberry River Inn in East Canaan when he lost control of his Honda Accord on black ice. The vehicle slid backward across the road, impacting an embankment on the westbound shoulder, then sliding back across the road before stopping on the eastbound shoulder with disabling damage. Rodriguez was uninjured but was issued a warning for traveling too fast for conditions.

### Housy teacher arrested on disorderly conduct charges

On March 20, John Christinat, 65, of New Marlborough, Massachusetts turned himself into Troop B on an active warrant for his arrest stemming from an altercation between himself and a 15 year old student at Housatonic Valley Regional High School on Sept. 3 of last year.

According to the warrant, which was signed on March 18, Christinat was found at fault for disorderly conduct by Trooper Jean Colon Carattini, the presiding officer over the case. The warrant also states that the student involved, who was uninjured in the incident, was reported to have autism. Christinat was released on a \$1,500 non-surety bond and is scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on April 2

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

## Salisbury

# Median home prices dip to \$770K

By Christine Bates

SALISBURY — The 12-month trailing median sale price for a single-family home in Salisbury, excluding condominiums, fell to \$770,000 for the period ending Feb. 28, 2026, its lowest level in almost four years.

That figure represents a 19% decline from the \$947,500 median recorded for the 12 months ending Feb. 28, 2025, and a 15% drop from the \$896,000 median for the comparable period ending Feb. 29, 2024. The rolling 12-month median in February was the lowest since October 2022, when it stood at \$688,500.

Single-family home sales in Salisbury, measured on a rolling 12-month basis, remained within their typical historical range. A total of 48 homes sold in the 12 months ending Feb. 28, 2026, unchanged from the same period a year earlier. That compares with 52 sales in the 12 months ending Feb. 29, 2024.

In recent years, annual single-family home sales in Salisbury have generally ranged from 45 to 55 transactions. These figures remain well below the historic peak of 117 sales recorded in the 12 month period through May 2021 during the pandemic-era surge.

Inventory rose in February. As of March 21, there were 16 single-family homes and one condominium on the market. Of those listings, seven were priced above \$1 million.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

**Built around 1900, 21 Lakeview Ave., a 2,618-square-foot home, recently sold for \$712,000 — above its \$685,000 asking price — after just 11 days on the market.**

In addition, six parcels of land are currently listed on the MLS. The seasonal rental market is also beginning to pick up, with summer furnished rentals coming online.

### February transactions

87 Canaan Rd., Unit 6A – 3 bedroom/3 bath condo built in 1990 sold by Christopher Drew Trustee for Melinda Sweet Trust to Marsha Bobalik Smith for \$875,000

21 Lakeview Ave. – A 4 bedroom/2.5 bath home on .7 acres sold by Athene Charlotte Alison Clayton to Ashley Sharpe Adkins and Craig Anthony Adkins for \$712,000

50 Main St. – 4 bedroom/1 bath antique home built in 1908 on 1.4 acres

sold by Jonathan Newcomb, Thaddeus Newcomb and Zachary Newcomb Trustee Deborah Newcomb Irrevocable Trust to Ellen and Darren Berger for \$2,000,000.

87 Canaan Rd., Unit 2G – 2 bedroom/2 bath condo built in 1980 sold by Charles and Margaret Vail to Helen Ong for \$415,000

60 White Hollow Rd., Unit 6 – Garage sold by LRP Garages LLC to VRB Storage LLC for \$350,000

25 Fowler St. – 2 bedroom/1 bath 873 square foot house sold by Robin Lassy Roman Trustee Robin Lassy Roman Revocable Trust to Michael Conlogue and Paige McIntire for \$399,900

98 Interlaken Rd. – 1 bedroom/1 bath cabin on 2.7 acres sold by Paul Bruce

Reisman Trustee Reisman Family Trust to Interlaken Inn Associates for \$250,000

104&106 Sharon Rd. – Wake Robin Inn and a cell phone tower sold by Wake Robin LLC to Aradev LLC for \$3,500,000

\* Town of Salisbury real estate transfers recorded between Feb. 1, 2026, and Feb. 28, 2026, provided by Salisbury Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS and market statistic from InfoSparks. 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, Licensed in CT and NY.

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# Our Towns

## Tick threats rising across state as biodiversity declines

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON – With the arrival of spring comes thoughts of flowers and gardens — and, unfortunately, ticks.

The disease-carrying arachnids were the focus of the latest Policy Potluck session hosted by Sharon Audubon on March 19.

The speaker was Dr. James Shepherd, an infectious disease physician at Yale School of Medicine and Yale New Haven Hospital, specializing in tuberculosis and other mycobacterial infections. He teaches climate change, biodiversity loss, and other global processes shaping infectious disease. Shepherd is also the owner of Smoke-down Farm, which was once the largest hop grower in Connecticut, but is now transitioning to native and novel fruits.

Connecticut, said Shepherd, is one of the most tick-infested states. Ticks feed on the blood of mam-

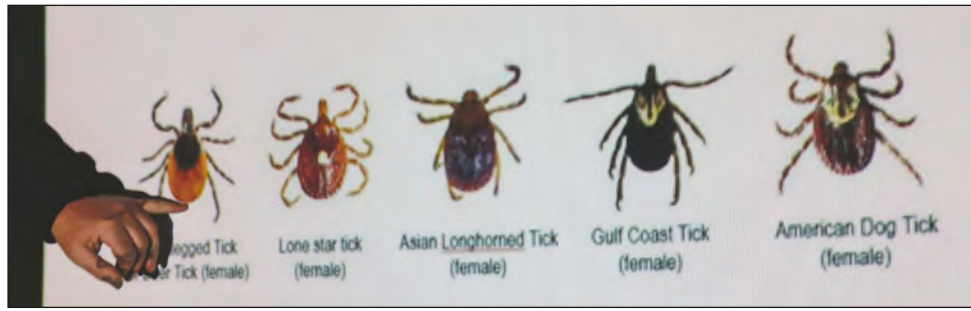


PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Dr. James Shepherd displays illustrations of various tick species during a talk at the Policy Potluck at Sharon Audubon on March 19..

mals, birds, reptiles and amphibians and often transmit disease.

He named a variety of ticks, including the black-legged, Lone Star, Asian longhorned, Gulf Coast and American dog ticks, noting they are transmitting a whole

new set of diseases, besides the commonly known Lyme disease. “We’re seeing a wider biodiversity of pathogens,” he

said.

Projecting maps on a screen, Shepherd displayed the types of ticks found in various sections of the United States, noting that incidences of Lyme disease are moving northward into Canada. In 2000, cases were largely concentrated in New England. From 1999 to 2004, there were 31 cases reported in Ontario, but by 2022, there were 1,478. The main reason is due to migratory birds, such as robins, along with mice and chipmunks.

Scientists believe the increase in Lyme disease is also linked to decreased biodiversity, driven in part by suburban expansion.

Researchers have linked the spread of tick-borne disease to declining biodiversity and habitat disruption across the Northeast. Shepherd spoke of the dilution effect, notably studied in Lyme disease, that concludes that high biodiversity reduces the transmission of pathogens to humans.

He presented a slide depicting the idea put forth by the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, NY, that when many species exist in a community, vectors (like ticks) are more likely to bite hosts that are not good

reservoirs for the disease, preventing the pathogen from spreading efficiently.

He said biodiversity is taking another hit from the rise of invasive species, which provide ideal habitats for ticks and their hosts. Japanese barberry is a prime example.

Climate change is also a major factor, as is habitat fragmentation, the process in which large, continuous natural habitats are divided into smaller patches, usually by such activities as road construction or urban development. This separation restricts wildlife movement, reduces population sizes, and disrupts ecosystems, acting as a major threat to biodiversity.

“We got problems,” Shepherd declared.

So what can people do? Shepherd asked. He then listed activities that often don’t work, such as excessive landscaping, deer fencing and spraying, which restricts biodiversity. He suggested having more respect for the environment by installing native plants, reducing habitat fragmentation, monitoring biodiversity and using personal protection.

Shepherd has worked in Nigeria, Botswana, India and Bangladesh, implementing national HIV and TB treatment programs and supporting COVID-19 treatment in refugee camps for both the U.S. government and the World Health Organization.

**From 1999 to 2004, there were 31 cases of Lyme Disease reported in Ontario, but by 2022, there were 1,478.**

## Russell Shorto to discuss ‘Revolution Song’ at HVRHS March 27

By Christian Murray

FALLS VILLAGE — Russell Shorto, author of “Revolution Song: The Story of America’s Founding in Six Remarkable Lives,” will appear at Housatonic Valley Regional High School on Thursday, March 27, for a live discussion.

The event, which begins at 7:30 p.m., will feature Shorto in conversation with local historians Peter Vermilyea and Rhonan Mokriski, focusing on the nation’s founding and the individuals who shaped it.

Revolution Song is this year’s selection for Salisbury READS, an annual collaborative program that encourages the community to read a chosen book together and participate in discussions and related events.

Shorto is director of the New Amsterdam Project at The New York Historical and a senior scholar at the New Netherland Institute. He is the author of eight books of narrative history, including the national bestseller “The Island at the Center of the World.”

Vermilyea, an award-winning history educator and author, teaches at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and for the University of Connecticut. His next book, “Litchfield County in the Rev-

olutionary War,” is scheduled for publication in spring 2026.

Mokriski, a co-founder of the Troutbeck Symposium, has been teaching at his alma mater, Salisbury School, since 1996. For his dedication and innovative approach to teaching, he was named the 2024 Gilder Lehrman Connecticut History Teacher of the Year.

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

## Canaan Foundation awards 25 grants

NORTHCANAAN — The Canaan Foundation awarded 25 grants totaling \$28,000 in March to support programs serving residents of North Canaan.

Core community services receiving funding include the Canaan Fire Company, the North Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Corp., the North Canaan Beautification Committee, the Douglas Library, Chore Services, the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Service of Litchfield, Friends of the Canaan History Center, the Falls Village - Canaan Historical Society, Project SAGE, as well

as the North Canaan Social Services office.

Additional grants were directed toward programs supporting families and children. Recipients include the Canaan Child Care Center, Art Garage, The Canaan Community Trust, Canaan Kids’ Artspace, Community Health and Wellness, Fishes and Loaves, Project Graduation, Brooker Memorial, North Canaan Elementary School, Boy Scout Troop 22, The North Canaan Education Foundation, the North Canaan Events Committee, The North Canaan Recreation

Commission, and YMCA of Western Connecticut at Geer.

Foundation officials said the grants were made possible through community support, including donations from the annual fund drive, as well as bequests and memorial contributions from families and friends of the organization.

Established in 2000, the Canaan Foundation has distributed more than \$568,000 in grants aimed at enhancing quality of life in North Canaan. For more information about The Canaan Foundation, visit [www.canaan-foundation.org](http://www.canaan-foundation.org).

## Cornwall to vote on waste authority, infrastructure

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Voters will weigh whether to join a regional waste authority and approve \$80,000 in infrastructure funding at an April town meeting, as local officials also prepare for major anniversary celebrations and Town Hall repairs.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the proposals and a range of other updates at its regular meeting Tuesday, March 17.

The town meeting is scheduled for April 17 at 7 p.m. at Cornwall Consolidated School. Voters will consider whether the town should join the Northwest Resource Recovery Authority, as well as two proposed transfers of \$40,000 each from unassigned interest in the capital projects fund to support building repairs and the highway department.

The Northwest Resource Recovery Authority is a regional solid waste coalition formed in 2025 and based in Torrington. The authority is expected to assume operations at the Torrington Transfer Station. Salisbury, Goshen and Torrington have already approved membership, while several other Northwest Corner towns are expected to vote on joining in the coming months.

The proposed budget transfers follow a recommendation from the Board of Finance, which advised allocating a total of \$80,000 in accrued interest from the capital projects fund to address infrastruc-

ture needs.

Selectmen also reviewed plans for a series of events marking the nation’s 250th anniversary.

The celebrations will begin Memorial Day weekend with the opening of a Revolutionary War-era exhibit at the Cornwall Historical Society. Additional events include “Militia Day” during the first weekend of June, featuring reenactors encamped on the Village Green, and a Fourth of July parade through the village. Programming will continue at the Cornwall Agricultural Fair in September, followed by a historic tour in October.

On the infrastructure front, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said construction to replace the roof at Town Hall is expected to begin April 1 and take approximately two months. The project will also include installation of insulation.

“It should not interfere with town activities, but it will take a great deal of time,” Ridgway said.

The town is also transitioning its municipal website to a “.gov” domain using the CivicPlus platform, which is already in use in Kent and Sharon. The change is part of a state-wide mandate requiring all municipalities to adopt .gov domains by mid-2027.

In other business, officials said Hammond Beach at Cream Hill Lake is seeking lifeguards for the summer season. Those interested can contact Town Hall for more information at (860) 672-2709.

### Realtor® at Large



Thank you to all the places that opened up their maple sugaring operations to the public yesterday. We visited the sugar house at Great Mountain Forest and their forester Kate Regan-Loomis was excellent in explaining how the sap is collected and then boiled down to maple syrup, which is delicious! For more information on the Great Mountain Forest, please visit: [greatmountainforest.org/](http://greatmountainforest.org/). Our next stop was to see our friend Shamu Sadeh’s sugaring operation at Camp Isabella Freeman in Falls Village where we were treated with pancakes and their own maple syrup. Plus we all sang Pete Seeger’s song on Maple Syrup Time around the roaring fire boiling the sap. For more info on the camp and their Community Supported Agriculture program for fresh produce this summer, please see: [adamah.org/](http://adamah.org/) [isabella-freeman/adamah-farm/adamah-farm-csa/](mailto:isabella-freeman/adamah-farm/adamah-farm-csa/)

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**FOOD TRUCK**

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Crepe Royal, a refurbished ambulance turned food truck owned by Kent resident Gregoire Pye, has become the focal point of an ongoing debate over whether mobile food vendors should be allowed to operate in town.**

a second time on March 17 to make his case for establishing a semi-permanent location in town for his food truck business, Crepe Royal.

Pye said the antique car dealership Motoriot has already offered its site as a permanent location for his business.

Pye said that, despite being a local resident with two children in the school system, the town has been inhospitable to his vision of bringing his French pancakes to the region.

"I'm allowed to go everywhere but here," Pye told selectmen at Town Hall on Wednesday, March 18, accompanied by his wife and daughters.

Due to a series of motions made by P&Z in 2022, and subsequently by the BOS, food trucks have been understood to be prohibited from operating publicly in Kent. The two town boards spent two years shifting responsibility, with P&Z requesting that the issue be addressed through a town ordinance, while the BOS asked P&Z to handle it as a zoning matter.

Ultimately, according to past P&Z meeting minutes, the Commission moved to forward a letter to the BOS that included the following statement: "As we have previously determined, our regulations do not permit food trucks in the Town of Kent."

The BOS responded with its own motion at its March 3, 2022 meeting, stating that upon P&Z's counsel, "the Board of Selectmen agree and move that commercial food trucks are not allowed in the town of Kent."

Despite the motions, Kent does not currently have an ordinance or zoning regulation explicitly governing food trucks on the books.

Speaking at last week's meeting, Selectman Lynn Worthington indicated she felt the 2022 statements were insufficient.

"I never was happy with the way the selectmen handled that in 2022," Worthington said. "I think it's worth looking into," she said, but noted that the Board will need more time to consider the issue.

Several days after Tuesday's meeting, First Selectman Eric Epstein said he is open to all proposals, but that any change will have to be the will of the community. "Ultimately, I don't believe it's up to us, it's up to the townspeople," he said.

Epstein noted that the public testimony submitted so far has largely been in opposition to allowing food trucks in town.

Elissa Potts, owner of the Fife & Drum Restaurant & Inn, submitted a letter to the BOS arguing that food trucks are not held to the same standards as brick-and-mortar restaurants. She also argues that food trucks "are not invested in the town" the same way as permanent

restaurants.

Kent Green General Manager John Casey also wrote in, stating, "to invite [food trucks] in as regular competitors to our tax-paying, closely regulated businesses is an unkind turn for our entire full-time, highly competitive restaurant sector."

Speaking several days after the meeting, Pye said that he had no interest in overhauling the status quo, but would just like to give his business a chance to operate with stability in Kent.

"What I want is not a big change," he said. He said Crepe Royal, which operates out of an old ambulance he bought for \$1,000 and refurbished, is his pride as a way to bring his country's cuisine to Kent.

Both the letters from the public and the selectmen themselves expressed doubts as to how the town could allow for one food truck without permitting others.

The conversation will resume at the BOS's next regular meeting.

**OUR TOWNS**



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Housatonic Valley FFA students meet Gov. Ned Lamont and Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz in Hartford Wednesday, March 18. From left: Lamont, Logan Miller, Logan Padelli, Madison Melino, Hayden Bell, Lola Miller, Scarlet Visconti, Taylor Green, and Bysiewicz.**

**FFA students meet Gov. Lamont at Ag Day**

By Kellie Eisermann

HARTFORD — Housatonic Valley FFA students traveled to Hartford and met with Gov. Ned Lamont on Wednesday, March 18.

The occasion was Ag Day, part of National Agriculture Week that took place from March 16-22. The event highlighted the importance of agriculture in Connecticut, showcasing the state's farms, agricultural organizations and programs that support local food, agritourism and careers in agriculture.

Students spoke with more than 50 vendors representing Connecticut-owned farms, producers and organizations.

A highlight of the day

CORNWALL — A woman of great faith has passed. Patricia, "Pat" Benedict Blakey of Cornwall, passed quietly at her home on March 12, 2026. She was predeceased by her husband, Jerry Blakey; their daughter, Karen B. Fisher; her sister, Nancy B. Lawrence; and her parents, Lester and Jean Benedict.

She is survived by her son David Blakey of Cornwall Bridge, daughter Lori B. Welles and her husband David G. Welles of West Cornwall, granddaughter Melissa Root and great-granddaughter Devyn Root of Terryville, and niece, Pam B. Hart and husband Doug of Belencia, California.

Pat was born in 1934 and spent her life in Cornwall with her family in the community she loved. Pat graduated from HVRHS in 1952 and began working at Torrington Savings Bank as a teller and secretarial assistant. In 1955, she married her high school sweetheart, Jerry Blakey. As a young couple, Pat and Jerry became members of the First Church of Christ, Cornwall, now UCC Cornwall, and quickly became active members in the church and community. Pat was a Sunday school teacher, superintendent, and then, for thirty years, the church secretary. As a young mom, Pat worked as an assistant and teacher at a private day care in Lakeville and then in the Special Education Dept. at Kent Center School.

From 1977 to 1997, Pat worked at Marvelwood School in Cornwall and Kent; she became the head

librarian in 1987. Pat loved to be around books, kids, and young adults, and they knew she would listen with a compassionate ear or offer a shoulder to cry on. Pat felt it was important to expose Cornwall's young adults to the world outside the town. Trips to the Cloisters in NYC became an annual outing. She helped create a youth group in the 70s and organized many get-togethers and events. Pat was one of the creators and organizers of the UCC's Memorial Day Carnival.

She and Jerry would always volunteer for the famous Cornwall Rummage sale and ran the men's department into her eighties. After the tornado of '89, Pat and Jerry opened their garage, and she organized meals for the workers and volunteers during the clean-up. If there was a need in the community, Pat wanted to fill it or figure out a way to get things done.

During the late 1970s, Pat and Jerry began the medical equipment loan program in Cornwall out of their house. The program continues to this day, now housed at the UCC in Cornwall. Fielding phone calls, getting directions, and then organizing inventory as the program grew, Pat made it happen. Pat, with Jerry, also volunteered for Operation Overflow in Torrington and spent many years volunteering at the Torrington soup kitchen.

In her free time, she traveled with Jerry, was an avid reader, loved flowers, and spending time with her family.

Pat received the Citizenship Award in Cornwall for community service. The UCC Living Waters Award, honoree of the HVRHS Alumni Hall of Honors, the Public Service award from the State of Connecticut, and many more recognitions and awards. She was a Girl Scout Leader, served on the Cornwall Library Building Committee, a member of the Cornwall Housing Corporation, and a member of the Cornwall School Board.

In Pat's words, "We're just a volunteering couple of fools!" She will be missed, but her good work will live on.

A Celebration of Life will be on April 18th at 2:00, at the UCC Bolton Hill Rd. Cornwall CT.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department and EMS, UCC CT, or to the Cornwall Food and Fuel fund.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

**OBITUARIES**

**Patricia Benedict Blakey**

**David Munro Vickers**

LAKEVILLE — David Munro Vickers, 80, passed away on Feb. 22, 2026, after a brief illness. He was the loving partner of Diane Landucci, with whom he shared more than 20 years in Lakeville, Connecticut.

David was born on Oct. 15, 1945, in Queens, New York, the son of John Marter Vickers and Ethlyn Marie Munro Vickers. He served in the United States Navy and was a veteran of the Vietnam War.

David later moved with his family to Lakeville, where he went on to hold positions at LeBonnes Market, Noble Horizons, Hotchkiss and Lime Rock Park.

One of David's great passions was baking cookies and cakes for his many friends in the community. He also had a lifelong tenderness for

wildlife and quietly enjoyed caring for the many creatures around him. With birdseed and other treats left outside for squirrels, birds, chipmunks, and the occasional turkey or deer, no visitor ever left his yard hungry.

He was also an enthusiastic supporter of the UConn Huskies.

In addition to Ms. Landucci, he is survived by his son, Grant Vickers of Lakeville; his nephews, Damon Vickers of Martha's Vineyard and Jeremiah Brimlow Vickers of New York City.

David will be remembered for his quiet kindness, his generosity toward both people and animals, and the warmth he brought to those around him.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



For more obituaries, see page A5

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**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.

NATIONAL IRON BANK Since 1847 This event is sponsored by National Iron Bank

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# OBITUARIES

## Valerie Anne Euvrard

AMENIA — Valerie Anne Euvrard, 75, a lifelong area resident, died peacefully surrounded by her loving family at her home in Amenia, New York, on March 17, 2026. Valerie worked at the Waldorf Restaurant in Sharon as a dishwasher for many years before embarking on a long career in the food service department at the Wassaic Developmental Center in Wassaic. Valerie retired from New York State in 2000.



vrard and his wife Patty of Derby, Connecticut, Dara Simmons and her husband Bob of Amenia, New York, and David Euvrard and his wife Nora of Sharon, Connecticut; her nephew, Sean Russell and his fiancé Amanda Bezio of Palenville, New York; two nieces, Kayla Renee Kuniegel and her husband Justin of Bath, Pennsylvania, and Ashley Dautrich and her husband Mark of Torrington, Connecticut; her great-niece, Parker Wright and her great-nephew, Dawkins Wright and several cousins. In addition to her parents, Valerie was predeceased by her brother, Glen A. Euvrard in 2019.

Born July 6, 1950 in Sharon, she was the daughter of the late Walter E. and Leah (Martyn) Euvrard. Valerie attended Webutuck High School in Amenia, and was a longtime member of the Stone Church Grange in Dover Plains. Valerie was also a longtime member of the Sharon United Methodist Church in Sharon, and the North East Baptist Church in Millerton. For many years Valerie enjoyed bowling at the Early Bird League at Cove Lanes in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Valerie was an avid greeting card designer and her family members always looked forward to receiving one of her custom designed cards. She also enjoyed playing games on her tablet and spending time with her loving family. Truly a kind soul, she will be dearly missed by all.

Valerie is survived by her siblings; Wayne Euvrard and his wife Cami of McCormick, South Carolina, Jeffrey Eu-

Calling hours will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY. A funeral service will take place at 12 p.m. at the funeral home. Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse will officiate. Burial will take place privately at Hillside Cemetery in Sharon, CT, at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the Sharon United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 172, Sharon, CT, 06069 or North East Baptist Church, P.O. Box 531, Millerton, NY 12546 or Wassaic Fire Company, P.O. Box 287, Wassaic, NY 12592. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Valerie's memory, please visit [www.conklinfuneralhome.com](http://www.conklinfuneralhome.com)

## Beth Harlan

SALISBURY — Beth Harlan, 75, of Sheffield, Massachusetts, and Salisbury, Connecticut, passed away on March 2, 2026, in New York City. Her son, Zachariah Harlan Warner, and daughter-in-law, Olivia Baribeau, were by her side.



her ability to listen but her most treasured and defining role was that of a mother to her beloved son, Zach. Her love for him was constant and unwavering, and she took immense pride in her time as a mother to Zach and all that life brought to them along the way.

Born on July 22, 1950, in Dayton, Ohio, Beth brought a wonderful combination of energy, intellect and humor to those around her. She earned her Associate's Degree from Stephens College in Missouri in 1970, followed by a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Emerson College in Boston in 1972, and a Master in Social Work from the University of Connecticut in 1993.

After college, her travels and life experiences included time in Ohio, Los Angeles, Atlanta, and New York City before ultimately setting roots in the Salisbury area in 1980.

During these travels, Beth explored her creative side, dabbling as a television personality with on air appearances in Ohio & Atlanta and pursuing stand up comedy in Los Angeles where she took acting classes alongside Robin Williams. While at Emerson College, she was a member of a comedy group that included Jay Leno and her comedic nature stayed with her throughout her life.

Beth ultimately settled professionally as a social worker demonstrating her empathy for others and

As Beth was fighting pancreatic cancer, the dedication and spirit that she demonstrated to ultimately be a part of Zach's wedding this past September was remarkable and demonstrated her grit and spirit. Beth is also survived by Zachariah's wife, Olivia Baribeau of NYC, as well as her brother, Dr. Stephen H. Harlan, DDS of Dayton, Ohio; her nephews, Chad Harlan of NYC and Paula and Seth Harlan of Cleveland, Ohio; her step-children, Silas Warner of West Hartford, Connecticut, Ian and Beth Warner of West Barnstable, Massachusetts, and Eugenie Warner of Lakeville; her ex-husband, Scott Warner of Southern Pines, North Carolina, and other extended family, all of whom she held close to her heart.

Beth will be remembered for her energy, intellect and her sense of humor. In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution in Beth's memory to the Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone Health Center who graciously assisted Beth with her cancer treatment this past year. A celebration of life will be held in Salisbury, CT at a later, yet to be determined, date.

CANAAN — Jonathan Clapp Webster, a physicist and resident of Canaan since 1978, died peacefully on Tuesday, March 17, at the Geer Nursing Home in Canaan. He was 88 years old.

Jonathan designed experiments for industrial, medical and scientific uses, including MRIs, lasers, fiberoptics and telescopes. He began in the 1960s with apparatuses he made in a machine shop and transitioned in the 1970s to designing computer simulations. Most of his career was with Perkin Elmer Corp. and Hughes Danbury Optical Systems.

Born in Boston on Jan. 25, 1938, Jonathan was the only child of Henry Kitchell Webster, Jr., a metallurgist, and Madeleine Clapp Webster, a piano teacher. He grew up in Windsor, Vermont and attended Kimball Union Academy. He earned a B.S. in physics from Boston University in 1962 and did graduate work in physics at the University of Bridgeport.

Jonathan inherited his love of mechanical devic-

es. His great-grandfather, Towner K. Webster, invented components for grain elevators in Chicago and founded Webster Industries which still manufactures machine parts today. Towner's son, Henry Kitchell Webster, was a popular writer. His novel Calumet "K" describes the challenges his father faced in the manufacturing business, including natural disasters, financial panics, labor disputes and business chicanery.

Henry Kitchell Webster's three sons all worked with machinery of some kind. Jonathan's uncle Stokely interrupted his painting career to design control systems for Grumman F6F fighter planes during World War II. His uncle Roderick curated the astrolabe collection at Chicago's Adler Planetarium.

Jonathan's father worked at Cone Automatic Machine Co. which made machines that operated using only

mechanical principles - no computer technology. He taught Jonathan to build things at a card table in the living room. When their projects got too large, they took over his mother's laundry table in the basement.

In 1963, Jonathan married Jacqueline Beyer, a fellow physics student. They lived in Ridgefield, Connecticut where their two children were born. In 1978 the family moved to Canaan, buying the Charles Pease house on Honey Hill Road where they had a large garden and a workshop where Jonathan made furniture and windows. The marriage ended in divorce. In 1991 he married Caroline Besse, whom he met at a contradance. Their first date was a "dawn dance" in Brattleboro, Vermont, where they danced all night. In 2007, when Caroline wrote a biography of Quaker peace activist Lee Stern, Jonathan typeset the book. His experience moving slugs on a Linotype machine in high school needed considerable upgrading.

He did this by reading LaTeX typesetting software manuals at breakfast every morning at Collin's Diner in Canaan.

Jonathan had many interests besides science. He did extensive climbing in the White Mountains and Adirondacks and volunteered as a guide and trail maintainer for the Appalachian Mountain Club. He played the fiddle, attending the Ashokan Fiddle and Dance Camp in the Catskills every summer for 25 years. He was a Tolkein enthusiast, reading the entire Lord of the Rings aloud to each member of his family and listening to it on audiobooks when he could no longer read.

Jonathan is survived by his wife, Caroline, his children, Ronald and Alice, grandchildren, Rowan, Lily and Pearl, stepchildren, Nancy, Carla and Bill, and step-grandchildren Jules, Amanda, Erik and Charlie. Following the family tradition, Ronald is a computer programmer and Rowan is an engineering student.

The family is extremely grateful to the staff of the Geer Nursing Home for their professional care and for their kindness. Services are private.

## Jonathan Clapp Webster



## George Ernest Phillips

AMENIA — George Ernest Phillips, 100, a lifelong area resident died peacefully on March 16, 2026, at Sharon Center for Health and Rehabilitation. From 1955 to 1972, Mr. Phillips owned and operated the Edgewood Restaurant in Amenia, with his wife Anna, and he was also a real estate broker for many years as well.



Born Sept. 13, 1925 in Poughkeepsie, New York, he was the son of the late Royal and Elizabeth (Piltz) Phillips. He was a graduate of Amenia High School and attended Cornell University. Mr. Phillips served his country in the United States Army from 1943 to 1946 in the Golden Acorn Infantry Division as well as in the 3rd Army of General George S. Patton. He also assumed a variety of roles during his time in the 87th Infantry Division, including platoon messenger and platoon sergeant. On Veterans Day in 2019 he was one of 108 veterans nationally that received a pin and certificate in recognition of 75-years of continuous service to his local legion post, the Millerton American Legion Post 178. Mr. Phillips also documented his experiences in a book, "Stories of My Life", which he presented to the Amenia Historical Society.

On Feb. 3, 1953, in Cornwall Bridge, he married Frances Anna "Anne" Spro-

sel who passed away on May 21, 2024. He will be dearly missed by his loving family and many caregivers.

Mr. Phillips is survived by two daughters, Diane Phillips of Wakefield, Rhode Island and Debra Phillips of Pine Plains, New York; four grandchildren; David Fletcher and his wife Amber, Peter Faggella and his wife Megan, Daniel Faggella and Shannon Fierro and her husband Frank; five great grandchildren, Dominic and Leah Fletcher, Charlotte and Joseph Fierro and Hannah Faggella and several niece and nephews. In addition to his parents and his wife, Mr. Phillips was also predeceased by three brothers, Royal Phillips, Webster Phillips and Chester Phillips.

Calling hours will be held from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday March 27, 2026, at Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY. The Millerton Legion Post 178 will conduct a service at 1:00 p.m. The United States Army will render Standard Military Honors at 1:15 p.m. A funeral service will take place at 1:30 p.m. at the funeral home. Pastor William Mayhew will officiate. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Mr. Phillips' honor, please visit [www.conklinfuneralhome.com](http://www.conklinfuneralhome.com)

Send obituaries to [obituaries@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:obituaries@lakevillejournal.com)

## 38 Year Memory of Lynn and Gregg Lamay

March 26, 1988

Dreaming of you with us,  
How different it could be,  
But grateful for the time we had  
before you had to leave,  
this life too soon,  
and make us question,  
why it had to be  
That you were taken from us,  
leaving us in disbelief.  
But somewhere they gained two angels,  
so innocent and young,  
full of life, full of love  
full of happiness and fun.  
We wish you never left us.  
We wish you were still here.  
But heaven knows we won't forget  
and hold you in our hearts so dear.



We Love you Lynn,  
We Love you Gregg,  
Your sister and aunt Ruth,  
Your nieces and cousins  
Bobbie-Jo and Rathanne

For more obituaries, see page A4

Worship Services	
Week of March 29, 2026	
<p><b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b> 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 <a href="http://www.christchurchsharon.org">www.christchurchsharon.org</a></p>	<p><b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b> 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 <a href="http://www.salisburyucc.org">www.salisburyucc.org</a> Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p><b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at <a href="http://www.trinitylimerock.org">www.trinitylimerock.org</a> <a href="mailto:trinity@trinitylimerock.org">trinity@trinitylimerock.org</a> (860) 435-2627</p>	<p><b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b> 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 YouTube <a href="http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org">www.stjohnssalisbury.org</a></p>
<p><b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b> 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 <a href="http://www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational">www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational</a> 860-824-7232</p> <p><b>FISHES &amp; LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH</b> is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm &amp; Thursday 12-2 pm <a href="http://www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org">www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</a></p>	<p><b>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT</b> Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, April 12 at 10:30 a.m. <b>Science and Religion: Is there a connection?</b> For information, contact Jo Loi at <a href="mailto:jokialoi@gmail.com">jokialoi@gmail.com</a> All are Welcome</p>
<p><b>Congregation Beth David</b> A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia <b>SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM</b> Twice Monthly - Followed by Oneg (Calendar at <a href="http://congbethdavid.org">congbethdavid.org</a>) <b>ALL ARE WELCOME</b> Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 <a href="mailto:info@congbethdavid.org">info@congbethdavid.org</a></p>	<p><b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b> Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville <b>MASS SCHEDULE</b> Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church <b>DAILY MASS SCHEDULE</b> 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><b>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</b> 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 <a href="mailto:Lakevillemethodist@snet.net">Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</a></p>	<p><b>UCC in CORNWALL</b> Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 <a href="http://www.uccincornwall.org">www.uccincornwall.org</a> Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p><b>Falls Village Congregational Church</b> 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><b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b> 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! <a href="http://www.allsaintscornwall.org">www.allsaintscornwall.org</a> Rev. Mary Gates!</p>
<p><b>The Sharon United Methodist Church</b> 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 <a href="mailto:sharonumc5634@att.net">sharonumc5634@att.net</a></p>	<p><b>St. Thomas Episcopal Church</b> 40 Leedsville Road Amenia, NY <b>SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30</b> <b>IN-PERSON AND ONLINE</b> Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 <a href="http://www.stthomasamenia.com">www.stthomasamenia.com</a> A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p><b>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</b> 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. <a href="http://www.thsmithfieldchurch.org">www.thsmithfieldchurch.org</a> 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p><b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b> 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 <b>VISITORS WELCOME!</b> <a href="http://www.promisedlandbaptist.org">www.promisedlandbaptist.org</a></p>
<p><b>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church</b> 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   <a href="http://allsaintsofamerica.us">allsaintsofamerica.us</a></p>	<p><b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b> 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 8:00AM - Worship Service 2nd &amp; 4th Sunday "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534 <a href="mailto:canaanct-umc.com">canaanct-umc.com</a> <a href="mailto:canaanctumc@gmail.com">canaanctumc@gmail.com</a> We hope you will join us!</p>
<p><b>Sharon Congregational</b> 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website <a href="http://sharoncongregationalchurch.org">sharoncongregationalchurch.org</a> for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or <a href="mailto:info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org">info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</a></p>	
<p><b>Millerton United Methodist Church</b> 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st &amp; 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-3138</p>	

### TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago —  
March 1901

**SALISBURY** — John Parsons had the misfortune to break his leg last week Friday. While unloading car wheels, his foot slipped and a wheel weighing 550 pounds fell on his leg, breaking it between the knee and ankle.

One hundred newspapers for ten cents at the Journal office. Good for putting on shelves or under carpets.

100 years ago —  
March 1926

During the past week the winter issue of the Southern New England Telephone Company's new directory was distributed throughout the state. In delivering its directory this month the telephone company issued its new book in the same month that the first telephone directory in Connecticut was published in conjunction with the introduction at New Haven of the first commercial telephone switchboard in the world on January 28th, 1876, forty-eight years ago.

50 years ago —  
March 1976

Freight service on the Harlem Division north of Miller-ton will definitely end April 1, a spokesman for the New York State Department of Transportation said this week. April 1 is the date on which the properties of eight bankrupt railroads in the Northeast region will be conveyed to the federally-created Consolidated Railroad Corporation (ConRail) Con-

Rail will operate the Harlem Division from New York to Wassaic.

A wicked twister went through the town of North East on Sunday, tearing up 100-foot trees, bursting sheds, bombarding houses and knocking cars clear off the road. Miraculously, no one was hurt. Remnants of the same storm struck Sharon, breaking off large trees and limbs along North Gay Street. Here again, no one was injured, and the falling objects avoided houses. There were brief power interruptions in the area.

25 years ago —  
March 2001

**CANAAN** — A plan to put crossing gates and lights at two Main Street railroad crossings, originally expected for installation last summer, is now at least two years from completion. That is, if it happens at all. Randy Eick, supervising engineer for the state Department of Transportation, said this week the project remains a high priority. But it has been plagued by the need for an affordable approach to a serious drainage problem at both sites.

**FALLS VILLAGE** — After teaching fifth grade for 16 years at Lee H. Kellogg School, Joan Wingard is now the school's librarian.

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

## Trump's war in Iran

Campaigning for a second term, Donald Trump emphasized domestic issues and told everyone that the Biden administration had been too preoccupied with foreign affairs and not enough with solving problems at home. This seemed to appeal to much of his audience; soon after being re-elected he began promoting himself as a "peacemaker", starting with Gaza and Ukraine where similar efforts during his first term had gotten him some attention but no positive results. His apparent chumminess with President Putin may have helped bring him to the negotiating table but the Russian hasn't moved an inch towards compromise. Despite helping to negotiate a cease fire in Gaza, the Netanyahu government continues its war against its Muslim neighbors as if no ceasefire had been agreed to.

Trump felt that his efforts at peacemaking should put him in line for the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize, the highest award for engendering a specific instance of significant peace. He campaigned widely as if he were a candidate in a political race, trying to persuade world leaders and influential individuals to promote his candidacy. When the choices were announced by the Nobel Committee Trump was a sore loser, complaining to the Norwegian Prime Minister (who had nothing to do with the selection) thus making a fool of himself.

Several commentators and Prime Minister Netanyahu have said to Trump that despite his claim of having "obliterated" Iran's nuclear facilities last year, Iran will be able and willing to launch a nuclear attack against Israel (and the US) in a matter of

### OCCASIONAL OBSERVER

MAC GORDON

months. Therefore we needed to attack when we did.

Knowledgeable observers have estimated that U.S. military costs for the war so far have been between one and two billion dollars per day.

Why are we fighting a war against Iran? What do we hope to accomplish and when? Are we requiring a regime change? Do we need to have a land force on the ground? The questions go on and on but there don't seem to be any real answers. When questioned, the President, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense give inconsistent and often contradictory answers; taken together they suggest that Israel and Netanyahu told Trump that now before Iran became nuclear-ready they needed to attack and Trump assented.

But Trump's ego had been swelling since his re-election. Having been doing pretty much whatever he wanted without much resistance at home and having been involved in at least seven foreign wars including most recently Venezuela, he probably felt nearly unstoppable.

Despite the damage done to Iran by both Israel and the U.S., their new leader is the equally hostile son of the one we just killed. Regime change seems very unlikely unless we pursue a protracted, much broader ground war. How would the American electorate feel about that?

Three weeks after the start of the war we have little idea when or how it will end. Until

## Is Cuba next?

In keeping with the administration's return to its own brand of 16th-century mercantilism, could the next colony they seek be Cuba? It appears to be a strong bet, but for what purpose?

Given the actions and words of our government officials, the next country, or in this case, island nation, it seeks to conquer lies 90 miles from Key West. Cuba sits at the intersection between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Historically, the U.S. considered it a natural barrier controlling vital sea lanes and a dominant land-

mass that protected or threatened the southern U.S. coast. It may be that its long-term strategic military and economic value remains viable, but the country's economy is in a mess. The Economist, in a recent article, indicated that the Cuban economy was on the verge of collapse. Aside from rum, cigars, and a little tourism, Cuba suffers from decades of economic mismanagement, a lack of structural reforms, and mass migration.

Inflation is at 15%, the peso is tumbling, tropical diseases are surging, and in cities like Havana, the municipal waste system has ground to a halt. Blackouts are increasingly common. Hospitals are canceling surgeries, and public transportation is scarce. It wasn't always that way.

Originally a Spanish colony, Cuba in the 1800s fell under the Monroe Doctrine after Spain formally renounced its claim to Cuba in the Treaty of Paris in 1898, and was largely occupied by the U.S. By then, massive amounts of American capital had already been invested in the country. Beyond a thriving sugar trade, American interests controlled significant percentages of the island's railroads, public utilities, mining, and tobacco. The country essentially became a U.S. protectorate in 1903.

The Communist takeover of Cuba and the nationalization of American property in 1959 soured U.S./Cuban relations to the present day. Although there have been several false starts and attempts at reconciliation through the decades, the U.S. doctrine of isolation and embargo has continued to the present day. That policy has brought the Cuban economy to its knees today.

Trump's decision to choke off Venezuela's oil to Cuba, which can only meet 40% of its own energy demands, was a body blow. The oil crisis hammered the regime's already doomed economic model. In a rare admission of crisis, President Miguel Diaz-Canel scrambled to implement an urgent economic overhaul. The Castro brothers must have spun in their graves as Diaz-Canel called

now Trump has been successful in his military adventures and even has more possible attacks on other countries in mind (Cuba, Mexico, Columbia etc.). However, Iran has shown no intention of accepting Trump's demand for "total surrender".

It's worth asking why would Iran want to launch a nuclear attack against Israel? In the Middle East, like in the United States, the prevailing wind blows from west to east. Nuclear bombs detonated over Israel would do almost unimaginable damage and would continue the killing with its residue of nuclear fallout. But the prevailing winds would carry the bulk of the fallout to the east where it would spread its radioactive pollution over much of the Middle East, especially poisoning Iran. In addition, they know that the Israelis also have nuclear weapons and might be willing to use them. The Iranian leaders may be evil, religious fanatics; but they are not stupid.

How can we end Trump and Netanyahu's failed wars before it triggers a worldwide economic depression and possibly a third world war? Our best bet would be to keep Iran as sane and calm as possible. We can stop supporting Netanyahu which will perhaps stop much of his attack on his neighbors. And stop our own war-making which probably means removing President Trump from office before he creates more war and destroys our democracy.

*Architect and landscape designer Mac Gordon lives in Lakeville.*



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### THE RETIRED INVESTOR

BILL SCHMICK

for loosening the state grip, courting foreign investors, and shrinking government control.

As the mood in this communist nation soured, the state's iron grip on the economy had already begun to loosen. In 2021, the government allowed the creation of hundreds of small businesses in the private sector with fewer than 100 employees. As such, there are now 11,000 small and medium-sized independent businesses on the island. Just recently, another series of reforms allowed private ownership of a wide range of industries, from food production to construction and beyond.

In the case of Cuba, I believe Trump would rather have a deal that would make the island economically dependent on the U.S. Unlike the war in Iran or the late-night raid in Venezuela, I am not looking for an abrupt change nor the sudden overthrow of all state control. Times have changed. Most so-called capitalist economies have evolved into a new model of state capitalism, whether we are talking about China or the U.S. I believe the approach will be different. It would be more of a bailout or bankruptcy reorganization than a regime change.

President Trump has used the term "friendly takeover" more than once in talking about Cuba. His Secretary of

State, Marco Rubio, a long-time Cuba hawk, along with a Florida-based Cuban business community, has been reaching out to the private sector. I have noticed that rather than threaten regime change in the name of democracy or an end to communism, the administration is focusing on commercial, economic, and financial engagement.

From the president's point of view, the need for humanitarian assistance is high, and what better way to deliver it than through the private sector? Exactly how a friendly takeover would be accomplished is a question for the market. The island was certainly part of the discussions Trump had with Latin American leaders at a March 7 summit at the Doral Golf Club.

For a successful takeover, Cuba's private sector will need the skills and capital of American business, particularly the banking sector. It appears the present government would be amenable to such an approach. It also helps that they know if a carrot doesn't work, Donald Trump is more than ready to use a Big Stick.

*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

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# Our Towns

## Scoville Memorial Library

# 'What do you see?' photo exhibit opens

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Steven Goldberg likes to wander New York City with a camera in hand — and sometimes, that curiosity leads to unexpected moments of humor. One such moment is captured in his photograph "Met Museum," which shows

a young man absorbed in his laptop outside the Metropolitan Museum of Art, seemingly unaware of a nearby statue of a nude woman that appears to be watching him.

The image is part of the Housatonic Camera Club's current exhibition, "What Do You See?"

The show opened with a

reception Thursday, March 19, at the Scoville Memorial Library and will remain on display through April 19.

Each photograph in the exhibit is accompanied by a brief written reflection from the artist.

In his description of "Met Museum," Goldberg wrote: "I often find humor in the interaction of traditional art and the activity around it. Here, the sculpted woman seems to be looking down at the young man working on his computer, who is oblivious to the ancient statue right next to him."

Another featured work, "Misty Morning" by Lazlo Gyorsok of Cornwall, offers a quieter, contemplative scene — a boathouse beside a still lake, softened by mist.

"A small white boathouse sits quietly at the edge of a still



PHOTO BY LAZLO GYORSOK

### Misty Morning

water, creating a serene and symmetrical scene."

Other photographers featured in the show include Tom Blagden, Dawn Dingee, Verne Henshall, Joan Hinchman, Heidi M. Hoeller, Jack

Kearney, Randy McKee, G.A. Mudge, Pamela Peeters, Paul Serbaniewicz, Bert Schmitz and Brian Wilcox.

Goldberg has homes in Pine Plains and Pittsford, New York.

## About the Housatonic Camera Club

The Housatonic Camera Club, founded in 1956 by Edward Hutchinson of Sharon, draws members from across the Connecticut-New York-Massachusetts tri-state area. The club is currently led by president Dawn Dingee of Dover Plains, New York.

Members regularly participate in competitions

hosted by the New England Camera Club and the Photographic Society of America, and exhibit their work three times each year.

The group meets on the third Tuesday of each month from September through June at Noble Horizons in Salisbury. For more information, visit [www.housatoniccameraclub.com](http://www.housatoniccameraclub.com).

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 April 3 Good Friday, St. Joseph  
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 Passion of the Lord at 3pm  
 April 4 Easter Vigil at 8pm, Immaculate Conception  
 April 5 Easter Sunday  
 St. Mary at 9am, St. Joseph at 11am

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**Holy Week and Paschal Schedule**  
 All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church

April 4, 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy, Lazarus Saturday  
 5:00 p.m., Great Vespers with blessing of Palms, followed by General Confession  
 April 5, 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy, Palm Sunday  
 4:00 p.m., Bridegroom Matins @ All Saints, Hartford, CT  
 April 6, 6:00 p.m., Bridegroom Matins  
 April 7, 6:00 p.m., Bridegroom Matins  
 April 8, 6:00 p.m., Holy Unction  
 April 9, 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy  
 6:00 p.m., Matins with the 12 Passion Gospels  
 April 10, 3:00 p.m., Burial Vespers  
 6:00 p.m., Matins with Lamentations  
 April 11, 9:30 a.m., Vespers of the descent into Hades with 15 OT readings  
 11:30 p.m. Nocturns of Pascha  
 April 12, 12:00 a.m., Matins with Divine Liturgy of Pascha (midnight Saturday evening)  
 12:00 p.m., Vespers of Pascha (Noon)  
 April 13, 9:30 a.m., Paschal Divine Liturgy

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**Holy Week**

The Congregational Church of Salisbury  
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**Sunday, 29 March**  
**Palm-Passion Sunday**  
 10am Worship

**Maundy Thursday, 2 April**  
**Communion & Tenebrae**  
 7:00pm Worship

**Good Friday, 3 April**  
**Ecumenical Worship**  
 6:00pm Trinity Episcopal Church, Lime Rock

**Sunday, 5 April**  
**Resurrection Day!**  
 6:30am Ecumenical Sunrise Service  
 Town Grove, Lakeville  
 9:45am Hand Bell Choir Prelude  
 10:00am Easter Worship

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**Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 5:00pm**  
 Holy Eucharist with Footwashing, Rev. John Allison  
**Good Friday, April 3 at 5:00pm**  
 Solemn Liturgy, Rev. Kathleen Killian  
**Easter Sunday, April 5 at 10:30am**  
 Holy Eucharist, Rev. Kathleen Killian

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**Worship, 10 AM**

**Fellowship Coffee, 11:15 AM**

We will continue to broadcast services live on Facebook: @northcanaancongregational

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**POVERTY**

Continued from Page A1

“There are people who could describe what they’re doing as a sort of couch-surfing,” Hill said, noting that it is not unusual for residents to rely on temporary living arrangements with friends or family.

In North Canaan, social worker MaryBeth Wabrek said rising energy costs are compounding financial strain for households already living paycheck to paycheck.

“When people are using whatever disposable income they might have for energy costs, it’s like robbing Peter to pay Paul,” Wabrek said.

That pressure, she said, often falls hardest on residents who earn too much to qualify for traditional assistance programs but still struggle to meet basic expenses.

“Low-income people have got SNAP and are eligible for so much assistance,” she said. “But people who are not necessarily low income, that’s who is getting hit pretty hard.”

Even when help is available, stigma can prevent people from seeking it.

“We have a lot of resources, and so many people are eligible for assistance,” Wabrek said, “but a lot really don’t want their personal business to be out there.”

**Stressed systems in Cornwall**

In Cornwall — one of the state’s smallest towns, with about 3,200 residents — social service agent Becky Hurlburt said demand is highest among older residents living alone and, to a lesser extent, larger families.

Fuel assistance remains the most common request. But a quieter concern, town officials say, is growing social isolation.

“A lot of people come in and just want to talk,” Hurlburt said.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said the challenges facing residents are increasingly complex, often involving overlapping issues tied to health, housing and access to care.

“The number one pressure point is health,” Ridgway said. “Our systems are being stressed as people are stressed. We now have much more complicated cases of mental illness, which can sometimes be combined with housing insecurity and a lack of healthcare resources.”

In response, the town has partnered with Greenwoods Counseling to expand access to behavioral health services, including for school-age residents. Officials are also working to keep seniors connected through programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department, while exploring cross-training town staff to serve as emergency medical responders.

“The most important thing a community can do is

pick people up when they’re down, whether emotionally or physically,” Ridgway said.

**Housing shortages reshape the Northwest Corner**

Housing costs remain one of the most significant barriers for residents trying to remain in the Northwest Corner.

Median home prices in towns such as Salisbury now approach \$1 million, while rental housing remains scarce across the Region One towns. Many available rentals are single-family homes rather than apartments, with monthly rents often exceeding \$2,000.

“Litchfield County has become a vacation and second-home market layered on top of a rural housing market,” said Brierley Lloyd Hannan, a realtor with William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty. “Those two conditions often result in housing scarcity and premium pricing.”

Large minimum lot sizes — typically between two and five acres — further limit housing density, she said.

“As a result, most rentals here are single-family homes owned by individuals rather than multi-family buildings operated by developers or rental companies.”

John Harney, a Salisbury real estate broker and president of the Salisbury Housing Trust, said the shortage affects both buyers and renters.

“Both home ownership and rentals are in short supply,” Harney said.

Zoning regulations, aging housing stock and limited development opportunities have long constrained efforts to expand housing options.

“Zoning has historically been designed to restrict affordable housing by focusing on single-family homes on two-acre parcels,” Harney said.

He also pointed to ongoing tensions between conservation priorities and housing needs.

“There is a tension between conservation land trusts and community land trusts,” Harney said, suggesting that some land donors could reserve small portions of conserved land for affordable housing.

Housing debates often reflect broader concerns about preserving the region’s rural character.

“It’s a real tension,” Hannan said. “But many people recognize that farmers, teachers, health care workers and young families need places to live in the communities they serve.”

At the same time, housing advocates say progress is being made through regional collaboration.

Jocelyn Ayer, director of the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity, said her organization is work-

ing with local nonprofits to advance affordable housing projects across the region.

Together, those groups currently have 209 affordable rental homes and 21 affordable homeownership units in development across 12 towns, she said.

“None of this would be possible without the many volunteers who serve on the boards of these local housing nonprofits and town housing commissions,” Ayer said. “They donate countless hours to identify projects, conduct community outreach and maintain housing over time.”

**Health providers see the strain firsthand**

Health care providers say the region’s economic pressures are becoming increasingly visible in exam rooms.

Joanne Borduas, chief executive officer of Community Health & Wellness Center, said most patients served by the nonprofit health system live at or near the federal poverty line.

She estimated that roughly 65% of patients live at or below the federal poverty level, while another 32% fall between 101% and 200% of that threshold — a group often described as ALICE households.

For a single person, the federal poverty line is about \$15,000. Yet in northwest Connecticut, a single adult earning between \$15,000 and \$38,000 a year can still fall below the ALICE survival budget, which measures the income needed to cover basic living costs and sits well above the federal poverty line.

For a family of four, the federal poverty line is about \$30,000. But households earning between \$30,000 and \$116,000 in the region can still fall short of meeting basic living expenses, according to ALICE measures.

“These are families who work hard but earn just above the poverty line,” Borduas said. “They often don’t qualify for many types of assistance, but they’re still struggling to survive.”

Food insecurity remains one of the most common challenges clinicians encounter.

“We continue to see food insecurity as one of the top issues,” she said, noting that the organization has secured grant funding to establish food closets at each of its three locations.

Health insurance costs are also rising sharply. Borduas said premiums have increased by as much as 35% in some cases, forcing difficult choices for families.

In one example, she said, a family of four saw monthly premiums increase from \$798 to \$2,425.

Faced with those costs, some residents forgo insurance altogether.

“They tell us they’re taking their chances, because they have a family to feed and bills to pay,” Borduas said.

Economic stress is also driving increased demand for behavioral health services, while provider shortages have extended wait times for care.

Housing affordability, she added, is compounding those challenges.

“The housing market for most families is unaffordable,” Borduas said. “Without providers, we limit access to care.”

**Food pantries and volunteers step in**

Much of the day-to-day response to hardship across the Northwest Corner is carried out by nonprofit organizations and volunteers.

At the Corner Food Pantry in Lakeville, co-president Holly Kempner said the rise in demand over the past year marks the largest increase since the COVID-19 pan-

demic.

“These are the largest increases since COVID,” Kempner said.

At another regional pantry, Fishes & Loaves, which operates out of Pilgrim House in North Canaan, executive director Louise Riley said about 120 people visit the walk-in pantry each month.

Riley said uncertainty surrounding SNAP eligibility could place additional strain on local food systems.

“The outlook is definitely uncertain because cutbacks will have a ripple effect,” she said.

What remains constant, she added, is the role of volunteers.

“The volunteers are the backbone of our organizations.”

**A small measure of relief**

For Lakeville resident Janet Lynn — whose struggles were detailed in Part One — the pressures of rising costs

remain a daily reality.

But last week brought a measure of good news.

Dental services are expected to resume at Community Health & Wellness Center’s Torrington site in mid-April and will also be available at its Winsted location, according to Borduas.

The service had been suspended in 2025 due to financial shortfalls, including insufficient Medicaid reimbursement rates, leaving a gap in care for low-income patients.

Lynn, who said she needs extensive dental work and has struggled to find affordable care since the program ended, said the reopening offers a measure of relief.

But across the Northwest Corner, the pressures driving more residents to seek help show little sign of easing.

For information on available services go to [lakevillejournal.com](http://lakevillejournal.com).

**SCHOOLS**

Continued from Page A1

the idea was not popular,” Mechare said, adding that any discussion should originate with the individual town boards rather than the ABC committee.

Other members described growing pressure within their communities to at least examine consolidation options.

Phillip O’Reilly of Sharon said residents there are urging officials to explore alternatives, while Amy Dodge of North Canaan said there is interest in her town in a possible merger with Falls Village.

In Cornwall, however, sentiment has remained firmly opposed.

“Any time any sort of

consolidation is on a Cornwall agenda, the meetings are packed,” said Iris Hermann. “We want our school in our town with our students.”

Financial pressures are also driving the conversation.

Region One Business Manager Sam Herrick said he hears the most concern from Sharon, where enrollment has declined significantly, and from North Canaan, which has remained relatively stable and continues to send a larger share of students to Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

Since each town’s contribution to the Region One budget is based on the num-

ber of students it sends to the high school, North Canaan now bears a disproportionate share of cost increases.

The least affluent town, Herrick said “is paying half the increase in the budget at the high school.”

Brady-Shanley said a full feasibility study would take about a year and require significant time from both her and Herrick, but she emphasized the importance of having clear direction from the ABC committee before proceeding.

Following additional discussion, the committee agreed to move forward with a proposal to conduct the study.

**DANIEL CLERY**

Continued from Page A1

The plea deal came days after a Waterbury Superior Court judge allowed portions of a class-action lawsuit filed on behalf of 81 current and former Kent School students and staff to proceed.

Judge Daniel Klau ruled that the school may be held liable for negligence, finding it failed to properly supervise Clery and allowed him to exploit the school’s software systems to access personal photographs and files, primarily belonging to female victims.

Clery had been employed by the school for 23 years before being terminated in 2023. His dismissal followed two complaints from a staff member who reported that he had accessed her personal information. The first com-

plaint was filed in 2022, but no action was taken until a second report was made eight months later.

Klau determined that while the case can move forward on liability, damages must be assessed individually, requiring separate hearings for each plaintiff. He also dismissed portions of the lawsuit, including claims of invasion of privacy, computer crimes and negligent infliction of emotional distress against the school.

Kent School did not respond to requests for comment.

The lawsuit was filed in February 2025 by the law firm Silver, Golub & Teitell on behalf of the aggrieved students and staff.

Attorney Jennifer Sclar, who represents the plaintiffs along with Jennifer Goldstein, said the ruling ensures victims can pursue accountability.

“The Court’s decision allowing this action to move forward on a class basis will ensure that every student who had their private and sensitive photos and information stolen by Daniel Clery will be able to seek accountability from Kent School for its negligence and recklessness in allowing Clery to operate with little to no supervision and with inadequate computer safety protocols for almost a decade.”

Clery remains free on \$25,000 bond and is scheduled to be sentenced June 29 in Waterbury.

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## our community



PHOTO BY ELENA SPELLMAN

Kathy Reisfeld

## Where the mat meets the market

By Elena Spellman

In a barn on Maple Avenue in Great Barrington, Kathy Reisfeld merges two unlikely worlds: wealth management and yoga, teaching clients and students alike how stability — financial and emotional — comes from practice.

Her life sits at an intersection many assume can't exist: high finance and yoga. One world is often reduced to greed, the other to "woo-woo" stretching. Yet in conversation, she makes both feel grounded, less like opposites and more like two languages describing the same human need for stability.

On one floor of her barn are yoga mats and the steady rhythm of breath. On the other are computer screens, market charts and conversations about retirement plans and portfolio diversification. For Reisfeld, founder

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

## FILM

## Hunt Library launches VideoWall for filmmakers

By Robin Roraback

The David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, known for promoting local artists with its ArtWall, is debuting a new feature showcasing filmmakers. The VideoWall will premiere Saturday, March 28, at 6 p.m. with a screening of two short films by Brooklyn-based documentary filmmaker and animator Imogen Pranger.

The VideoWall is the idea of Falls Village filmmaker Yonah Sadeh, who also serves as curator. "I would love the VideoWall to become a place that showcases the work of local filmmakers, and I hope that other creatives in the area will submit their work to be shown," he said.

After the screening of the two films, "Mail Myself to You" and "Circle, Circle Square," Pranger and Sadeh will discuss filmmaking and answer questions.

Of Pranger, Sadeh said, "She has a strong visual voice as a director, and both of these films are great examples of a blend of documentary and experi-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

## To mow or not to mow?

Love it or hate it, there is no denying the several blankets of snow this winter were beautiful, especially as they visually muffled some of the damage they caused in the first place. There appears to be tree damage — some minor and some major — in many places, and now that we can move around, the pre-spring cleanup begins. Here, a heavy snow buildup on our sun porch roof crashed onto the shrubs below, snapping off branches and cleaving a boxwood in half, flattening it.

The other area that has been flattened by the snow is the meadow, now heading into its fourth year of post-lawn alterations. A short recap on its genesis: I simply stopped mowing a half-acre of lawn, planted some flowering plants, spread little bluestem seeds and, far less simply, obsessively pluck out invasive plants such as sheep sorrel and stilt grass. And while it's not exactly enchanting, it is flourishing, so much so that I cannot bring myself to mow.

I have doubts: If I mow in the spring, would I kill all the overwintering insects? If I mow after the first frost, as suggested in a 2017 paper by the esteemed Kim Stoner, Ph.D., on the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station website, would I lose the seed heads of yarrow, rattlesnake master and black-eyed Susan that birds are supposed to feed on in the winter? Paralyzed by indecision, I have not been able to bring myself to do even a partial cut.

I took a poll at a recent party attended by horticulturalists, environmentalists and garden experts. There was a consensus that early spring is indeed the best time to mow — early, before the ground-nesting birds like woodcock start



PHOTO BY DEE SALOMON

A partially mowed meadow in early spring provides habitat for wildlife while helping to keep invasive plants in check.



nesting. I then called Mike Nadeau, whom I consider a meadow master of the Northwest Corner, and he concurred, following the Xerces Society meadow-mowing guidelines: mow in early spring when dandelions are in bloom.

"Xerces Society says this is the time most insects have

hatched out of hollow stems and is between bird migrations."

Nadeau's experience has borne this out.

"I stress not to mow in fall because a dormant meadow is a haven for winter critters of all ilk. Birds use dormant plants for nesting materials, eat seeds, refuge — not to mention the other mammalian life that benefits from a meadow. An argument that has worked for me to discourage fall mowing is to describe a dormant meadow, with its

myriad seed heads and foliage, as kinetic sculpture, especially with snowfall. It's a beauty all its own."

Nadeau mows a third to a half of a meadow each year, ideally using a flail mower, which chops vegetation into small pieces, helping foliage to resprout. The unmowed portion is left as a refuge for the animals that get evicted from their homes in the mowed area.

Stoner agrees with Mike to divide up the meadow and mowing different sections at different times. And she validates my mowing trepidation.

"There's no perfect time. Any time you mow, you will be disturbing the habitat of some creature. If you don't mow, you will have invasive plants creeping in, and eventually you will have trees," she said.

"Best thing is to think about what your goals are — what creatures do want to encourage in your meadow? Then set the time of mowing to protect and enhance the habitat for those creatures."

Additionally, Nadeau suggests that mown paths should be rerouted at least every two years to prevent rhizomatous grasses from establishing, which can grow into meadow edges and look unsightly. And the window is short:

"It's too late to mow when spring birds arrive in earnest and new meadow growth is taller than 6 inches."

### Lights Out!

One of my favorite meadow benefits are the hundreds of fireflies that emerge in June. I am grateful for the lack of artificial light from neighbors (save for one house across the river with a persistent outside night light), so these creatures

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

## THEATER

## Capitol hosts first-ever staging of Civil War love story

By Jack Sheedy

Litchfield County playwright Cinzi Lavin's "A Goodnight Kiss," based on letters exchanged between a Civil War soldier and the woman who became his wife, premiered in 2025 to sold-out audiences in Goshen, where the couple once lived. Now the original cast, directed by Goshen resident Kathleen Kelly, will present the play beneath the gold dome of Connecticut's Capitol in Hartford as part of the state's America250 commemoration — marking what organizers believe may be the first such performance at the Capitol.

"I don't believe any live performances of an actual play (at the Capitol) have happened," said Elizabeth Conroy, administrative assistant at the Office of Legislative Management, who coordinates Capitol events.

When Lavin inquired about staging the production there, "they were very excited about it," she said.

The performance, to take place April 1, is being sponsored

by the Connecticut League of Women Voters. Organizers said the Capitol setting offers a fitting backdrop for a story rooted in American history and civic life.

"A Goodnight Kiss" is a dramatic reading drawn from letters exchanged between Sgt. Maj. Frederick Lucas (David Maccharelli) and Sarah Jane "Jennie" Wadhams (Olivia Wadsworth). Fred wrote from battlefields, while Jennie wrote

from the peaceful confines of Goshen. Together, their letters trace a gradually deepening romance and how the couple overcame objections by Jennie's father, John Marsh Wadhams, and finally married in 1867.

"I just found it adorable that (Jennie's father) was going to make sure she got the right kind of husband, which is why Fred had such a hard time," Kelly said.

BroadwayWorld reviewer

Sean Fallon called the play "the most romantic love story I have ever seen acted out on stage."

The letters were first brought to light in the 2002 book "Fred and Jennie: A Civil War Love Story" by the late Ernest B. Barker, a Goshen resident and descendant of both the Lucas and Wadhams families. The Barker family discovered Fred's letters in the Wadhams

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## INSIDE

### SPORTS

Housatonic presents winter sports awards

### CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events



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## ... Kathy Reisfeld

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

of Berkshire Wealth Group in Great Barrington, these are two sides of a single practice.

“At the end of the day, you’re just dealing with people,” she said. “Whether we’re talking about financial stability or mental stability, it’s kind of all the same thing.”

Reisfeld has spent nearly 30 years in finance, building a client-centered advisory practice that eventually led her to go independent. But her relationship with money began long before her career.

When her mother became ill during Reisfeld’s childhood, finances tightened. It wasn’t poverty, she said, but it was constrained enough to teach her how money — or its lack — can dictate the terms of one’s life. That lesson took on a deeper meaning as she watched her mother remain in a difficult marriage without full financial independence. “Money represented autonomy,” she said. “Freedom.”

In college, Reisfeld initially majored in physics, drawn to systems and structure. But an economics class shifted her direction. Markets, she realized, were systems too — not only mathematical, but deeply human.

After graduating, she landed an internship with a financial adviser and gradually discovered a profession that combined curiosity, problem-solving and



PHOTO BY ELENA SPELLMAN

Kathy Reisfeld practicing yoga.

“Whether we’re talking about financial stability or mental stability, it’s kind of all the same thing.”

KATHY REISFELD

relationship-building.

“The more I learned, the more I kind of wanted to get involved,” she said.

Over time, she realized she wasn’t interested in chasing predictions; she was interested in guiding people through uncertainty.

Over nearly three decades,

she has watched the industry evolve. It has moved, she believes, from selling products to offering advice — a shift toward aligning compensation with clients’ best interests.

She’s candid about the stereotypes that cling to finance: that it’s driven by greed and full of money-hungry people. Those people exist, she said, but they aren’t the majority.

“It’s kind of like the few bad apples ruining it for everyone.”

At its best, she believes, the work is quieter and more meaningful than its reputation suggests.

Yoga entered her life in 2001,

when she was living in New York City and training as a marathon runner.

“I was, like, very anti-yoga,” she admitted with a laugh.

But once she tried it, something shifted. A workshop with Nancy Gilgoff, the first American woman to travel to India to study Ashtanga yoga, “blew my mind open,” she said, revealing yoga as something far larger than poses or stretching.

What began as a physical complement to her running became a doorway into something deeper.

“Ashtanga means eight limbs,” Reisfeld explained. “The physical practice is just the entry point.”

The overlap she sees between yoga and investing is patience. Both practices demand discipline through fluctuation — the ups and downs, the good days and bad days, and the willingness to keep showing up.

In yoga philosophy, she points to the stilling of the mind. In investing, that becomes tuning out the noise — the headlines that spike fear or euphoria, the endless predictions that feel authoritative and rarely land cleanly.

After almost three decades in a traditionally male-dominated industry, Reisfeld has learned to move comfortably in rooms where she was often one of the few women present.

Asked what it was like starting out as a woman in finance, she smiled.

“The lines for the restroom were shorter.”

The humor reflects her temperament. She began her career at 21, and mentorship was not always easy to find. But finance, like yoga, rewards consistency. Ultimately, she built her business through steady growth.

For Reisfeld, yoga is fundamentally about integration. Money is no exception. It shapes how we live, the choices we make and the freedoms we have. Ignoring it doesn’t make it disappear. It only makes it harder.

Now rooted in the Berkshires, advising clients and teaching yoga classes from the same barn, Reisfeld’s work feels less like two careers and more like one philosophy.

When asked what she hopes people feel after spending time with her — whether reviewing a portfolio or finishing a yoga session — her answer is immediate.

“More confident,” she said. “Less stressed. More optimistic about their future.”

For more information or to book an appointment, visit [berkshirwealthgroup.com](http://berkshirwealthgroup.com)

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## ... Civil War

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO BY JACK SHEEDY

Playwright Cinzi Lavin, left, poses with Kathleen Kelly, director of ‘A Goodnight Kiss.’

homestead and Jennie’s letters in a house once owned by a Lucas family member. The correspondence is now housed at the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History in Hartford.

Kelly said presenting the story through letters poses a challenge because the actors rarely interact onstage. During rehearsals, she had the performers face one another while reading their letters aloud. “It was just like magic happened,” she said.

Lavin said the play “tells the story of what truly makes America great, what made America great then, and what still makes it great, which is devotion to duty, service to others, integrity and treasuring freedom.”

David Maccharelli, who portrays Fred, said, “Charting (Fred’s) course from enthusiastic young recruit gushing with admiration for the new technology of 19th-century warfare to a man crashing into the reality of war is a reminder that even the noblest of causes demand sacrifice, and that sacrifice is often borne by innocents.”

Olivia Wadsworth said of portraying Jennie, “It’s actually a little dizzying to think about. Two people, more than a hundred years ago, sent private letters to one another, and now their love story is being shared in a performance at the state Capitol.”

The performance will take place April 1 at 2 p.m. in Room 310 of the Capitol at 210 Capitol Ave., Hartford. The event is free and open to the public with advance registration at <https://bit.ly/Ausa9b7>. Arrangements for guests with special requirements may be made by emailing [Lisa.DelSesto@admin@hwct.org](mailto:Lisa.DelSesto@admin@hwct.org) or calling 203-288-7996. Parking on Capitol grounds is limited, but additional parking is available nearby at the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Ave.

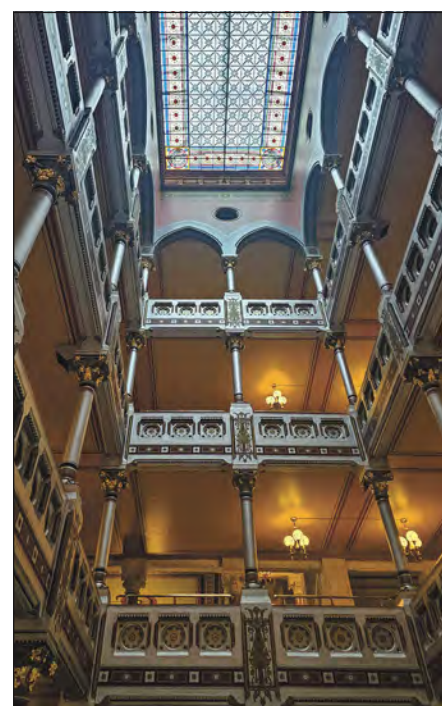


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KATHLEEN KELLY

Capitol atrium

## PERFORMANCE

# Buddy and Holly: poetry and song at Troutbeck

By Natalia Zukerman

On Saturday, March 28, Troutbeck in Amenia will host “An Acoustic Evening with Buddy Wakefield and Holly Miranda,” bringing together two artists who carefully employ language — to tell stories, to shape songs and to search for truth.

The two artists met last August at the memorial service for their dear friend, poet Andrea Gibson.

“We kept bumping into each other in those really funny, awkward, weird moments that can happen at a funeral,” said Miranda. “We knew we really liked each other and wanted to spend some more time together.”

That connection continued over the winter when Miranda enrolled in one of Wakefield’s online poetry courses.

“I just thought maybe I should do something totally out of my comfort zone to kick-start some creative flow,” she explained. The class introduced her to a structured prompt and feedback process which, in the end, sparked new material. “I’m not a poet,” said Miranda. “And I’m definitely not a student,” she continued, laughing, making reference to herself as a high school dropout. “So, this was a new process for me. And I really liked it.”

Born in Detroit, Miranda burst onto the Brooklyn music scene in the late ‘90s and has since collaborated with a wide constellation of artists from Lou Reed to Karen O, Leslie Gore and Tegan and Sara. In 2021, she co-founded Eye Kne Records with Elissa Young and Ambrosia Parsley to support independent artists. She is currently part of a team developing a 250-capacity music venue in Woodstock, Calliope, named for the Greek muse who presides over eloquence and epic poetry.

“There’s a lot of small-town bureaucracy we’re still wading through,” said Miranda, estimating it’ll be another 18 months or so before the venue opens its doors.

Wakefield, a three-time Individual World Poetry Slam champion now based in Portugal, said this event came together after an invitation from Troutbeck’s director of culture and commerce, Sascha Lewis.

“Everything he’s invited me to in the past has been awesome, so I knew this would be too. And then, of course, there’s Holly.”

The performance will take place in the ballroom, the perfect setting to foster intimacy and a close connection to the audience. Wakefield, whose performances blend theater, poetry, humor and personal narrative, said he adjusts each set to fit the space he’s in.

“I definitely adapt in a choose your own adventure way,” he said.

Over more than two decades of relentless touring — from grand urban stages to unexpected corners of the world — Wakefield has helped expand spoken word beyond readings into emotionally dynamic live performance.

It’s fitting as well that this pairing unfolds at a place steeped in creative history. The evening, which begins at 5 p.m., will be a continuation of that tradition: art not as spectacle, but as exchange.

In a time when so much competes for our dwindling attention, this performance will offer something rare: the chance to sit quietly in a beautiful room while two singular artists remind us how powerful unamplified truth can be.

Guests are invited to stay for dinner. Reservations are encouraged. Tickets at [troutbeck.com](http://troutbeck.com)



PHOTO BY SARA BOULTER

Buddy Wakefield



PHOTO PROVIDED

Holly Miranda

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WRITER'S NOTEBOOK

# A bowl full of stars

By Cheryl Heller

There's a bowl in my studio where pieces of the planet reside. I bring them home from travels, picking them up not for their beauty or distinction but for their provenance. I choose the ones that speak to me — the ones next to pyramids, along hiking trails, on city sidewalks or volcanic slopes.

I like how stones feel in my hand: weighty, grounding. I don't mind them making my pockets and suitcase heavier. The bowl is about the size of an average carry-on. It has been years since it was light enough for me to lift.

They're not specimens. I'm not a scientist comparing igneous with sedimentary, or metamorphic with minerals or meteorites. I don't know slate from quartzite, or schist from basalt or gabbro. They aren't memories either, because I can't tell by looking at them where they're from. They sit quietly beside me in whatever moment I'm occupying.

They're not souvenirs from places, like coffee mugs or snow globes. They are the places themselves.

The planet has reorganized itself in my bowl. Melbourne nestles next to the Hebrides. The streets of Roma in Mexico City rub elbows with Vatican City, Rome. Eastern Tibet sits on



PHOTO BY CHERYL HELLER

A bowl full of stones.

top of Machu Picchu; New Delhi is now close to Detroit. Cappadocia has finally met Capri. Mustique knows Morocco, and they both lie on the beaches of southern France.

These stones have witnessed the fall of civilizations, the birth and death of infinite beings, tectonic upheavals and the creative destruction of fire and ice.

Who touched them be-

fore me? Inca, Maya, Trojans? Warriors, slaves or yaks? Blue-footed boobies in the Galápagos or a slithering Costa Rican fer-de-lance? Was one of them used to stone a blasphemer in ancient Greece?

It's not as if the place where I live needs more stones. In New England we've been blessed with an imposing population of glacial erratics — characters

dragged here by the last Ice Age and left to sit silently in the woods for the past 16,000 years. The stones themselves, I've learned, are more than a billion years old.

The most ancient rocks known to us are more than four billion years old. Others are practically new, formed continually as tectonic plates shift along seabeds or lava cools along volcanic slopes. And while individual rocks vary wildly in age, the substance of rocks — atoms of silicon, oxygen and iron — is far older than the Earth itself, forged in ancient stars before our Milky Way existed.

Perhaps my bowl is filled with stars.

I recently stood before an exhibit of Aboriginal art called "The Stars We Do Not See." The artists are descendants of the oldest continuous civilization on Earth, at 350,000 years. Their past is not distant or inaccessible to them; they understand time as a cycle and live in relationship with everything on earth and sky, including stones.

The title of the show was inspired by the late Yol u artist Gulumbu Yunupingu, who painted the night sky on bark. She spoke about the "stars behind the stars" — all there is to learn and appreciate beyond what we

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

## ... mowing

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can shine brightly — and securely.

The organization DarkSky International relays the effect outdoor lights can have on fireflies: an almost 50% decrease in flashes per minute, which affects courtship behavior and mating success, according to two studies they cite on its website, darksky.org.

There, you can also get

the lowdown on the devastating effects even one outdoor light can have on birds, amphibians, insects and mammals. The organization provides educational materials that explain the issue, making it easier to bring it up to neighbors and friends — which I will soon try with the house across the river.

*Dee Salomon ungardens in Litchfield County.*

## ... VideoWall

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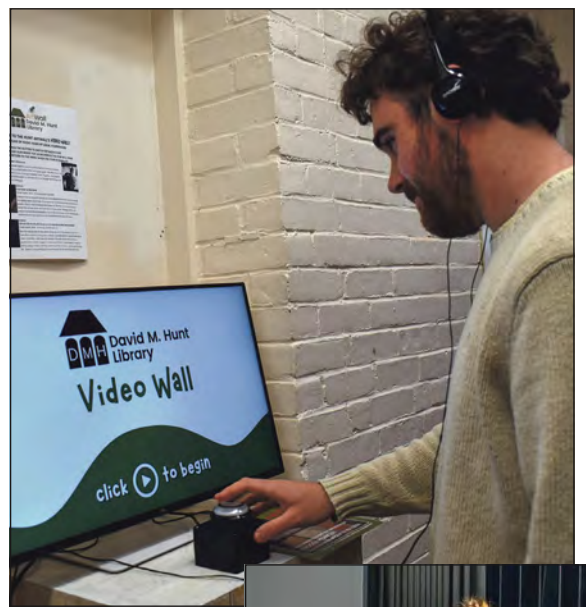


PHOTO BY ROBIN RORABACK

Yonah Sadeh, Falls Village filmmaker and curator of David M. Hunt Library's new VideoWall.

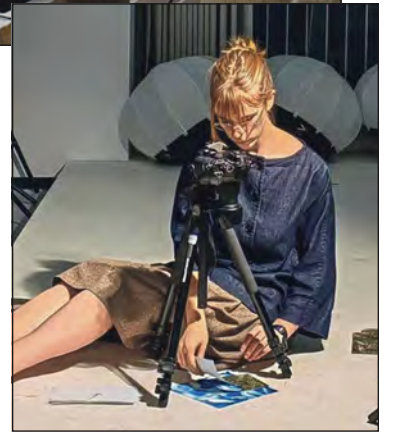


PHOTO PROVIDED

Imogen Pranger, first filmmaker of the new VideoWall.

mental filmmaking?"

Pranger described her approach to filmmaking. "I have always approached the visual arts from an interdisciplinary, multimedia perspective." This approach was a reason why animation was particularly appealing to Pranger as she began exploring the possibilities of filmmaking.

"I particularly fell in love with the tactility of hand-drawn and painted animation and the ways in which it can be used in tandem with analog 16-millimeter film. Stop-motion animation holds the unique power to bring inanimate objects to life, something that became crucial to my practice of archival documentary filmmaking. I appreciate the sense of play that is encouraged in the medium of animation and find great joy in exploring new avenues and possibilities within the medium,"

she continued.

At the core of Pranger's films, she hopes to capture the joy and intimacy of human connection that blossoms through engagement with material and creative process.

After the opening event, the films will remain available to view at any time on the VideoWall screen in the library stacks. "The screen will always be on and ready for anyone to use," Sadeh said. The installations will last three to four months.

Sadeh added, "Each installation will begin with a public screening at the library, followed by a talk-back with the filmmaker."

Filmmakers can contact Sadeh at [huntartwall@gmail.com](mailto:huntartwall@gmail.com) for information about submitting films for consideration. Visit [huntlibrary.org/art-wall](http://huntlibrary.org/art-wall) for a schedule of ArtWall and VideoWall events, which are free and open to the public.

THEATER

# One-woman show brings Mumbet's fight for freedom to Scoville Library

By Natalia Zukerman

On March 29, writer, producer and director Tammy Denease will embody the life and story of Elizabeth Freeman, widely known as Mumbet, in two performances at the Scoville Library in Salisbury. Presented by Scoville Library and the Salisbury Association Historical Society, the performance is part of Salisbury READS, a community-wide engagement with literature and civic dialogue.

Mumbet was the first enslaved woman in Massachusetts to sue successfully for her freedom in 1781. Her victory helped lay the legal groundwork for the abolition of slavery in the state just two years later. In bringing Mumbet's story to life, Denease does more than reenact history.

"I have been performing Mumbet for over 15 years now," she said. What continues to resonate is "her self-awareness and self-worth even though she was enslaved. Her legacy of self-care and the ability to take care of others. That has not changed over time."

Denease's one-woman performance, "One Minute a Free Woman," is part of her "Hidden Women" series, which centers figures too often pushed to the margins of historical memory. Drawing upon her own lineage and storytelling traditions passed down from her great-grandmother, a formerly enslaved woman, Denease creates work that bridges personal inheritance and collective history. Her background as a museum educator and interpretive guide shapes this approach.

"Being an interpretive

educator helps me put the humanity back into history that has been removed when telling the stories," she said.

The 2 p.m. program welcomes school-age audiences and families, while a 4 p.m. performance invites adults into a deeper and more intense exploration of Mumbet's life.

"The format of the show will only change in the way I deliver the story," Denease explained. "It will be more intense and in detail for the adults, less intense for the kids. However, it will not be watered down."

For young people, Denease hopes the performance ignites curiosity and critical thought. "I hope school-age audiences' imaginations are activated to want to know more and to never stop asking questions." Adults, she said, are invited into a deeper investigation. "I hope for my adult audience that they will question what they were taught and see history through a different lens."

That spirit of inquiry lies at the heart of Salisbury READS. "Literature and live performances go hand in hand," Denease said. "Reading activates the imagination; living history helps that activated mind to make historical connections and keep the humanity and dignity in place where it was never given or taken away."

Ultimately, the performance asks audiences to treat history not as distant fact but as shared responsibility. "I hope the audience will continue to question why knowing accurate and complete history is so important," Denease said. "To understand that not knowing the whole story hurts everyone."

To register for the event, visit [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)



PHOTO PROVIDED

Tammy Denease portrays Elizabeth "Mumbet" Freeman in two performances at the Scoville Memorial Library on March 29.

*arts*  
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Historian Russell Shorto joins local educators Peter Vermilyea and Rhonan Mokriski for a conversation about Shorto's "Revolution Song" on March 27 at the Salisbury Forum, marking Salisbury's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The event begins at 7:30 p.m. at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Register at [salisburyforum.org](http://salisburyforum.org)

## ... bowl full of stars

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3



PHOTO BY CHERYL HELLER

### A rock with a ladder.

can see. Deep in the woods on the hill above our house in Norfolk sits a giant marshmallow-shaped rock, one of the billion-year-old ones. At some point, someone leaned a ladder against it — a standing invitation to a new perspective.

How can we know the things that are invisible, the stars behind the stars? How can we feel connected to what came before us and sits silently around us, too slow for our impatient eyes to see?

Every once in a while, someone leans a ladder against a rock so we can't miss it. Most of the time, we're on our own.

I sometimes joke with my younger sister that

when I die, she and our nieces can divide up what ever I leave behind, including the handbag she has had her eye on for years. But who will see and care about a bowl of rocks too heavy to lift and too silent about their value to be appreciated?

This is for you, Lynn, Stacey, Katie and Rose.

I hope you keep the planet in my bowl together.

It might be, after all, my small and only lasting intervention in the world.

Cheryl Heller is a designer, educator and business strategist who pioneered the field of social design and founded the first social design MFA program at the School of Visual Arts. She lives in Norfolk.

## Tri-Corner Calendar

### 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. Free with RSVP. Presented in partnership with The Salisbury Association, The Salisbury Forum, The Troutbeck Symposium, and Scoville Memorial Library, in connection with Salisbury Commemoration 250 and CT 250. 5 to 6 p.m.

### Tarot for Beginners

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org)  
Sonya Reeve leads an introduction to tarot, exploring the major and minor arcana, the hero's journey, and the symbolism within the 78-card deck. Participants will pull cards together; no experience necessary. A selection of tarot decks will be available for purchase. 6 p.m.

### MARCH 27

**Author Russell Shorto at the Salisbury Forum**  
Housatonic Valley Regional High School, 246 Warren Turnpike Rd., Falls Village, Conn.  
Historian and author Russell Shorto joins award-winning local educators Peter Vermilyea and Rhonan Mokriski for a conversation on history and the American Revolution. Free. Registration required at [salisburyforum.org](http://salisburyforum.org). 7:30 p.m.

**"In the Deep Heart's Core"**  
Stissing Center for Arts & Culture, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.  
Joseph Sobol's musical theater work inspired by the life and poetry of W. B. Yeats blends Celtic-inflected folk music and storytelling in an intimate exploration of Irish identity and imagination. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at [thestissingcenter.org](http://thestissingcenter.org)

**The Addams Family**  
Northwestern Regional High School, 100 Battistoni Drive, Winsted, Conn.  
March 27 to 29

Northwestern Regional 7 presents "The Addams Family," a spooky, funny musical based on the cartoons by Charles Addams. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. in the NWR7 Auditorium. The show follows Wednesday Addams as she falls for a "normal" young man, bringing two very different families together for one unforgettable dinner. Tickets available at the door or at [ticketleap.events](http://ticketleap.events).

**Author Russell Shorto in Conversation**  
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)  
At 6 p.m., acclaimed author Russell Shorto discusses his book "Revolution Song" and the craft of narrative history in conversation with Peter Vermilyea and Rhonan Mokriski. Details at [salisburyforum.org](http://salisburyforum.org).

**Better Habitat for Birds: Volunteer Workday**  
Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn.  
Help remove invasive plants and restore habitat near Ford Pond. Tools provided; volunteers ages 10+ welcome. 1 to 3 p.m. Register at [act.audubon.org](http://act.audubon.org).

**Heroes in Your Backyard: Native Plants for Healthier Landscapes**  
Sharon Town Hall, 63 Main St., Sharon, Conn.  
Michael Nadeau discusses how to choose, source and support native plants, including the pros and cons of "nativars," in this final workshop of a three-part series. 9:30 to 11 a.m. Contact the Sharon Land Trust at 860-364-5137 or [info@sharonlandtrust.org](mailto:info@sharonlandtrust.org).

**Out of the Mist...A Dragon**  
The Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.  
Live Japanese Bunraku-style puppet theater for family audiences. 5 p.m.  
Tickets at [thestissingcenter.org](http://thestissingcenter.org)

**Children's Author Visit & Book Signing**  
Whistle Pig Books, 62 Main St., North Canaan, Conn.  
Join us at Whistle Pig Books for a special book signing with children's author Katie Melko on Saturday, March 28, from 12 to 3 p.m. Copies of her book "Luna Plants a Garden" will be available for purchase during the event. [whistlepigbooks.com](http://whistlepigbooks.com).

**The Harlem Line Band at The White Hart Inn**  
The White Hart Inn, 15 Under Mountain Road, Salisbury, Conn.  
The show starts at 8:30, and tickets will be available to purchase the day of the event. The fund was created in 2005 to help families in the Northwest Corner who need financial support due to cancer treatments.

**Free Chocolate Tasting**  
Tri Corner FEED Market 56 S. Center St., Millerton, N.Y. 12 p.m.

Items appear as space permits. Submit calendar items to [editor@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:editor@lakevillejournal.com).

Enjoy a free tasting extravaganza at noon featuring sweets from Mudgetown Chocolate. Stop by to sample handcrafted treats and celebrate local flavor.

**An Acoustic Evening with Buddy Wakefield and Holly Miranda**  
Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Rd., Amenia, N.Y.  
Acclaimed poet Buddy Wakefield and singer/songwriter Holly Miranda team up for an evening of music and raw storytelling at 5 p.m. Tickets at [troutbeck.com](http://troutbeck.com).

**Needle Felting Workshop**  
Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Road, Amenia, N.Y.  
Artist Courtney Childress leads a hands-on Cottage Courses workshop exploring needle felting on stretched canvas. Participants will experiment with colorful wool roving, texture and composition to create a small abstract felted canvas. Open to all skill levels. 1 to 3:30 p.m. Sign up at [troutbeck.com](http://troutbeck.com)

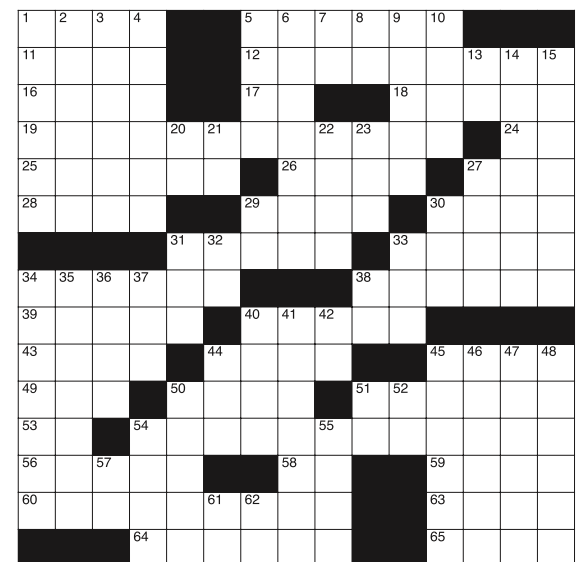
enlaced woman to win her freedom in a Massachusetts court in 1781, setting a precedent for the abolition of slavery in the state. Performances: 2 to 3 p.m. for school-age children and families; 4 to 5 p.m. for adults. Registration required at [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org).

**Needle Felting Workshop**  
Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Road, Amenia, N.Y.  
Artist Courtney Childress leads a hands-on Cottage Courses workshop exploring needle felting on stretched canvas. Participants will experiment with colorful wool roving, texture and composition to create a small abstract felted canvas. Open to all skill levels. 1 to 3:30 p.m. Sign up at [troutbeck.com](http://troutbeck.com)

## Brain Teasers

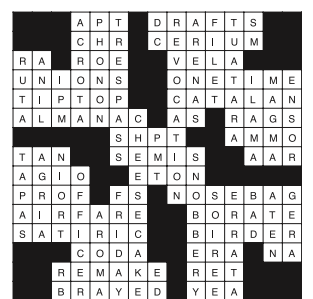
### CLUES ACROSS

- "Bird of Paradise" constellation
- Red Sox WS winner Bronson
- Whirl
- The State Dept. has a notable one
- Energy, style and enthusiasm
- Part of the mind
- Mountainous country
- Type of beverage
- Atomic #109
- Opposite of falsities
- Female sheep
- Rocky peak
- Sensitive information sharing environment
- Ethnic group of Thailand
- Patron saint of Rome Philip
- Psychedelics
- Japanese pine
- Have an impact on
- Violent disorder
- A French river
- Early Mesoamerican civilization
- Messenger ribonucleic acid
- Musician Clapton
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- Valley
- A way to unwind
- Atomic #93
- Recommending
- Indigo bush
- Larry and Curly's pal
- Off-Broadway theater award
- Fencers
- Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- Relating to songbirds
- A way to assign



- Luteinizing hormone
- Atomic #55
- Carries a debt
- Albanian monetary unit
- Semitic abjad letter
- Yes
- Negative
- Earn a perfect score
- Connecticut
- Partner to cheese
- Snack nuts
- Quadruped's body part
- Locate
- Pitching statistic
- "\_, myself and I"
- Utah city northwest of Provo
- Football players in the trenches
- One who runs the show
- Wood
- Performing artists
- Slang for a cut
- More breathable

### March 19 Solution

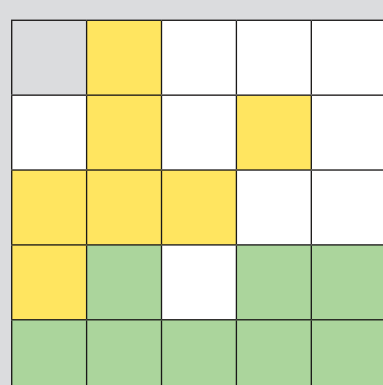


There was an error in last week's WoTW

A	R	R	O	W
S	K	A	T	E
C	H	E	A	P
L	A	N	C	E
D	A	N	C	E

## 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.

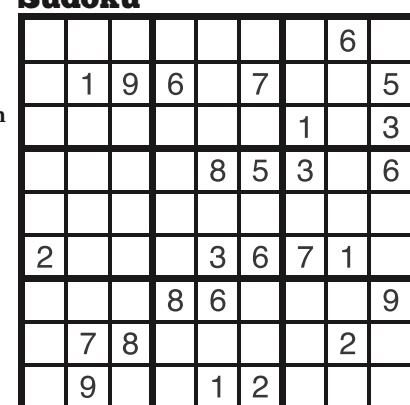


- Part of a car, or a tree
- Game points total
- Seat for one
- Dip for carrots, wings
- Month of Madness

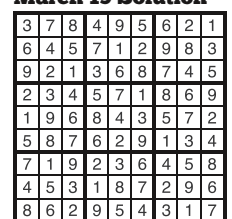
### CLUES DOWN

- Some are "secret"
- Intestinal openings
- Distant planet
- Assembly possessing high legislative powers
- Genus of typical owls
- One with distinctively colored hair
- Red cross
- An alternative
- Abominable snowmen
- About ear
- The opening letters
- Feeling of regret
- Atomic #39

### Sudoku



### March 19 Solution



Level: Intermediate



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# Our Towns

## Falls Village sugarmakers open for maple weekend

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Denny Jacobs dipped a metal spoon into boiling maple sap that was slowly turning into maple syrup.

He held the spoon up horizontally and watched as the thick liquid dribbled off. "It's not done until the last drop stays on the spoon," he said. "That's what the old-timers told us."

The Jacobs family — Denny, Judy and their son Dave — along with Bill Beebe and a couple of dogs, were busy Saturday morning, March 21, at their Whiting Brook Farm on Undermountain Road maple syrup operation.

Judy Jacobs had a covered skillet perched on the side of the evaporator. In it

were hot dogs and kielbasa, cut in slices and simmering in maple sap.

The Jacobs operation was one of six Falls Village sugaring concerns participating in a statewide maple syrup showcase weekend, with visitors traveling between farms to see each operation in action.

Matt Gallagher and his son Connor were boiling away at a much smaller apparatus at the Gallagher home, also known as Acer Creek Farm, on Canaan Mountain Road.

Matt Gallagher said he had one big tank just off Canaan Mountain Road which collected sap via tubes from 24 taps, plus another 73 taps and buckets on trees.

Jody and Jean Bronson, of Undermountain Road, also had a smaller system running

and a steady stream of visitors.

Bronson said they prefer a more robust, darker syrup than the amber colored variety that is the unofficial standard, and Jean Bronson had samples ready for visitors.

The amount of sap needed to produce syrup varied considerably. Denny Jacobs said the Whiting Brook Farm ratio was between 50 and 55 gallons of sap to one gallon of syrup. Bronson and Gallagher had 35-to-1 and 30-to-1, respectively.

Bronson, a retired forester, said altitude and whether trees are wild or farmed both make a difference.

Back at Whiting Brook, Denny Jacobs and Beebe, watching the hydrometer and the spoon, decided it was time for a "draw." A clean five-gallon bucket was positioned un-

der the tap, and the hot, dark syrup filled the container.

Then it was time for the initial filtering.

Jacobs was proud of his innovative filter mechanism. A conical filter made of a thick, felt-like material was suspended between the legs of an upside-down kitchen stool, with another five-gallon bucket beneath.

Jacobs simply poured the hot syrup out of the first bucket into the filter. The syrup slowly seeped through. "We finish it on the stove at home," said Judy Jacobs.

Also participating in the maple weekend were Lou Timolat and Eric Carlson at Saw Mill Syrup on Route 7, Kent Allyn on Music Mountain Road, and Adamah Farm on Johnson Road, each oper-



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Bill Beebe, left and Denny Jacobs hard at work making maple syrup at Whiting Brook Farm.

ating from their own sugar-house or farm.

The Falls Village maple syrup makers are hosting an event on the town Green on

Saturday, April 25, co-sponsored by the town's Recreation Commission. There will be demonstrations and, of course, maple syrup for sale.

## Housatonic presents winter sports awards

FALLS VILLAGE — Housatonic Valley Regional High School recognized its student-athletes for the 2025-26 winter season during an awards ceremony held Thursday, March 12. The following students were honored:

**Girls Basketball**  
MVP: Olivia Brooks  
MIP: Carmela Egan  
JV MIP: Olivia Simonds/Keely Malone

**Sportsmanship: Maddy Johnson**  
Stevenson: Grace Graney  
Tyburski: Aubrey Funk  
Heart & Hustle Award: Victoria Brooks

**Boys Basketball**  
MVP: Anthony Foley  
MIP: Tyler Roberts

**Sportsmanship: Simon Markow**  
Tyburski: Jaxon Visockis  
JV MIP: Peyton Bushnell  
Stevenson: Jasper Oyanadel

**Swimming**  
MVP: Anna Gillette  
MIP: Paige Beeman  
Sportsmanship: Lydia Fleming

**Tyburski: Phoebe Conklin/Cullen Bonis**

**Alpine Ski**  
MVP: Winter Cheney  
MIP: Danny Lesch  
JV MIP: Logan Dolan  
Sportsmanship: Jonas Johnson

**Stevenson: Austin Ward**  
Tyburski: Donald Polk III

**Four-Year Senior Awards**

Anna Gillette (Swim), Wesley Allyn (Basketball), Anthony Foley (Basketball), Anthony Labbadia (Basketball), Owen Riemer (Basketball), Olivia Brooks (Basketball), Maddy Johnson (Basketball), Nick Crodelle (Basketball), and Simon Markow (Basketball).

**Berkshire League Scholar Athletes**

Olivia Brooks (Basketball), Anna Gillette (Swim), Silas Tripp (Indoor Track), Adelyn Diorio (Swim), Daniel Lesch (Alpine Ski), Meadow Moerschell (Swim), Is-hann Tantri (Alpine Ski), Ivy Zheng (Swim), Mia Belter (Swim), Kate Money (Swim), Victoria Brooks (Basketball),

Katie Crane (Swim), Madison Graney (Basketball), Hannah Johnson (Basketball), Maddy Johnson (Basketball), Simon Markow (Basketball), Madison Melino (Alpine Ski), Wyatt Bayer (Basketball), Carmela Egan (Basketball), Lydia Fleming (Swim), Grace Graney (Basketball), Jonas Johnson (Alpine Ski), Logan Bronson (Alpine Ski), Caitlin Devino (Cheer), Logan Miller (Ice Hockey), and Vilija Salazar (Cheer).

*Key: MVP is most valuable player; MIP is most improved player; Stevenson is the junior varsity sportsmanship award; Tyburski is awarded to outstanding freshmen.*

## LEGAL NOTICES

### Legal Notice Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on March 16, 2026:

Approved — Special Permit Application #2026-0310 by owner Congregational Church of Salisbury, Inc., for a use rendering more than 30% of the total lot area in impervious surfaces and retaining less than 30%

of the total lot area in vegetative ground cover associated with sidewalk construction in accordance with Sections 403.4.c. and 403.4.d of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 54 as Lot 78 and is located at 30 Main Street, Salisbury.

Any aggrieved person may appeal these decisions to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §8-8.

Town of Salisbury  
Planning &  
Zoning Commission  
Robert Riva, Secretary  
03-26-26

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# Classifieds

# Real Estate

### HELP WANTED

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### HELP WANTED

**GARDENERS NEEDED FOR NATIVE PLANT DESIGN BUSINESS:** March 15- December 1st. Must be physically fit and dependable. Call for interview 347-496-5168. Resume and references needed.

**WANT TO JOIN OUR TEAM?:** Wyantenuck Country Club is seeking Bartenders, Dishwashers, Line/Prep Cooks and Waitstaff. Positions start the last week of April/beginning of May. We offer a competitive pay with flexible shifts on weekdays and/or weekend daytime or evening shifts. Please send resumes to: brandon@wyantenuck.org, call 413-528-0350 or stop by in person.

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### REAL ESTATE

**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:** Equal Housing Opportunity. All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1966 revised March 12, 1989 which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination

### REAL ESTATE

based on race, color religion, sex, handicap or familial status or national origin or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. All residential property advertised in the State of Connecticut General Statutes 46a-64c which prohibit the making, printing or publishing or causing to be made, printed or published any notice, statement or advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, physical or mental disability or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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### RENTALS WANTED

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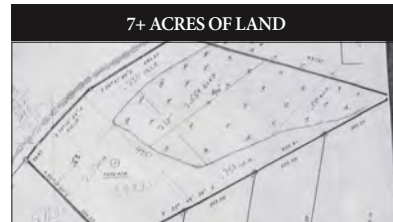
### SPACE FOR RENT

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### Correcting Errors

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

To view all the news and Classifieds from The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News each week, go to our websites at lakevillejournal.com and millertonnews.com

## Managing Editor

The Lakeville Journal, a nonprofit community weekly newspaper with a growing digital presence and orientation, seeks a dynamic, community-focused managing editor.

The managing editor will be primarily responsible for editing and writing articles to serve communities of Northwest Connecticut.

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