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

Affordable housing project breaks ground in Lakeville

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — Five years after receiving final approval, construction has begun on the Holley Place affordable housing development in Lakeville.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Tuesday, March 24, at the project site at 14 Holley St.

The three-story building will include 14 rental units — 10 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom apartments — as well as a garage beneath the structure with 22 parking spaces. The development is expected to be completed and ready for occupancy in spring 2027. The project is being developed

by the Salisbury Housing Committee, a private nonprofit organization that owns and operates affordable housing properties in the region.

According to Peter Halle, president of the Salisbury Housing Committee, the development is intended to serve households across a range of income-restricted levels.

Some units will be reserved for applicants earning at or below 50% of the area median income (\$40,750 for an individual), while others will be available to those earning up to 80% of the area median income (\$65,200 for an individual).

State Housing Commissioner

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PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Sophia DeDominicis Fitzpatrick, 18, a junior at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, addresses the crowd during the Salisbury "No Kings" rally.

Hundreds rally across Northwest Corner in 'No Kings' protests

By Ruth Epstein

Residents across the Northwest Corner joined millions nationwide on Saturday, turning out for "No Kings" protests to voice anger and deep concern over the current federal administration.

Despite biting winds and unseasonably low temperatures, large crowds gathered at rallies throughout the region, waving signs, chanting, singing and standing in solidarity with fellow demonstrators.

In Salisbury, organizers began early on the lawn of the White Hart

Inn, placing signs along Route 44 and setting up a hay wagon to serve as a bandstand. They also strung a line of pennants where attendees were invited to write messages.

As roughly 400 people gathered ahead of the program, many shared their reasons for attending, citing a wide range of concerns and frustrations. Several pointed to what they described as growing injustice, while others focused on war, government spending and broader national priorities.

"It's the injustice of it all," said Kay Blass of Falls Village.

John McGuire, a Vietnam War veteran from Canaan, said he opposed the latest war.

"I'm active in the Veterans of Foreign War and would like to see no new members of that organization."

He also noted with frustration, "We can spend loads of money on missiles, but we can't support poor people."

Stephen Furnstand of Sharon was brief. "There are multiple problems, but the overarching one for

See PROTESTS, Page A10



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Members of Montgomery Lodge No. 13 remove a time capsule that was placed in 1983, which marked the lodge's 200th anniversary.

Time capsules removed from Bicentennial Park site ahead of housing project

By ALEC LINDEN

LAKEVILLE — History will live on at Bicentennial Park even as the new Holley Place affordable housing development helps usher Lakeville into the future, with two time capsules of Salisbury's past set to be preserved within the site.

The Bicentennial Park site is

now being used for the affordable housing development, where a groundbreaking ceremony took place on Tuesday, March 24.

As part of that ceremony, the two artifacts were removed from the stone walls of the park along Millerton Road, where they had been embedded for nearly half a century. Because the walls will be demolished to make way for the 14-unit building, the capsules — along

See TIME CAPSULES, Page A10

Canaan Union Station sold for \$800,000, railroad use to continue

By Ruth Epstein

The Canaan Union Station has been sold for \$800,000, marking a new chapter for one of the town's most recognizable historic landmarks while maintaining its railroad-related uses and existing tenants.

The property was purchased by Canaan Station LLC, an entity associated with the Housatonic Railroad, from the Connecticut Railroad Historical Association, as recorded with the town clerk's office.

Under the new ownership, the building will continue to serve multiple purposes. Housatonic Railroad

See STATION, Page A10



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Canaan Union Station, a historic rail depot dating to 1871, has been sold for \$800,000 and will continue to house railroad operations and community tenants.



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Online This Week

'No Kings' Rallies

For additional photos of the "No Kings" rallies go to 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.

Driving under the influence arrest

Just before midnight on March 26, police transported Bruce Clark, 65, of Sherman, Connecticut to Troop B barracks on an active arrest warrant. Clark was charged with operating a vehicle under the influence and failure to maintain lane for an incident that occurred on Nov. 22 of last year on Furnace Brook Road in Cornwall. He was released on a \$500 non-surety bond and is scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on April 6.

Domestic incident yields two arrests

At approximately 5:30 p.m. on March 28, troopers responded to a residence on Route 272 in Norfolk on the report of an active disturbance. After investigating, troopers made two arrests: Jessica Mae Belfort, 54, for third degree suffocation/strangulation and disorderly conduct, and Katrina Mae Rolf, 23, for disorderly conduct and third degree assault. Both were released on \$500 non-surety bonds and were scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on March 30.

Kindergarten registration in Cornwall set for April 30

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

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

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

Send news tips to editor@lakevillejournal.com

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

Check them out inside.

•Herrington's

Goshen home prices hit new high

By Christine Bates

GOSHEN — The 12-month trailing median price for a single-family home in Goshen increased to \$651,000 for the period ending Feb. 28, 2026 – a historic high.

The figure marks a 1% increase from the \$642,000 median recorded for the 12 months ending Feb. 28, 2025, and 16% from \$552,500 for the comparable period ending Feb. 29, 2024.

The unit sales of single-family homes in Goshen on a 12-month rolling basis was influenced by low inventory. A total of 36 single-family homes were sold in the 12 months ending Feb. 28, 2026, compared with 44 sales in the period ending Feb. 28, 2025, and 46 sales for the 12 months ending Feb. 29, 2024. Historically, the number of sales of single-family homes in Goshen typically range between 35 and 60 transactions a year.

Inventory in all categories continues to be limited. As of March 27, there were only six single-family homes on the market, including two new listings. Of those, three were below the current \$651,000 median price.

Six parcels of land are listed for sale on the MLS, ranging from \$125,000 to \$4,450,000 for 295 acres. Summer furnished rentals account for three of the six rental listings.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

215 Milton Road built in 1987 on 2.45 acres recently sold for \$667,000. The price was just above the 12-month median price for a single-family house in Goshen of \$651,000.

Recent transactions

215 Milton Road – 3 bedroom/3 bath home on 2.45 acres in Woodridge Lake sold by Robin O'Dell to Argiro Vithoulkas for \$667,000 on Jan. 5, 2026

64.5 Sandy Beach Road - 3-bedroom cottage on .34 acres sold by Sara Wright to Andi Services LLC for \$120,000 on Jan. 7, 2026

93 Gray Lane – 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home on 10.39 acres sold by Lorraine Calder to David Merriam for \$900,000 on Jan. 12, 2026

340 Old Middle Street -1 bedroom/2 bath ranch on 1.03 acres sold by David D'Andrea Jr. to Krista and Martin Maroda for \$135,000 on Jan. 23, 2026

62 East Cornwall Drive – 10.78 acres of land sold by Edward Pogodzienski to Douglas Smalley and Melissa Troccia for \$250,000 on Jan. 29, 2026

109 Weldon Court -.94 acre Woodridge Lake parcel sold by David Barchi to Jacobus Gauche and Victor Blas for \$55,000

* Town of Goshen real estate transfers recorded between Jan. 1, 2026, and Feb. 28, 2026, provided by the Goshen Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS and market statistic from Infosparcs. 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.

Housatonic academic bowl team places first in Connecticut, New England

FALLS VILLAGE The Housatonic Valley Regional High School Academic Bowl Team recently finished first in Connecticut, first in New England, and fourth in the nation in the Spring Knowledge Masters Open. Hosted for over 43 years by Academic Hallmarks, the Knowledge Masters Open challenges a team of students with a variety of questions from all academic disciplines as well as popular culture.

The Housatonic team finished in a four-way tie for first place in total points as well as in the first tie breaker, percentage of questions answered correctly. On the second tie-breaker, however - time required to finish - the Mounaineers finished fourth. Jesuit High School of New Orleans, Louisiana, finished first in the country.

The Housatonic team consisted of seniors Maddie Johnson, Tenzing Sherpa and Silas Tripp; Juniors Jordan Almeida, John DeDo-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Members of the Housatonic Valley Regional High School Academic Bowl Team, who recently placed first in Connecticut and New England and finished fourth nationally in the Spring Knowledge Masters Open.

nato, Addie Diorio, Jonas Johnson, Danny Lesch, and Meadow Moerschell; sophomores Mia Belter, Karmela Quinion, Bridger Rinehart, and Owen Schnepf; and freshman Alistair Schnepf.

The team is coached by Social Studies teacher Peter Vermilyea.

The team will next compete in the National Championship in April.

— Peter Vermilyea

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Our Towns



PHOTO PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Cast members of "Mary Poppins Jr." perform during a Falls Village Children's Theater production on March 27-28.

'Mary Poppins Jr.' fills the house in Falls Village

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — It was standing room only for three performances of "Mary Poppins Jr." by the Falls Village Children's Theater Friday and Saturday, March 27-28.

The well-rehearsed cast members displayed a confident mastery of the material, and kept the audience engaged.

The back stage performance was equally fluid, with large numbers of players moving on and off-stage in silence, and with several costume changes involved. The set was minimal, and the technical team made the most of it, moving props quickly and smoothly.

Lev Sadeh stood out as George Banks, the father who warily entrusts his children's

care to Evelyn Adkins' Mary Poppins. Adkins played her role with great reserve, as befits the ultimate nanny.

And the group of children dressed as honeybees went over very well with the audience.

The show was directed by Darcy Boynton, with musical direction by Alec Sisco, who accompanied the entire show on the piano.

Paley's Farm Market opens season, signaling start of spring

By Aly Morrissey

SHARON — For many local residents, spring doesn't truly begin until Paley's Farm Market opens its doors, and customers turned out in force for its 44th season opening on Saturday, March 28.

Located on Amenia Road in Sharon, Paley's is a seasonal destination for residents of New York and Connecticut and, over the past four decades, has evolved from a locally grown produce center into a full-scale garden center, farm market and fine food market.

Despite a chilly start to the day, the opening drew a steady crowd, with a full parking lot and early signs of the busy season ahead.

"It's been going really well," said owner Sarah Coon, who purchased the business from her brother in 2019. "It's chilly, but we've had a nice turnout. The sun's out, and that always helps."

Mimi Harson of Sharon and Anette Cantilli of Millbrook shared an outing together to purchase flowers and plants for their deck pots.

"It's exciting, we love Paley's," Cantilli said of the opening day as she filled her car trunk with pansies.

Behind the scenes, opening day is the culmination of months of preparation — much of it beginning long before winter has fully loosened its grip.

"We open our first greenhouse in early February, and that's when the fun begins," Coon said. "We start planting pansies then, and once you open that greenhouse, you're committed. It's like having a bunch of babies out there — you have to make sure nothing goes wrong."

This year's opening comes after a particularly snowy winter that, just weeks ago, left the property covered in large mounds of snow.

"I looked around and



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Paley's Farm Market on Amenia Road in Sharon opened for the 44th season on Saturday, March 28. Opening day drew a steady crowd.

thought, 'I don't know if we're going to be able to open on time,'" Coon said. "There was snow everywhere. It was hard to even imagine. But here we are."

Early spring offerings include rows of colorful pansies grown from seed, along with cold-tolerant vegetable starts, herbs and Easter-ready planters designed for patios and entryways. Bulbs such as daffodils and tulips are also available, along with seeds, soil and gardening supplies.

"It's not too early," she said of the growing season. "You can start seeds indoors now, even just on a windowsill. And if it doesn't work, you can always come back and get plants."

While the market's popular prepared foods and grocery offerings will arrive later in the season, the early weeks focus on planting and preparation. Dry goods are expected in the coming weeks, followed by a gradual

buildout of the full market.

New this year, Paley's has partnered with Homegrown National Park, a national initiative promoting the use of native plants. The collaboration will help customers more easily identify native species to incorporate into their gardens.

"We think it's going to be good for our staff and our customers," she said. "It makes it easier for people to mix native plants into what they're already doing."

Paley's typically operates through mid-October, employing up to a dozen staff members at the height of the season, along with part-time and retired workers who assist with planting and maintenance.

For many, the opening marks more than just the start of a business cycle — it's a seasonal ritual.

"We all need a little color right now," Coon said. "And a little warmth. It's coming."

Housatonic teacher arrested after alleged altercation with student

By Alec Linden

FALLS VILLAGE — A teacher at Housatonic Valley Regional High School was arrested on March 20 after turning himself in to state police on an outstanding warrant related to an alleged altercation involving a student in September 2025.

The accused, technology education teacher John Christinat, 65, was charged with disorderly conduct in connection with the incident, in which a verbal confrontation escalated into a physical altercation between Christinat and a 15-year-old student, according to police. The student's father reported that the juvenile is autistic, according to court records.

Region One Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley said Christinat is currently on administrative leave. He has been employed at the school since August 2001 and has had no prior incidents, she said.

According to the warrant, which was signed March 18, troopers arrived at the school on the afternoon of Sept. 3 after a physical confrontation between a teacher and student was reported. The warrant states that the situation was calm by the time officers arrived and that no injuries were reported.

Both parties made statements to police, which were recounted in the warrant. The student said he asked Christinat what he thought of Aaron Rodgers, a professional football quarterback,

and that the teacher responded by telling the student, "You act like a third grader. You're obsessed with Aaron Rodgers."

The student said he then asked why Christinat was so upset with him, and that Christinat used his body to push him out of the classroom. He said he later pretended to take a photo of the teacher, after which Christinat grabbed the phone from his hand, leading to a physical altercation in which both parties wrestled on the ground.

The student's father told police that due to his condition, his son is "barely able to attend classes," and that he is unable to let a conflict go until it is resolved.

In his own statement, Christinat told authorities that the student was being disruptive in his photography class, standing in the middle of the classroom and interrupting by talking about Aaron Rodgers. Christinat said the student was not a member of the class he was trying to teach.

He said the student "moved outside the classroom," and that he locked the door to prevent him from entering. Christinat said he explained the situation to the student's assigned special education supervisor.

Christinat, according to the warrant, said that the student banged on the classroom door, then went outside and started hitting the air conditioning unit attached to the room.

He told the troopers that later in the day, the student confronted him again and stuck his phone in his face. Christinat said he grabbed the phone, after which the student "threw [him] to the floor."

The teacher said he has a background in special education and is trained in "the safe restraining of special education students," and held the youth in a "basket hold."

Christinat said he had pain in his shoulder and groin as a result of the incident. He could not be reached for comment.

Trooper Jean Colon Carattini, who filed the warrant, stated that he reviewed security footage of the incident. He said the footage showed that the student had "grabbed onto [Christinat] and pushed him to the ground in an attempt to retrieve the phone," and that the two wrestled on the ground.

He reported that Christinat "eventually gained control over [the student] until school staff arrived," who restrained the student as Christinat walked into another room.

The trooper stated that after further review of the footage, it was determined that Christinat was at fault in the incident.

Trooper Colon Carattini has not responded to immediate requests for comment.

After his March 20 arrest, Christinat was released on a \$1,500 bond and is scheduled to appear before Torrington Superior Court on April 2.

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Local Matters

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North Canaan selectman Brian Ohler takes medical leave

By Ruth Epstein

NORTH CANAAN — Following a medical emergency in February, North Canaan Selectman Brian Ohler is taking a medical leave of absence from his duties as a public official.

North Canaan is governed by a three-member Board of Selectmen, meaning Ohler's absence leaves the town operating with only two active members. However, the town is legally able to operate with just two members, since it is deemed a quorum, according to the town attorney.

In a recently posted Facebook message, Ohler, president and CEO of the Northwest Connecticut YMCA, described experiencing symptoms of a stroke shortly after arriving at his office in Torrington.

"While seated at my desk, within a matter of about 45 seconds, I began to experience intense double vision, deafening ringing in both of my ears, slurred speech, and head-to-toe paralysis on the right side of my body. Having been an EMT for many years, I immediately realized that these symptoms were a clear sign that I was having a stroke. With my left hand I was able to unlock my cell phone and alert staff members of my situation."

Staff members immediately called 911, and paramedics transported him to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital. Ohler said his thoughts turned to his wife and six-month-old daughter as he hoped for a reversal of the paralysis.

After five days of tests and evaluations, he was discharged and returned home. By that time, he said, the paralysis had subsided completely and his motor functions had returned to normal. Ohler reported that neurologists have been unable to determine a definitive cause but agreed that the

rapid onset of symptoms indicated a stroke.

"They also realize that after suffering numerous traumatic brain injuries from various roadside bomb explosions, while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, that there could have been an underlying condition that was brewing for quite a while. I have since been referred to specialists within the Veterans Affairs and Hartford Health-Care health systems. I am confident that we will soon be able to find all of the right answers."

In his message, Ohler also expressed appreciation for the support shown to him and his family.

"At this time, I have chosen to take a medical leave of absence from all of my duties with the town of North Canaan until further notice, wanting to focus intently on my overall health and recovery, and of course, my amazing wife and beautiful baby girl."

Ohler previously served in the Connecticut House of Representatives for the 64th District from 2017 to 2019. He also served as North Canaan's first selectman from 2023 to 2025.

Ohler could not be reached for comment.

First Selectman Jesse Bunce said he wishes Ohler well and misses his input, particularly given his experience and familiarity with town issues.

He noted that having a two-person board could potentially be challenging.

"If Melissa [Selectman Pinardi Brown] and I disagree, there could be a tie vote and the board would be deadlocked. It makes it tough."

Should Ohler step down, Bunce and Brown would determine his replacement. It would have to be a Republican and the appointment would be made following a recommendation from the party.

Mudge Pond faces rising nutrient levels and invasive species

By Alec Linden

SHARON — A new scientific report highlights growing concerns at Mudge Pond, including declining water clarity, rising nutrient levels and the spread of invasive species, prompting local advocates to shift from monitoring the lake to taking action.

After several years of data collection, members of the Mudge Pond Association say the findings confirm that the lake is facing mounting pressures that will require intervention to protect both water quality and recreational use.

"Now that we've got a couple years of data, we're going into the action phase," said Andrew Cahill, chair of the Mudge Pond Association, a community organization dedicated to preserving ecosystem health and recreation opportunities on the lake.

The report, compiled by Connecticut consultancy Northeast Aquatic Research and based on data collected throughout the 2025 calendar year, found that invasive species and nutrient loading continue to threaten the lake. The study follows another from the previous year conducted by the same firm that reported similar findings.

Water quality trending downward

"Our lake is going in the wrong direction," Cahill said. Average water clarity declined between the 2025 and 2024 data, from about 3.7 meters to 3.3. Clarity varies widely throughout the year, but 2025's overall trend was downward compared to the prior year in a lake that is meant to be, by southern New England standards, quite clear.

The report identifies Mudge Pond as an "oligo-mesotrophic" lake, a term scientists use to describe water bodies that are just a step more vegetated and biodiverse than a crystalline alpine lake. Keeping Mudge Pond within that category should be the focal point of future lake management efforts, the report notes, as a more nutrient-dense environment could damage the lake's ecosystem as well as put swimmers and recreators at risk from harmful algal blooms.

Cahill said he was especially concerned about the finding that toxic cyanobacteria, which are fed by nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, were found in the lake at elevated levels. In August, the most productive time of the year for such harmful "blue-green



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Mudge Pond, where water clarity is declining

algae" blooms, 35,160 cyanobacteria cells per milliliter of water sampled were found, above the "safe" management goal of between 10,000 and 20,000.

The World Health Organization considers densities above 20,000 to indicate a "moderate probability of adverse health effects," according to the report.

High nutrient levels in the water column are likely due to two factors. Both studies found that a persistent layer of deoxygenated water at the lake bottom each summer, formed by a process called "stratification," which separates warm, oxygen-rich water at the surface from colder, oxygen-poor water below, allows previously buried nutrients at the lake bottom to leach back into the lake.

The report also examined two inlets where runoff water flows into Mudge Pond, finding high levels of nitrogen entering the lake from one inlet during the spring. Cahill said that the Mudge Pond Association has contacted upstream landowners who had been very cooperative about exploring potential causes for this nutrient loading.

Northeast Aquatic Research has also recommended that lake managers explore installing an aerator to oxygenate the water, but Cahill said while the Association is open to exploring diverse strategies, this approach may be prohibitively expensive and potentially controversial.

Invasive plants abound, but no hydrilla

Cahill said that the Association will be focusing its most immediate efforts in 2026 on addressing the more immediately visible threat to Mudge Pond: invasive plants.

Four non-native invasive species were found in the lake — Eurasian milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, water chestnut and fanwort. Eurasian milfoil and fanwort were the most abundant of the invasives, while water chestnut was the least established. Brittle

naiad, another invasive plant that was found in the previous study, was not found by the researchers in 2025.

Despite the low prevalence, Cahill said the Association is prioritizing water chestnut as its first point of attack, as the lily-pad like plant becomes extremely difficult to eliminate when entrenched in the ecosystem. Also, in low numbers it can be hand-pulled, making for a relatively uncontroversial removal process.

Cahill said the Association is planning outreach events to train volunteers on how to identify and remove the plant, ultimately coordinating large-scale removal efforts in the summer and fall.

For the remainder of the invasives, though, the report recommends using herbi-

cides, which historically has been a polarizing topic in Connecticut lake communities.

"As a town, we have to have that discussion," Cahill said. "Do we want to do this?"

Cahill said the Association is planning to eventually organize a public forum for community input on the issue, eventually leading to a vote on how the town wishes to proceed.

Whatever the outcome, though, Cahill emphasized urgency is key in dealing with invasive plants. "The longer we wait, the more there will be."

Hydrilla, a highly aggressive invasive waterweed that has invaded nearby water bodies and cost lake communities large sums in removal efforts, was not found in Mudge Pond in 2025. While that is encouraging news, Cahill said it's too early to celebrate.

The lake's public boat launch is controlled by the state, meaning the town has little regulatory power over it. With inconsistent oversight, Cahill said it may only be a matter of time before the plant gets into Mudge Pond.

"I think it's going to fall to each of our lake communities to have a plan in place in case hydrilla arrives."

Send news tips to editor@lakevillejournal.com

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following actions were taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on March 23, 2026:

Approved - Application IWWC-26-13 by Patrick R. Hackett, P.E., for exterior work associated with renovation of a three-apartment residence. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 49 lot 50 and is known as 37 Bostwick Street, Lakeville. The owner of the property is Salisbury Housing Committee Inc.

Approved subject to a wetland mitigation area, invasive plant management, tree protection, and conditions recommended by the Town Engineer - Application IWWC-25-82 by Dawn Marti for an underground pedestrian tunnel beneath Route 44. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 16 lot 05 and is known as 250 Canaan Road, Salisbury. The owner of the property is Salisbury School Inc.

Any aggrieved person may appeal this decision to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §22a-43(a) & §8-8.

Town of Salisbury
Inland Wetlands and
Watercourses Commission
Sally Spillane, Secretary
04-02-26

TAX COLLECTOR
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SALISBURY CT
LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to Sec. 12-145
of the Connecticut State

Statutes, the taxpayers of the Town of Salisbury are hereby notified that the fourth installment on the Grand List of October 1, 2024 is due and payable on April 1, 2026. Payments must be received or postmarked by May 1, 2026. If said Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are not paid on or before May 1, 2026, interest at the rate of one and one half percent (18% per year) will be added for each month or a fraction thereof which elapses from the time when such tax becomes due and payable until the same is paid. Minimum interest charge is \$2.00.

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

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

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

Jean F. Bell, CCMC
Tax Collector
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04-02-26
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OBITUARY

Riley Alexander Simmons

FALLS VILLAGE — It is with extreme sadness that we announce that our dear son Riley Alexander Simmons, 27, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Pittsfield, Massachusetts on March 18, 2026.



Riley was born in Sharon, on Memorial Day May 25, 1998, and grew up in Falls Village — a place he would always consider home. A curious and precocious child, he was reading and writing at age three and developed a lifelong love of books and learning. Some things he especially enjoyed as a boy were working outdoors with his dad and grandpa, cooking and gardening with his mom and grandma, playing with his younger brother, Legos, Star Wars, Transformers, Pokémon, Magic Cards, and Harry Potter. Riley later developed a passion for video games, where he could immerse himself in fantasy worlds; computers, which he often built himself, and chemistry. He treasured time spent with his grandparents and created many cherished memories at their homes.

Riley endured lifelong struggles: first with Asperger's Syndrome, and later with mental illness and a sleep disorder. His accomplishments and perseverance in the face of these challenges were nothing short of heroic; aided by the loving support of his family, teachers, and our local community. He attended Lee H. Kellogg elementary school and graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School, both in Falls Village. He participated in Cub Scouts, Little League, geography bees, science fairs, Lego club, robotics team, debate team, chess club, and German club. He earned many academic awards and honors over the years, including a near-perfect SAT score. Riley pursued his love of science and research, and in May of 2020 he graduated from Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York with Presidential Honors and a bachelor's degree in Biomolecular Science, with a minor in Biology. While at Clarkson, Riley was a proud member of the Iota Kappa chapter of the fraternity Delta Tau Tau. He held summer jobs at the Interlaken Inn and the Triplex Cinema. His first and final job after college was as a Quality Control Method Transfer Chemist at Berkshire Sterile Manufacturing in Lee, Massachusetts.

Riley formed close friendships that were very important to him in each phase of his life, which he maintained through the years. He was known for his sense of hu-

mor, sharp wit, genuineness, kindness, and compulsion to help others and to right the injustices of the world. In his Pittsfield neighborhood he often helped elderly pedestrians and gave food and money to those in need, despite having very little to give. His uniqueness and authenticity are remembered fondly by those close to him.

As an adult Riley consumed online educational materials in his pursuit of knowledge. He possessed a truly brilliant mind and enjoyed sharing the facts he had learned. Many people affectionately referred to him as "The Walking Encyclopedia." Riley loved to cook and experiment in the kitchen. He played the guitar and loved listening to and discovering new music, in which his taste was very eclectic. Riley had a large online presence in gaming, Discord, and Reddit; and he was beloved in these communities.

In the words of his brother Sam: "He was the smartest person I knew, and he was always trying to make you laugh. He was a very honest and simple person with a strong set of beliefs. He didn't change himself for anyone. Didn't matter if he was going on a date or spending time with family — he was the same Riley. There's no one else like him in my life. The one-and-only, quirky Riley."

Riley is survived by his mother Marilyn Zovickian Magill and stepfather David of Selkirk, New York, his father George Edward Simmons, Jr. and stepmother Marisa of Salisbury, Connecticut; his grandparents Margo and Charles Lewis of Falls Village, Connecticut, Dr. William H. Zovickian of Dacula, Georgia, and Beverly and James Snyder of Ashley Falls, Massachusetts; his brother Samuel Simmons, step-brother Cole Rosseter, and step-sister Madelyn Magill; his aunts and uncles Sara Zovickian (Roger), Nathanael Lewis (Chelsea), William A. Zovickian (Angela), Valerie Sugerak (Shane), Bonnie Peters (Jay), Cynthia Ullrich (David), Susan Bush, Kevin Bush (Jennifer); several great-aunts and uncles, and dozens of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Calling hours will be held at Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home, 118 Main Street, Canaan, CT on April 4, 2026 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., with a service immediately following at that location. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to a mental health or autism spectrum disorder support organization of your choice.

Kent housing proposal draws support, concerns at first hearing

By Alec Linden

KENT — A public hearing for a proposed 80-unit housing development in downtown Kent remains open after a largely positive but cautious response from residents during the first round of public vetting of the substantial proposal.

More than 75 residents, town officials and developers logged into the commission's Zoom meeting Monday night, March 30, to discuss the installation of a neighborhood-style development on a 12.5-acre parcel beside the village center. At least 20%, or 16 units, of the complex, currently operating under the name Kent Green Commons, are planned to be designated as affordable housing. Five acres are designated to be preserved as public open space.

The hearing itself examined the adoption of a Planned Development District on the Town Hall-adjacent property, a zoning tool used to address unique projects that would be complicated to deal with under standard zoning procedure but are in alignment with the town's overall development goals. If P&Z decides to approve the PDD, as it is commonly known, the developers will still have to finalize a site plan, which will also need zoning approval.

James Millstein, the development manager for the project and owner of the property, introduced the project on Monday evening as "a village-scale residential neighborhood that fits naturally in Kent while addressing the town's documented housing needs."

"This isn't a speculative development," he continued, but a "direct response" to Kent's Housing Plan, a document adopted by the town in 2022 that calls for expanded dedicated affordable homeownership and rental opportunities and a diversified housing landscape.

Millstein handed the presentation over to Jeremy Lake, an architect and community designer with Rhode Island-based firm Union Studios, who outlined the layout of the "campus"-like proposal. The 14 buildings, ranging from smaller townhouses to 12-unit walk-up style structures, are set to be arranged around a central thoroughfare that connects Kent Green Boulevard to Maple Street Extension.

He said the aim is to construct "simple, handsome, vernacular-feeling buildings" that align with the architectural character of Kent's village center. The housing itself will be concentrated in the northern part of the parcel, near Town Hall, while the southern meadows will be preserved against development.

Engineer Dainius Virbickas, of Artel Engineering Group, went through the stormwater management plans and affirmed that the Kent Sewer Commission had determined that the town's system had sufficient capacity for the development.

P&Z Chair Karen Casey then handed the floor over to members of the public, many of whom spoke out in support of the proposal and its mission.



RENDERING PROVIDED

Rendering of the proposed Kent Green Commons development, showing a village-style layout of residential buildings clustered near Town Hall with open space preserved to the south.

"I know there are many of us that would like to have such a unit," said PJ Magik, noting that she has been on waitlists for affordable housing in the region. She added that many who have been priced out of town may come back if the opportunity arose. "Kent's a special place," she said.

Andrea Schoeny, a mother of young children, said she welcomes the idea of bringing more families to the village center. "As someone who lives downtown," she said, "we're looking forward to new neighbors."

John McPhee, co-owner of the Kent Collection inns, lauded Millstein's commitment to the project. "He's doing it because he loves Kent," McPhee said, noting that the town needs an injection of working families to thrive. "If we want to support our institutions like the Kent Center School over the long term, we need families with kids," he said, referencing the declining enrollment at the elementary school.

Some residents, though generally stating support for the mission of the proposal, balked at its size.

Bonnie Bevans said she agrees with the need for expanded housing opportunities and more affordable options, but that she's "very concerned the project is too big."

"Where is everybody going to park?" she asked, also raising concerns about traffic, construction noise and impacts to wildlife. Millstein and his development team assured that the plan currently calls for 162 parking spaces, well above the minimum requirement for the capacity, and can add more if needed. He noted that the property could handle a bigger development, too.

"Frankly, we haven't maxed out what the zoning would permit" on the site, he said.

Chris Garrity and P&Z Commissioner Lawrence Dumoff both said a more diverse construction plan would ease the minds of residents who feel the development to be too much of a condominium complex. Lake, the project designer, said that simulating neighborhoods that have grown organically over many years is extremely difficult, not to mention cost-prohibitive, which is a big concern when developing affordable housing. He said the team would be glad to work with the Commission for solutions to that concern as the project moves forward, though.

The public hearing will resume at P&Z's next regular meeting on April 9.

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Worship Services

Week of April 5, 2026

<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>	<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 455-2442</p>
<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 455-2627</p>	<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7252</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, April 12 at 10:30 a.m. Science and Religion: Is there a connection? For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>Congregation Beth David A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly - Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-575-8264 info@congbethdavid.org</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates!</p>
<p>The Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-375-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 8:00AM - Worship Service 2nd & 4th Sunday "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>
<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>	<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>
<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-3138</p>	

Local Matters

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Proud to be an American

On “No Kings Day” 1000 peaceful protestors showed up on the Salisbury Green. And The Boss — Bruce Springsteen sang to thousands in The Twin Cities. A “Boss Day” or an “All Queens Day” is in order.

In Falls Village at the Center on Main, the Children’s Theater presented a rousing production of Mary Poppins. Scores of costumes, exquisite direction and choreography by

Darcy Boynton with Amber Cameron, founders of Blue Studio Dance, and what seemed like thousands of youngsters, made this oldest yet again know why he is in the theater. Herding cats, dare I say it, looks like child’s play compared to what they all achieved.

The Boss and the Children’s Theater make me proud to be an American.

Lonnie Carter
Falls Village

Stand up against this unlawful war with Iran

In recent polls a majority of Americans have expressed opposition to the Iran war, but President Trump is not listening. Not only has he ignored majority sentiment against the war, he has also contradicted his own campaign promises to end forever wars. Worst of all he’s fallen in line with a 2009 document issued by the Brookings Institute that talks about waging war on Iran to preserve U.S. hegemony, “WHICH PATH TO PERSIA? Options for a New American Strategy”.

This think tank study relies upon the false narrative that Iran is a sponsor of terrorism to justify a war of annihilation against Iran. Israel’s Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has been a willing partner in demonizing Iran for its own narrow purposes and pushing for Iran’s destruction. This long-term strategy convinced Trump to scuttle productive diplomatic negotiations and launch an unprovoked war of aggression in violation of International and domestic law.

On the horrific first day of the war, an attack killed over 175 elementary school girls, and assassinated Iran’s political and religious leader, Ayatollah Khamenei. The U.S. also killed his wife, daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren in the attack. The fact that the attack came as the parties were in the midst of diplomatic negotiations only makes the act more shameful.

The killing of elementary school children in Minab and the assassination of Khamenei had the opposite of the intended effect. Instead of leading to regime change, it strengthened the Iranian government and also inflamed the entire Shiia population in the region. It also removed a leader that was opposed to

Iran having an atomic bomb; Khamenei had issued a fatwa, a religious edict, against the building of the bomb.

Since the war started, we have learned of massive U.S. and Israeli bombing strikes on apartment buildings, schools, hospitals, oil refineries and desalination plants, targeting and directing the fighting to the civilian population, similar to the conduct of Israel in Gaza. Iran has retaliated in kind and has shown a willingness to defend itself from the existential threat of destruction.

Thousands of innocent Iranians, an unknown number of U.S. soldiers and Israelis have been killed. And billions of dollars of destruction has occurred. Following the Vietnam playbook, Trump is now on the verge of sending in ground troops. This would make an already bad situation worse. Americans are sick of forever wars.

The war is unlawful, in direct violation of the U.N. Charter, the 1949 Geneva Conventions and our own Constitution. Commencement of an unprovoked war of aggression and the targeting of civilians are both war crimes and crimes against humanity.

A foreign policy centered on military force, the targeting and killing of unarmed civilians, regime change and interference in the internal affairs of other countries to preserve U.S. interests is not only unlawful, it is also profoundly undemocratic and threatens world peace. It’s up to us, every day Americans, to declare our opposition to this military adventure and advocate for peace through diplomacy and international cooperation.

Leonard Polletta
Lakeville



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Washington D.C. under siege again

OPEN SPACE KATHY HERALD-MARLOWE

approved of the demolition at their White House.

Two weeks after President Kennedy’s assassination, Congress passed into law legislation renaming the in-development National Cultural Center — spearheaded by Eisenhower in his administration — to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as a “living memorial” to Kennedy tragically assassinated in Dallas. Then in February 2025, shortly after his inauguration, Trump replaced the Kennedy Center’s Board with Trump allies naming himself Board chairman. In December, 2025, the Center’s newly elected Board voted to rename the “living memorial” to Kennedy, as legislated by Congress, to the Trump-Kennedy Center. Chaos ensued. February 1, 2026, after months of failures to retain performers, retain audiences, retain donors, the Board, with an unprofitable mess, voted to close the Center for two years while stripping it down to its core metal structure. The “living memorial” to Kennedy, an architectural icon, was now voted by Trump’s Board to be demolished. Several Court cases are pending

Housing the Vice President’s Office among Treasury and Department of Defense offices, what is next on the Trump raze and redo list is the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB). No-

concerns about the Arch and its location include that it sits along flight paths to Reagan Airport hindering low flying planes — an airport hazard — and that, so situated it, would dwarf the Lincoln Memorial as well as block the historic site line from Arlington Cemetery to the Memorial. Lawsuits are pending.

Although Trump touted a landslide electoral victory in 2024, he did not receive a majority but a plurality of the vote — he tallied the smallest win since 1900. Amid a war, a massive Epstein scandal of which he may be a party, the questions of what his son-in-law, Jared, is doing officially negotiating peace in Ukraine, Gaza and now Iran while he is openly seeking massive investments from the Middle East for his own financial company.

Trump is pulling apart the people’s places, DC once again is under siege. History, historic significance, character are not in Trump’s preview — nor seemingly is the law.

Kathy Herald-Marlowe lives in Sharon.

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Local Matters

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PHOTO BY LILY PLATT

March lamb born in East Canaan at Locust Hill Farm takes a ride on mother.

Viewpoint

Trump is remaking the government and the country in his image

Donald Trump is rapidly remaking the federal government in his image. To a remarkable degree, virtually every aspect of his personality is being reflected and magnified in the policies and conduct of his administration. As a result, it can feel like the country is becoming a bizarre world facsimile of itself: a morally shriveled place where racism and cruelty are state-sanctioned, might makes right, incompetence reigns, knowledge and expertise is mocked, and our democracy and the rule of law that sustains it is attacked on a daily basis.

The indisputable facts prove this. Trump, and now his administration, is:

Tyrannical

As a private citizen, Trump repeatedly expressed his admiration for dictators and strongmen who were unconstrained by the rule of law. As president, he asserts that the Constitution gives him the right to do “whatever [he] want[s].” His administration has put that belief into action by running roughshod over the Constitution: it punishes people for exercising their First Amendment rights, imprisons people without due process, grabs for itself powers reserved to Congress (such as the fundamental powers to declare war and impose tariffs), and claims to have unilaterally abolished the constitutional right to birthright citizenship.

Cruel

Trump was found liable by a jury for sexual assault. He regularly degrades women and mocks injured and disabled people. That cruelty has metastasized throughout his administration into something far more sinister and lethal. The dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development has already caused the needless deaths of hundreds of thousands of children under five. The so-called Department of War gratuitously and intentionally kills dozens of civilians on the high seas and jokes about it.

GUEST COMMENTARY JAMES SPEYER

Violence Loving

Trump encouraged his supporters to beat up non-supporters and asked his Secretary of Defense why protesters couldn't just be shot. ICE now inflicts terror on an industrial scale through their well-documented use of excessive force, including roughing up peaceful protesters, pepper-spraying them, and smashing car windows.

Racist

Trump's virulent racism is so well known it literally has its own Wikipedia entry. His administration recruits ICE agents by using a white supremacist slogan (“We'll Have Our Home Again”) and posted an AI video featuring the Obamas as apes.

Ignorant and Hostile to Science

Trump has derided climate change as a hoax for many years. That denial of reality — rooted in ignorance and contempt for science — is now official United States policy, as evidenced by the EPA's rescinding of its landmark finding that greenhouse gases harm public health. According to the esteemed science writer Bill McKibben, that decision “has to rank as one of the signal moments in America's descent into idiocracy.”

A Bully

As a businessman, Trump routinely took advantage of those less powerful than him, including contractors whom he regularly stiffed. His administration now bullies nations, blue states, and corporations, as exemplified by his threats to invade Greenland if Denmark (a NATO ally for 80 years!) doesn't hand it over.

A Malignant Narcissist

Trump used to slap his name on everything from buildings he didn't build to casinos that went belly

up to failed ventures like steaks and vodka. Now his administration unfurls 40-foot banners of his face on buildings that belong to the American people, places his signature on U.S. currency, and has desecrated the Kennedy Center — a public memorial to a fallen president, just like the Lincoln Memorial — by adding his name to the building.

Incompetent

Trump declared bankruptcy for six of his businesses after running each one into the ground. His administration's handling of the Iran war — from killing scores of schoolchildren based on outdated intelligence to failing to prepare for the closing of the Strait of Hormuz to having no plan for the evacuation of stranded Americans in the region — is just the latest example of its systemic, and deadly, incompetence.

It's as if the worst features of humanity have been concentrated in a single individual, and that individual — who by a ghastly coincidence happens to be the most powerful person on earth — has infected our country with those features. As a result, our country is now facing its gravest danger since the Civil War.

As that war was drawing to a close, Lincoln stated in his Second Inaugural Address that “it may seem strange” that anyone would support the abomination that is slavery. It may similarly seem strange that anyone would want to live in a country remade in Trump's image. But as Lincoln went on to state in that Address, in words that apply equally today, “let us judge not that we be not judged.” Instead, let us embrace the growing number of people (as shown in poll after poll) who are deciding that living in such a country is not what they signed up for. And let us together fight for our very different vision of America.

James Speyer is a lawyer and a volunteer for Lawyers Defending American Democracy. He lives in Sharon.

CARTOON TO THE EDITOR



CARTOON BY STEVE DUTTON

Accountability terrifies public higher educators

Connecticut's public higher educators, or at least those with the ear of the General Assembly, want to prohibit the public from finding out what they're teaching students at tax expense. For the fourth straight year they have persuaded legislators to advance a bill that would exempt the outlines of their courses — “syllabuses” — from disclosure under the state's freedom-of-information law.

Thus the courses being taught — their materials, assignments, grading policies, and teaching schedules — would become state secrets.

Why? Because the higher educators are terrified of criticism — terrified that the FOI law might be “weaponized” by anti-intellectual yahoos to try to hold them to account for their work.

But of course to serve as a weapon of accountability in government is the very point of FOI law. There can be no accountability if the governed can't examine what the government is doing.

In recent years higher education, like lower education, has been taken over by the political left and now is sometimes much engaged in propagandizing as much as teaching. Liberals and Democrats outnumber conservatives and Republicans in education jobs by dozens

THE CHRIS POWELL COLUMN

to one. Any institution so politically one-sided needs extra scrutiny to determine if it serves the public interest.

Indeed, the secrecy legislation sought by Connecticut's public higher educators is proof that they can't be trusted to serve the public interest.

The public higher educators are also again seeking legislation to prevent disclosure of records about their teaching or research on scholarly issues, again fearing that disclosure will facilitate criticism, which they deliberately misconstrue as harassment and intimidation.

Yes, some government records will always be requested by people who dislike what the government is doing or what they suspect it is doing. Some requesters of records may even be malicious. But so what?

For in a democracy people are entitled to dislike what the government is doing and even to hate it. They are simply entitled to know. The public higher educators may have forgotten it, but disliking what the government is doing was at the heart of the American Revolution.

Besides, the state Freedom of Information Commission is already empowered to dismiss requests for public records that constitute mere harassment.

The problem is that Connecticut's public higher educators, or at least those who purport to represent them, consider simple accountability itself to be hateful. So they should switch to teaching in private colleges and universities, or in government colleges and universities in places like Russia, China, North Korea, or Iran. Their

“academic freedom” might be constrained in those places, but they'd never have to answer to the public for what the government paid them to do.

Limit property tax exemptions

New Haven is celebrating Yale University's decision to increase its voluntary annual payment to city government by 43% over the next seven years, from \$23 million now to \$33.6 million in 2033. This may be generous of the university in light of the huge new punitive tax the federal government has levied on Yale's \$40-billion-plus endowment and other big university endowments.

Despite the big increase in Yale's annual gift, the city is likely to raise its property taxes by 4%, which, like the property taxes of all Connecticut's cities, are already far too high. Welcome as it is, the university's higher annual voluntary payment doesn't really address the city's big tax problem.

That problem is that most real estate in New Haven, about 56% of it, is tax-exempt under state law, and while the university is still the city's second-largest property taxpayer, it owns 45% of the property in the city and most of it is tax-exempt — \$4.5 billion worth.

This is a gross failure of state government policy. Property tax exemptions per property owner should be sharply limited, starting with a gradual reduction of Yale's exemption to \$1 billion. Eventually that would bring tens of millions of dollars in additional revenue to New Haven city government each year, allowing a reduction in property taxes and state financial aid.

Yet state government pays little attention to the issue.

Chris Powell has written about Connecticut government and politics for many years.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago — 1901

FALLS VILLAGE — Harry Dickinson of North Kent creamery spent Sunday at home.

J.P. Wadhams of Torrington, civil engineer, has gone to Sharon to start state road improvement in that town.

The state legislature is considering the advisability of adopting voting machines for state elections. From all reports the change would be desirable and help to do away with some of the corruption on election days.

FALLS VILLAGE — Mr. Jos. Wickwire lost his family horse Monday, he had just had it clipped and it took cold, had congestion of the lungs.

It may not be generally known that the Consolidated road owns and operates a hospital car, the only one of its kind in the country. It is fitted up with all the conveniences of a modern hospital.

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

100 years ago — 1926

Paul Argall is able to be out after a siege with the measles. Little Ruth Smith is ill with the measles.

Albert Tompkins has sold his closed car to Geo. H. Sylvanale.

Six of the forestry crew who are hunting the gypsy moth are boarding at Mrs. Lois Wright's.

50 years ago — 1976

State's Attorney John Bianchi said this week he would proceed to re-try Peter Reilly. This came after Reilly won a major battle last Thursday in his fight to clear himself in the death of his mother when Judge John A. Speziale granted a new trial. The state filed the request to appeal Speziale's decision Monday in Litchfield Superior Court but the request was denied by Speziale. The only other recourse the State's Attorney's office has is not to press charges of manslaughter

against Reilly.

Thursday marks the opening of a new family medical practice in Falls Village. Edmund J. King, M.D., will practice from Dr. Carl Bornemann's office on Beebe Hill Road.

The script called for a crowd. But where in Cornwall does one find a crowd? At the door of the First Church on Sunday, of course! That is how it happened that the congregation got into the movies. The film “The Arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday” is being filmed by the church school, and although some substitutions had to be made, a pony for an ass and pine branches for palms, the spirit is there. Be sure to catch this film when it runs locally.

Chuck Willing was named Most Valuable Player in the Kent Center School intramural basketball program concluded last week. Willing led the Yellow Jackets to a 5-2 season and championship of the four-team league.

25 years ago — 2001

SALISBURY — For the second year in a row, the Litchfield County winner in the Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest is from Salisbury. Christian Sherrill, a fourth-grader at Salisbury Central School, created this year's winning entry.

SHEFFIELD — A small group of growers, proposing to establish a farmers' market in town, have received verbal support from the Board of Selectmen and police chief, although details of the plan still need to be worked out.

Two students from Housatonic Valley Regional High School were winners in the High School Essay contest sponsored by The Connecticut Foundation for Open Government. First prize of \$500 went to Rebecca Willis of Lakeville and third prize of \$200 was awarded to Allison Holst-Grubbe of Sharon.

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

Realtor® at Large

Bears are waking up and it would be good to remember how to peacefully coexist with them. First off, both in the spring and fall, they will be especially hungry, so it is good to take in the bird feeders and not let food garbage accumulate around the house. UCONN has several articles that will be educational. The first is: today.uconn.edu/2025/05/living-with-bears-in-connecticut-what-you-need-to-know/. And also a great article on the density of bears in Connecticut, which can be found at: clear3.uconn.edu/viewers/bears/. By following these recommendations, one has a much better chance in having a better relationship with our bear population!



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Our Towns

GOP gubernatorial hopefuls target Lamont

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Republican candidates for statewide office sharply criticized Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont during a forum hosted by the Salisbury Republican Town Committee at the White Hart on Thursday, March 26.

Two of the three Republican candidates for governor — Ryan Fazio and Erin Stewart — attended the forum, outlining their cases for unseating Lamont. The third candidate, Betsy McCaughey, did not attend.

Fazio, a state senator representing the 36th District, led the attacks, accusing Lamont of burdening residents with high taxes and energy costs while failing to support economic growth.

He said the state now has the third-highest tax burden in the country, the second-highest electric bills and the fourth-worst economic



Ryan Fazio and Erin Stewart

PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

development climate.

“He has abandoned common sense for ideology and partisanship.”

Fazio, who represents Connecticut’s 36th Senate District — including Greenwich, North Stamford and parts of Stamford, New Canaan and Newfield — acknowledged the challenge

Republicans face in statewide elections but pointed to his own electoral success in a Democratic-leaning district.

He noted that Vice President Kamala Harris carried his district by 17 percentage points, yet he won reelection “by thousands of votes.”

“We worked harder than anyone. We listened. And we

presented a vision for substantive change,” Fazio said. “If we can do it there, we can do it statewide.”

Also seeking the Republican nomination for governor is Erin Stewart, the four-term mayor of New Britain, who highlighted her record managing the city’s finances.

Stewart said that when she took office, New Britain was \$30 million in debt and that she left with a \$35 million surplus.

“We right-sized government. We did it methodically, looking at needs versus wants.”

Stewart also criticized Lamont’s leadership.

“He is asleep at the wheel,” she said. “He has no idea how to manage government.”

The Republican Party will select its nominees at its convention in May.

Other candidates in attendance included Peter Lumaj, who is running for secretary

of the state; Chris Shea, John DeBarros and Michele Botelho, candidates for Congress in the 5th District; Fred Wilms, a candidate for state

treasurer; Jen Tooker, running for state comptroller; Matt Corey, a candidate for lieutenant governor; and state Sen. Steven Harding (R-30).



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Spring windows at LaBonne’s

Elizabeth Taylor of LaCroix Artistry, based in New Haven, paints festive spring flowers on the windows at LaBonne’s Market on Thursday, March 26. Using standard wall paint—“the same thing you’d use in your house,” she said—Taylor has a contract to create similar decorations at all four LaBonne’s locations, including stores in Watertown, Woodbury and Prospect.

Easter

Worship & Celebrating

Falls Village Congregational Church

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 Easter Sunrise Service: 6:00am
 At the Church on Beebe Hill Rd.
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Good Friday, April 3 at 5:00pm
 Solemn Liturgy, *Rev. Kathleen Killian*
Easter Sunday, April 5 at 10:30am
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 April 3 Good Friday, St. Joseph
 Stations of the Cross at Noon
 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

CANAAN Saint Joseph Church 4 Main Street	NORFOLK Immaculate Conception Church 4 North Street	LAKEVILLE Saint Mary Church 76 Sharon Road
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April 5
Easter Celebration | 11:00 am
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Holy Week

The Congregational Church of Salisbury
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

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

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 6:00 PM Words of the Life of Jesus
 Short reflections by 4 ecumenical preachers & meditative music

Easter Day!
 April 5
 8:00 AM Eucharist with hymns
 10:30 AM Celebration Eucharist
 Festive Music with Trinity Choir & Crescendo guests
 Easter egg hunt follows the service

484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville, CT
 Trinitylimerock.org 860-435-2627

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 Liturgy 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

313 Twin Lakes Road, Salisbury, CT (860) 824-1340
 www.allsaintsofamerica.us

Our Towns

Author Russell Shorto discusses 'Revolution Song' at Salisbury Forum

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Russell Shorto, author of "Revolution Song," said his goal in writing the book was to tell the stories of the "lived experience" of six individuals from marginalized groups in the context of the American Revolution.

Shorto appeared with history teachers and fellow authors Peter Vermilyea of Housatonic Valley Regional High School and Rhonan Mokriski of Salisbury School at the Salisbury Forum on Friday, March 27, at HVRHS.

In picking the six subjects, Shorto said, "I sort of auditioned dozens."

He wanted a diverse group, including an African and a Native American.

What he did not want were wealthy "white men wearing wigs."

Finding primary source material on such people was a challenge. In the case of one of the subjects, Venture Smith, there was an autobiography, as told to a white newspaper editor and published in 1798 as "A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture, a Native of Africa: But Resident above Sixty Years in the United States of America."

Shorto said Smith "was all about money." Having purchased his own freedom, he then set about earning enough to buy the freedom of his wife and sons.

Smith also bought slaves of his own, and was dismayed when they ran away.

Vermilyea noted the complexity of Smith's story. For example, at one point, Smith had to decide whether to buy his wife or his children out of slavery.

Shorto said he thought Smith was above all a prag-



From left, Peter Vermilyea, Russell Shorto and Rhonan Mokriski on March 27.

PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

matist, determined to make the best of the situation.

Another character in "Revolution Song" is Abraham Yates, a white shoemaker, entrepreneur and politician from Albany, New York. Shorto said Yates was influenced by Enlightenment philosopher John Locke and was an early proponent of the colonies breaking from Great Britain.

"Then they win, and he immediately turns."

Yates was an anti-Federalist, backing the rights of New York state against a central government, and opposed the ratification of the Constitution.

And luckily for Shorto, there was a lot of material available on Yates.

Shorto said he wanted to avoid a history that concentrated on figures who are heroes in the popular imagination.

And he thought it important to tell the entire life

stories of the six subjects, even allowing for inevitable gaps in the historical record.

"I wanted the whole life because the Revolution was a big event, but maybe not the biggest."

Asked about the title, Shorto said he wanted to keep it short and punchy, having run into problems with a previous book, "The Island at the Center of the World," about the period when New York was New Amsterdam and controlled by the Dutch.

"People kept coming up to me and saying they loved

the book, what was it, The Center Island or the World of the Island or..." he said to laughter from the audience.

Shorto's appearance was the result of a collaboration between the Scoville Memorial Library, the Salisbury Association, the Salisbury Forum, and Troutbeck Symposium, plus the Salisbury Commemorates 250 committee—in connection with Connecticut 250— all dedicated to observing and celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

North Canaan launches new YouTube channel after Zoom bombing

By Ruth Epstein

NORTH CANAAN — Following a "Zoom bombing" incident during the March 23 special meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the town of North Canaan has launched a new official YouTube channel for posting meetings and other public content.

Town Clerk Krysti Segalla announced the change in a townwide message explaining that an unauthorized participant shared inappropriate content during the Zoom meeting, an incident she said had occurred in other towns but was a first for North Canaan.

"This led to our content being flagged and our account being terminated immediately," Segalla said. "Because of ongoing difficulties with security and other login issues, it created challenges in accessing and resolving the issue quickly."

To address the problem, the town has moved to a new YouTube account with multiple authorized administrators. Segalla said the new setup "will help protect the

channel, prevent future access issues, and allow us to continue sharing important town information without interruption."

She said the affected meeting video has been reviewed, edited to remove the disruption and republished. Segalla also said she plans to upload past meetings to the new channel to maintain continuity.

First Selectman Jesse Bunce described the video content as "gross," calling the incident unfortunate. He noted that many local Boy Scouts listen to Board of Selectmen meetings as part of badge-related civic engagement.

Bunce said Ayrlea Odell, who works in the Town Clerk's office, spotted the inappropriate content quickly and shut it down, though not before a brief snippet was recorded.

He said he then turned the video over to Resident State Trooper Spencer Bronson, who forwarded it to the Connecticut State Police cybercrime division.

"If people want to do this, they should be held responsible," Bunce said.

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Kent education budget proposal rises 4.3% to \$8.1M

By Alec Linden

KENT — The Board of Education presented its 2026-2027 budget proposal to the Board of Finance on Wednesday, March 25, showing a bottom line of combined expenditures for Kent Central School and Region One contributions at \$8,146,440, a 4.32% increase from the previous year.

"While no one wants to cheer for any kind of budget increase, we're pretty happy with that," said Kate Symonds, chair of the BOE's budget committee. "Percentage increases in the region have been significantly higher than that, as we've heard, so that number is pretty good," she explained.

As of the current Region One budget draft, the bottom line is up over 6% from last year. While speaking to the Salisbury BOF earlier in the month, Region One

Business Manager Sam Herrick said that it's the biggest budget increase he's seen in his 26 years working for the district.

BOE Chair Heather Brand said that Kent's figures mark the "second lowest or the lowest" of Region One towns for this budget season.

Spending for Kent Center School sits at a total of \$5,337,470, an increase of 2.69% over last year and markedly lower than increases in recent fiscal years. The number is subject to change as the BOE and BOF negotiate for a final proposal to send to a town hearing.

The town's Region One costs are likely to total \$2,808,970, 7.55% more than 2025-2026.

The Region One budget committee is set to meet for another budget review on April 6 before presenting a final proposal for public hearing on April 9.



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PROTESTS

Continued from Page A1

me is corruption.”

Sophia De Boer, one of the organizers, opened the program by engaging the crowd with a call-and-response, asking who cares about issues such as rising health care costs, immigrants' rights and victims of sex trafficking. The crowd answered in unison: “Not this president.”

State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) of Salisbury, told the crowd that she was energized by the smiles, camaraderie and sense of compassion she saw in the crowd.

She said the Connecticut General Assembly is focused on addressing high prices and ensuring fair elections amid developments in Washington. “We need to make a change in November and forever after,” she said.

Amy Lake, another organizer, recited the Declaration of Independence, inviting the audience to fill in key phrases, while Deron Bayer listed the document's 27 grievances against King George III and asked, “Does that sound familiar?”

The Rev. Heidi Truax attended with her dog Rosso, who wore a coat reading “Love Wins.”

She said the message serves “as a reminder that in the long run, cruelty burns itself out, fearmongering eventually collapses...We're here to say this country does not belong to a would-be king. It belongs to the people. And

we will keep standing up, speaking out and caring for one another.”

The event's youngest speaker, Sophia DeDominicis Fitzpatrick, 18, a junior at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, spoke about the importance of advocacy and human rights.

“Over the years, I've learned more and more each day of the importance of standing up for others and yourself, and speaking out on human rights. That is why I am here speaking today. What's going on in our country is unconstitutional and wrong. The women our age see what is going on and we are taking a stand against it. We are strong.”

Fitzpatrick was there with several other teens. James Speyer of Sharon, a member of Lawyers Defending American Democracy, delivered an impassioned speech, opening by addressing the crowd as “fellow radical left lunatics.”

He urged attendees to recognize what is happening in the country and respond by saying, “No. This will not

stand on our watch.”



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY
About 400 people gather in Salisbury for a “No Kings” rally on March 28.

stand on our watch.”

Speyer said that while there is a new attack on democracy every day, people cannot dim their outrage or mute their voices because, as he put it, “every belief is on the line.”

Thanking participants, he added, “It means more than you think. Years after this madness has passed—and it will pass—your grandchildren will ask you: ‘What did you do when the fascists were on the march?’ And you will be able to say, ‘I did not look the other way. I was not a bystander. I made my voice heard.’”

Cornwall

A similar scene unfolded in nearby Cornwall, where another group of residents gathered to make their voices heard.

Organizer Dick Sears looked out over the crowd at the triangle where Routes 7 and 4 meet in Cornwall Bridge and expressed his satisfaction with the turnout.

“Our counter believes we have more than 300 here,” he said.

Rallies have been held in the town every Saturday for a year now, he said proudly.

“We're showing solidarity with others.”

A couple of participants continually circled the area, chanting, “Show me what democracy looks like” and “Hey, hey, ho, ho. Oligarchs have got to go.”

Barbara Wolkowitz called Donald Trump “a totally scary president,” while her husband, Richard Wolkowitz, is upset by what he views as the lawlessness of Donald Trump. “And his party won't stand up to him.”

Rebecca Ridgway said she wants peace, not war. “We need a better future for everyone.”

Kent

In Kent, a similarly strong turnout brought residents to Main Street to demonstrate their concerns.

There was a strong show-



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN
Residents line both sides of Main Street in Kent, waving signs during a “No Kings” rally.

ing with rally goers waving signs and getting honks of support from passersby.

Father-and-son team Dan and Ben Foster of Sharon have been going to protests around the area every Saturday. “Sitting around home is not getting us anywhere,” said Dan Foster. “What got me out is the threat of ethnic cleansing,” Ben Foster said. “They want you to hate anyone who isn't white.”

Rick Morgan and his wife, Pat, came from Pawling, NY. “I want no more lies, no more crazy,” he said.

Patricia Oris of Kent said she was there to protest “millions of issues. I also like connecting with people who feel the same way.”

Estimates had the turnout at over 250.

Amenia

Meanwhile, in nearby Amenia, more than 200 people filled Fountain Square, as organizer Kim Travis pointed to growing momentum across rural communities and concern about the direction of the country.

“And we're not stopping,” Travis said.

HOUSING

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Officials break ground on the 14-unit Holley Place affordable housing development

Seila Mosquera-Bruno attended the ceremony and emphasized the importance of collaboration in advancing affordable housing initiatives.

“We can only do this if we all partner and work together,” she said, adding that “having a community that cares makes a difference.”

Halle credited State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) with helping secure a key funding source.

“Eighteen months ago, when we were evaluating how to finance Holley Place, Maria applied for Urban Act funding, which resulted in a \$2 million award,” he said.

Halle further acknowledged the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston and Torrington Savings Bank for providing financing through a loan and grant, describing their contributions as “an essential piece of the funding puzzle.”

Halle also noted the significant role of private donors.

“The residents of our town have skin in the game,” he said, highlighting the Bates Foundation for its \$275,000 contribution.

First Selectman Curtis Rand reflected on the site's history, noting that approximately 75 years ago it was home to a large residential building in what he described as a more vibrant downtown Lakeville.

“Down the hill to our east was a full-on grocery store, a pharmacy, a bar, several restaurants, a shoe repair shop, two barber shops, and kids like me could even buy vinyl albums in a record

store,” Rand said.

The 0.31-acre Holley Street property was donated to the town in 1967 by the Belcher family, with the condition that the town demolish the structure known as the Holley Block, which dated to the 1890s. The building was subsequently torn down, and the site was later transformed into Bicentennial Park before being identified as a location for affordable housing.

While acknowledging that the project faced opposition, Rand said the town is ready to move forward.

“This project met with some resistance, but it is time to turn that page and welcome a new future for people and our town,” he said.

Following a lengthy public hearing process, the Planning and Zoning Commission approved the development in May 2021. Opponents raised concerns about traffic, parking, the scale of the project, and the availability of alternative sites.

A subsequent lawsuit alleging that the commission failed to consider a “feasible and prudent alternative” was dismissed by Superior Court Judge Andrew Roraback in February 2023.

The Salisbury Housing Committee currently owns and operates 50 units of affordable rental housing in Salisbury, including Sarum Village and Lakeview Apartments.

To apply for a unit, prospective tenants are advised to go to salisburycthousing.org

Alec Linden contributed to this article

TIME CAPSULES

Continued from Page A1

with several other historic elements — were taken out but will be reintegrated into a small commemorative courtyard at the corner of Holley Place and Millerton Road.

One capsule was interred by the town in 1976 to celebrate the country's bicentennial, the namesake of the park, while the other was placed by members of Montgomery Lodge No. 13, the local chapter of the Freemasons, in 1983 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of its charter. Both capsules will remain sealed until their stated opening dates in 2076 and 2083.

When the Holley Place project was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission in 2021, the resolution included a condition that “[provisions] shall be made for the preservation of any time capsule or other features of historical interest that may be discovered during the construction process. These should be relocated into the wall along Holley Street so they are publicly visible.”

That mandate ties directly to the site's historical significance.

“There's a big connection between the history of the lodge, the history of the town and Holley Block,” said Gil Ditkoff, a Master Mason of Montgomery No. 13, referring to the building that once stood on the site, which was built in the 1890s and torn down in 1967.

Montgomery No. 13, which met in several locations before settling in its current home in an old schoolhouse in downtown Lakeville, held meetings for more than a decade in the early 20th century in rooms within the Holley Block.

When the lodge celebrated its bicentennial in June 1983, the burial of its capsule was accompanied by a lively procession through town, followed by a dinner and meeting at the Hotchkiss School.

“It was a big, whole day thing,” Ditkoff said. A commemorative write-up of the occasion by lodge members describes a town-wide event with visiting dignitaries, music and speeches.

According to that document, the contents of the Freemasons' capsule include a complete list of Montgomery Lodge master masons, the bicentennial celebration program, a list of current members, promotional material from The Lakeville Journal, a medal and apron issued for the celebration, and other documents and memorabilia.

Most notably, the capsule contains a picture of the lodge's original charter, which was signed by Paul Revere. Ditkoff explained that the “No. 13” in the lodge's title indicates it is the 13th oldest chapter within the Connecticut Grand Lodge of Freemasons.

The second capsule, placed in the wall on July 4, 1976, is being safeguarded by Lou Bucceri of the Salisbury Association. Bucceri said it contains a copy of the town's 1976 report, a copy of The Lakeville Journal and a bicentennial program guide.

For Montgomery No. 13, Ditkoff is eager for future members to be able to look back and connect with Salisbury's history.

“We certainly hope that Montgomery Lodge No. 13 will be here and thriving with the next generation of freemasons active in supporting the town of Lakeville and surrounding communities as they have done for 243 years,” he said.

“Fingers crossed, people will be inspired to continue some of these traditions that have served this community well over so many years.”

Salisbury has three additional time capsules, according to Salisbury Town Tidbits: one beneath Town Hall from 1987, another at Indian Mountain School from 1985, and a third from Hotchkiss School's 1993 centennial.

STATION

Continued from Page A1

plans to consolidate its offices within the station, while the railroad museum, a physical therapy office, and Paul Ramunni's accordion shop will remain in the building, though the shop will be reduced in size and relocated within the structure.

“We have no substantial plans for change,” said Edward J. Rodriguez, executive vice president and general counsel for Housatonic Railroad (HRRC). “The station is an important part of Canaan's history and character. We're bringing it back to its original railroad purpose.”

A landmark

The station has been part of North Canaan since 1871, when competing railroads—including the Housatonic Railroad, which dates to 1841, and the Connecticut Western Railroad—agreed to share a single depot for passenger service at their crossing point. The Connecticut Western Railroad ran east to west between Hartford and Millerton, intersecting with the Housatonic Railroad in North Canaan.

The Victorian-style building was designed with symmetrical wings for each railroad and included a central tower that gave staff visibility in all directions across the rail junction. A restaurant once operated on the second floor during the station's early years.

Over time, the rail lines changed ownership and eventually came under the control of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad.

The Housatonic Railroad now conducts a freight business.

Fire and restoration

A 2001 arson fire severely damaged the structure, prompting a community-led effort to save it. The Connecticut Railroad Historical

Association acquired the remains in 2003 and, with help from local groups and donors, raised more than \$3 million to restore the station.

Rebuilding took years and was not completed until 2018. The station is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Financial pressures led to the sale.

The historical association ultimately decided to sell the property due to financial strain.

Douglas Humes Jr., president of the Connecticut Railroad Historical Association, said the group struggled with debt following restoration efforts, particularly after the departure of the Great Falls Brewing Company, which had operated in the station.

“That put us in a bad position,” Humes said. “We had to pay off debts.”

He said the decision reflected practical realities rather than a lack of commitment to preservation.

Terms of the agreement

The sale is a tri-party agreement, including the historical association, the state of Connecticut and the town of North Canaan. No changes may be made to the station before 2030. A 99-year lease with the town to provide public parking at the station's parking area for \$1 will remain in effect.

“The station is the centerpiece of the town,” said Humes, a former first selectman. “The museum was created so people understand the history of the railroad and what it did for Canaan and the surrounding areas. We look forward to working with the new owner to promote railroading in Canaan. Now the station is preserved for future generations.”

The Railroad Museum at the station is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

our community



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Gail Rothschild with her painting "Dead Sea Linen III (73 x 58 inches, 2024, acrylic on canvas).

Gail Rothschild's threads of time

By Natalia Zukerman

There is a moment, looking at a painting by Gail Rothschild, when you realize you are not looking at a painting so much as a map of time. Threads become brushstrokes; fragments become fields of color; something once held in the hand becomes something you stand in front of, both still and in a constant process of changing.

"Textiles connect people," Rothschild said. "Textiles are something that we're all intimately involved with, but we take it for granted."

Her work begins, often, with something small: a scrap of linen from the Judean desert, dating "to a time be-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

THEATER

Sherman Players celebrate a century of community theater

By Richard Feiner and Annette Stover

For a century, the Sherman Players have turned a former 19th-century church into a stage where neighbors become castmates, volunteers power productions and community is the main attraction. The company marks its 100th season with a lineup that blends classic works, new writing and homegrown talent.

New England has a long history of community theater and its role in strengthening civic life. The Sherman Players remain a vital example, mounting intimate, noncommercial productions that draw on local participation and speak to the current cultural moment.

Sherman Players President Missy

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

PERFORMANCE

A new life for Barrington Hall

By Elena Spellman

Barrington Hall in Great Barrington has hosted generations of weddings, proms and community gatherings. When Dan Baker and Daniel Lutzman took over the venue last summer, they stepped into that history with a plan not just to preserve it, but to reshape how the space serves the community today.

Barrington Hall is designed for gathering, for shared experience, for the simple act of being together. At a time when connection is often filtered through screens and distraction, their vision is grounded in something simple and increasingly rare: real human connection.

The partnership behind Barrington Hall began long before the building itself. Both Baker and Lutzman grew up on Long Island, spent more than a decade in New York City, and eventually found their way to the Berkshires, drawn by the desire for something different. What they didn't realize at first was just how closely their lives had already mirrored one another.

They were born in the same hospital, a year apart. Their families had distant connections. They even played on the same soccer team — never meeting, but moving through the same spaces. It wasn't until they became neighbors in Egremont about five years ago that those parallels came into focus.

"In hindsight, it feels inevitable," Lutzman said. "But it was actually extremely random that we ended up here."

From the beginning, Barrington Hall was meant to be a place people return to, not for any one event, but for the

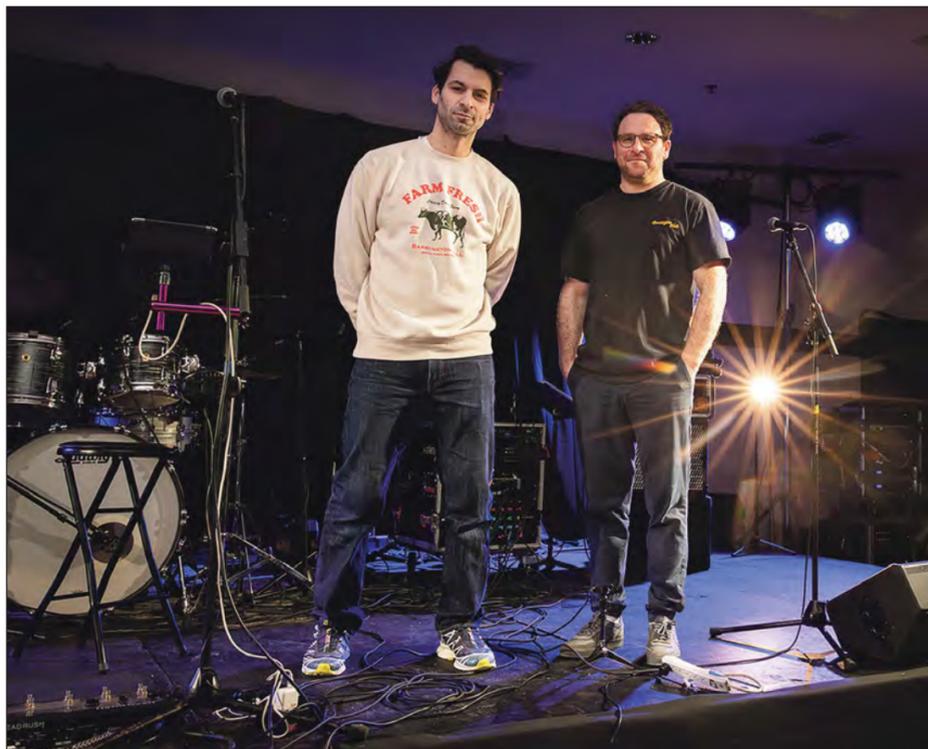


PHOTO PROVIDED

Dan Baker, left, and Daniel Lutzman at Barrington Hall in Great Barrington.

experience of being there. On any given week, the space might host a jazz performance, a dance party, a songwriter circle or a children's event. Some nights bring in touring acts. Others highlight local creatives. The variety is intentional and so is the atmosphere.

"It's about people," Baker said. "It's about being present."

Baker and Lutzman are keenly aware of the world outside with its constant barrage of information, political conflicts, a culture that pulls people deeper into their screens. Barrington Hall offers a way out of that noise.

"A little bit of a bubble," Lutzman said. "A place to step

away from everything else."

During a recent event, they noticed something telling: a full room of people dancing, talking, engaged — and almost no one on their phone.

"That's when you know something is working," Baker said.

Taking over a beloved local space comes with responsibility, one Baker and Lutzman have met by honoring the building's traditions while also expanding them.

"We didn't feel obligated," Lutzman said. "We felt honored."

Part of what makes the space distinct is its versatility. Large enough to host more

than 250 people, yet intimate enough to feel personal, it fills a gap in the local landscape, serving a wide range of people and bringing different groups together in the same space.

"We want people to feel like, if something's happening here, it's worth checking out," Lutzman said.

They are carefully balancing community access with the realities of running a business, with an eye toward the long term.

"We want this to be here in 20 years," Lutzman said.

That vision extends beyond the building itself — future

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

MUSIC

Reimagining opera for a new generation

By Graham Corrigan

For those curious about opera but unsure where to begin, the Mahaiwe Theater in Great Barrington will offer an accessible entry point with "Once Upon an Opera," a free, family-friendly program on Sunday, April 12, at 2 p.m. The event is designed for opera newcomers and aficionados alike and will include selections from some of opera's most beloved works.

Luca Antonucci, artistic coordinator, assistant conductor and chorus master for the Berkshire Opera Festival, said the idea first materialized three years ago.

"This production is one of the highlights of the off-season," he said.

"Opera is all about telling stories through music, which makes the concert a hit with people of all ages," he added. "Every story has something to tell us about the human experience." He pointed to the range of material covered in the program. "From the beautiful ornamentation of Baroque operas to the majesty

of Mozart, to the gripping emotions of Verdi and Puccini ... up to the modern-day stories of today's operas by composers like Huang Ruo, Missy Mazzoli and so many others."

The event features three singers from the Berkshire Opera Festival: soprano Juliet Schlefer, mezzo-soprano Abbegeael Greene and tenor Maximillian Jansen.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2



PHOTO PROVIDED

Stage director Geoffrey Larson signs autographs for some of the kids after a family performance.

INSIDE

OUR TOWNS

Falls Village student recognized for academic excellence

OUR TOWNS

Sharon faces key vote on regional waste authority



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... Gail Rothchild

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

fore the notion of 'Israel' or 'Palestine;' a fragment so diminished it barely registers as an object; or a rare indigo-dyed child's head cloth from Tutankhamen's tomb.

"I call them portraits of ancient linen," she said.

Rothschild grew up in Greenwich and studied drawing and painting at Yale University. "That was kind of my first love," she said. But she quickly veered toward something more collective, working with Peter Schumann at the Bread and Puppet Theater, building papier-mâché puppets and participating in a kind of performance-based activism that blurred art and politics.

"After Yale, I got out of school and thought 'Wait a second. I don't want to paint anymore. I need to work with people in communities and make things.'"

She moved to Brooklyn and began working in public schools, developing projects rooted in collaboration and local history. The projects were ambitious, research-driven, and often confrontational. At the University of Massachusetts, she recalled asking students: "Did you know that Amherst was named for Jeffrey Amherst, who was responsible for giving blankets infected with smallpox to Native Americans? Why don't we look into that?"

There were sculptures, letters to watchdog groups, installations. She worked on four such projects a year, she said, until the pace became unsustainable. "At some point I just said, 'I'm exhausted. I'm going back to the studio.'"

What brought her back was a book, "Prehistoric Textiles" by Elizabeth Wayland Barber. Inside, she encountered an image of a 7,000-year-old textile, unraveling.

"It said to me, 'this could be a great big abstract painting,'" she said. "What does it mean that this



Gail Rothchild's "Esquina Decorada" (52 x 52 inches, 2022, acrylic on canvas)

PHOTO BY GAIL ROTHCHILD

“As hard as we work to conserve the objects of our past, in the greater cosmic scheme of time, it's only temporary.”

GAIL ROTHCHILD

textile, this thing that used to be a Cartesian grid and over time has gone back to nature?"

That question became a kind of axis for her work. "There is this cusp between nature and culture," she said. Early on, she avoided tex-

tiles with imagery, drawn instead to the raw language of fiber itself. But eventually, even that boundary softened. A project with the Godwin-Ternbach Museum introduced her to Egyptian textiles — Christian, pagan, Greek, Roman influences colliding in woven form.

What followed was a deepening relationship with museums and, crucially, with conservators. Institutions like The Metropolitan Museum of Art and collections in Berlin and Paris began sending her images of textile fragments, sometimes pieces she has still never seen in person.

"It's almost easier for me to transform it when I haven't seen it," she said.

Her process is both precise and intuitive. She grids the canvas and the source image, drawing freehand to "honor what the object is." For a time, she works closely from the photograph. Then something shifts. "At some point I'll say, 'It's a painting. It's got to talk to itself,' and then I stop looking at the photograph."

What emerges is layered, luminous and muscular. "Sometimes people say, 'Do you miss making sculpture?' and I say, 'I never stopped.'"

You feel that in the surfaces: the tension of threads pulling apart, the sense that something is both forming and dissolving at once. Even the backgrounds — often ambiguous, atmospheric — are not neutral. "It's really more about feeling the space around the object," she said, especially as she considers how ancient

fragments are mounted on modern fabrics. "I get to invent an entirely other language."

Some of her most arresting work is on the monumental textiles of The Met Cloisters, where medieval tapestries, some towering more than a dozen feet, are slowly, painstakingly conserved. It's in the conservation labs that Rothchild has observed the physical reality of these works: their own weight pulling them apart, threads breaking under centuries of strain. Conservators insert new threads to stabilize them and Rothchild documents this process. "There's a kind of poignancy to their work," Rothchild said, "because as hard as we work to conserve the objects of our past, in the greater cosmic scheme of time, it's only temporary. There's something beautiful about that."

Time operates on multiple levels in Rothchild's work. There is the time of the object — thousands of years, in some cases — and the time of the painting, which unfolds over months. "Once I start working on something, I can't stop," she said. "But then it'll rest for a while and I may change it, add layers."

And then there is the time of attention itself, the way looking can tip into obsession, into pattern-seeking that doesn't quite turn off. Rothchild is aware of that edge.

"I have to make myself stop or I just see patterns everywhere and I can't stop, really," she laughed. "That's why I've built in other things I need to do in my life like take the dogs for a hike or, you know, volunteer at the Sharon Land Trust... otherwise I go a little nuts. And it wouldn't be good painting either."

A painting session, for her, has its own its own arc. "There's kind of a trajectory for every work session. I might be repeating something and suddenly it looks linear. The language I started painting with may change by the end and I think, 'Oh God, I'm gonna have to go back and repaint that.'"

But then, she said, there is a pause.

"I kind of step back and say, 'No, this painting can hold both. That's part of its history. There's the history of the object but then there's the history of the painting.'"

PERFORMANCE

BSO charts future amid leadership transition and financial strain

By Natalia Zukerman

The Boston Symphony Orchestra is outlining its path forward following the announcement that music director Andris Nelsons will step down after the 2027 Tanglewood season, closing a 13-year tenure.

In a letter to supporters, the BSO's Board of Trustees acknowledged that the news has been difficult for many in its community, while emphasizing gratitude for Nelsons' leadership and plans to celebrate his final season.

The orchestra also pointed to broader challenges facing the institution and the field at large. Attendance has declined over the past two decades, while operating costs have risen. The BSO has relied on more than \$100 million in reserve funds beyond standard endowment draws to cover ongoing deficits, and key facilities — including venues at Tanglewood — require significant upgrades.

In response, the organization is advancing a long-term strategy centered on three priorities: programming, partnerships and place. Plans include rethinking how concerts reach contemporary audiences, strengthening ties across Boston and the Berkshires, and investing in major performance spaces such as Symphony Hall and Tanglewood.

The board emphasized that while the BSO

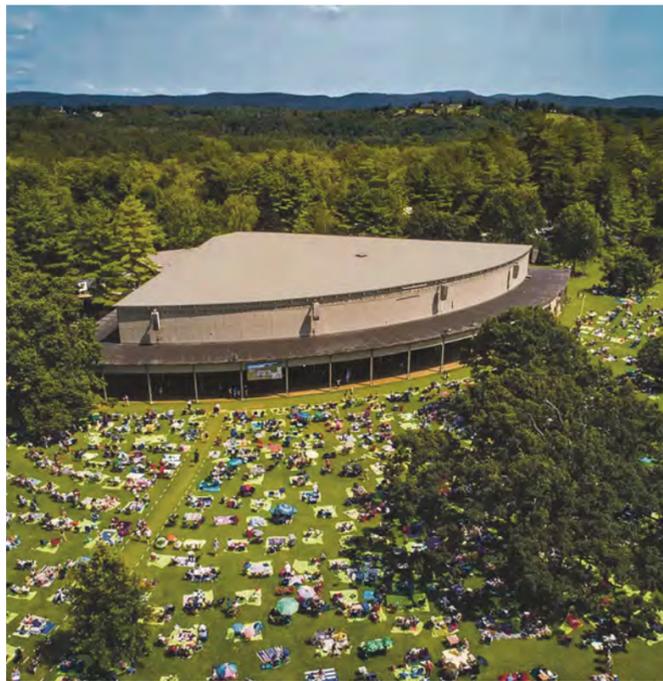


PHOTO PROVIDED

Aerial view of The Shed at Tanglewood in Lenox, Massachusetts.

remains committed to artistic excellence and its core repertoire, adapting to changing audience habits will be critical to its sustainability. Leaders say ongoing conversations with musicians, staff and community partners have helped shape the new direction.

Despite financial pressures and leadership changes, trustees expressed confidence in the orchestra's future, underscoring the role of audiences, donors and artists in sustaining one of the country's oldest cultural institutions.

... opera

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

All three are still early in their careers, a class of rising vocal talent carrying the torch for the next generation. They will be accompanied by pianist Charles Tsui.

"I think that opera is especially exciting for families and young children precisely because it is all about storytelling," Antonucci said. "Adding costumes, sets, props and the incredible power of operatic voices to the mix makes it one of the few types of experiences where

all the arts come together."

This year, the production reimagines some of those legendary stories in present-day Massachusetts. As always, "Once Upon an Opera" promises to be an interactive affair, encouraging audience participation throughout its hour-long runtime. While the event is free, reservations are encouraged due to limited seating.

Tickets are available at berkshireoperafestival.org/onceuponanopera.

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FOOD

A tradition of lamb for Easter and Passover

By Leila Hawken

Preparing lamb for the observance of Easter is a long-standing tradition in many cultures, symbolizing new life and purity. For Christians, Easter marks the end of Lenten fasting, allowing for a celebratory feast. A popular choice is roast lamb, often prepared with rosemary, garlic or lemon. It is traditional to serve mint sauce or mint jelly at the table.

The Hebrew Bible suggests that the last plague God inflicted on the Egyptians, to secure the Israelites' release from slavery, was to kill the firstborn son in every Egyptian home. To differentiate the Israelites from the Egyptians, God instructed them to mark their doorposts with the blood of a lamb. Today, Jews, Christians and Muslims generally believe that God would have known who was Israelite and who was Egyptian without such a sign, but views of God's omnipotence in the Abrahamic faiths have evolved over the millennia.

This tradition, celebrated at Passover, has made lamb a first choice for Jewish families commemorating freedom from Egyptian slavery. Christians have continued the tradition, naming Jesus the Lamb of God, whose death serves as atonement for the sins of the world. For them, the dietary restrictions of Lent have ended, allowing a return to eggs, sweets and meat.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Roasted lamb

Basic recipe: Roast leg of lamb (5-pound leg of lamb, or portion thereof)

2 or more cloves garlic, thinly sliced
 Good-quality olive oil
 Rosemary
 Salt and pepper to taste
 Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Trim fat from lamb as desired. Using a sharp knife, cut small gashes in the meat and insert a slice of garlic into each cut. Rub the roast with olive oil, then season with rosemary (some cooks also add thyme), salt and pepper.

Place the meat on a rack in a shallow roasting pan and put it in the preheated

oven. After 15 minutes, reduce heat to 350 degrees. Roast for 25 minutes per pound for rare or 30 minutes per pound for well-done. Well-done lamb will be less juicy and less tender. If garlic is not desired, substitute lemon or additional rosemary.

When the roast is done, carve by slicing parallel to the bone, rotating as needed.

Variations: Some recipes substitute lemon juice for olive oil. You may also use salad oil instead of olive oil and add a bit of powdered ginger, a bay leaf, sage and marjoram. Soy sauce is also used.

To make gravy:

After removing the roast to rest, place the roasting pan on the stovetop over heat. Add flour and stir for one minute, until a paste forms. Add beef stock or water to reach the desired consistency. Mash any garlic pieces, if used, to enhance flavor. Strain and serve.

... Barrington Hall

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Inside Barrington Hall.

collaborations, expanded programming, a growing role in shaping the cultural life of the Berkshires. But at its core, the mission remains simple: to create a place where people can gather, a place that feels alive.

And perhaps most importantly, to create a place where, if only for a few hours, people can step away from the noise of the

world and enjoy being together.

When asked who they're most excited to host next, their answer was immediate: The Mammals on April 10 and Lee Ross, a one-man party band from Massachusetts, scheduled to perform on May 1.

For more information and tickets, visit barringtonhallgb.com

... Sherman Players

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO PROVIDED

Cast of "Laughter on the 23rd Floor" from left to right. Tara Vega, Steve Zerilli, Bob Cady (Standing) Seated at the table: Andrew Blanchard, Jon Barker, Colin McLoone, Chris Bird, Rebecca Annalise, Adam Battlestein

Alexander is an enthusiastic champion of the group's history and collaborative spirit, which engages amateurs and professionals alike "to see what fun we can have" in bringing theater to all audiences. Everyone pitches in — from sets and costumes to administrative work — to bring each production to life. She calls it the "extra special sparkle" that has defined the company since its first performances in their historic church home in 1926.

The season opens in April with Neil Simon's "Laughter on the 23rd Floor," a comedy set in the 1950s television writers' room during the McCarthy era. In June, the company will present a production (with live music) of the classic Broadway musical "Bye, Bye Birdie!" one of the first shows that highlighted the

Baby Boomer generation and our "Kids are King" culture.

In July, The Sherman Players will debut "Restored to Reason," a new work by local writer Elizabeth Young about Mary Todd Lincoln. Developed through the theater's Cold Lemonade reading series, the work marks the first time the company has taken a piece from staged reading to full production, a memorable milestone in the group's historic mission.

September brings a timely revival of the historic American courtroom drama, "Inherit the Wind." The Sherman Players last presented this riveting account of the infamous Scopes "monkey trial" in 1966. The season concludes with a special holiday presentation of "An American Christmas Carol," an original adapta-

tion of the Dickens classic, written by Artistic Director Robin Frome, directed by Jane Farnol.

Alexander is quick to acknowledge that The Sherman Players is committed to supporting the broader regional arts community. "We're closer than you think, and we all draw on the same talents and resources," she said. "We all see and support each other's work."

This dedication is helping to enrich the theater-going experience for everyone, from long-established generational Sherman Players patrons to new, younger audiences looking for community connection.

The Sherman Playhouse is located at 5 Route 39 N, Sherman, Connecticut. For tickets, subscriptions and more information, visit shermanplayers.org.

Tangled tackle fondling 2026

The snow is mostly gone, the mud is flowing, the stocking trucks are rolling and that means only one thing: it's tackle fondling time!

Yes, it's that happy time of year when we dig out all the gear we carefully cleaned and stowed away back in November.

What's that? You left it all in the car until you had to help Aunt Edna move? And now it's piled up in the garage?

Never mind that. What's important is getting ahead of it, starting now.

Reels: Take the spools off and blast them with a can of compressed air. Then deploy a Q-tip to get the stubborn stuff. Then deploy something long and pointy to get the little bits of cotton that came off the Q-tip.

Lines: Clip off the old leader. It's no good. Pull the fly line of the reel and clean it with something. There are many commercial products available. The Rio line cleaner seems to work pretty well, but it goes fast. I use a weak solution of Dawn dish soap and warmish water and a clean sponge or two, so I can see



Tangled Lines
 Patrick L. Sullivan

just how much yick comes off the line. Then I give it a shot of some stuff called Albolene, which is used for removing heavy theatrical makeup. It also functions as a line dressing and costs much less than actual line dressings.

Rods: I check guides and ferrules, and give everything a wipe with a chamois cloth or something similar. Then I start emailing people I barely know looking for someone who repairs rods.

I have something like 60 fly rods, and they are a pain in the neck to store. But I had a brain wave over the winter and bought four kitchen garbage cans. Ignoring the lids, I arranged them in a corner of my living room and to my delight found I can corral most of the rods in such a way that I can actually find the one I want.

It works very well. If the cans had an Orvis or Simms

logo on them I could sell them for \$85 apiece as a "modular rod storage system."

Flies: What you absolutely don't want to do is buy more fly boxes because the giant cardboard box filled with fly boxes is still in the back of the car and you can't remember what's in any of them so it's better to just buy new flies and boxes and use those, reserving the joy of sorting through the old boxes for the summer when you're at the summer camp that has a nice big table. Whatever you do, don't do this. Oh, excuse me, that must be the Amazon guy at the door with my new boxes and flies.

Waders and boots: I have a dedicated wader rack where I hang them up. This is an improvement over my old method, which was to leave them in the car in a crumpled heap all winter. Check for leaks by taking a small flashlight and running it over the seams from the inside of the waders. If you see pinholes then it's time to deploy Aquaseal. There are wader repair

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

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The Pasquale Grasso Trio performs at 7:30 p.m. April 4 at The Stissing Center in Pine Plains. The Italian-born guitarist, a rising jazz star and winner of the Wes Montgomery International Jazz Guitar Competition, is known for his virtuosic, piano-like style. A frequent collaborator with vocalist Samara Joy, he has performed at major festivals worldwide and is supporting his 2025 release "Fervency." Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

Tri-Corner Calendar

Items appear as space permits. Submit calendar items to editor@lakevillejournal.com.

APRIL 2

Introduction to Mindfulness with Kathy Voldstad
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Meditation instructor Kathy Voldstad leads four weekly sessions beginning at 10 to 11:15 a.m., offering mindfulness instruction to help manage stress, regulate emotions and cultivate calm in daily life. Registration required at scovillelibrary.org.

APRIL 3

Beauty Lou and the Country Beast
Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.
April 3 & April 4
5 p.m.
Missoula Children's Theatre presents an original country-western take on Beauty and the Beast, performed by local children after a week-long residency. thestissingcenter.org

First Friday Music

Congregational Church of Salisbury, 30 Main St., Salisbury, Conn.
The Congregational Church of Salisbury will present its monthly First Friday Music program on Friday, April 3, at 12 p.m. The Meeting House will open at 11:30 a.m. This month's performance will be by the Irish singer and composer Julie Feeney, a three-time nominee for Irish Album of the Year, and winner in 2006 for "13 Songs." She will present a 30-minute recital of her own music, along with some traditional Irish selections.

APRIL 4

"Love is the Answer" Opening Reception
The Gallery of Dreams 156 Gay St., Sharon, Conn.
Noon to 5 p.m.

Opening reception for a group exhibition featuring 15 local artists and craftspeople working in painting, sculpture, ceramics, wood-working, jewelry and artisan crafts. Refreshments will be served, with a potluck dinner and bonfire to follow at 5 p.m. Exhibition on view through May 24; gallery hours Friday to Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

Spring Pruning Basics with Brad Roeller
Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y.
10 a.m. to noon

A hands-on pruning workshop led by landscape professional Brad Roeller, covering techniques for shaping and maintaining trees and shrubs, with guidance on timing, tools and plant health. Pre-registration required; rain date April 11.

WRIT and WEFTED: Works by Sally Van Doren and Nancy Koenigsberg
daphneart Gallery and Advisory, 55 W. Morris Road, Bantam, Conn.
Opening reception 2 to 6 p.m.

An exhibition pairing Van Doren's paintings and drawings, rooted in her writing practice and asemic script, with Koenigsberg's woven wire sculptures exploring form, texture and the modernist grid.

Pasquale Grasso Trio

Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.
7:30 p.m.

Jazz guitarist Pasquale Grasso, known for his virtuosic style, performs with his trio. The Italian-born artist tours internationally and records for Sony Masterworks. thestissingcenter.org

Oliver Wolcott and the Revolutionary War

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
Local history teacher and author Peter Vermilyea discusses his new book, "Litchfield County and the Revolutionary War," with a focus on Falls Village native Oliver Wolcott Sr., a Revolutionary War patriot, Declaration of Independence signer and brigadier general in the Connecticut militia. Wolcott also oversaw the transport of a toppled statue of King George III from New York City to his hometown, where it was melted down and cast into more than 40,000 musket balls. Vermilyea teaches at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and the University of Connecticut. 2 p.m.

APRIL 5

Easter Celebration

Mayflower Inn & Spa, 118 Woodbury Road, Washington, Conn.
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A daylong Easter celebration featuring a festive brunch by Executive Chef Luke Dowdy (11 a.m.-2 p.m.), a garden party with egg hunts, live music and family activities, spring sweets from BonBon, and an art salon with Hunt Slonem. Brunch reservations required; additional activities available for guests and local visitors.

APRIL 7

Drawing Skills & Mixing Color with Pieter Lefferts

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Artist and educator Pieter Lefferts leads a four-week workshop on Tuesdays from 2 to 4 p.m., focusing on color mixing and drawing skills for all experience levels. Materials provided. Registration required at scovillelibrary.org.

APRIL 8

Headspace, an Original Musical

Kent Center School, 40 North Main St., Kent, Conn.
April 8 and 9

The Kent Center School Theatre Company presents "Headspace," an original musical featuring more than 30 students in grades five through eight. With hits from the '80s and '90s and original music by director and playwright Kimberly Compton, the show takes the audience inside the mind of Josh, a boy on a journey to find his path. Free and open to the public. Performances at 7 p.m. both nights.

APRIL 9

Embroidery: A Living Tradition Exhibition Opening

Millbrook Historical Society, 35 Merritt Avenue, Millbrook, N.Y.
6 to 8 p.m.

Opening reception and talk for an exhibit celebrating local embroidery traditions and artisans, with works from the Thorne family, Grace Church, St. Peter's Church and the Skyllkill Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America. Exhibition on view April 4 to May 2.

APRIL 10

Leslie Mendelson

The Grace Note @ Stissing Center 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.
7:30 p.m.

Singer-songwriter Leslie Mendelson performs an intimate set of folk, pop and Americana, blending soulful vocals with personal, story-driven songs. thestissingcenter.org

The Firefly Environmental Arts Project Celebrates the Legacy of Dr. Jane Goodall

The Marvelwood School Performing Arts Center 476 Skiff Mountain Road, Kent, Conn.

Firefly Environmental Arts Project welcomes keynote speaker Priscilla Woolworth, a TIME Magazine Green Pioneer, discussing how her friendship with Jane Goodall shaped her environmental work. Includes student speakers, a nature-inspired exhibit by local artists, and insights from her book LOLA: Lots of Love Always. An evening celebrating creativity, action, and hope. 5 p.m.

APRIL 11

Rock n' Roll Circus Benefit Concert

Infinity Music Hall, 20 Greenwoods Rd W., Norfolk, Conn.
Doors 7 p.m. | Show 8 p.m.

Blues-rock showcase featuring Jon Butcher, James Montgomery and Steve Gaspár to benefit United Way of Northwestern Connecticut food pantry programs. Tickets \$39-\$49; VIP meet-and-greet add-on \$30.

Two Exhibitions

The Re Institute, 1395 Boston Corners Rd, Millerton, N.Y.
April 11 to May 23

Opening reception April 11, 4 to 6 p.m.

"Things Seen," featuring Mark LaRiviere, Kingsley Parker and Scott Culbreth, and "Estranged From The Sun," a group exhibition curated by Natalya Kornblum Laudi.

Family Day: Poetry in Motion

American Mural Project, 90 Whiting Street, Winsted, Conn.
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Free family program featuring live music story time with Michelle Begley, scavenger hunts, kid-friendly tours and hands-on art activities. Teen Art Studio runs concurrently.

"The Director's Cut" - Hudson Valley Improv National Touring Company

Ghent Playhouse, 6 Main St., Ghent, N.Y.
7 p.m.

A fully improvised cinematic experience where the audience shapes a live "film" performed on the spot. General admission \$25; tickets at ghentplayhouse.org or at the door if available.

... Tangled Lines

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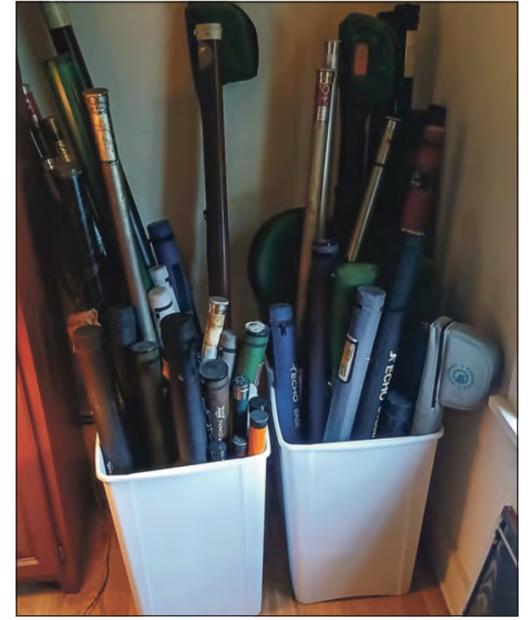


PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The average citizen looks at this and sees fly rods stored in garbage cans. The veteran angler sees an innovative modular storage system.

kits that have small tubes of Aquaseal and patches that can be cut to fit. Do not buy a big tube of Aquaseal unless you plan to use it very quickly, otherwise the big expensive tube turns to stone in a matter of days. That's why the tubes in the kits are small. Ask me how I know this.

Check boot laces and replace if necessary. Paracord is your friend here, if you're on a tight budget and don't mind using a lighter to create

an aglet. Look for missing studs and replace. Clean the soles with an old toothbrush. Do this outside. Ask me how I know this, too.

Note: Thanks for all the kind inquiries as to my new right hip. I am pleased to report that Ye Surgeon took me off the Injured Reserve list a couple of weeks ago, and as soon as things settle down a bit on the run-off, I will be back in action for the first time since September 2025.

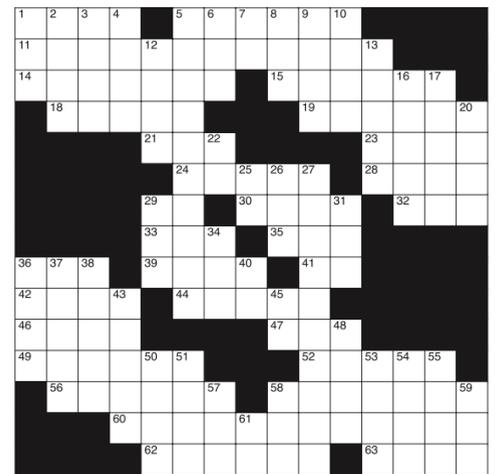
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Absence of difficulty
- Preserve a dead body
- Gratitude
- The act of coming together again
- More cushy
- Visionaries
- Large fish-eating bird
- Indicates near
- Former CIA and CIA critic
- Icelandic poems
- Pop
- Hammer is one
- Selves
- Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- Nowhere to be found
- Electronic data processing
- Drivers' licenses and passports are two
- Snake-like fishes
- Air Force
- Popular personal computers
- Stages in ecological succession
- Wings
- In the center
- Pleasantly smooth
- Jeweled headdress
- In slow tempo
- ___ Falls
- Reiterations
- Eras
- Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

- Body part
- Mimics
- Expel or eject (variant sp.)
- Sea eagle
- Taxonomic category
- Chinese languages
- Mr. T's "A-Team" character
- Consumed
- Chinese dynasty
- NFL legend Randy
- Ireland
- Palm trees with creeping roots
- Fungal disease
- Tall, slender-leaved plants



- Affirmative! (slang)
- It says who you are
- Atlantic coast state
- Grow older
- Associations
- Woman (French)
- Sunscreen rating
- Brew
- Leader
- Indigo bush genus
- Burn with a hot liquid
- Junior's father
- Mackerel genus
- Morning
- Straight line from side to side (abbr.)
- Type of molding
- Small, thin or twisted bunch
- Worn by exposure to the weather

March 26 Solution

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

March 26 Solution

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

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Our Towns

Sharon faces key vote on regional waste authority

By Alec Linden

SHARON — Residents will be asked at a town meeting on April 16 to decide whether to join a nascent regional waste authority, as towns across the Northwest Corner consider a coordinated response to uncertainty over the future of a key disposal facility.

The proposal centers on the Torrington Transfer Station, where Sharon and

other municipalities send household waste for consolidation and shipment to disposal sites.

The Northwest Regional Recovery Authority was formed in 2025 by the city of Torrington in anticipation of a change in oversight at the facility, as the state Department of Administrative Services prepares to end its temporary management of operations at the end of June.

While Sharon has a con-

tract through June 2027 at the transfer station, it is not yet clear who will operate the facility after the state steps back, or whether existing arrangements will continue unchanged under new management.

“There’s a lot of gray area with the Torrington Transfer Station, so this gives us hopefully another option come July 1,” First Selectman Casey Flanagan said.

Regional response

The NRRRA, supported by the Northwest Hills Council of Governments, is seeking legislative approval in Hartford to transfer ownership of the facility to a multi-town public authority that would oversee and operate the site on behalf of participating municipalities.

Supporters say the structure would allow towns to retain public control over a facility that serves as a regional hub for municipal solid waste, while providing more stability in pricing and long-term planning.

Salisbury, Goshen and Torrington have already joined the group, while other towns in the Northwest Hills region are weighing similar action. Cornwall is scheduled to vote on its own ordinance to join on April 17, one day after Sharon’s meeting.

Town finances

Also on the April 16 agenda is a proposal to establish a

\$7 million financing arrangement to support projects in Sharon’s 10-year capital plan.

The financing would function as a flexible line of credit, allowing the town to borrow funds as needed for infrastructure projects.

First Selectman Casey Flanagan said the structure would give the town more flexibility in timing expenditures while maintaining access to favorable interest rates.

The town reached out to four banks and selected NBT Bank, which the town already has a relationship with. The proposal still requires approval from the Board of Finance and a town vote before it can take effect.

The Selectmen will also ask voters to approve the use of state Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) funds for several projects.

That includes \$20,000 to support updates to the town’s Plan of Conservation and Development, a state-required long-range planning document that guides zoning and land use.

An additional \$99,998 in LoCIP funding would be used to complete resurfacing work on Boland Road and West Woods Road No. 1, where base paving was completed last year.

Voters will also be asked on April 16 to approve the town’s audited financial statements for fiscal year 2025.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Crystal Palmer Andrade, left, is congratulated on her induction to the Sigma Theta Tau honor society by Lori Martone-Roberts, professor of the practice of nursing at Wheaton College.

Falls Village student recognized for academic excellence in Wheaton nursing program

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Crystal Palmer Andrade of Falls Village, a member of the Class of 2027 at Wheaton College in Massachusetts, has been inducted into the college’s chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the international honor society recognizing excellence in nursing.

Palmer Andrade, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, earned membership in the honor society through outstanding academic achievement and a demonstrated commitment to the nursing profession.

Sigma Theta Tau International honors students who have shown superior academic performance, leadership potential, and a dedication to advancing health care. Mem-

bership is by invitation and is among the highest forms of recognition for nursing students.

Wheaton’s nursing program combines a strong liberal arts foundation with hands-on clinical experience, preparing graduates to deliver compassionate, evidence-based care.

Students also benefit from the college’s state-of-the-art simulation center and opportunities for experiential learning in a variety of health care settings.

“Being inducted into Sigma Theta Tau reflects both academic excellence, leadership, and a deep commitment to caring for others,” said Colette Diejuste Ph.D., RN, Dean of Nursing at Wheaton College. “We are proud of Crystal for achieving this distinction.”

Salisbury budgets head to hearing with 4%–5% increases

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — At a special meeting Thursday, March 26, the Board of Finance voted to send the proposed spending plans for 2026-27 to a public hearing Monday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Salisbury Central School principal Stephanie Magyar said “this is the easiest update I’ve ever given.” She said the final number came in some \$23,000 less than the initial presentation, bringing the increase down from \$339,528 (4.92%) to \$316,367 (4.59%) for a total budget of

\$7,213,515.

First Selectman Curtis Rand said the town budget proposal’s bottom line is the same, but he and Comptroller Joe Cleaveland made some changes, most notably for an employee pension fund.

“We ended up in the same place, but just shifted things around,” Rand said.

The selectmen’s budget proposal is \$9,617,825, an increase of \$412,723 or 4.40%.

The town and school budgets are developed separately but together determine the overall tax impact on residents.

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