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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026 \$3.00

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



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong talks with students Jonas Johnson (left) and Ayden Wheeler at the 21st Century for HVRHS event held at the Interlaken Inn on March 31.

HVRHS students, 21st Century Fund showcase partnership

By Ruth Epstein

FALLS VILLAGE – Housatonic Valley Regional High School students have traveled the world, built robots and helped steward the environment thanks to support from the 21st Century Fund for HVRHS, whose impact was on display March 31 at a showcase at the Interlaken Inn.

The event, titled “Celebration of

the Lives We’ve Touched,” featured student-led displays highlighting those experiences, all supported by grants from the fund.

Founded in 1994, the fund was the brainchild of the late Jack Mahoney, a longtime teacher and principal at the school. While on a sabbatical, he visited other high schools across the country and learned that many had established organizations to fund student and

teacher projects outside the annual budgets. He brought the idea back, paired up with Salisbury resident, the late Diane Hewat, and in 1994, the 21st Century Fund for HVRHS was born. It has since raised and distributed close to \$1 million to the HVRHS community.

The fund supports projects that allow students and teachers

See HVRHS, Page A9

Tenants to move into affordable housing units in Falls Village

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE – Tenants are expected to move into newly renovated apartments at 21 Miner St. in mid-April, marking another step forward in the Falls Village Housing Trust’s efforts to expand affordable housing options.

Construction is nearing completion, according to FVHT president Jandi Hanna, who said tenants have already been secured for two of the building’s three apartments.

The building includes two two-bedroom units and one unit that can be configured as either two or three bedrooms. Nearby, at 17 Miner St., the trust is developing

See HOUSING, Page A10



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Contractor Brenden Lee makes repairs to the porch at 21 Miner St. in Falls Village, where renovations are nearing completion.

Connecticut’s kratom ban spurs cross-border demand, exposes addiction challenges

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — With kratom now illegal in Connecticut, some Northwest Corner residents are already crossing state lines to get it.

The substance — a controversial herbal product with opioid-like effects — can cause dependence and withdrawal, prompting state officials to warn of serious health risks.

Just a few miles from towns like North Canaan, Sharon and Salisbury, smoke shops and convenience stores in neighboring New York and Massachusetts continue to sell the once-common substance, drawing interest from Connecticut customers in the days since the March 25 ban took effect.

State officials have made the message clear about kratom, used for its stimulant and pain-relieving effects, and for some, to relieve symptoms of withdrawal from opioids.

“It’s illegal. You can’t buy it, you can’t sell it or possess it because it’s

dangerous, unregulated and unsafe,” said Connecticut Attorney General William Tong in a statement announcing the ruling.

Bryan T. Cafferelli, commissioner of the state Department of Consumer Protection, also issued a warning to licensees and business owners.

“As of March 25, it is illegal to have this substance on your shelf,” he said. “We look forward to working with our local and state partners as we target this.”

The ban is already reshaping behavior across the Northwest Corner — affecting local businesses, prompting cross-border sales and raising concerns among clinicians about withdrawal and a potential shift toward more dangerous substances.

Kratom products, commonly sold in gas stations, smoke shops, convenience stores and online as powders, capsules, gummies and

See KRATOM, Page A10



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MURRAY

The existing Canaan Fire Company facility, where space constraints have prompted plans for a new firehouse and emergency services complex.

Town of North Canaan pushes for state land transfer for new firehouse

By Christian Murray

NORTH CANAAN — Town officials are seeking state approval to acquire a 9.45-acre parcel of land to build a new firehouse and emergency services facility for the North Canaan Fire Company, while preserving most of the property for public recreation.

First Selectman Jesse Bunce submitted written testimony to

the Connecticut Government Oversight Committee on April 1 in support of the request, which would transfer the state-owned “South Greenway Parcel” on North Elm Street to the town.

State lawmakers are advancing legislation that would authorize the conveyance of the property, with backing from state Sen. Stephen

See FIREHOUSE, Page A10



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Online This Week

Annual Falls Village egg hunt

For additional photos of this year's Falls Village egg hunt go to lakevillejournal.com.

POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

There was no information available from Connecticut State Police Troop B this week.

Send mail to P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039, Attn: Police Blotter, or send to editor@lakevillejournal.com

Sharon Real Estate

Median Prices Stay Above \$700,000

By Christine Bates

Sharon, CT — The median price for a single-family home in Sharon continued to climb on an annual basis, even as it edged down slightly from the previous month.

The 12-month trailing median price, excluding condominiums, reached \$710,000 for the period ending March 31, 2026. That marks a 34% increase from \$530,000 in the same period a year earlier and an 8% rise from \$655,000 two years ago.

Sales activity remained steady within Sharon's typical range. A total of 39 single-family homes sold in the 12 months ending March 31, compared with 44 sales in the prior year and 38 sales in the same period ending March 31, 2024. Historically,



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

The property at 16 Upper Main St., located just behind Sharon Green, sold for \$525,000 on March 23. The 0.15-acre parcel had been assessed at \$261,700.

annual sales in town tend to fall between 35 and 45 transactions.

The seasonal spring surge

of new listings has not yet appeared and inventory in all categories remains limited.

As of April 3, there were nine single-family homes on the market. Of those, seven were listed above \$1 million and no residential properties were listed below the current \$710,000 median price. Eleven parcels of land are listed for sale on the MLS ranging from \$139,000 to \$2,495,000. Furnished rentals account for six out of seven rental listings.

Sharon March Transfers

8 Mudgetown Road – 4 bedroom/4.5 bath home built in 1750 plus 600 square foot cottage built in 1989 was sold by Arete Warren to Robert Nestor and William Reynolds for \$1,450,000

16 Upper Main Street – 3 bedroom/1 bath home on

.15 acres built in 1870 was sold by Jeanne Xanthos to Peter and Nichole O'Reilly for \$525,000

50 Dug Road – 4 bedroom/2.5 bath home on .26 acres was sold by Laura Geer to Timothy Halle and Stephanie Saetta for \$481,144.75.

* Town of Sharon real estate transfers recorded between March 1, 2026, and March 31, 2026, provided by Sharon 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.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

SCS students take the stage in "How to Eat Like a Child" Tuesday, March 31.

Salisbury Central School delivers fast-paced spring musical

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE – The cafeteria at Salisbury Central School was alive with music and laughter on Tuesday, March 31, as fourth and fifth graders presented a rollicking performance of "How to Eat Like a Child and Oth-

er Lessons in Not Being a Grown-Up."

The show – directed by music teacher Jennifer Moros – maintained a blink-and-you'll-miss-it pace, unfolding in a series of 22 vignettes. Each story addressed an aspect of childhood, like how to stay home

from school, how to ride in a car and how to laugh hysterically.

Audience members of a certain age were reminded of squabbling with a sibling over territory in the back seat of the station wagon, or making prank phone calls.

Each segment was quick

and to the point, and the cast and crew handled the frantic pace with an ease that indicates a lot of rehearsals.

The show was supported by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and by SOAR.

Falls Village selectmen propose \$2.6 million spending plan, up 7.3%

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE – The Board of Finance received the proposed spending plan for 2026-27 from the Board of Selectmen at a special meeting Monday, March 30.

First Selectman Dave Barger presented the proposal, which totals \$2,600,436 – an increase of \$177,610, or 7.33%, from the current year.

The plan does not include a pay increase for the selectmen. All town employees will receive an increase of 2.5%, except the highway department, whose employees are on a separate step-based pay

scale. The average increase for those employees is 3.73%.

Barger said the selectmen's goal is to "invest in residents and infrastructure" to ensure the town remains "affordable and welcoming."

Board of Finance member Andrea Downs observed

that while several budget lines have large percentage increases, the dollar amounts are far less dramatic.

The Board of Education will present its proposed spending plan on Thursday, April 9, at Town Hall at 6 p.m.

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We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning. Notice of such error must be given to us after the first run of the advertisement.

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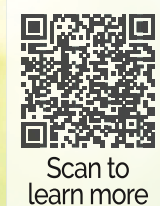
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Our Towns



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Children swoop and dive for Easter eggs during the annual Falls Village egg hunt.

Annual egg hunt provides fun for all ages

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE – Eager children lined up at the edge of the ball field at Lee H. Kellogg School Saturday, April 4, waiting for the start of the Easter Egg Hunt.

One youngster broke prematurely. The other children hollered at him, and he trotted back a bit sheepishly.

Matt Gallagher, director of programs and operations for Great Mountain Forest Corporation, delivered instructions through a bull-

horn. “Take your marks, get set, GO!”

And they went.

In a whirlwind of activity, children ages six and up swooped and dove across the field to grab the plastic eggs filled with candy.

Younger participants between the ages of three and five had their eggs hidden on the playground, while the toddlers had theirs in the sandbox.

Recreation Commission head Melissa Lopes said the set-up ensures younger children have a fair chance

without being overrun by older participants.

Three “golden eggs” were hidden, with lucky finders winning larger prizes, including a big candy bar and a couple of gift baskets with toys.

The main event on the ball field lasted about five minutes.

Afterward, the Easter Bunny mingled with the crowd, and the children removed their candy from the plastic eggs and deposited the latter in a bin for use next year.

Cell tower approved for South Norfolk

By John Coston

NORFOLK – The Connecticut Siting Council has approved a new cell tower for South Norfolk that will provide cellular coverage for customers who currently have spotty or no cell service along the Route 272 corridor between Norfolk and Torrington.

Last October, the council had approved the plans of Tarpon Towers III and Cellco Partnership, doing business as Verizon Wireless, for a 186-foot tower to be located on a 40-acre parcel at 78 Goshen Street East. On March 13, its decision was finalized.

The tower site will be approximately 2,000 feet from the road between Goshen Street East and Estey Road and will be accessed from Estey Road. It is about 650 feet from the nearest residential structure on Estey Road.

An earlier proposed location drew significant opposition from residents of Old Goshen Road and Smith Road. At the time, residents organized an effort to potentially purchase the land from the owner, but the effort fell short. Last spring, Verizon instead selected the Goshen Street East site owned by Paul Chapinsky Sr.

“Luckily they decided to



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Approved site of a proposed 186-foot cell tower on a 40-acre parcel at 78 Goshen Street East.

move on and go elsewhere,” said Sloane Klevin, of Old Goshen Road, who led the effort against the first location. “The big issue has always been emergency and town vehicles that have no cell service,” she added, noting that when town snowplows get stuck turning around on her property, they can’t call for help.

The plan to put the tower in its new location drew more than two dozen residents to an informational meeting in March 2025 at Botelle School in Norfolk, where they raised some opposition and concern about the project and its access off Estey Road. Later, at an August 2025 official Siting Council public hearing on the matter, no members of the public signed up to speak, but neighboring property owners opposed the project in written testimony.

Norfolk currently has four cell towers that service multiple providers. The new tower is expected to improve service for residents of Nor-

folk, Goshen and Winchester along Route 272. According to Cellco’s filing with the Siting Council, the company currently “has a coverage deficiency on Route 272 (4.9 miles in Norfolk and 2.1 miles in Goshen) and on Route 263 (0.4 miles in Goshen and approximately 3.0 miles in Winchester).”

“Based on a lack of reliable wireless service for Cellco in the Norfolk, Goshen and Winchester area, including Route 272 and Route 263 and surrounding areas, the Council finds a specific need for the facility,” the Council wrote in its findings of fact.

Last summer, the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection found that the tower’s site is within the habitat area of the eastern red bat, a species of special concern, and within range of the northern long-eared bat, an endangered species on state and federal lists. As a result, the site work will avoid tree clearing from April 15 to Sept. 30.

Region One teacher mentorship program fosters idea-sharing

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE – First-year teachers in Region One have been working alongside veteran educators as part of the Teacher Excellence and Mentorship (TEAM) program, a statewide program required for teachers with an initial educator certificate. Local participating educators presented on how those collaborations translated into classroom practice on Tuesday, March 31.

Kevin Papacs, a new physical education teacher at Salisbury Central School, worked with longtime music teacher Rob Nellson.

Papacs said his initial tactic of using direct instruction on stretching and warm-ups worked well at first, but after the holidays he noticed less enthusiasm.

Working with Nellson and doing research, he came up with a strategy of allowing the students to design their own five- to seven-minute warmup plan.

Papacs said the tactic worked at first, “but then it faded a bit.”

To keep the ball rolling, he and Nellson had the students keep a journal, recording how much time and how many repetitions they spent on each exercise.

Four of the six classes showed improvement.

“So I brainstormed with my colleagues,” Papacs said.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Kevin Papacs explained how he changed his approach to instruction.

Papacs had students lead the warm-ups, and instruct their peers. “So it wasn’t just me walking around, it was the kids saying ‘good job,’” he said.

Papacs said the new method allowed him to spend more time with students who need additional support.

Papacs said he meets with Nellson once a week.

He was philosophical about what worked and what didn’t.

“Failure is information too,” he said. “It doesn’t have to be a home run every time.”

Asked if he is more confident than at the beginning of the year, he said “Oh, absolutely.”

Emily Piescki is the art teacher at Kent Center School. She worked with second grade teacher Ane Starr.

Piescki said she realized that the students needed a gradual approach, “instead of throwing things at the wall and seeing what sticks.”

In a watercolor class, the children were “having a great time, but not focused.”

So she developed a template and took the students through it, step by step.

Once the students knew the names of specific techniques, they could ask specific questions rather than general ones.

The moment of truth came

with hand-made ceramic bells.

“They all fired correctly,” Piescki said. “If you’ve ever worked with clay you know that’s a huge win.”

Starr and Piescki meet once a week.

Starr said “I think I’m learning as much as Emily. She’s a rock star. She doesn’t need me.”



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Our Towns

Local author recounts how royal statue was melted into wartime bullets

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE – Litchfield County may not have been the site of major battles during the American Revolution, but its residents made their mark in other ways – including turning a statue of King George III into 42,088 bullets.

Peter Vermilyea, a social studies teacher at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and author of the newly published “Litchfield County and the American Revolution,” walked an audience through the story of Oliver Wolcott — a prominent Litchfield County citizen — and the fate of the King George statue during a talk Saturday, April 4, at the D.M. Hunt Library in Falls Village.

The statue, made of lead and covered in gilt, was erected in Manhattan’s Bowling Green on Aug. 16, 1770, to commemorate the anniversary of the birth of Prince Frederick, the King’s father.

King George III was popular at the time, having signed the repeal of the hated Stamp Act.

The New York Sons of Liberty, however, saw things

differently. Vermilyea said they had lobbied for a statue of William Pitt, who led the fight against the Stamp Act.

But Parliament balked at the cost, especially to honor a colonial.

So alongside the gilded equestrian statue of the king in Roman finery stood a pedestrian-standing-statue of Pitt.

“The imperial message was clear.”

That message would not last. On July 9, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read aloud in New York.

The city was on edge anyway. The British occupied the harbor with about 32,000 troops, while George Washington and his army of roughly 20,000 shared the city with a civilian population of about 20,000.

Washington read the Declaration to the troops and assembled civilians.

The troops went back to barracks, but the civilians had other ideas.

They marched to Bowling Green and pulled down the statue of King George.

Among those watching was Litchfield’s Oliver Wolcott.

He was the son of a gov-

ernor, a governor himself as well as a member of the legislature.

Vermilyea said Wolcott was a Puritan and a conservative in every sense of the word. He was the last man to approve of or join in any sort of mob action, such as destroying a statue.

Vermilyea said the American Revolution was essentially a conservative action.

The colonists had been left more or less alone by the Crown for 100 years, until the French and Indian War (1754-1763).

And the colonies had prospered.

After the French and Indian War, however, the British became far more involved in the colonies and imposed the various taxes and levies that sparked the Revolution.

Far from being radicals, the colonists “wanted to go back to 1762.”

But events were moving fast, and by April of 1776, Wolcott wrote in a letter to his wife that independence was inevitable.

“A final separation between the countries I consider as unavoidable.”

Once the statue had been toppled and broken into sev-

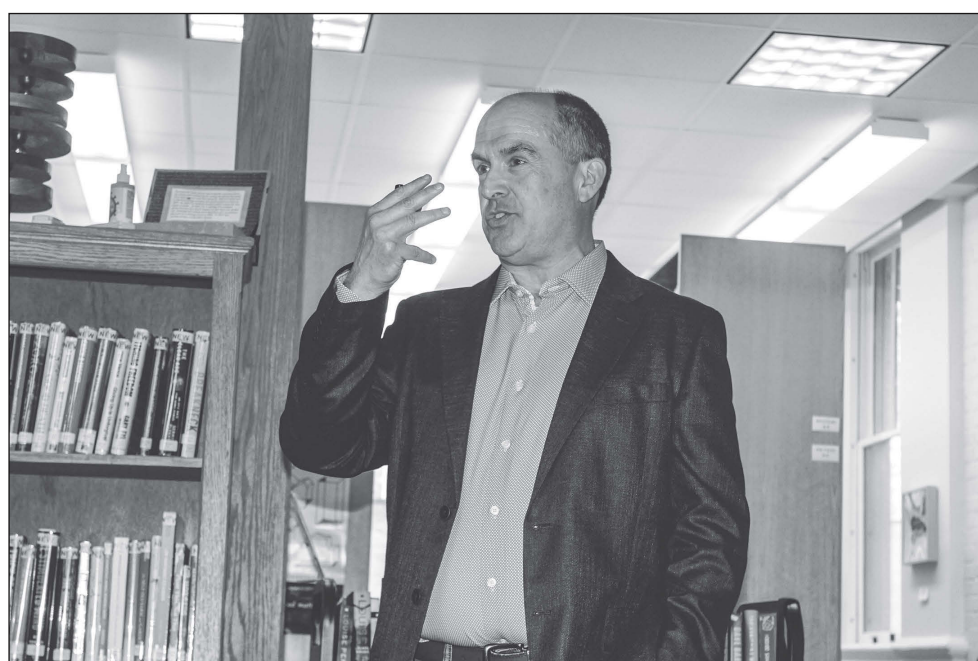


PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Peter Vermilyea, a social studies teacher at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and author of the newly published “Litchfield County and the American Revolution,” speaks at the D.M. Hunt Library on April 4 about how Litchfield residents turned a statue of King George III into 42,088 musket balls.

eral big pieces, Wolcott and the sheriff of New York took charge.

Wolcott told the crowd that the statue could be melted down for musket balls in Litchfield, and the pieces were loaded into an oxcart.

The journey was not easy. Loyalists intercepted the cart and made off with about half of the lead. Still, Wolcott and

the remaining fragments reached Litchfield.

In a shed in an apple orchard next to Wolcott’s home, the community got to work. The statue was reduced to 100 pieces, each weighing about 20 pounds.

Fires were built, and the lead pieces were melted in kettles and poured into molds.

Wolcott, methodical by

nature, kept detailed records on who produced what.

A Mrs. Marvin produced 6,058 bullets – referred to as “cartridges,” although they were round lead balls, not modern cartridges – while a woman named Mary Ann led the effort with 10,790.

Washington later said the ammunition made from the statue had been “exceedingly useful.”

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

A certified list(s) of party-selected candidates for the Democratic Party and Republican Party in the Town of Sharon for participation as DELEGATES to the Conventions of said Parties specified below are on file in my office at 63 Main Street, Sharon, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution:

CONVENTIONS

5th District (Democratic Party only)
24th District Judge of Probate
30th Senate District
64th State House District State Convention
Bianca DelTufo,
Sharon Town Clerk
04-09-26

LEGAL NOTICE

A certified list(s) of party selected candidates for the Democratic Party in the Town of Salisbury for participation as DELEGATES to the convention(s) of said Party specified below is on file in my office at 27 Main Street, Salisbury, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution:

CONVENTION(S)

2026 Congressional Convention
2026 Judge of Probate Convention
2026 State Convention
2026 State Assembly Convention
2026 State Senate Convention
Kristine M. Simmons
Town Clerk of Salisbury
04-09-26

LEGAL NOTICE

A certified list(s) of party-selected candidates for the Republican Party in the Town of Salisbury for participation as DELEGATES to the convention(s) of said Party specified below is on file in my office at 27 Main Street, Salisbury, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution:

CONVENTION(S)

2026 State Convention
2026 State Senate 30th

District Convention
2026 State Judge of Probate Convention
2026 State Convention
64th House District
Kristine M. Simmons
Town Clerk of Salisbury
04-09-26

Notice of Court Hearing

To All Interested Parties:
By order of the Superior Court for the Judicial District of Litchfield, notice is hereby given that Lime Rock Park II, LLC and the Lime Rock Citizens Council, LLC have filed a Motion to be Substituted as Parties and a Motion to Modify Stipulation and Injunction in the action originally titled Ann Adams et al. v. B. Franklin Vaill et al, Docket No. LLI-CV-58-0015459-S, which injunction was last modified in March 1988.

The Motion to Modify seeks to modify the terms of a permanent injunction entered into concerning the Lime Rock Park automobile race track in Salisbury, Connecticut. A copy of each motion, the 1988 modification and the proposed 2026 modification can be found on the Connecticut Judicial Branch website at Case Detail - LLI-CV58-0015459-S. The Motions are also on file at the Clerk’s office for the Superior Court for the Judicial District of Litchfield at Torrington, 50 Field Street under Docket No. LLI-CV-58-0015459-S.

A hearing on the Motion to Substitute Parties and the Motion to Modify the Stipulation will be held at the Superior Court for the Judicial District of Litchfield at Torrington, Connecticut, on May 12, 2026 at 2:00pm. Any person who wishes to be heard regarding either Motion may attend and speak.

04-09-26

04-16-26

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TOWN OF SHARON

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of Sharon, Connecticut, will be held at 63 Main Street, Sharon, Connecticut, on April 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. to consider and determine by vote of all eligible voters in attendance, the following purposes:

1. To see what action the Town will take in accepting the June 30, 2025 financial statements for the Town. Copies are available at the Town Hall and on the Website.

2. To see what action the Town will take in adopting the Ordinance for joining NRRA (Northwest Resource Recovery Authority). Copies are available at the Town Hall and on the Website.

3. To see what action the Town will take to approve the receipt and expenditure of LoCIP funds for the following, as approved by the Board of Finance:

a. \$20,000 for the update to the Town Plan of Conservation and Development

b. \$49,999 for the Top Coat of Boland Road

c. \$49,999 for the Top Coat of West Woods Road #1

4. To see what action the Town will take to adopt the Ten-Year Capital Projects Plan, as approved by the Board of Finance. Copies are available at the Town Hall and on the Website

5. To consider and act on a resolution,

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$7,000,000 FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECTS DESCRIBED IN THE TOWN’S APPROVED 10 YEAR CAPITAL PROJECTS PLAN; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$7,000,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION RESOLVED,

1. That the Town of Sharon appropriate an aggregate SEVEN

MILLION DOLLARS (\$7,000,000), for the costs of various capital projects, as further described in the Town’s approved 10 Year Capital Projects Plan. The appropriation may be spent for design and construction costs, materials, equipment, removal and disposal of existing materials, engineering and other consultants’ fees, acquisition and installation costs, legal fees, net temporary interest and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project and its financing. The Board of Selectmen may determine the particulars and may reduce or modify the scope of the project, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the reduced or modified project.

2. That the Town issue its bonds or notes, in an amount not to exceed SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS (\$7,000,000) to finance the appropriation for the project. The amount of bonds or notes issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants or other funds received by the Town for the project. The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-369 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town.

3. That the Town issue and renew its temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes and the receipt of grants for the project. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS (\$7,000,000). The notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts.

The notes shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-378a of the General Statutes with respect to any temporary notes if the notes do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

4. That the First Selectman and the Treasurer of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Pullman & Comley, LLC is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes. The First Selectman and the Treasurer are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to designate a municipal advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

5. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The First Selectman and the

Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

6. That the First Selectman and the Treasurer are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes.

7. That the First Selectman, the Treasurer, and other proper officers and officials of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the project, and to issue the bonds or notes and to obtain grants and other funds to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

Dated at Sharon, Connecticut, this 24th of March 2026.

Casey T. Flanagan, First Selectman
Lynn S. Keacher, Selectman
John G. Brett, Selectman
04-09-26

The deadline for legal notices is Friday at 4 p.m. for publication the following Thursday.

Notices can be emailed to legals@lakevillejournal.com or mailed to The Lakeville Journal, ATTN: Legal Notices, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

Go to www.tricornnews.com/legalnotices to view current and past legal notices.

OBITUARIES

Lucille A. Mikesell

CANAAN — Lucille A. Mikesell passed away peacefully on April 3 with family at her home in Canaan Valley, Connecticut. She was 106.

Born on Sept. 5, 1919 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, she was the daughter of William Harvey Cohea, of Mason, Illinois, and Lillian Amanda Williams of Morley, Iowa. She graduated from Roosevelt High School in Cedar Rapids in 1937, and married her husband, Ralph J. Mikesell in 1938.

Lucille lived through over a century of dramatic change including a childhood interrupted by the Great Depression. During World War II she was employed at Collins Radio in Cedar Rapids while her husband served in the Army Corp of Engineers in the South Pacific. Later she worked for and retired from American States Insurance Company as a claims specialist.

Lucille was very active in volunteer work after her retirement. She was an original member of the R.S.V.P. Golden Warblers Chorus for 20 years in Cedar Rapids and volunteered at Truman Elementary, also in Cedar Rapids, for 14 years in the reading program.

With her lovely soprano voice she found great joy in singing. She participated in the Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale and spent over 50 years as a devoted member of the Christ Church Presbyterian choir in Cedar Rapids. At the spry age of 95, when she moved to live with her

daughter, Lillie Mikesell in Canaan Valley, she joined the St. John's Episcopal Church choir in Salisbury where her daughter was Music Director.

Her lifelong love affair with all things Iowa included a deep engagement with Iowa sports. Even after her move to Connecticut she avidly followed all the Iowa teams.

Lucille's living family members include her daughter, Lillie and spouse Karen Byers of Canaan Valley, grandsons Blake Mikesell of Lincoln, Nebraska, Jeffrey David Mikesell of Boulder City, Nevada, granddaughters Suzi Wojciechowski of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Nicole Pollock (Marc) of Amana, Iowa, and great granddaughters, Ellah Mikesell of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Hailey Pollock of Amana, Iowa.

She was predeceased by her husband, Ralph J. Mikesell of Council Bluffs, Iowa, her son, Jonathan David Mikesell, also of Cedar Rapids, and her beloved little brother, William Harvey Cohea, Jr., late of Columille in Bangor, Pennsylvania.

The family thanks Sally Strano, CNA and longtime friend Teri Miller for their unflinching friendship and support of Lucille, and Eilene Rydel, R.N. for her gentle home hospice care.

Memorial donations can be made in her name to a favorite place: The Douglas Library, 108 Main Street, North Canaan, CT, 06018.

A private service will be held.

Robert Donald Stevens

MILLERTON — Robert Donald "Bob" Stevens, 63, a lifelong area resident died unexpectedly on Monday evening, March 30, 2026, at his home in Millerton, New York. Bob had a 40-year career with the Town of North East Highway Department where he currently served as the Town of North East Highway Superintendent for nearly two decades. One of Bob's proudest accomplishments was seeing the completion of the new Town of North East Highway Department Facility on Route 22 in Millerton.

Born Dec. 20, 1962, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Kenneth W. and Roberta K. (Briggs) Stevens. Bob was a 1981 graduate of Webutuck High School in Amenia, he also attended BOCES Technical School in Salt Point, New York, while enrolled at Webutuck. Bob served his community for many years as an active member of the Millerton Fire Company and was a longtime member of the New York State Association of Town Superintendents of Highways, Inc., where he always enjoyed attending highway training school in Lake Placid. Bob really enjoyed traversing the local roadways in Millerton in his iconic orange pick-up truck, and could often be seen at all hours of the day and night making sure that the main roads and side roads were in the best possible condition for his friends and neighbors. Bob loved

the Town of North East and he will be dearly missed by those he served throughout his decades long career.

In his spare time, he enjoyed texting with his son Robert, time on the Hudson River and rebuilding engines for many friends in his younger years.

Bob is survived by his son, Robert Donald Stevens, Jr., and his partner Elizabeth Gillett of Austin, Texas; his sister, Donna M. Archer of Rockledge, Pennsylvania; his nephew Josh Archer and his wife, Ashley Archer Monteiro of Jenkintown, Pennsylvania; his aunt, Annette Shaffer; his uncle, Frederick G. Briggs and many good friends. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his aunt, June Briggs.

At Bob's request there will be no calling hours. Private entombment in The Community Mausoleum will take place at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, 342 South Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY.

Special stories, reflections of Bob and condolence offerings can be sent to Bob's son at Robert.Stevens.Jr@gmail.com. Memorial contributions may be made to the Millerton Fire Company, P.O. Box 733, Millerton, NY 12546. To send an online condolence to the family or to plant a tree in Bob's memory, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.



OUR TOWNS

Sharon names new Parks and Recreation Director

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON — The Town of Sharon has named Torrington resident Bryan Failla as its new Parks and Recreation director, following the retirement of longtime director Matthew Andrus-Mette, who held the position for 27 years.

Failla, 34, said the role is a natural fit, noting that he has "always been a sports guy," while acknowledging that he has big shoes to fill.

"The community loves Matt," Failla said. "I'm not coming in to change things — I'll be building upon what Matt's done."

Failla said he plans to start by getting to know the community and its needs,

adding that he enjoys working with people of all ages.

Before coming to Sharon, Failla served as an athletic director at Region 20's Plum Hill Middle School for two years. He also spent six years in law enforcement as a police officer with the Winchester Police Department.

Failla holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts Boston, where he played baseball, and a master's degree in sports administration from Arkansas State University. He said he enjoys playing golf and volunteering with the Torrington Police Athletic League (PAL).

Sharon's Parks and Recreation Department oversees the Little Rascals



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Bryan Failla

summer camp, summer concerts, an annual triathlon, a summer crafts fair and senior bus trips, in addition to a variety of recreational activities.

The department will also see a staffing change beyond the leadership transition.

Former director Andrus-Mette said his previous role has been split into two separate positions: a director — a role Failla has been hired to fill — and a maintenance staff member from the town crew to oversee the athletic fields and beach.

Send Family & Friends announcements to editor@lakevillejournal.com



Worship Services

Week of April 12, 2026

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

Trinity Episcopal Church
484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville
Offering companionship along the Way
Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org
trinity@trinitylimerock.org
(860) 435-2627

North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC
Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people
172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT
Worship services Sundays at 10 am
www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational
860-824-7232

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

Congregation Beth David
A Reform Jewish Synagogue
5344 East Main St., Amenia
SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM
Twice Monthly - Followed by Oneg
(Calendar at congbethdavid.org)
ALL ARE WELCOME
Rabbi Jon Haddon
845-373-8264
info@congbethdavid.org

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

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

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

The Smithfield Presbyterian Church
656 Smithfield Valley Rd.
Route 83, Amenia, NY
Services every Sunday 10 a.m.
www.thsmithfieldchurch.org
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All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church
515 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT
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Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
Special Services Online
Rev. John Kreta
860-824-1340 | allsaintsofamerica.us

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

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.
30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!
Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org
Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy!
(860) 435-2442

St. John's Episcopal Church
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
SUNDAY SERVICE
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)
Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge
In-Person and on You-Tube
www.stjohnssalisbury.org

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St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan
St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville
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Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary
Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church
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Thursday 8am
Immaculate Conception Church
Friday 8am
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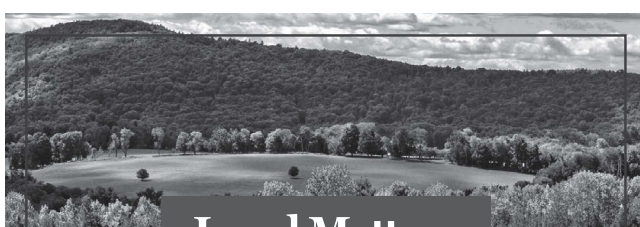
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Rev. Mary Gates

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In appreciation of Larry Power

Larry worked endlessly to build the Sharon Land Trust and saved so many beautiful acres that we all enjoy seeing everyday-The Twin Oaks being the centerpiece. He even found replacements for the original trees when

these died.

The SLT would not be the wonderful organization that it is without his far reaching leadership getting it accredited and widely supported.

Anne Hepner

Sharon

Inhumanity has become endemic

The latest aggressions in both Iran and Lebanon demonstrate a lack of humanity. The opening salvo in the Iran war was the incineration of 175 girls at an elementary school in Teheran. This was followed by massive destruction of infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, police stations, bridges, and energy, electric and water facilities serving the general population. All of these are war crimes and result in the death and suffering of civilians. Think about how to preserve milk for babies without refrigeration. Or how to care for sick ones with a bombed hospital.

If that isn't bad enough, we have to endure watching the self-styled Secretary of War spend day after day thumping his chest in belligerent ways about the annihilation of Iran, with no mercy, as if that's a new military paradigm to be proud about. And of course, Trump has been doing the same, using hyperbole in everything he utters to scare Iran into risking total obliteration, a word he loves to use. Is total obliteration and destruction of a country what the good guys are supposed to do these days?

Israel is equally inhumane. They ordered one million Lebanese, 17% of the country's population, to leave their homes within hours, and they were told that they may not return for "security" purposes. Now the Israelis are systematically blowing up their homes and villages so they have nothing to go back to even if they could return. These

are not Hezbollah fighters' lairs, but the homes and villages of ordinary Lebanese, including many Christians.

Seventeen percent of the US would be as if 59 million Americans were immediately told to leave their homes - forever. Those displaced people are like you and me, with elderly parents, children and grandchildren who now have nowhere to go but into the streets of other parts of their country. I have a friend who is lamenting that not only will he never be able to visit his family home and village again, but he will never be able to visit his parents' graves, if they even continue to exist.

The latest demonstration of disregard for human life was the recent law passed by the Israeli Knesset calling for the hanging of any Palestinian convicted of terrorism. Note that almost 100% of Palestinians accused of this are found guilty, which indicates an absence of adequate due process by the military courts used in such cases. The Israelis are known to torture Palestinians to elicit a "confession" from them. Some Palestinians end up actually preferring death to continued torture, since there is no hope for them to receive relief from the pain and agony.

The inhumanity is bad enough. But the silence and apathy from most of the world is equally shocking. This is where we have arrived as a society. My fellow citizens, what do you have to say about it, and what are you going to do about it?

Lloyd Baroody

Lakeville



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Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com Include name, town and phone number. Keep letters to 500 words or less.

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

Navigating the unfriendly skies

Airlines and passengers alike are buffeted by everything from weather to war. Long lines at the security gates, cancelled or delayed flights, war, weather, and the stock market have hurt both commercial carriers and their human cargoes.

March had not been good for either airline or its passengers. More than 12,500 U.S. flights were delayed by storms in some cases on. Daily basis as storms buffeted the East Coast and other locales. American Airlines, Southwest, and Delta delayed or canceled 45% of flights in a recent week. This is nothing out of the ordinary. Severe weather this winter has become just another liability for both carriers and passengers.

As the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran began, conflict forced the cancellation of more than 52,000 flights to and from the Middle East. Since then, airlines that once relied on flying over Iran and other Gulf states must find alternative routes to their destinations. Geopolitical strife seems to be cropping up wherever you look (or fly over). What was once an efficient and finely tuned worldwide aviation travel network is now at risk of becoming a patchwork of fragmenting connections and workarounds.

THE RETIRED INVESTOR BILL SCHMICK

As a result, not only are airplanes burning more fuel since they are forced to travel longer distances, but flights are getting longer and longer to get from point A to point B. Not only does this eat into carriers' profitability, but it also adds to the woes of your typical passengers. The price of flights is rising along with oil, making it harder to travel long distances, even if one is lucky enough to catch a flight.

Geopolitical conflicts have become a nightmare for travelers. Thousands have been stranded in the Middle East, and before that by the Venezuela/U.S. raids, and let's not forget the past four years of ongoing conflict between the Russia and Ukraine war.

Adding insult to injury, depending upon the airport, air travelers were encountering long airport security lines, some of which snaked out to the sidewalks surrounding the airport. Many major airports were experiencing nearly 3 hours in TSA lines, causing massive delays and missed flights during peak hours. Delays of at least 1 hour were reported in Atlanta, New Orleans, Charlotte, and Houston.

The culprit was the partial federal shutdown of Homeland Security funding, which had led to staffing difficulties at the Transportation Security Administration. Security personnel, until this week, had not received a paycheck for weeks. The U.S. Senate is still squabbling over funding.

The president sent his ICE agents to help but reports were that they were simply making matters worse. Finally, Trump ordered the head of Homeland Security to find the money and pay the TSA workers. He did. Readers might wonder why Trump had not simply done that in the first place.

Like consumers, airlines are also grappling with higher energy prices. A sharp spike in jet fuel costs have decimated profits. Since the start of the war, the global average price of jet fuel has soared 58%, based on International Air Transport Association data. Since then, it has almost doubled. Fuel accounts for 20-25% of airline operating costs, and average prices have risen from \$2.50 before the crisis

to \$4.57 per gallon now. Although some airlines hedge, many do not, and hedging often covers only part of their fuel needs.

Advance purchase fares more than doubled for transcontinental flights in the first week of the war. Fares to the Caribbean jumped 58% and 43% to Florida. Several airlines, mostly in the Asia-Pacific region, have either increased fares or announced fuel surcharges. Air India, for example, tacked on a \$50 ticket charge for all flights to Europe, North America, and Australia. Cathay Pacific doubled fuel surcharges starting March 18th.

U.S. airlines on domestic flights are prohibited from levying a separate fuel surcharge. Instead, they include fuel costs in the overall ticket price. Flyers can expect ticket prices to increase this summer unless oil prices drop back to pre-war levels in the next week or so. In the meantime, expect premium add-ons like seat upgrades, extra legroom seats, checked bags, or priority boarding to be adjusted upward.

Airline stocks have dropped sharply since the Iran war, driven by higher fuel costs and flight disruptions. U.S. airlines have generally underperformed the

market this year, reflecting persistent concerns about weaker demand and limited pricing power. The industry also faces elevated labor costs and ongoing pilot shortages.

However, in recent days, some brave-hearted traders have been buying the dip in this area. Airline management says revenues are still increasing in both international and domestic travel, despite the challenges they face. Delta Airlines, American Airlines, and United Airlines all raised their revenue outlooks for the year. Consumer demand is still robust, they say, despite the long lines, added expense, and frustration.

Some airlines are now warning that they will be cutting back flights on less travelled and therefore less profitable routes. Analysts are warning that the higher oil prices climb and the longer they remain elevated, the greater the risk that flyers will pull back, and with them, the airlines' stock prices.

Bill Schmick is a founding partner of Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires. Bill's forecasts and opinions are purely his own and do not necessarily represent the views of Onota Partners, Inc. (OPI). None of his commentary is or should be considered investment advice.

YOUR NEWS

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PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Spring has arrived

Viewpoint

Governor argues weakly against voter ID proposal

Democratic leaders in Connecticut are clamoring against what Republicans in Congress are calling the SAVE Act, which would require people registering to vote to produce proof of citizenship. Since the state's congressional delegation is entirely Democratic and there is little chance that the state will elect any Republican to Congress this year, the Democrats may fear that the principle of the SAVE Act makes so much sense that Republicans could exploit it even in Connecticut.

National opinion polls show the public overwhelmingly favors requiring proof of citizenship for voter registration.

So the other day Governor Lamont, Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, and Secretary of the State Stephanie Thomas held a press conference to publicize their opposition to requiring proof of citizenship. Their arguments were weak but they could have been confident that reporters would not question them critically.

"I don't want to put up all these bureaucratic roadblocks to make it tougher" to vote, the governor said. He added: "I don't think I need any lectures about election fraud from a president who famously called the secretary

THE CHRIS POWELL COLUMN

of state down in Georgia and told him to 'find me 11,780 votes.'"

Yes, President Trump is often disgraceful. But that is not an argument for or against policy; it is a distraction, frequently used by Democrats these days to change the subject.

As for what the governor calls "all these bureaucratic roadblocks," meeting the requirement of the SAVE Act — producing proof of citizenship — would not be onerous. Proof would be constituted by a birth certificate, a naturalization certificate, or a U.S. passport. While many citizens haven't secured their birth certificate, replacing one is not difficult, and maintaining one may be considered part of basic responsibility to one's family and society.

After all, producing identification is required in many aspects of daily life -- like banking and obtaining government licenses, transportation tickets, and telephone and utility services. Nearly everyone in the country has often had to produce identifi-

cation in pursuit of a normal life.

Replacing a birth certificate may take a while, but a requirement for proof of citizenship in voter registration could give people plenty of time to get their documents in order. The next elections are seven months away.

As for Trump's corruption in pursuit of extra votes in Georgia, how much more corrupt was that than the last Democratic national administration's opening the borders to millions of illegal immigrants. How much more corrupt was it than Connecticut's issuance of driver's licenses and New Haven's issuance of city identification cards to illegal immigrants precisely to facilitate their living in the state illegally and thereby to increase the number of Democrat-dominated state and federal legislative election districts?

At the press conference Secretary Thomas noted that under the SAVE Act driver's licenses would not help people register to vote. Well, of course not. As shown by Connecticut's own driver's licenses issued to illegal immigrants, driver's licenses aren't proof of citizenship.

Opposing requiring proof of citizenship in voter registration, Connecticut Democrats note that there isn't

much evidence of illegal immigrants voting. But it does happen sometimes, there long has been much evidence of election fraud in Bridgeport, and recently a member of Tolland's Town Council -- a Republican -- was exposed as having changed his legal residence to Florida and having registered to vote there without resigning from the council.

Indeed, some Democrats around the country already propose to let non-citizens vote in municipal elections.

In any case Connecticut has never done a serious audit of its voter rolls and the state allows anyone to register to vote simply by claiming to be a citizen, at the risk of being charged with making a false statement. But such claims are never checked, and people know it.

The governor doesn't want to be lectured about election security by Trump. Fair enough. So why should supporters of a citizenship requirement for voter registration want to be lectured about election security by a governor who is enthusiastically subverting enforcement of immigration law?

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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago —
April 1901

U.S. Attorney-General Griggs, who resigned from President McKinley's cabinet last week, expects to spend the month of July with his family at the Hillhurst, Norfolk.

A peddler crossing Canaan Mountain a few days ago met with quite a serious accident. His horse slipped and fell into water so deep that he had to tie up the horse's head to keep it from drowning while he went for assistance. After several hours' labor with plenty of help they succeeded in rescuing the horse and cart.

SHARON — Miss Lottie Miller, the Central girl, is ill with the grip at her home on Sharon Mountain.

LIME ROCK — The Bar-num, Richardson Company is receiving a car-load of Fancy Oregon seed oats this week.

100 years ago —
April 1926

Adv.: WANTED — Household assistant for summer months in house with all conveniences. No objection to elderly woman. Mrs. Walter Angus, Taconic.

Local motorists are warned to operate their cars very slowly and carefully while passing through the town of Amenia. A new traffic cop in that place is taking his duties very seriously.

50 years ago —
April 1976

Over the strong objections of a prominent dairy farmer seeking to preserve his view, the Hartford Electric Light Co. has placed a new 80-foot-high transmission pole in the middle of a pasture at the foot of Roberts Hill near the Goshen-Cornwall line. The farmer is Willis Ocain of Cornwall Hollow, the fourth generation of family that has farmed in the same locations. He criticized HELCO and its parent company, Northeast Utilities, for not consulting him on the location of 11 new poles on his property, contending that the pole in the middle mars a prized pastoral scene and violates terms of an easement previously granted by his grandfather.

LAKEVILLE — "Virtually all" of the merchandise taken in a Saturday night break-in at Community Service had been recovered, proprietor Michael Turnure said Tuesday. Several persons saw the burglary in progress but did not report it, according to Turnure. Two garbage cans full of stolen goods were found in the Community Service lumber yard across the street from the store, he said. A wheelbarrow from the store apparently was used to carry the things to their hiding place.

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

Champion Cairnwoods Quince, leading male Cairn terrier in the country and owned by the Taylor Colemans, returned in triumph to his home at "Wolfpit" in Sharon on Sunday. In competition with 278 other terriers, he was named winner by Judge Peter Knoop at the Western Pennsylvania Kennel Association Show at Pittsburgh. Quince, on a national rating, was one of the top 10 terrier male producers in 1974 and 1975 and top Cairn in dog show wins for the same two years.

25 years ago —
April 2001

CORNWALL — Celebrating 25 years of touring with international arts programs, East-West Fusion Theatre actress Teviot Fairservis from Cornwall Bridge has been selected as a "Connecticut Master Teaching Artist" by the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. She has performed and taught for East-West in more than 2,000 schools in 30 states.

SALISBURY — It's been a rough year for the venerable stone kettle outside Town Hall. The century-old fountain has been vandalized twice in recent months. And, adding insult to injury, local health authorities have now decreed that natural spring water will never be allowed to flow through it again. The Torrington Area Health District required the town to shut off the spring water supply to the kettle in 1998, when traces of coliform bacteria turned up in tests of the water. The water now coming from the fountain is actually regular old tap water provided by Bridgeport Hydraulic Company.

Kent Memorial Librarian Deborah Custer was feted at a well-attended party in her honor last Friday evening. After working more than 20 years at the facility, Mrs. Custer is retiring and moving to Maine.

CANAAN — "It's so simple," is often used to describe the most ingenious inventions. But few will be saying "Why didn't I think of that" when they hear of an idea at one local farm. For now, they are affectionately called "poop pots" by the Freund family at their East Canaan farm. And the name says it all. They look like the peat pots used for starting plants indoors. The difference is they are made from composted cow manure. No, they don't have an odor and they are perfectly hygienic.

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

Why the SAVE Act must not pass Congress

The right to vote in the United States has never come easily. For much of the nation's history, large groups of Americans were denied access to the ballot box.

Women were not guaranteed the right to vote until the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, and many Black Americans continued to face discriminatory barriers until the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

Over time, the country has worked to remove obstacles that prevented citizens from participating in democracy. That history is why proposals like the SAVE Act deserve scrutiny. While the proposal is presented as a measure to protect election integrity, requiring proof of citizenship to vote risks creating new barriers for eligible voters.

Debates about election integrity have become a defining feature of American politics since the 2020 presidential election. President Donald Trump has repeatedly claimed that widespread fraud occurred when he lost to Joe Biden. However, numerous investigations and court rulings found little evidence that the 2020 election was compromised.

Despite those findings, a new proposal known as the SAVE Act has emerged. The SAVE Act, short for the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, would require Americans to provide documentary proof of citizenship, such as a passport or birth certificate, when registering to vote in federal elections.

At first glance, the proposals sound reasonable. Only U.S. citizens are allowed to vote in federal elections. However, the SAVE Act attempts to solve a problem that little evidence suggests actually exists, which will make it harder for millions of eligible Americans to participate in our democracy.

For college students who register to vote on campus,

CT MIRROR/ VIEWPOINTS WILLIAM MOROZ

obtaining official citizenship documents may not be simple. Many students do not carry birth certificates or passports with them at school, which will create unnecessary barriers to participation.

Another consequence of the SAVE Act involves Americans who have legally changed their names. Millions of married women in the United States take their spouse's last name, meaning the name on their birth certificate no longer matches the name on their driver's license or voter registration. If proof of citizenship is tied strictly to documents like birth certificates, many of these voters could face additional bureaucratic hurdles when registering to vote. Policies intended to protect elections should not make it harder for eligible citizens to exercise their right to vote.

Another issue with the SAVE Act is the assumption that most Americans already possess documents proving citizenship. Millions of Americans do not have ready access to identifying documentation. Obtaining these documents requires time, fees, and dealing with slow and often outdated bureaucratic processes. For individuals working multiple jobs, caring for families, or living far from government offices, these requirements will discourage participation in elections even more than there already is by creating more red tape.

There is also the broader constitutional question regarding federal authority. Historically, states have played the primary role in administering elections and managing voter registration systems. A sweeping federal mandate dictating doc-

umentation requirements risks overriding systems that states have developed since the country's conception. Rather than imposing a one-size-fits-all rule from Washington, policymakers should work with states to strengthen election administration without creating unnecessary barriers.

It is also important to remember that non-citizen voting is already illegal and carries serious penalties. Individuals who attempt to vote unlawfully can face fines, imprisonment, and deportation. Election officials across the country already verify voter registration information and maintain voter rolls to prevent ineligible voting. Creating sweeping new documentation requirements for every voter is not the most effective way to address a problem that existing laws already prohibit.

In Connecticut, where many college students register to vote on campus and where voter participation is often encouraged through civic engagement programs, policies like the SAVE Act will create unnecessary bar-

riers for eligible voters.

The SAVE Act is being promoted as a safeguard for elections, but in practice it will move the country in the wrong direction. Throughout American history, progress in democracy has meant removing barriers to voting, not creating new ones. From the expansion of voting rights in the nineteenth century, to the Nineteenth Amendment, to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the nation has gradually worked to make participation in democracy more accessible.

Policies promoted during the Trump administration, such as the SAVE Act, threaten to reverse the progress that civil rights advocates have fought so hard for. If enacted, it would introduce new bureaucratic obstacles for millions of eligible voters.

At a moment when our democracy is at risk, the SAVE Act must not pass.

William Moroz is a political science student at Southern Connecticut State University and president of the Student Government Association.

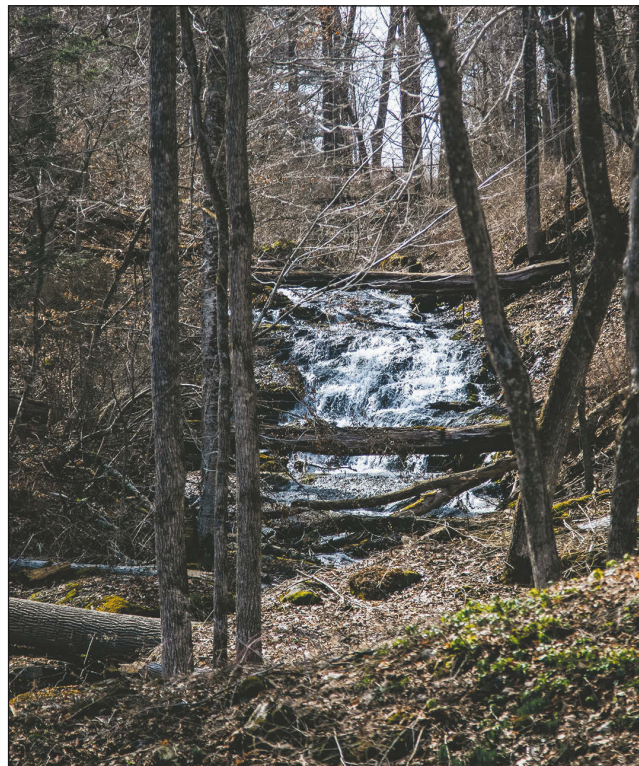


PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

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PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Joel Blumert, left, and Bob Hennessy, right, captivate the audience with folk renditions of songs across genres.

Music and more at 12 Moons

By Alec Linden

FALLS VILLAGE – Nearly 30 creatives from the Northwest Corner and beyond gathered under the high ceilings of Falls Village’s Center on Main on Saturday night to bask in the breadth of performance artists the region has to offer.

Held on the first Saturday of each month, the 12 Moons Coffeehouse — an event organized by husband-and-wife duo John and Nancy Nowak — has brought local artists together with near-uninterrupted regularity since 2012.

The April 4 program followed the standard 12 Moons format, kicking off with an open mic session before a featured act took the stage. This month’s headliners were Salisbury-based guitarist and vocalist Joel Blumert, accompanied by harmonica player Bob Hennessy of Cromwell.

The evening began with a slate of open mic performers, who shared their work with a respectful yet lively audience. Some attendees sipped coffee or tea and enjoyed do-

nation-based treats provided by 12 Moons, while others brought their own snacks and wine, adding to the bohemian coffeehouse atmosphere.

John Nowak led the open session with his rendition of “The Ones I Love” by contemporary folk artist Robby Hecht. With performers limited to 10 minutes each, the program moved quickly.

Among the varied offerings were piano and vocal performances by Amy Olitsky, blues guitar from John Sprague, and original instrumental guitar pieces by Danny Peelish. Sandro LaRosa shared songs from Italy, while Betsy Glassman and Frank Derwitsch performed with their folk-rock band, The Greys. Mary Ellen Braun offered traditional tunes a cappella, David Capellaro recited his original poetry, and another performer combined vocals with African drumming.

Renowned fingerstyle guitarist and 12 Moons fixture — as well as next month’s featured performer — Stephen Bennett closed out the

open session with two tracks demonstrating his agile style: a lilting, decades-old original called “Most Beautiful Sky” and a bouncy instrumental version of The Beatles’ classic “I Saw Her Standing There.”

Even without words, his lively interpretation of the song had audience members humming and singing gently along within seconds of opening the first verse.

After a short break, Blumert and Hennessy launched into an hour of folk interpretations of source material ranging from traditional folk tunes to 1960’s jazz standards and even the 1981 hit “Tempted” by British band Squeeze.

“It’s weird playing at night,” Blumert said as he tuned up one of his two custom-finish jade green instruments from Irish manufacturer Emerald Guitars. “I mostly play at nursing homes, and I’m usually playing at about 2 o’clock in the afternoon,” he continued, getting a warm laugh from the crowd.

Between covers of classics like Johnny Mathis’

“When Sunny Gets Blue” and Paul Craft’s bluegrass staple “Raised by the Railroad Line,” Blumert played one of his own songs, a seasonally-appropriate number called “Bloodroots in Blossom” that he said was inspired by the sight of a great blue heron from the Dover Plains train station twenty years ago.

“Ideas for songs come from really weird places,” he said.

He closed the night out with an energetic call-and-response performance of Preston “Red” Foster’s 1956 blues tune “Got My Mojo Working,” made famous by Muddy Waters’ recording the next year.

While breaking down after the show, Nowak reflected on the long-running, donation-only event. “It promotes community, live music and poetry,” he said. “And we’re going to keep doing it.”

12 Moons will return to the Center on Main the first Saturday in May for Stephen Bennett’s feature performance and, as always, plenty of additional talent to enjoy.

HVRHS

Continued from Page A1

to expand learning beyond the classroom, encouraging creativity, exploration and real-world experience. The fund also supports the high school journalism program with the Lakeville Journal.

Students lined the room with their displays. Addie Diorio and Ivy Zheng of Canaan, members of the Robotics team, explained how they have to build a robot from scratch and program it to participate in two competitions a year. “You have to make a commitment,” said Diorio. “From January to March, we worked on it six days a week.” The 13 members are mentored by community volunteers Devin Rout and Ben Lesch.

Both students said the experience has opened their eyes to the field of engineering, which they may pursue. They, like the others, expressed their deep gratitude for the assistance given by the fund. “It costs a lot of money for parts and competition fees,” Diorio said. “The 21st Century Fund has given us a lot of grants.”

Logan Padelli of Canaan and brothers Owen and Alastair Schnepf of Wassauc, NY, were at the Envirothon booth. That club’s members, which has teacher David Moran as its advisor, aim to improve the environment and ecosystem.

“We like to spend time in nature,” said Owen Schnepf.

This year, students will compete in New Haven on May 21, where they will be tested in five areas: wildlife, forestry, soils, aquatics and current issues, the latter of which changes every year. This year, the topic is non-



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

HVRHS Robotics Club members Addie Diorio, left, and Ivy Zheng explain the club’s purpose during the March 31 event showcasing the 21st Century Fund for HVRHS.

point soil solutions.

They are appreciative of the fund that, among other things, paid for soil kits and allows them to travel to competitions.

Chris Crane of Canaan and Michael Gawel of Sheffield, Mass., were at the vo-ag table, where they described the lab land, a two-acre parcel just down the road from HVRHS that the school is leasing from Eversource. Students are learning how to monitor irrigation practices at the nearby Housatonic River and will be installing gardens to provide fruits and vegetables for the school cafeteria.

“Everything is student-driven,” said Crane, “and we get industry leaders to guide us.” They both remarked how much help the project has received from the fund.

International Travel Club

teachers Danielle Melino and Letitia Garcia-Tripp said they have sent 300 students around the world on service trips to places such as Japan, Thailand, Italy, Greece, Ireland, Scotland, Iceland and the Galápagos Islands. Students visited schools and interacted with children, planted gardens and worked at an elephant sanctuary.

While the teens have to help fundraise for such trips, financial barriers were reduced given the help of the 21st Century Fund. One student showed a video of a trip she had taken, using it as her capstone project.

Among those who addressed the audience was state Rep. Maria Horn, D-64, of Salisbury, who said nonprofits are facing uncertainty due to federal funding cuts. She praised Mahoney and Herwat for

their foresight in establishing the fund to “widen students’ horizons and let them pursue new ideas. There are so many in this community who support our kids.”

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong, who attended the event, said he was impressed by the projects and noted that, while it may sound like a cliché, education is the answer.

He also highlighted issues his office is addressing and pointed to the Birthright Clause now before the Supreme Court, an issue of particular interest to him as the son of immigrants.

Tong said he still marvels that someone who once worked in his parents’ Chinese restaurant could grow up to become Connecticut’s 25th attorney general.

“My life was only possible here and no other place in the world,” he said.

KRATOM

Continued from Page A1

concentrated liquid “shots,” have long existed in a regulatory gray area.

Connecticut's recent classification now places the substance alongside heroin and LSD, effectively banning its state sale, transport and possession.

Impact on merchants' bottom line

In North Canaan, the change is immediate and visible.

At Smoker's Choice and nearby The Smoking Ape — two North Canaan smoke shops within a mile of each other — kratom products have been removed entirely.

A large portion of the wall behind the counter at Smoker's Choice that once held kratom products is now bare.

During a March 31 visit, an employee declined to elaborate beyond confirming that all kratom is no longer being sold. “You can see the empty shelves,” he said.

At The Smoking Ape, which opened at 61 East Main St. in January, owner Omar Nasser said all kratom products have been pulled from the shelves. They have also been removed from his store in Torrington.

“We gave everything back to our vendors,” he said, noting that the loss was significant. “It was a big contributor to our sales,” he said.

Nasser said many shops saw big losses with the ban.

“Some sellers lost a lot of money — threw it away or sold it at a discount,” he said. “It would be no surprise if others are taking it over the border into New York to sell it or are selling it under the table.”

In the days leading to the ban, he said, demand at his shops surged.

“I sold what I could,” he said, noting that some customers were buying in bulk as the deadline loomed.

Clinicians warn of a critical window for intervention

Clinicians say they are concerned about a largely unaddressed consequence: people going into sudden withdrawal without support.

New data from Mountainside Treatment Center, an addiction rehabilitation facility in North Canaan, shows kratom-related admissions have nearly tripled over the past year, pointing to a growing population of residents who may be physically dependent as access disappears overnight.

Clinicians say the days immediately following the ban are a critical intervention window — and warn that, without support, some individuals may seek more dangerous alternatives.

“With the ban taking effect, we are deeply concerned about what happens next for the people already using kratom daily,” said Jana Wu, director of clinical integration at Mountainside and a national expert on kratom dependence treatment.

Many individuals, Wu explained, don't realize they've developed a physical dependence until they try to stop.

“Withdrawal symptoms can include anxiety, insomnia, nausea and intense cravings. When access disappears overnight, people may find themselves in crisis without knowing where to turn.”

Since the ban took effect, Nasser said customers have continued to come into his North Canaan and Torrington shops — some, he said, seeking relief from withdrawal.

“They're looking for something” to replace kratom, he said. In response, the store owner has been recommending various botanical extracts in pill form.

However, he doubts that it



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MURRAY

Empty shelves mark where kratom products were removed at Smoker's Choice in North Canaan following Connecticut's statewide ban on the substance.

is meeting the needs of kratom consumers.

“I don't think it does the same job as kratom. I don't think it's even close. Withdrawal from kratom is very serious, like heroin. It's not a joke,” he said.

He also believes the ban is already shifting behavior.

Some customers, he said, are traveling across the border into neighboring Dutchess County, where kratom remains legal for those 21 and older.

Others, particularly at his Torrington location, he fears, may turn to stronger substances.

“I think people will be going, definitely, to hardcore drugs,” Nasser said.

At Shawn's City Smoke in Torrington, owner Shawn Chowdhury said his family-run business removed kratom products immediately following the state's Feb. 24 announcement, weeks before the ban took effect.

“We took it off the shelves right away,” he said of his inventory, which consisted only of all-natural kratom leaf powder. “We did not want to take any chances.”

Chowdhury said kratom made up only a small share of his business and that removing it will not significantly affect his bottom line.

He added that more concentrated forms of kratom are particularly concerning and expressed support for restricting them.

“They should take it out if it's bad,” he said, referring to 7-hydroxymitragynine, or 7-OH, a concentrated compound derived from the kratom plant. 7-OH has a much higher potency.

Treatment providers watch for fallout

At Mountainside, clinicians say the effects of the ban are already being felt.

“We are definitely seeing more calls — not only from Connecticut but from other states,” said Wu, referring to the concentrated compound. “People are getting nervous.”

She said the anxiety reflects a broader national moment, pointing to a rise in overdose-related calls to the CDC pertaining to 7-OH and national poison control centers.

“Those numbers have spurred more political action, and in this election year, a lot of politicians are speaking up.”

The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is among several agencies working to address concerns about the growing availability and use of 7-OH.

“Vape stores are popping up in every neighborhood in America, and many are selling addictive products like concentrated 7-OH,” said FDA Commissioner Marty Makary in a statement.

“7-OH is an opioid that can be more potent than morphine. We need regulation and public education to prevent another wave of the opioid epidemic.”

Connecticut, Wu noted, is the eighth state in the country

to enact a full ban on kratom, which includes 7-OH. “We are being watched. All eyes are on Connecticut. It's a bold move, and a divisive one.”

Wu said Mountainside clinicians have been counseling individuals experiencing cravings and withdrawal, including the use of medications such as naltrexone and injectable Vivitrol.

At the same time, she confirmed that cross-border purchasing is already part of the conversation. “People are definitely going into New York to buy kratom,” she said.

Wu noted that prior to the ban, the substance had been widely available throughout the Northwest Corner.

“It's a very contentious topic,” Wu said. “Many people are very upset about the ban. There is a lot of grief and a lot of frustration, which is understandable.”

She noted that people who had been taking kratom for chronic pain and anxiety, or veterans suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder, are now left to find alternative relief.

“The fear is that people

who are dependent will turn to other illicit drugs,” added Wu.

Crossing the line

Just across the state line in Millerton, N.Y., the shift is less visible.

Along Route 44 and into nearby Amenia, smoke shops continue to operate under New York's regulatory framework, where kratom remains legal for adult purchase.

On Saturday, visits to several gas stations and smoke shops — including Cumberland Farms just over the border in Millerton and Smokes 4 Less in nearby Amenia — found clerks hesitant to discuss the volume of Connecticut customers.

At Smokes 4 Less, a worker would only say that he has seen an uptick in Connecticut customers in recent weeks, as did a Cumberland Farms employee.

While it is too early to quantify any sustained increase, the proximity of the Northwest Corner to the New York border — in some cases just minutes away — is already shaping consumer behavior.

FIREHOUSE

Continued from Page A1

Harding and state Rep. Maria Horn.

The property, which Harding said is located near the existing fire company, has been owned by the state for more than 50 years and was originally acquired as part of the now-abandoned “Super 7” highway project. While other portions of that proposed right-of-way have since been sold off, the South Greenway parcel remains an isolated remnant.

Bunce, in his testimony, said the town plans to subdivide up to four acres of the 9.45-acre site for the construction of a new emergency services facility to be used by the Canaan Volunteer Fire Company, an independent nonprofit. The remaining land would be permanently preserved as open space, continuing its use as part of

a greenway trail.

Bunce said the project is aimed at addressing limitations at the current firehouse, where space restrictions are hindering upgrades and affecting emergency response capabilities.

“Space constraints at the Town's current Volunteer Fire Company facility are interfering with needed upgrading of our firefighting apparatus, limiting the capacity and capabilities of the equipment and putting the community at increased risk,” Bunce wrote in his testimony.

The proposed facility would provide additional space and improved access to major roadways, allowing the fire company to modernize its equipment and better serve the community.

At the same time, Bunce emphasized that the plan

The same holds true to the north, where Sheffield, Mass., just across the border from North Canaan, offers another option, since Massachusetts does not have a comparable statewide ban.

Currently, the state legislature in Massachusetts is weighing two different regulatory options — either a total ban or establishing a new set of safety measures. One plan would mirror Connecticut's policy, while the other would institute kratom control rules, including lab testing for dangerous chemicals and not allowing anyone under 21 to purchase the substance, as is the case in New York.

Online questions — and legal risk

Another question is surfacing in smoke shops and treatment settings alike: Are Connecticut residents permitted to order kratom online?

While some residents have wondered whether online purchases could bypass the ban, Connecticut's law

applies to possession — not just retail sales. That means even if a product is shipped from out of state, having it in Connecticut could carry legal consequences.

At the same time, enforcement is not expected to center on tracking individual consumer shipments, but rather to mirror other controlled substances.

Still, shop owners say the guidance they give customers is straightforward.

“It doesn't matter where it comes from,” Nasser said. “It's illegal here now.”

Where to get help

In an emergency: call 911.

Mountainside Treatment Center, North Canaan: (860) 824-1397

High Watch Recovery Center, Kent: (860) 775-4769

McCall Behavioral Health Network, Torrington: (860) 496-2100

HOUSING

Continued from Page A1

two additional two-bedroom units, including one that is handicapped-accessible.

The trust had hoped tenants at 21 Miner St. would move in on April 1, but contractor Brenden Lee identified additional repairs needed for the porch roof, delaying occupancy by at least two weeks.

Hanna said she was pleased with the renovations, noting the natural light in the units as well as the inclusion of in-unit washers and dryers.

The trust has also finalized the transfer of ownership from Habitat for Humanity to the trust for the River Road

Homes development, which will feature 16 energy-efficient rental units that will have two and three bedrooms.

Hanna said the next step for River Road will focus on site preparation, including tree clearing, stump grinding, and road bed construction.

A nonprofit organization founded in 2016, the Falls Village Housing Trust provides income-qualified individuals and families with affordable housing opportunities through ownership, rental, and rent-to-own programs supported by grants, loans, and donations.

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Brothers Paul and John Stefanopoulos at the Four Brothers Drive-In in Amenia, NY

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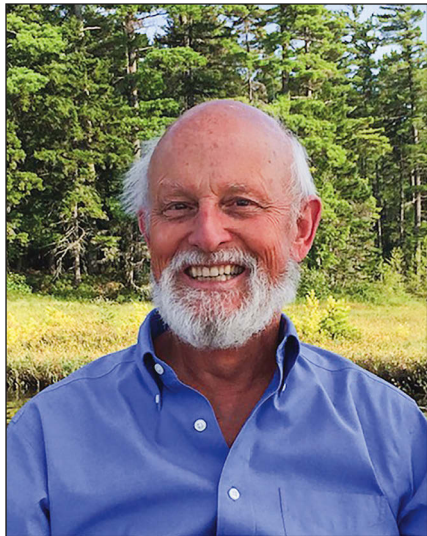


PHOTO BY DEBORAH CARTER

John Carter

In a time of fear, John Carter revives a network of “neighboring”

By Sally Haver

John Carter, who served as rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Salisbury from 1999 until his retirement in 2014, launched the first iteration of the nonprofit Vecinos Seguros 1 (Safe Neighbors) in 2017 by introducing a misa, a Spanish-language worship service, at Trinity Lime Rock Episcopal Church.

In December 2024, amid concerns over a renewed federal crackdown on immigrants, a group of volunteers revived the program as Vecinos Seguros 2 (VS2). According to its 2025 annual report, the initiative “created a network of trusted allies to help those who may be

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

HISTORY

Threads of history come to Sharon

By Natalia Zukerman

In an age of fast fashion and disposable wares, Sharon resident Titi Halle, a leader in the fields of textiles and costume, has spent decades immersed in a world where clothing endures, sometimes for centuries.

“I had very little idea that 300-year-old clothes survived,” Halle said. “Or that you could make a living out of it.”

That was before she met Cora Ginsburg in 1980, one of the country's leading dealers in historical textiles and costume. Halle took over as owner of Cora Ginsburg LLC in 1997 and has built a career around preserving and interpreting garments that tell stories far beyond their seams. The work she does spans everything from museum consulting to sourcing rare pieces through auctions, private sales and travel.

She will bring that expertise to Sharon this spring as part of a two-part series on early American textiles and clothing.

The first, “The Fabric of Early American Life: Textiles at Home in the 18th Century,” will take place Sunday, April

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

MUSIC

Rocking for a cause at Infinity Hall

By Natalia Zukerman

When the Rock n' Roll Circus rolls into Infinity Music Hall in Norfolk on Saturday, April 11, it will bring together an all-star lineup of musicians and a mission that reaches far beyond the stage.

Presented by Rockin' 4 Vets, this concert will benefit the United Way of Northwest Connecticut's “Stock the Shelves” program, which supports food pantries across the region. The United Way, part of a national network founded in the late 19th century, has long worked to mobilize communities in support of local health, education and financial stability initiatives, efforts that continue today through programs like Stock the Shelves, which helps ensure families have access to essential food resources.

It's a dual mission that founder of Rockin' 4 Vets Jim Tirabassi described simply: “We put on the show for a dual purpose — to make people happy and to support local causes.”

What began in 2015 as V is for Veterans has evolved into Rockin' 4 Vets, a production company built around benefit concerts supporting veterans and community needs. Tirabassi, a former rock tour manager, said the work is less about music than mission. “I love building things and I love the idea of building these shows for a purpose.”

This year's purpose has shifted a bit. “We are seeing that veterans and non-veterans have the same issues in terms of food access,” Tirabassi said. “So, we figured we'd make it a broad-based thing and do it for the food pantries throughout New England.”

The show itself promises



PHOTO PROVIDED

Blues musician James Montgomery

to deliver on its “house party” promise with high-energy, high-octane rock and blues featuring Grammy-nominated guitarist Jon Butcher, former Epic Records artist Steve Gaspár and New England blues legend James Montgomery, along with a horn section and a rotating cast of accomplished players.

“It's a bunch of people who actually like each other which is always a good starting point,” Montgomery said. “In the case of me and Jon Butcher, we've been playing together for something like 50 years.”

That chemistry extends beyond the stage. “We get together a few times a year and brush up,” Montgomery said. “We've been doing this long enough to understand how to put something together in sound check that's actually gonna really gel.”

For Montgomery, who has performed with everyone from B.B. King to The Rolling Stones,

Bonnie Raitt and James Brown, the spirit of the event is as important as the music. “We have a superstar lineup and then the added feature is we raise money to put food on the shelves.”

The collaboration has a long history. Montgomery was an early supporter of Tirabassi's effort to assist veterans; an effort rooted in Tirabassi's own service. “I was in the Army in the early '70s,” Tirabassi said, adding that his organization now focuses on issues like PTSD, addiction and homelessness.

“I am a very fortunate person,” Tirabassi said. “My wife and I live fairly well and don't have to worry about where our next meal's coming from, but we were on a trip through New England last fall and we saw so many food banks with police directing traffic. People just trying to get some food. It was so bad and it broke both our hearts,” he continued. That moment of

clarity became a driving force for this year's show.

“What we're trying to do is help society in general,” he said. “And when people come to the show, they're part of that.”

Montgomery, a lifelong road warrior and harmonica player known for his work with artists from Muddy Waters to Gregg Allman, still lights up when talking about the energy of live performance and the connection it creates.

“It's a really, really great place to play,” he said of Infinity Hall. “It feels really intimate when you play there.”

And in that intimate setting, the Rock n' Roll Circus aims to do what it does best: bring people together through music while helping make sure more families have food on their tables.

Doors open at 7 p.m., with the show beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at infinityhall.com.

ART

Firefly project to honor Jane Goodall

By Ruth Epstein

Renowned primatologist Jane Goodall, who died Oct. 1, 2025, will be honored April 10 at Marvelwood School during the Firefly Environmental Arts Project, a student-driven event blending art, science and environmental action.

A talk on Goodall by author Priscilla Woolworth will anchor the program, part of a larger gathering focused on sustainability. The Firefly Environmental Arts Project is described as “a collaborative sustainability initiative engaging students and professionals in the tri-state corner to build community through shared experiences in nature and the arts.” Student environmental ambassadors from several schools are central to the effort.

Firefly was created last year by Kent residents Deborah Schlee, a nature photographer, and Carl Raab, a science educator and author. “Our goal is to try to get people engaged and involved in the environment,” Schlee said. “We knew that various schools were having

their students do things about the environment, but they were not always doing it together. We wanted to build community through shared experiences.”

Friday's event will feature an exhibit of nature-inspired artwork by students and professional artists, including sculpture, painting, photography, recycled art and poetry. Students from Housatonic Valley Regional High School and Marvelwood, Millbrook and South Kent schools will speak

about their environmental efforts aligned with Goodall's work. A video created by third grade students at Kent Center School will also be shown.

Goodall, a pioneer in primate ethology, is widely regarded as the world's leading expert on chimpanzees, known for her decadeslong research on their social and family life in Tanzania. Woolworth, who was a friend of Goodall's, will discuss how that relationship inspired and deepened her

commitment to environmental stewardship. She has been named a Green Pioneer by Time magazine and runs an online eco-friendly store.

Woolworth is the author of “Lola Lots of Love Always,” a book for young women about living sustainably and making healthy choices for themselves and the planet.

Schlee said her environmental book club read one of

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INSIDE

SPORTS

Kent School softball hosts Housatonic

SPORTS

Track is back



...John Carter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

targeted by immigration enforcement agents,” taking a low-key approach that prioritizes in-person connections.

Carter arrived at his calling by a circuitous route. After graduating from Yale, he joined the Peace Corps, then returned to his hometown of Milton, Mass., where he founded and ran the Carter Tree Co. for seven years. After closing the business, he attended Virginia Theological Seminary, earning a Master of Divinity. During that time, he and his wife, Deborah, were involved in the hunger movement. Carter said every venture he undertook was made possible by Deborah, whom he described as his constant companion and indispensable partner in his pursuit of compassion and justice. Still, he questioned himself: “Who am I, and what should I be doing that I’m passionate about?”

In the face of new challenges, volunteers joined the effort to revive the original program, VS1. The Rev. Heidi Truax, recently retired rector of Trinity Lime Rock, has been a strong supporter of Vecinos Seguros from its inception. Glenn Formica, an immigration attorney from New Haven, gave a presentation informing the community about the second Trump administration’s amended policies. Formica also generated written materials in English and Spanish, advising private citizens and employers how to prepare in the event of a visit from ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement). William Tong, Connecticut’s attorney general, a proponent of many social justice issues, including the opioid crisis and fair pricing for



John Carter and his wife Deborah

PHOTO BY DEBORAH CARTER

“The human cost of current ICE practices is appallingly high.”

JOHN CARTER

generic drugs, has also provided support since the establishment of Vecinos Seguros.

The VS2 steering committee, which includes Carter, is led by Jill Drew, a local civic leader. Drew has worked with Judiciary Committee co-chairmen Gary Winfield and Steven Stafstrom in support of SB 91, a proposal by Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont to limit ICE actions in “protected areas,” including schools, hospitals and religious buildings. She has also supported HB 5499, which would place limits on the use of automated license plate readers, addressing concerns

that the Trust Act is being circumvented through technology deployed for other purposes. Other committee members include Amy Lake and Lee and Sophia DeBoer.

VS2 has launched a range of initiatives, including distributing “know your rights” flyers; creating an online resource with local legal and social services for immigrants; hosting in-person events to educate neighbors and train volunteers; organizing a rapid response team to verify reported immigration enforcement activity and support those affected; providing financial assistance for legal expenses, rent and utilities; and advising employers — from farms and restaurants to stores and private homes — on how to protect workers if immigration agents arrive.

As the annual report states:

“We are committed to building on the powerful work of Rev. Carter, who, in the first seven years of Vecinos Seguros, assisted a significant number of individuals and families. It is our mission to continue this important work.”

Few descriptions capture the moment more clearly than Carter’s own words:

“The human cost of current ICE practices is appallingly high. Evidence of the brutality and cruelty of these practices is everywhere. Minneapolis is a recent and egregious example. ICE enforcement is doing much more than deporting individuals. It is also the systematic destruction of families. According to some reports, 90% of deportees are male. They are husbands, partners and fathers, often the primary contributors to family finances. There is heartbreak, trauma and stress experienced by the families left behind. The humanitarian response to the violence and chaos in Minneapolis is inspirational and instructive. Both citizens and immigrants came to the aid of residents living in fear and peril. It should be noted that people of color, whether their status was legal or undocumented, were also deeply shaken by what they witnessed in their communities.”

Carter also described how communities responded. That out of devastation, he said, came something else:

“A new word was born out of the compassionate response in Minneapolis: ‘neighboring.’ In caring for each other, they were ‘neighboring.’ The mission of Vecinos Seguros 2 is to ‘neighbor’ members of the immigrant community whose lives have been turned upside down by current immigration policies.”



PHOTO BY KERRI-LEE MAYLAND

Objects that show age over time can be beautiful treasures.

LIFESTYLE

Patina: the case for letting your home live a little

By Kerri-Lee Mayland

Your home does not need to be perfect to be beautiful. In fact, the marks, softened edges, and quiet signs of daily life are not flaws to be erased, but stories to be embraced.

That idea has a name: patina. It is the natural aging of materials over time — the result of wood touched again and again, metal worn by air and use, fabrics settling into the rhythm of a lived-in space. Some may see it as damage, but it is better understood as evolution: the gentle, authentic record of a home being used as it was meant to be.

For years, design of all kinds leaned toward the pristine — homes that felt almost too perfect to settle into. But perfection, while beautiful at first glance, can create what feels like a museum or showroom. Such a space asks you to maintain it, to protect it, to exist very carefully inside it.

Patina offers the opposite.

It lets you exhale.

A dining table with a few marks from family dinners does not need to be replaced. A brass faucet that darkens over time becomes richer, not worn out. A

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

... threads of history

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12 at the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon. A second program, “Dressing Up in 18th-Century New England,” follows on May 3 at the Sharon Historical Society & Museum, featuring a display of period garments including shoes, stays, petticoats, and cloaks.

“America produced very little in the 18th century,” Halle explained. “So, if you’re looking at silk and cotton, those were commodities that traveled. They were luxury goods.”

That global exchange is central to what audiences will see. Printed cottons from India, silks from Europe, and locally made wool and linen reflect a world far more interconnected than we often imagine. At the same time, they reveal the labor — mostly women’s work — behind domestic life.

“I don’t just collect complete objects,” said Halle. “I collect small pieces and documents. It’s the best way to learn — and I’m always happy to share that experience.”

That spirit of sharing will be central to the upcoming exhibits. Halle plans to bring not only rare textiles but also

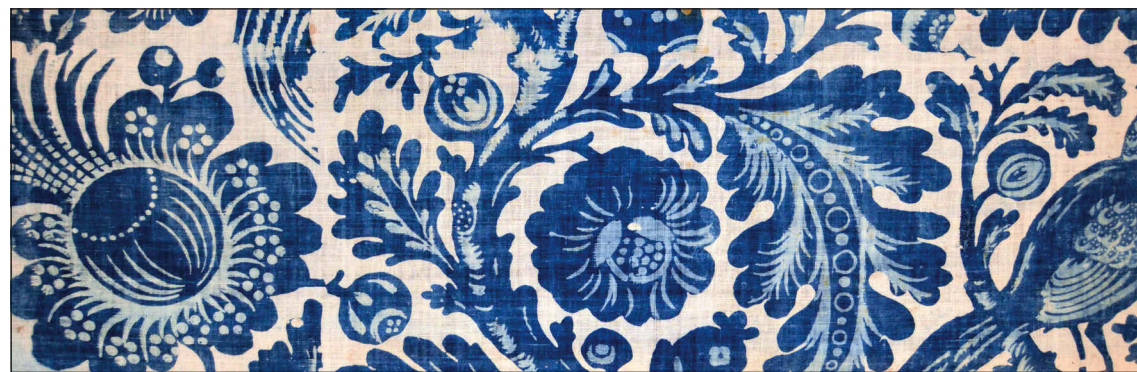


PHOTO PROVIDED

Indigo-dyed and printed linen, probably American, Mid- to late 18th century.

fragments that visitors can handle — an unusually tactile opportunity in a field where preservation often keeps objects behind glass.

The clothing itself, she noted, offers its own revelations.

“These aren’t the kinds of clothes you worked in,” she said. “You can’t lift your arms much higher than your shoulders. They’re not terribly comfortable.”

What has survived, then, are often the “best” garments — the ones reserved for public life or special occasion. Through them, a picture emerges not just of how people dressed, but how they moved, traded, and understood the world around them.

For Halle, who has lived part-time in the region since the 1980s, bringing this work to Sharon feels both professional and personal.

“These are things people can look at,” she said. “And things they can touch. They won’t crumble.”

In other words, history not as something distant,

but as something tangible — woven, worn, and still very much alive.

Both events are free, but registration is required for April 12 at the Hotchkiss Library at hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com. And for May 3 at the Sharon Historical Society, rsvp at rsvp@sharonhist.org.

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PERFORMANCE

Selected Shorts returns to Stissing Center

By D.H. Callahan

On Sunday, April 12, the long-running public radio program “Selected Shorts” returns to the Stissing Center in Pine Plains.

Whether torn from the pages of history or pulled from the ether of the imagination, short stories have the power to build entire worlds in just a few digestible pages or paragraphs. But as powerful as they can be, they are rarely given the recognition or appreciation they deserve.

In 1985, Symphony Space on Manhattan’s Upper West Side created Selected Shorts, aiming to give short-form literature a greater audience. Selected Shorts puts the words of established and emerging authors into the mouths of some of the greatest actors of the stage and screen.

Since its founding, Selected Shorts has been a regular stage show at Symphony Space, a radio program, a podcast and, in this case and others, a traveling



This year’s line-up is (clockwise from top left) Jane Curtin, Joanna Gleason, Deborah S. Craig, Michael Emerson.

PHOTO PROVIDED

performance.

With a rotating line of hosts and actors bringing the literature to life, attendees at the Stissing Center

will be treated to performances by Joanna Gleason, Deborah S. Craig, Michael Emerson and the legendary first-season “Saturday Night

Live” cast member — and original Conehead — Jane Curtin.

Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

Chicken and sausage gumbo

Each month, Dugazon owners Bobby Graham and Matthew Marden share a recipe inspired by the traditions, stories and sense of welcome at the heart of their shop in Sharon, Connecticut. Visit Dugazon at 19 W. Main St. Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and online at dugazonshop.com.



PHOTO BY JEFF HOLT

I remember all the trips growing up going to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to see my grandparents. My grandfather, Bainbridge Dugazon, always had a pot of gumbo on the stove. The gumbo was shared with family and friends over a meal of crusty French bread and a crisp green salad. And don’t forget your favorite hot sauce — Tabasco, Louisiana Crystal — all available at Dugazon.

We also loved to visit Phil’s Oyster Bar on Government Street for their gumbo when it wasn’t made at home. I can still smell it now. Here is a favorite recipe for chicken and sausage gumbo. Enjoy — it’s one of Louisiana’s signature dishes.

Chicken and Sausage Gumbo (adapted from “Cooking Up a Storm” by Marcelle Bienvenu and Judy Walker, editors)

Yield: 6 to 8 servings
Total time: About 3½ hours

Ingredients

- 1 (3- to 5-pound) hen, cut into serving pieces (bone-in preferred; boneless breasts and thighs can be used)
 - Salt, to taste
 - Dash of black pepper
 - 1 teaspoon Tony Chachere’s Creole seasoning
 - 1 cup vegetable oil
 - 1 cup all-purpose flour
 - 2 cups chopped yellow onion
 - 1 cup chopped green bell pepper
 - ½ cup chopped celery
 - About 2½ quarts chicken broth (store-bought is fine)
 - 2 bay leaves
 - ½ teaspoon thyme (fresh or dried)
 - 1 pound andouille sausage, sliced ¼ inch thick
 - ¼ cup chopped green onions
 - 2 to 3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
 - Hot cooked rice, for serving
- Preparation
1. Season the chicken with salt, pepper and Creole seasoning; set aside.

2. In a large Dutch oven, combine the oil and flour over medium heat. Cook, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon, until the roux turns a deep brown, 30 to 35 minutes.

3. Add the onion, bell pepper and celery and cook, stirring, until very soft, 8 to 10 minutes.

4. Add the chicken broth and stir until smooth. Add the chicken, bay leaves and thyme. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to a simmer. Partially cover and cook until the chicken is fork-tender, 2 to 3 hours, adding more broth as needed to keep the gumbo loose and soupy.

5. Add the sausage and simmer for 30 minutes more. (For deeper flavor, brown the sausage in a frying pan before adding.)

6. Adjust seasoning to taste, then stir in the green onions and parsley. Remove the bay leaves.

7. Serve over hot rice, with crusty French bread, butter, a crunchy green salad with French vinaigrette and hot sauce.



PHOTO BY BOBBY GRAHAM

... patina

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2

leather chair that creases and softens becomes more inviting; these are the pieces I search for when clients want an instantly lived-in look. These changes are not signs that something is going wrong. They are signs that something is being used exactly as it should be.

This is where patina becomes more than a design choice. It becomes a mindset, a lifestyle.

It allows you to let your home live a little, too.

In practical terms, to incorporate patina, you must choose the right materials, ones that will age well. Natural wood is perhaps the most forgiving and rewarding. Look for finishes that are matte or lightly sealed rather than overly glossy. Woods with visible grain and variation will develop character over time, rather than showing wear in a way that feels damaged.

Metals are another opportunity. Unlacquered brass, bronze and copper are designed to change. Instead of resisting fingerprints or water spots, they respond to them, deepening in tone, creating variation, becoming uniquely yours. In kitchens and baths especially, these materials bring warmth that polished chrome simply cannot replicate.

Leather, too, is a favorite of designers for this reason. It softens, creases, and gains depth with use. A well-made leather chair will look better in five years than it does today. Linen and other natural textiles follow a sim-

ilar path, becoming more relaxed and comfortable over time.

Vintage pieces naturally carry patina with them, which is part of their appeal. A worn wooden chest, an antique mirror with slight foxing, a set of timeworn stools—these elements anchor a space. They immediately give a room a sense of history, even if the rest of the home is newly designed.

The key, however, is balance.

A home filled entirely with aged pieces can feel heavy and old. But when patina is layered alongside clean lines and newer elements, a sense of calm emerges. The space feels both fresh and grounded. A modern sofa paired with a weathered coffee table. Crisp walls against an antique cabinet. It is this contrast that makes a home feel thoughtfully designed rather than overly styled.

And then there is the emotional shift.

When you embrace patina, you release yourself from the pressure of constant perfection. You stop noticing every small scratch or imperfection because they are no longer mistakes — they are part of the story. Your home becomes a place to live freely, not carefully, and that shift changes your mood and outlook.

It reflects a deeper understanding: that beauty is not found in preserving something exactly as it was, but in allowing it to evolve into what it becomes.

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Singer-songwriter Leslie Mendelson performs at The Grace Note at The Stissing Center in Pine Plains on Friday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. A Grammy Award-nominated artist, she blends folk, pop and Americana with a warm, expressive style. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

... Jane Goodall

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

The Firefly Environmental Arts Project Presents

Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Jane Goodall

APRIL 10TH, 2026

Marvelwood School Performing Arts Center
476 Skiff Mountain Road
Kent, CT

5:00 pm Art Exhibit & Refreshments | 6:00 pm Speaker & Presentations

Sharing environmental awareness by bringing together our local schools, students, artists, educators, environmentalists and members of our greater community.

Keynote Speaker Priscilla Woolworth
Dear Friend of Jane Goodall
Named as new Green Pioneer by TIME magazine
Author of LOLA LOTS OF LOVE ALWAYS

Student Presentations
showcasing environmental stewardship, sustainability & collaboration

Art Exhibition
by students & local artists

Free and Open to the Public & Local Schools

MARVELWOOD | firefly

For additional info contact Deb Schlee at fireflyprojectinfo@gmail.com

CONTACT | Firefly Environmental Arts Project

PHOTO PROVIDED

Goodall's books, further deepening her admiration. The free event will be held at Marvelwood School Performing Arts Center, 476 Skiff Mountain Road in Kent. The art exhibit and refreshments begin at 5 p.m., followed by the keynote speaker and presentations at 6 p.m.

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Tri-Corner Calendar

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

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

Tango Workshop with Crescendo

April 10 at The Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. April 11 at Saint James Place, 352 Main St., Great Barrington, Mass. Introductory Argentine tango workshop led by Muna Swairjo at The Center on Main. Part of Crescendo's "Stepping into Song" programming. Preregistration required at crescendomusic.org

Sourdough Festival

Dewey Hall, 91 Main St., Sheffield, Mass. April 10 to 11

Sourdough bread contest April 10, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Soup & Sourdough Saturday April 11, noon to 2 p.m.

More info: deweyhall.org

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

A Sweet Deal for Birds: How a Sugarbush Can Benefit Wildlife

Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Explore how maple sugaring forests can support bird habitat at Sharon Audubon Center, including a visit to the site's sugarbush. \$20/adult; ages 16+. Preregistration required. Info: 860-364-0520 (ext. 115).

Better Habitat for Birds: Volunteer Workday

Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn. April 11, 18, 25 1 to 3 p.m.

Help remove invasive plants and restore habitat at Sharon Audubon Center. Volunteers will assist with early spring removal of species such as bittersweet and multiflora rose. Ages 10+. No experience necessary; tools provided. Register online. Info: 860-364-0520 (ext. 115).

Hike Trinity Forest Preserve

Dibble Hill Road, Cornwall, Conn. 10 a.m.

Join Cornwall Conservation Trust steward Martin Chalk for a guided, moderate 1.25-mile hike through forest to a beaver pond and community. One steep slope. Meet at the trail entrance between 134 and 152 Dibble Hill Road.

Noble Horizons Auxiliary "Come As You Are" Party

Noble Horizons, Salisbury, Conn. 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Festive fundraiser featuring original "barn" artwork by local artists (all priced \$200 or less), gift basket raffles, games, open bar, and hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds benefit Noble Horizons residents. Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Info: noblehorizons.org or 860-435-9851.

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

Whiting 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.

Author Talk: Thomas E. Johnson Jr.

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

Author Thomas E. Johnson Jr. will present "The Public Library in America: A Key Post-Independence Institution Promoting the Common Good" on Saturday, April 11, at 1 p.m. Johnson, author of "Common Place: The Public Library, Civil Society and Early American Values," will discuss the history and evolving role of public libraries, including their roots in early American civic life and their continued relevance today. A Q&A will follow, and books will be available for purchase and signing.

Current Fiction Book Group with Claudia Cayne

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

Claudia Cayne leads a discussion of "Twist" by acclaimed author Colum McCann on Saturday from 4 to 5 p.m. Registration not required. Copies available for loan at the library.

APRIL 12

The Fabric of Early American Life: Textiles at Home in the 18th Century

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org 4 p.m.

Titi Halle and Michele Majer of Cora Ginsburg LLC showcase 18th-century home textiles, from imported silks to homespun linens, highlighting women's artistry and patriotism. Free; registration required at hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com/event/16351593.

Selected Shorts

Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. 3 p.m.

Acclaimed actors including Jane Curtin, Joanna Gleason and Michael Emerson perform short fiction exploring community, connection and everyday surprises in this afternoon of moving and funny stories. thestissingcenter.org

Opening Reception: "Meandering: Mystery and Illumination"

Parish House, UCC Cornwall, 8 Bolton Hill Road, Cornwall, Conn.

An opening reception for "Meandering: Mystery and Illumination," a photography exhibition by Verne Henshall, will be held Saturday, April 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The show features images from Mexico, India, Morocco, Burma, Italy, Paris and West Cornwall. The exhibition runs through May 13 and may be viewed Monday

through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon, Sundays from 10 a.m. to noon, and by appointment.

Author Talk: Elise Howard - "Plant This, Not That"

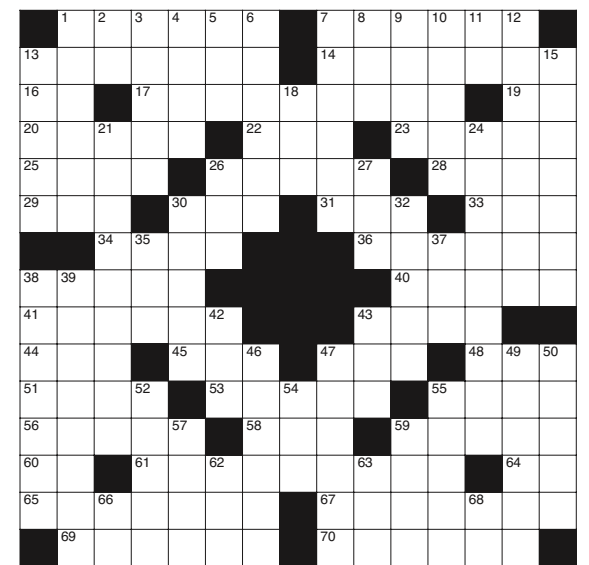
Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn.

Author and native plant enthusiast Elise Howard discusses her new book and shares practical guidance on replacing invasive plants with native species that support wildlife and pollinators. Local native plant vendor Bernadette Gray joins the program. Books available for purchase. 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Advance registration required. More info at audubon.org/sharon.

Brain Teasers

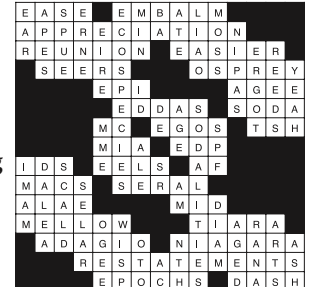
CLUES ACROSS

- Dark blacks
- Construct a wall to confine
- Most inappropriate
- A type of board
- Sacred Hindu syllable
- Flatterer
- The Granite State
- Tears down
- China's Chairman
- Former Houston footballer
- Periods of time
- Expressed pleasure
- World alliance
- A Brit's mother
- Television network
- Brother or sister
- Type of spirit
- ___ Ladd, actor
- A medium oversees it
- One time province of British India
- Wrong
- The highest parts of something
- Insect
- Baseball stat
- A way to use up
- Where wrestlers compete
- It helps elect politicians
- As fast as can be done
- Genus of legumes
- Samoa's capital
- Monument in Jakarta
- Former French coin
- Exploiters
- College sports official
- Uninterrupted in time
- Stephen King story
- Marked by no sound
- Weathers
- Denouncements
- More beloved



- Exclamation that denotes disgust
- Helper
- Gift
- Up in the air (abbr.)
- Treat without respect
- Trims
- Slang for lovely
- City of Angels hoopster (abbr.)
- Guitarists' tool
- Island nation
- Delivered in installments
- A baglike structure
- Cooking vessel
- Gets in front of
- Wounded by scratching
- More breathable
- Medical dressings
- Indiana hoopster
- Married Marilyn
- An ancient Assyrian city
- Congressmen (abbr.)
- Approves food
- Ventura's first name
- Between northeast and east
- Atomic #71
- Email designation

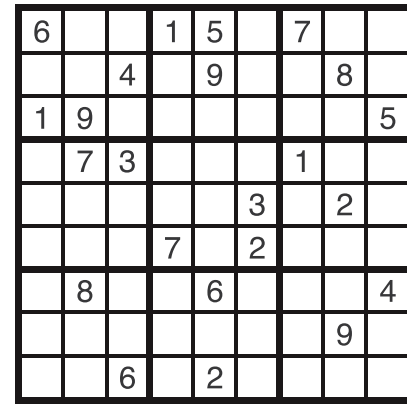
April 2 Solution



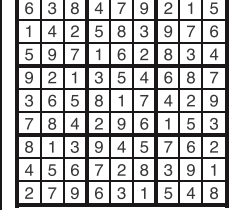
CLUES DOWN

- Winged nut
- It cools a home
- Kisses (French)
- Oxford political economist
- Keyboard key
- Leaf pores
- Agrees with publicly
- Not around
- Czech city
- Muscle cell protein
- Greek letter
- Movements
- Ned __, composer
- Popular series Game of __

Sudoku



April 2 Solution



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Sports



Nora Lennon (left) and Makenzie Lidstone (right)

Kent School softball hosts Housatonic

By Riley Klein

KENT - Housatonic Valley Regional High School's softball team traveled to Kent School for a scrimmage Wednesday, April 1.

The non-league game gave players an opportunity to dust off their cleats, though they quickly became muddy when it started to rain in the third inning.

Team captain Madeline Mechare was the lone senior

in HVRHS's lineup, which included three juniors, three sophomores and two freshmen. Coach Kayleigh Selino shuffled defensive positions between innings as she evaluated her young roster.

Sophomore Payton Wagner started the game pitching for HVRHS and freshman Kendall Koerner was the starting pitcher for Kent. Junior Kensi Watson also spent time on the mound for HVRHS.

It was Kent's second scrimmage against a Berkshire League team after playing Lakeview High School the previous day. Kent looked ready for another spring in the Founder's League with the regular season scheduled to begin Saturday, April 4, at Hopkins School in New Haven.

HVRHS's regular season is scheduled to begin Wednesday, April 8, at Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury.



Madeline Mechere



Autumn McKone

PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

A rainy first track meet.



Simon Markow

Track is back

By Riley Klein

Lakeview High School hosted a preseason track meet Thursday, April 2, in Litchfield. It was a chilly start to the season with intermittent rain and

temperatures hovering around 38 degrees. Lakeview invited Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Wolcott Technical High School, Gilbert School, Nonnewaug High School, Northwestern

Regional High School, Kaynor Technical High School and Thomaston High School to participate in the scrimmage. Berkshire League competition begins April 21 at HVRHS.

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REAL ESTATE

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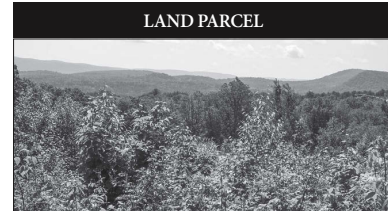
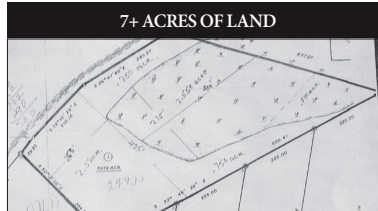
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- Partner with external CPA firm on tax preparation, filings, and annual reviews/audits
- Develop and maintain internal controls to safeguard company assets and ensure financial integrity
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- Build and maintain financial models to evaluate business performance and opportunities
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- Oversee payroll processing, ensuring accuracy and compliance with applicable laws and regulations
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- Serve as a point of contact for employee relations matters, supporting a positive and compliant workplace
- Maintain employee records and ensure compliance with HR policies and employment regulations
- Assist with onboarding, offboarding, and HR process improvements

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field required
- CPA or CMA preferred but not required
- 7+ years of progressive accounting/finance experience, including experience in a Controller or similar leadership role
- Strong knowledge of GAAP, financial reporting, and internal controls
- Experience working with external CPA firms and managing audits/tax processes
- Hands-on experience with payroll, benefits administration, and HR functions
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We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.

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