



Special, Inside

The Lakeville Journal

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THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026 \$3.00

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



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Gas was priced at \$4.09 per gallon at the 17 Gay St. Shell station in Sharon, Conn., April 13, just below the national average of \$4.12, according to AAA.

Pain at the Pump

Surging gas prices stretch local budgets

By Aly Morrissey

Connecticut drivers are paying sharply more at the pump than they were a year ago, with gas prices up more than \$1 per gallon — a surge that is hitting wallets across the Northwest Corner even as prices steadied briefly last week.

The spike comes as global tensions continue to cause oil prices to rise. Prices briefly stabilized following news of a two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran, but uncertainty returned after talks ended without an agreement, leaving drivers bracing for continued

volatility.

Residents of the Northwest Corner and Eastern Dutchess County continue to pay hefty prices at the pump, according to data collected by AAA. Despite high prices, demand for fuel continues to climb.

Just a month ago, Sharon resident and local blacksmith William Trowbridge said a fill-up typically cost around \$75. Now, for the first time, he paid more than \$100 to fill his truck — a jump that left him concerned when the total climbed into triple digits.

"It makes me angry," Trowbridge said at the Shell station located at

17 Gay St. in Sharon. "Now, I'm starting to think about combining errands when I go out."

Trowbridge, like many others, attributes the spike in gas prices to "a war that shouldn't even be happening."

At the Gay Street station, employee Jacob Enquest said customer reactions have shifted in recent weeks.

"Whether it was about politics and the war or the prices themselves, everyone had something to say," Enquest said. "Now people

See GAS PRICES, Page A10

Sharon Board of Ed. ordered to revise budget for 0% increase

By Alec Linden

SHARON – The Board of Education voted to cut nearly \$70,000 from the staff salaries section of its 2026-2027 budget proposal during a special meeting held Wednesday, April 8.

The decision came after a March 31 directive from the Sharon Board of Finance to reduce the BOE budget by \$69,477, bringing it to a 0% increase over the current year. With the reduction, the new draft — which is the ninth version of the document the BOE has reviewed this budget cycle — now totals \$4,123,996.



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Sharon Center School faces budget cuts next year.

The BOE is not permitted to go below this number due to the state's Minimum Budget Requirement, or the MBR, which prohibits municipalities from spending less on education than the previous year.

During Wednesday's last-minute meeting, Region One Super-

intendent Melony Brady-Shanley and Sharon Center School Principal Carol Tomkalski presented the BOE with four reduction options that would achieve the cut the BOF requested. Ultimately, the Board

See BOE, Page A10

Sharon Hospital performing in key areas since merger, report finds

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON – Sharon Hospital is meeting most of the requirements tied to the 2025 merger between Nuvance Health and Northwell Health, but still faces challenges in patient access services and workforce stability, according to an independent review.

The findings were presented April 8 during a community forum at the hospital, and were also streamed online.

The review, conducted by consulting firm PYA and required by the Connecticut Office of Health Strategy, examined whether the hospital is complying with conditions set when Nuvance Health merged with Northwell in May 2025. Funded by the transitional entities, the assessment is required to be con-

ducted semi-annually. Sharon Hospital was one of three Connecticut sites required to host community forums following the merger, along with Danbury/New Milford and Norwalk, both formerly part of the Nuvance network.

David McMillan, president of PYA, said data was collected and occasional on-site visits were made to each of the Northwell-Nuvance hospitals.

McMillan reported that, of five sets of evaluation criteria, Sharon Hospital was found to be in full compliance with three: oversight, governance and public accountability; community engagement and local representation; and financial sustainability, investment and quality.

The hospital received partial

See HOSPITAL, Page A10



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

Ella Emberlin, an eighth grader at Salisbury Central School, meets alum Colby Hickey, owner of Colby's Tree Service, on Career Day.

Local students get a taste of the real world during Career Day

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON – Sharon Center School students got a firsthand look at potential career paths on Friday, April 10, during their annual Career Day, where guest speakers from a range of fields spoke with students in fourth through eighth grade.

The annual event is organized

by school counselor Liz Foster, who aims to showcase the positions held by local community members. Presenters included a meteorologist, scuba diving instructor, mechanic and attorney.

In one classroom, students listened intently as two Connecticut

See CAREER DAY, Page A7



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Regional

In The Journal this week

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Online This Week

Career Day Photos

Students in Salisbury and Sharon learned about potential career paths during annual Career Days. More photos at lakevillejournal.com

POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

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

Rollback accident

On the afternoon of April 9, Margery Rollins, 85, of Torrington was driving east on Route 4 near the intersection with Toomey Road in Cornwall when she attempted to pass a freight vehicle stopped in the east-bound lane due to mechanical issues. While starting to pass, the vehicle rolled back unexpectedly and struck the front of Rollins' Honda CR-V, disabling it. No one was injured in the incident, but the driver of the freight truck, Benjamin Palinkas, 37, of Goshen, was issued an infraction for unsafe movement from a stopped position.

Intoxicated driving arrest

Just before 5 p.m. on April 9, troopers were dispatched to the intersection of Music Mountain Road and Route 63 in Falls Village, where they arrested Tyler Duplin, 26, of New Hartford on three

charges: illegal operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs (second offense), failure to take sobriety test and interfering with an officer/resisting. Duplin was released on a \$2,500 cash bond and is scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on April 23.

Stop sign rear-end

At around 5 p.m. on April 10, Karen Whitbeck, 68, of Salisbury came to a stop at the intersection of Route 41 and Route 44 in downtown Salisbury. As she did, Belle Reel, 31, also of Salisbury, was following too close behind going south on Route 41 and rear-ended Whitbeck's Subaru Forester. Both the forester and Reel's GMC Terrain SLE sustained minor damage, and there were no injuries reported in the incident. Reel was issued a written warning for following too closely resulting in a collision.

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

Cornwall median home price dips to \$880K

By Christine Bates

CORNWALL — The 12-month trailing median price for a single-family home in Cornwall dropped slightly at the end of March, falling to \$880,000 for the period ending March 31, 2026.

The figure marks a 7% decrease from the \$950,000 median recorded for the 12 months ending March 31, 2025, but remains 23% higher than the \$498,000 median for the same period ending March 31, 2024.

The unit sales of single-family homes in Cornwall, measured on a 12-month rolling basis, have remained relatively stable after reaching a high of 43 annual sales in 2021.

A total of 17 single-family homes were sold in the 12 months ending March 31, 2026, with 22 transactions in the year ending March 31, 2025, and 15 sales for the 12 months ending March 31, 2024. Historically, sales vol-



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Built around 1800, this well-maintained historic farm-house on 10.35 acres in Cornwall sold for \$960,000 on January 12, 2026.

ume of single-family homes in Cornwall is low, ranging between 15 and 25 transactions a year.

There's no sign of an uptick in listings, with supply being limited. As of April 10, there were four single-family homes on the market, two parcels of land, two furnished summer rentals and two commercial retail buildings listed for sale or rent. Single-family home inventory is now at an all-time low.

First Quarter 2026 Cornwall Transfers January

23 Johnson Road - 3 bedroom/3 bath home on 10.35 acres sold by Theophile Me-neau and Darcy Boynton to 23 Johnson Road Trust, Kareen Rahma Trustee for \$960,000

15 Johnson Road - .67 acres of vacant land sold by Cheryl Thibault to Robert Burke and Lisa Hornberger for \$100,000

11 & 12 Popple Swamp

Road - 6 bedroom/3 bath antique home on 24.5 acres sold by Barton and Deborah Jones to Pascal and Annabel Noth for \$2,377,000

February

26 Kent Road South - Commercial building with 1 bathroom sold by 26 & 24 Kent Road LLC to Red Bird House LLC for \$770,800

March

21 Hall Road - 2 bedroom/1 bath house on 6.3 acres sold by Linda Turow to Donald Polk II for \$201,000

*Town of Cornwall real estate transfers recorded from January 31, 2026 to March 31, 2026, provided by Cornwall Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS and market statistics from Infosparks. Note that recorded transfers frequently lag sales by a number of days. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.

Salisbury discusses speeding, transfer station

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Three months after being introduced to the community, the town's resident state trooper has left the position for another role within the Connecticut State Police, First Selectman Curtis Rand announced at the Board of Selectmen's regular meeting Monday, April 6.

Rand said Trooper Ryan Cooper had applied for the other position before accepting the Salisbury assignment and chose to make the transition when it became available. Cooper was intro-

duced to the public at the Jan. 6 selectmen's meeting. "We will have a replacement soon," Rand said.

Selectmen also discussed ongoing concerns about speeding in town, an issue Selectman Kitty Kiefer said residents frequently raise with her.

The selectmen discussed possible solutions, including approaching the state Department of Transportation again about installing traffic-calming medians on Route 44 - near the Lion's Head condominiums at the eastern end and west of the Route 44/41 intersection in Lakeville.

Other ideas included the often controversial installation of speed cameras, which automatically issue tickets.

Rand expressed caution about the use of speed cameras, saying "There's a reason other towns aren't doing it."

In other business, Rand said he attended a Connecticut General Assembly hearing on the future of the Torrington Transfer Station, where state funding is set to end in June, prompting debate over whether the facility should remain publicly owned or be privatized.

The transfer station serves as a regional hub where towns bring house-

hold trash, recycling and bulky waste to be consolidated and transported in bulk to disposal and processing facilities.

Rand said he attended the hearing online and waited seven hours before testifying.

The message from Northwest Corner towns was, Rand said, "overwhelmingly" in favor of the state keeping control of the facility until the newly-formed Northwest Regional Recovery Authority develops a plan for potential control.

"None of us are interested in managing it," Rand said. "We want to own it."

Underground pedestrian tunnel approved for Route 44 in Salisbury

By Alec Linden

SALISBURY — A proposal to build a pedestrian tunnel beneath Route 44 at the Salisbury School was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission April 6, a move that would allow students and community members safer and more efficient passage across the busy roadway.

The tunnel is meant to provide a permanent fix for what has been a documented safety issue at the crossing, which connects the private boarding school's main campus with sports fields and access to Washinee Lake on the north side of the road. Speaking at Monday's meeting, Salisbury School Associate Director of Facilities Dawn Marti said that there have been three incidents of vehicles hitting students or community members in the past several years.

She added that the tunnel will also improve traffic flow, since the large sports teams that need to cross the road to

travel between athletic facilities and the campus will no longer hold up vehicles.

The 15-foot-wide, 9-foot-tall concrete culvert is planned to be installed just west of the current crosswalk across the roadway, and will run just under 90 feet in length.

Following a nod from the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission in late March and several reviews by the town engineer Tom Grimaldi, the April 6 unanimous approval marks the final town hurdle for the project.

Project engineer Robert Barneschi Jr., of WMC Consulting Engineers, told the Commission during Mon-

day's meeting that pending a final review by the state Department of Transportation, construction could begin as soon as mid-May and is expected to be completed within four to five months.

Construction is planned to take place in two phases. The first will involve excavation on the north side and is expected to have only a minor impact on the roadway. During the second phase, Barneschi said Route 44 will "shift to the north" for a short distance using temporary pavement and jersey barriers. The road is planned to remain open to two-way traffic throughout the construction process.



PHOTO PROVIDED

From left, Daniel Moran, David Moran, Sandy Rhoades, Dylan Deane and Walter Deane, scoutmaster of Troop 22 in North Canaan.

North Canaan Scoutmaster recognized with top award

By Patrick L. Sullivan

NORTH CANAAN — Walter E. Deane, Jr. of North Canaan was named as a recipient of the 2026 Silver Beaver Award, the highest council-level honor awarded by Scouting America. The award recognizes adult volunteers for exceptional service to youth.

Deane, 53, was nominated by Sandy Rhoades of Falls Village.

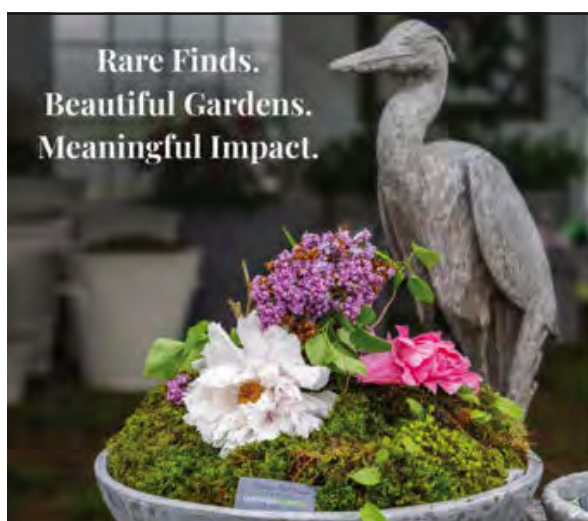
Deane said he began his Scouting career to support his son's den and was promptly promoted to Assistant Den Leader, which led to around 13 years of service.

His proudest accomplishment in Scouting, according to a statement, was during the COVID-19 pandemic when he was able to provide a "virtual Pinewood Derby" for his council.

The most meaningful

moment came a decade ago when Deane set out to help a group, but they ended up helping him.

"In 2016, I took my Bear den to Camp Workcoeman for a mini week. I was there to help watch out for them, but the first night there, I was bitten by a spider, which caused trauma to my leg and overall health during the rest of our time at camp. My Scouts took care of me to make sure I was safe."



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Our Towns



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Andy Moskowitz with a three-pound rainbow trout during the derby.

Young anglers reel in rainbow trout at children's fishing derby

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — On a chilly Saturday morning, April 11, the banks of Factory Pond in Lakeville were lined with youngsters casting their lines in the water in the hope of catching either a rainbow trout or the elusive and rare golden trout.

Piper Bernoi, 10, was determined to catch one of the famed golden trout included in the stocking of Factory Pond earlier in the week for the annual children's fishing derby. She was so gung-ho that she even drew a picture of the fish, accompanied by the affirmation, "I will catch the golden trout," written over and over again.

At one point, Piper lost her bobber and worm, and headed to the Grove boat-house and tackle shop with her grandmother, Merrilee Sherwood Alexander, to get replacements.

Andy Moskowitz, age seven, connected with what turned out to be a three-

pound rainbow trout.

His mother, Nicole, who had longer arms, stepped in with the net, and after Grove manager Stacey Dodge weighed the catch, Andy practiced catch-and-release, returning the fish to the water.

The children's fishing derby takes place on what used to be the opening day of the trout season. Connecticut changed to a year-round season in 2022. From March 1 until 6 a.m. on the second Saturday in April, trout fishing remains catch-and-release only in most waters.

After 6 a.m. on the second Saturday in April, anglers may keep their catch, bearing in mind a new regulation — a statewide nine-inch minimum length for trout.

Before the rule changes — and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic — the second Saturday in April featured a line of anglers on Ethan Allen Street

in the early morning hours, waiting to launch in Lake Wononscopomuc.

Now, Factory Pond is stocked with rainbow trout and a couple of golden trout about a week before the derby, to allow the fish to get acclimated.

Seventeen young anglers participated. Despite the anticipation — and 44-degree water — none of the anglers managed to land a golden trout this year.

Derby Winners:

First to catch a fish:

Katie Soule, Andy Moskowitz (age 7/8); Ophelia Redman, Wyatt Redman (age 9/10); Ryan Soule (age 11/12).

First to catch limit:

Ryan Soule

Largest fish:

Andy Moskowitz (three pounds); Wyatt Redman (two pounds eight ounces); Ryan Soule (one pound two ounces).

North Canaan board down to two selectmen, likely to remain short-handed

By Christian Murray

NORTH CANAAN — The Board of Selectmen is operating with just two members — both relatively new to their roles — and could remain that way through the end of next year following Selectman Brian Ohler's announcement last month that he was going on medical leave.

North Canaan is governed by a three-member Board of Selectmen, meaning Ohler's absence leaves the town with only two active officials. The town is still able to conduct business, however, as two members constitute a legal quorum, according to town officials.

That leaves First Selectman Jesse Bunce and Melissa Pinardi, who was elected to her first term in November. Bunce, elected as first selectman in November, has served on the Board of Selectmen for about 2½ years. Bunce said Ohler formally

notified the town on March 12 that he would be stepping aside "until further notice" based on medical advice after an apparent stroke.

There is no defined timeline for his return, and under the town charter, no replacement can be appointed. Bunce said town counsel has indicated the seat could remain vacant for the remainder of Ohler's term, which is scheduled to finish at the end of 2027.

"There's no defined period," Bunce said.

Ohler did not respond for comment as to a likely return date.

As a result, Bunce and Pinardi — who gave birth last month—have taken over during a critical stretch that has included the budget process.

The board was forced to cancel its regular meeting early last month after both Ohler and Pinardi faced personal circumstances. Pinardi gave birth the day of the

meeting, and Ohler had his medical emergency just days prior.

"I had no choice but to cancel it; we didn't have a quorum," Bunce said, whose wife gave birth to their third child at the end of January.

Despite the reduced board, town business has continued.

Bunce and Pinardi held multiple meetings in late March — including a special meeting on March 23 — to develop a proposed budget, which they agreed upon and then presented it to the Board of Finance on April 8.

The budget is now headed to a public hearing scheduled for April 20, with copies now available on the town's website.

Bunce said working with a two-member board during budget season has been challenging but manageable.

"It went well," he said of the process, noting that collaboration was key despite the circumstances.

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RAISE HEALTH



The hidden world of vernal pools

By Alec Linden

SHARON – What do you call a pond with no fish that disappears for half the year? Scientists call it a vernal pool, and it is no riddle, but a vital component of the Northwest Corner's woodland ecosystems.

Much like a riddle, however, these murky, transient ponds harbor secrets below the surface, and with a little prodding, can reveal surprising truths. On Saturday, April 11, the Sharon Land Trust hosted an evening hike in the aim of doing just that and demystifying these misunderstood resources.

As the sun was setting high on the ridge of Red Mountain, local science teacher Joseph Markow – who guided the excursion alongside landscape professional and sustainability expert Robin Zitter and Sharon Land Trust staff – pointed to a depression full of inky black water.

Without vernal pools, he said, “wood frogs would disappear very quickly.” The wood frog, a small, primarily land-dwelling amphibian, is an example of an “obligate” species, Markow explained – an animal that has adapted to rely on ephemeral wetlands to breed since they are devoid of fish, which eat the eggs and young of amphibians.

As Markow spoke, he gestured towards a lumpy, jelly-like mass half submerged in the murk that resembled a clump of soaked chia seeds: a cluster of wood frog eggs. An undiscerning developer may not notice the signs of life in what otherwise looks like a puddle in the woods,



Joseph Markow, who has nearly two and a half decades of experience teaching middle school science in the Northwest Corner, identifies several masses of salamander eggs suspended below the surface of the vernal pond.

he said. And if the survey is done when the summer heat has dried up the pond, the habitat may be missed entirely.

Zitter sits on Sharon's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, which co-hosted Saturday evening's hike, and said that this is a reason the town needs to codify protections for these delicate resources that so many species, especially amphibians, rely on. She said the IWWC is taking steps to insert those protections into the town's Plan of Conservation and Development, a ten-year guidance document that is due for an update this year.

She pointed out many species that rely on vernal pools actually spend most of their lives in the terrestrial territory surrounding it – known by ecologists as “upland” habitat. It's not only the ponds themselves that need protection, she explained, but the broader landscape that supports these types of wetlands.

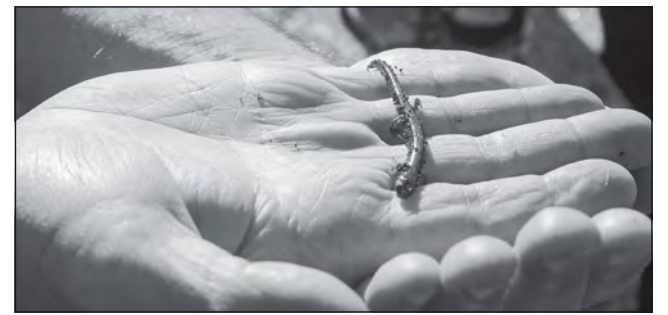
Luckily, the vernal ponds on Red Mountain are in no immediate danger, at least from development. Its ridge-line and expansive, wooded slopes are part of a network of protected forest and agricultural lands. The Sharon Land Trust's 278-acre Hamlin Preserve, within which Saturday's hike was held, connects to the Mary Moore Preserve, another Land Trust property, via a trail that traverses easement-conserved land on the Wike Farm.

The hilltop forest was relatively quiet Saturday evening, which Markow attributed to a brisk wind and recent cold. Like humans, frogs prefer to wait for more comfortable conditions before breaking out in spring-time song.

On a warmer evening, Markow said the area around the pond would likely be abuzz with a shrill chorus from the spring peepers – tiny tree frogs whose emergence is a classic symbol of the end of a New England winter.

Markow said that close, extensive exposure to the pitchy trill of spring peepers can actually damage hearing. “They're louder than a rock concert at times,” he said, reaching 90 decibels at close range.

Markow was ready for a subdued night. Before



taking the group into the woods, he gave a presentation with a cast of critters he'd plucked from a vernal pool near his house earlier in the day. A microscope setup provided viewers with an up-close view of the tiny and aptly named fingernail clam, which spends its entire lifespan in vernal pools, burying itself in moist mud to survive when the water dries up.

He also demonstrated another uniquely adapted species. “You'll see a stick just get up and start walking around,” he said while pass-

ing around a small sample vial with a wriggling brown mass inside, “and that's a caddisfly.” The resourceful larvae of these insects use found materials in the vernal pools to create a protective armor around themselves.

The crowd favorite was a small red-backed salamander that he showed off straight from the palm of his hand. “It's cool enough today that they are pretty calm,” he said, just before the amphibian started to wriggle with purpose. “It's waking up in your hand!” came a shout from the crowd.

Community Health & Wellness Center resumes dental services

By Patrick L. Sullivan

TORRINGTON – Community Health & Wellness Center (CHWC) announced Monday, April 13 that dental services will be reinstated effective Monday, April 20 at the Torrington Health Center.

In February 2025, CHWC made the decision to suspend dental services indefinitely due to significant financial shortfalls, largely due to underfunding of its high-cost dental services by the state of Connecticut's Medicaid program.

After negotiations, an agreement was reached in July 2025 to provide Connecticut's 17 Federally Qualified Health Centers with \$80 million in adjustments over the next three years to align to 2023 costs.

Heading the Dental Department at CHWC will be Dr. Ting Luo. Dr. Luo has an extensive career spanning from time served in the US Army as a dental officer, to hospitals and health centers, and most recently as the civilian dentist at the US Coast Guard Base in Boston for ten years.

CHWC will offer routine exams, cleanings, X-rays, fillings, simple extractions, fluoride treatments, scaling and root planning and sealants. More extensive procedures like bridges, root canals and denture care will be evaluated for referral to community partners.

Dental services will be available at the Torrington Health Center Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. until 7 p.m. to start. A date to resume dental services in Winsted is yet to be determined.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice Town of Salisbury Board of Finance Notice of Public Hearing In-person Meeting Monday April 27, 2026, 7:30pm

A public hearing called by the Board of Finance will be held in-person at 7:30pm on Monday April 27, 2026 at Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068 with

the following agenda:

1. To receive public comment on the proposed Board of Education budget as presented.

2. To receive public comment on the proposed Board of Selectmen, town government budget as presented.

Note: Copies of the proposed budgets are available at Salisbury Town Clerks office.

Board of Finance meeting immediately following the Public Hearing

1. Final Budget Review; Discussion and possible vote to present the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen, Town Government Budget to the Annual Town Budget meeting, which will take place on Wednesday, May 13th, 2026 at 7:30pm

Kristine M. Simmons
Town Clerk of Salisbury
04-16-26
04-23-26

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF SHARON/ BOARD OF FINANCE

All Registered Voters and Property Owners in the Town of Sharon are hereby Warned and Notified that a public hearing will be held Friday, April 24, 2026 at

7:00PM at the Sharon Town Hall, School, 63 Main Street, for the purpose of reviewing the Board of Selectmen's and the Board of Education's proposed budgets for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027. Copies of the proposed budgets are available at the Town Hall and on the Town Website.

Dated at Sharon, Connecticut this 16th day of April 2026.

Thomas Bartram,
Chairman
Sharon Board of Finance
04-16-26

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, 50 Field Street, 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 Decision Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following actions were taken by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on April 6, 2026:

Approved with the conditions that erosion controls are maintained for the duration of construction and an as-built survey be provided after construction - Special Permit Application #2026-0309 by David Mabbott, for a detached apartment on single-family residential lot and a new structure that cannot be placed in a buildable area in accordance with Sections 208, 302.5 and 302.6 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 25 as Lot 12 and is located at 1 Elman Drive, Salisbury. The owners of the property are Susie Reiss and David Mabbott.

Approved - Site Plan Application #2026-0311

by owner Anne Fredericks, for demolition and reconstruction of single-family residence using the existing footprint in the Lake Protection Overlay District in accordance with section 404 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 64 as Lot 07 and is located at 29 Morgan Lane, Salisbury.

Approved - Site Plan Application #2026-0314 by owner Salisbury School, Inc., to construct a tunnel under route 44 in accordance with section 807.6 of the regulations. The properties are shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 15 as Lot 41 and Map 16 as Lot 05 and are located at 250 Canaan Road and 251 Canaan Road, Salisbury.

Approved - Site Plan Application #2026-0313 by owner Lime Rock Park II, LLC, to replace existing gazebo with 18' x 24' "Welcome Center" barn in accordance with section 207.1 of the regulations. The property shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 04 as Lot 16 and is located at 497 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville.

Authorized the Zoning Enforcement Officer to approve - temporary zoning permit application #ZP-26-26 by owner Lime Rock Park II, LLC, for kitchen set-up for 2026 season to replace existing kitchen damaged by fire in November 2025 in accordance with section 906 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 04 as Lot 16 and is located at 497 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville. The authorization was conditioned on approval by Torrington Area Health

District and the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

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

Town of Salisbury
Planning &
Zoning Commission
Robert Riva, Secretary
04-16-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

TILDEN W. SOUTHACK
Late of Sharon
(26-00083)

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

The fiduciary is:
Kevin F Nelligan
The Law Offices of Kevin F.

Nelligan, LLC, 194 Ashley Fls Rd, PO Box 776, Canaan, CT 06018

Megan M. Foley
Clerk
04-16-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF JOHN J. BLANEY Late of Norfolk (26-00090)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated

March 31, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
Janice Jones
c/o Ellen C Marino
Ellen C Marino
596 Main Street
Winsted, CT 06098
Megan M. Foley
Clerk
04-16-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF SHIRLEY E.

GUGGENHEIM
AKA SHIRLEY
ELIZABETH
GUGGENHEIM
Late of North Canaan
(26-00080)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated March 17, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
Susan Plotz
c/o Jessica Galligan
Goldsmith
Kurzman Eisenberg
Corbin & Lever, LLP, One
North Broadway, 12th Floor,
White Plains, NY 10601
Megan M. Foley
Clerk
04-16-26

OBITUARIES

Michael Joseph Carabine

SHARON — Michael Joseph Carabine, 81, of Sharon, Connecticut, passed away on the morning of Friday, April 3, 2026, at Bryn Mawr Hospital in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. He was the beloved husband of the late Angela Derrico Carabine and loving father to Caitlin Carabine McLean.

Michael was born on April 23, 1944, in Bronx, New York. He was the son of the late Thomas and Kathleen Carabine of New York.

Michael was an alumnus of St. Jerome's Catholic School (Bronx, New York) and later attended St. Joseph's School (Barrytown, New York), where he studied briefly to become a Christian brother (which he ultimately decided was not his path in life). He served in the infantry branch of the Army of the United States during the Vietnam War from Feb. 1968 to Jan. 1970, where he earned a National Defense Service medal, a Vietnam Service medal, a Combat Infantry badge, a Vietnam Campaign medal, a Bronze Star medal and two (2) Overseas bars, as well as the title of M14 Expert.

He married Angela Derrico Carabine on Sept. 9, 1978, and they welcomed their only child, Caitlin, on

Oct. 11, 1985.

Michael had a storied career in hospitality, acting as general manager for several of New York City's private clubs. He later translated his love for hospitality into the corporate world, where he worked for Hess Corporation and the Episcopal Church.

In his youth, Michael was an impressive athlete, with a love for handball, softball and swimming. In his later years, he enjoyed reading and listening to music, with his loving (and furry) companion, Henry, and most enjoyed spending time with his beloved grandson, Will.

He is survived by his daughter, Caitlin, son-in-law, Andrew; and grandson, William, all of whom he loved deeply; as well as his sister, Catherine Turpin. He was predeceased by his parents, Thomas and Catherine Carabine, and his brothers, Thomas and William Carabine.

A private service will be held at St. Bernard's Church in Sharon. Memorial contributions may be made to: the Sharon Historical Society & Museum, the Sharon Fire Department Inc. & Sharon Ambulance, and the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of all arrangements.

Robert E. Stapf Sr.

MILLERTON — Robert E. Stapf Sr. (Bobbo), a devoted husband, loving father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother and friend to many, passed away peacefully on April 9, 2026, at the age of 77, happily at home surrounded by lots and lots of love and with the best care ever.



Bob was born Jan. 16, 1949, to the late Peter and Dorothy (Fountain) Stapf. He began working at an early age, met his forever love, Sandy, in 7th grade and later graduated from Pine Plains Central School.

Following graduation, Bob and Sandy (Snyder) were married on Sept. 18, 1971. Bob soon began as a diesel mechanic, working at H.O. Penn and then Dutchess County Diesel for most of his career. He also loved every minute at Orvis Sandanona and all the other clubs where he worked with his dogs for over 50 years.

While Bob was happy outdoors hunting, snowmobiling and playing golf whenever he could and spending a lot of time customizing his 1949 Chevy Pickup, winning a lot of trophies at car shows all around, he was happiest spending time with family and friends. He could be found almost every morning having coffee with his buddies at Talk of the Town where he was "the mayor."

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 54 years and best nurse, Sandy, of Mil-

lerton, his four children; Michelle Cianfarani and her husband Vinnie, Robin Stapf and her husband Rob, Bobby Jr. and his wife Jean and Kristofer Stapf and his wife Lauren, his 7 grandchildren; Zachary, Adriana, Mackenzie, Addison, "Bobcat,"

Audrey and Maddie and his 2 great grandchildren; Nevaeh and Leiana. Bob is also survived by his 3 sisters; Barbara Holdridge (Everett), Debbie Bryant (Terry) and Wendy Lind (George), his 2 brothers: Peter Stapf (Donna) and John Stapf (Jane) along with many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to send our love and sincere appreciation to all of the wonderful nurses and doctors at Vassar Brothers Medical Center along with the nurses from Hospice Care who always took such great care of Bob for us.

Family and friends are invited to share memories and offer condolences on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Peck & Peck Funeral Homes, 7749 South Main Street, Pine Plains, New York.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a small donation to Hospice Care for continued support to those who need it most. For directions, share a favorite memory or to leave a message of condolence for the family please visit www.peckandpeck.net

Send obituaries to obituaries@lakevillejournal.com

OUR TOWNS

New farmers market coming to Northwest Corner

By John Coston

COLEBROOK — The Northwest Corner is getting a new farmers market next month. Three women who lamented the closing of the Norfolk Farmers Market last year have teamed up to start a new market at Norbrook Farm Brewery on the Norfolk-Colebrook border at 204 Stillman Hill Road.

Beginning Wednesday, May 20 from 5 to 8 p.m. the Northwest Farm to Fork will open under the pavilion at Norbrook, offering food and farm goods such as poultry and beef, produce, flowers, plants prepared foods, including sourdough bread — and live music. The market will run every third Wednesday through October.

"When Norfolk folded last year, we wondered if there was a way that we could bring back a farmers market," said Devin Grosso, who moved to Norfolk a year ago from Los Angeles. She and April Carter, a fifth generation farmer from Torrington, and Lisa Auclair of Norfolk, who managed the Norfolk market, formed a nonprofit and started scouting for vendors.

To date, Grosso said 20 vendors have been signed. They include Ford Farm in East Canaan, Roy's Bakery and Farm in Winsted and Jenny's Greens in New Hartford.

"Anyone who attends can take advantage of what Norbrook has to offer," Grosso



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Devin Grosso, left, Lisa Auclair, center, and April Carter founded a nonprofit Northwest Farm to Fork, a new farmers market that will run every third Wednesday starting May 20 at Norbrook Farm Brewery on the Norfolk-Colebrook line.

said. "And we picked a day when people are often there for dinner." She imagines people coming to eat and shopping for weekend groceries.

Norbrook Brewery opened in 2019 and quickly became a popular venue for young and old with its farm-brewed beers, food offerings and outdoor activities, including hiking and biking trails, bike rentals and disc golf, plus farm animals. A recent expansion has added seating and a tasting room, and a pavilion is nearly complete just beyond the parking lot.

Farmers markets are a staple in the Northwest Cor-

ner. Markets in Cornwall and Kent have long-established traditions of drawing regulars for weekend shopping on Fridays in Kent and Saturdays in Cornwall. Millerton also

offers a market on Saturdays and there are markets farther afield in Torrington and Collinsville and in Massachusetts in Great Barrington, West Stockbridge and Pittsfield.

Worship Services Week of April 19, 2026	
<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>	<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 455-2442</p>
<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>	<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>Congregation Beth David A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly - Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-573-9496 info@congbethdavid.org</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 8:00AM - Worship Service 2nd & 4th Sunday "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>
<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>	<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-3138</p>

Region One advances 5.67% budget increase

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Following a quiet public hearing without questions, the Region One Board of Education voted on Thursday, April 9 to send a \$19.5 million 2026-2027 budget proposal to a referendum vote in all six towns. The budget marks a 5.67% increase from last year, and towns will have an opportunity to vote on Tuesday, May 5.

The hearing took place at Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) and online.

Flora Lazar, the regional board member from Salisbury and a member of the budget committee, said the budget process had been "meticulous."

Lazar said the committee started with a considerably higher figure and worked to bring it down.

"What we arrived at is what we must do," she said.

Sam Herrick, the Region One Business Manager, delivered the presentation, noting that it was developed through a detailed and collaborative process involving board members, administration and department leaders.

The Region One budget has three components: HVRHS, Pupil Services — which includes special education — and the Regional Schools Services Center (RSSC), also known as the Central Office.

The HVRHS budget proposal is for \$9,408,838, an increase of \$273,260 or 2.99%.

The Pupil Services budget proposal is for \$8,111,086, an increase of \$588,530 or 7.82%.

The RSSC budget proposal is for \$2,013,716, an increase of \$186,642 or 10.22%.

The total is \$19,533,640, an increase of \$1,048,431 or 5.67%.

Herrick said a little over 98% of the overall increase comes from health insurance costs, salaries, and Pupil Services.

On the latter, Herrick said \$449,230 of the \$588,530 increase at Pupil Services is for tuition and transportation for out-of-district placements.

Following the presentation, moderator Sara Woloszyn asked for comments or questions.

Receiving none, the hearing was closed.

Town assessments
Assessments by town if the Region One budget proposal passes on Tuesday, May 5.

Canaan/Falls Village: \$1,752,589 an increase of \$208,904 or 14.89%.

Cornwall: \$2,168,169, an increase of \$163,895 or 8.87%.

Kent: \$2,783,359, an increase of \$171,360 or 7.48%

North Canaan: \$6,140,112, an increase of \$519,526 or 9.11%.

Salisbury: \$4,798,928, an increase of \$17,835 or .43%.

Sharon: \$1,890,486, a decrease of \$33,356 or -2.07%.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Remembering and praying for our towns

Preparations for this summer's Bisesquicentennial, 250th, anniversary remind me of our Bicentennial celebrations in the summer of 1976. I was a child living on the Green in Sharon with my family.

The whole town had a picnic on the Green — we sewed bonnets and ribboned badges, had special quarter dollars in our hands, and speeches in words long gone told a message of hope, dedication and pride. Also the Clothesline Sale on the Green set a lifelong standard for craft and artistry.

Memorial Day we wove ribbons in our bike wheels and carried banners while marching around the Green together. From then on I discovered a longing to return to Sharon.

It wasn't just the beauty and the color of that summer, it was who we were. There was a generosity to the way we treated each other that goes back to the timeless "one anothers" of the Bible.

A sense of hospitality in the welcoming front porches, with each dwelling's unique gifts blossoming alongside an orderly, conscientious community rooted in the laws of a gracious and loving God. Do right even when no one is looking. Don't hold grudges. Forgive. Remember we share one maker. Love one another.

The villages I love are full of churches which hold a sweetness and peace that is a big part of what I treasured. Through prayer we have access to God's help, guidance, correction and hope. Through prayer, and praying together, we can bring these beautiful truths to full flower in our own lives, in our community, and across the nation. And we can share prayer with a new generation. Let's pray together! The National Day of Prayer will be celebrated for the 75th time this May 7th at 6 p.m. at the Salisbury Town Hall.

Sarah Davis Hughes
Lakeville



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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago — April 1901

SHARON — Mrs. Luther Brown is seriously ill at her home with erysipelas. The Misses Brown are also sick with the grip. Mrs. Samuel Skiff is helping care for them.

Adv.: The E.W. Spurr Co. Dealers in Lumber, Coal, Hardware and Feed. Pillsbury Best Flour, Clover, Timothy and Red Top Seed. Evergreen and Southern White Corn. Baled Hay. Gents Furnishings.

100 years ago — April 1926

Henry Ford is now a billionaire. Seems as though more flivvers than that were running around.

The mercury has registered from 16 to 20 almost every morning the past week. Winter has certainly been lingering in the lap of Spring with a vengeance. The surface of the lake still remains covered with ice. Not in many years has the lake remained closed so late in the spring.

50 years ago — April 1976

State Sen. Harold Hansen (D-30th) said this week he remained optimistic about passage next year of the controversial "Bottle Bill." The bill met defeat last Wednesday in the State Senate by a 20-16 vote.

A maple tree in Sharon which "could be up to 200 years old," according to Robert Carberry, may qualify as a "Bicentennial Tree." The tree stands on Anna Golden's property on Route 41 between Lakeville and Sharon. The gnarled trunk has a circumference of 23 feet, two feet from the ground.

Three Laotian refugees, the Mitsri family, arrived in this country last Friday night and are now settled in Lakeville. Sponsored by Gretchen and Jerry Doolittle of Cornwall, they came from a refugee camp in Thailand. Doolittle, who served as a press attache in the Laotian Embassy, said he wanted to do this because "they are among many people

who bet on America and we owe them something."

CORNWALL — It is still possible to rent a kid to do housework or yard work during the week starting April 19. The Junior Young People's Fellowship of the First Church is willing to work to raise funds for the Cornwall Child Care Center and the Little Guild of St. Francis. If you have leaves to be raked or attic to be cleaned, call Pat Blakey or the church office. A fee of \$1.50 per hour is considered reasonable for a job well done by a "rented" kid.

Connecticut ranks second highest in the nation in local property taxes per capita, but it is 43rd among states in total state taxes per \$1,000 personal income as of 1974, a study by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities showed. Only Massachusetts ranks higher than Connecticut in per capita property taxes, according to the study.

25 years ago — April 2001

Eugene L. "Gene" Brooks was a man who affected so many lives. As an educator on both sides of the border (Dutchess and Litchfield counties) residents all over the area are mourning his April 7 death. After retiring from the Webutuck school system, Mr. Brooks was tapped for assistant principal of Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

It's been a breathtakingly busy year for students at Housatonic Valley Regional High School involved with the school's first ever robotics team. After winning high honors at a regional competition in Hartford, the team went on to the finals in Florida this month. There, "Reggie the Robot" did his team proud, not winning but still coming in about 43rd in his division of 84 top national contenders.

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

Fish prices are jumping

THE RETIRED INVESTOR BILL SCHMICK

By now, everyone understands rising beef prices are a never-ending story. Fewer consumers complain about seafood prices. That may change as sticker shock hits the fish counter.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that fish and seafood prices increased by 3.89% so far in the first quarter of 2026 compared to prices in 2025. During the same period, the overall inflation rate was 1.19%. Of course, that was small potatoes compared to the price of beef, which surged 13% amid strong demand and tight supplies.

For the rest of this year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture expects seafood prices to rise faster than the historical average of 4.60% per year. For as long as I can remember, seafood in the U.S. has been a luxury item that, year after year, has climbed in price. Prices for fresh fish and seafood are 133.51% higher in 2026 than in 1997. In 2024, seafood had the highest average retail price among protein sources, surpassing beef and veal.

Beef, on the other hand, remained low and within the means of most Americans until recent years. Part of the price difference is attributable to growing demand for seafood in the U.S., one of the world's largest seafood markets. However, 90% of the seafood consumed is imported from other countries.

It was not until I began traveling the world in my teens that I realized that, in many countries, seafood was both cheap and plentiful. China, Indonesia, and Vietnam are the top suppliers of our fish, and all of them have been slapped with high tariffs thanks to Donald Trump. But don't just blame Donald Trump for the rising prices.

In recent years, consumers worldwide have begun paying more for fish. Climate change, despite deniers, has had a profound impact on the world's oceans. Rising temperatures and acidification are impacting the distribution and abundance of many underwater species. Just look at the Gulf of Maine as an example. The warmer water has led to a decline in the lobster population to the

point where I paid \$49 for a lobster roll last weekend in Martha's Vineyard.

Over the last six years, Maine's lobster catch has declined from 121 million pounds to 79 million. This drop reflects a broader regional shift, as the Gulf of Maine has been leading the oceans in warming driven by climate change. As a result, the codfish industry has been decimated, while shrimping has gone nowhere as marine life fled to cooler waters. Similarly, salmon populations in the Pacific Ocean are experiencing the same trend.

On a trip to visit relatives in Norway a few years ago, I also learned that many species are affected by pollutants such as plastics, pesticides, and industrial waste. Thanks to ocean currents, much of the world's ocean trash is winding up in the Scandinavian region. This has led to increasing regulation and certification as governments try to reverse this trend. The costs are passed on to consumers through higher prices and a smaller supply of fish.

Beyond production, the costs of catching fish are steep: harvesting is more labor-intensive, product spoilage occurs faster, and loss rates are higher at every stage from ocean to plate.

A pound of ground beef might cost \$6.75 per pound, but a comparable portion of fresh salmon or cod will run you anywhere from \$8 to \$14 per pound. A whole chicken is even cheaper, about \$2/pound. The difference between catching fish and raising cattle, pigs, and chickens is that ranchers and farmers use a controlled environment to optimize feed, breeding, and growth timelines. Wild-caught fishing offers none of the above.

Commercial boats depart with a fully paid crew, fuel accounting for 5-10% of their earnings, ice, and refrigeration units, and face increas-

ingly uncertain weather, shifting fish populations, regulations, and seasonal closures. There is no guarantee of a full catch, whereas a rancher can be certain of how many pounds of beef he will produce in a month.

At the supermarket, beef and chicken have much longer shelf lives as well. Fresh seafood is one of the most perishable items on a grocer's shelves. Anywhere from 8 to 20 percent of seafood is spoiled before it reaches consumers (the shrink rate). Supermarkets know this and mark up their fish to account for that spillage rate. Frozen seafood has a near-zero shrink rate, which is why it is much cheaper than fresh fish.

And keeping fish cold is expensive. Most commercial fishing takes place far from supermarkets. Many products, such as wild salmon, Atlantic cod, and imported shrimp, may travel thousands of miles by boat, truck, and air before hitting your local grocery shelf. At every step in the chain, keeping fish cold requires energy, specialized equipment, and speed. Unlike beef, which spoils more slowly, fish spoils quickly if it is not handled precisely.

Another difference between fish and a steer is that you get a greater yield from the beef carcass. About 63% of its live weight is boneless

beef. A whole fish yields far less. No more than 30-50% of the fish is edible. If demand for wild-caught fish picks up, you can't just catch more. Harvests are constrained by quotas, seasonal availability, and the sheer biological limits of fish populations.

It is the reason aquaculture has exploded worldwide, with fish farms popping up everywhere. Today, roughly half of all seafood consumed globally is farmed fish. Fish farms can scale up like livestock if demand rises. That's why tilapia and catfish, for example, are much cheaper than wild salmon, cod, and shrimp. When it comes down to it, you may have noticed that not all fish are expensive. Canned tuna is practically a loss leader, with cans going for a dollar or less. The price differential between fish and meat is really a gap between industrialized livestock production and wild-caught fresh seafood. The more you consume farmed fish that is frozen for transport or canned, the cheaper it becomes.

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.

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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YOUR NEWS

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Our Towns

Local students get a taste of the real world during Career Day

Continued from Page A1

State Police troopers provided an overview of their duties. Josh Wedge and Miranda Coretto of Troop B in North Canaan discussed the types of incidents they respond to, including car crashes, crimes and emergency calls. The troopers said they are also asked to cover large events, such as fairs and games. They told students police are dispatched through two radios – one in their vehicles and the other a portable radio they carry.

Wedge talked about specialty units within the State Police department, such as K-9, marine, bomb squad, tactical and traffic units.

Students particularly enjoyed hearing about the K-9 unit, which is composed of German shepherds, Labrador retrievers, bloodhounds and comfort dogs. One youngster shared that he had a bloodhound. Wedge told them Connecticut had the first currency dog, which is used to sniff out large amounts of concealed money in the fight against money laundering, illegal gambling and smuggling.

Troopers, the students learned, are allowed to take their patrol cars home. “Our

jurisdiction is the whole state, so we might be needed anywhere,” Wedge said. In addition to the SUVs they drive, there are also motorcycle units and an armored car division. Of interest to the students was the cadet program, open to those 14 to 20 years old. Members get certified in CPR, receive physical training and take part in educational offerings.

Attorney Veronica Relea of Sharon and New York City works for a large firm in the city, where she specializes in contract energy law.

A graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School, she said, “I help people agree on things. I help with big projects, like being able to power your house. A lawyer is always putting things together. We try to come up with solutions for clients.”

Relea said she did not enjoy law school. “What I learned most was at my job,” she said.

Outside the school, crews from both the local ambulance service and volunteer fire department gave students a close-up look at their vehicles and explained their duties.

Beth Klippel and Brian Moore, volunteer firefighters in Sharon, pointed out



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

State troopers Josh Wedge and Miranda Coretto visit with Sharon Center School students on Career Day April 10. From left: Giuseppe Socci, Galo Suby, Eivin Peterson, Emma Mariano, Kora Begley and Spencer Whitesel.

the various equipment that is carried on their trucks.

Anthony Ferrara and Phil Burke of Northeast Fire Rescue supplement the local ambulance squad. As the children sat in the back of the ambulance, Ferrara said the job of emergency medical responders is to transport patients to a higher level of care, stabilizing them as they go. He said this can include checking blood pressure, blood sugar levels and oxygen levels.

Ferrara added, “My aim, when people are obviously having a bad day, is to make them smile.”

New kindergarten eligibility law leaves 4-year-olds in a gray area in Region One

By Alec Linden

Following a state law announced by Gov. Ned Lamont in early March, Region One elementary schools will not accept any new students to kindergarten who have not turned five by Sept. 1, with no exceptions. The decision has prompted frustrations among some families and raised questions about early education age cutoffs.

Region One School District Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley shared a message with the community on March 24 across multiple platforms announcing that the state had passed a law changing the age requirement for children entering kindergarten. For Region One, the change eliminates the waiver process previously used by parents seeking to enroll younger children they believe are ready for the next step in their education.

The waiver itself is relatively recent, debuting at the start of the 2024–2025 school year in response to new legislation that moved the kindergarten birthday deadline from Jan. 1 to Sept. 1, while allowing younger students to be admitted following a developmental screening.

The new law change eliminates that option as part of an extended effort in Hartford to standardize kindergarten admission rules across the state.

Brady-Shanley noted that since the waiver process was introduced, approximately seven to 10 students have used it per year. Current kindergarten enrollment across Region One elementary schools is 98 students.

Brady-Shanley said that

as of early April, few parents had responded, with only one family reaching out to her directly about the change. Still, she sympathizes with parents who want their children in kindergarten but who don't make the cutoff.

“Four is a tough year, no doubt,” she said.

Darcy Boynton, a Salisbury mother of two, is one parent who is frustrated by what she sees as the relative arbitrariness of age cutoffs. Her younger daughter, who she says thrives in social environments and is ready for the school system, narrowly misses the birthday cutoff for Salisbury Central School's early kindergarten program, known as EK.

She said the deadline puts her daughter in a difficult place for educational progression. “I just want to make sure we can figure out a plan for her next year where she's enriched, stretched, learning and growing,” she said. “I don't want to put the pause on her for a year.”

While her daughter is not directly impacted by the rule change, she sees the hard cutoff as part of a broader, difficult question about assessing the readiness of children to enter kindergarten.

Salisbury Central School Principal Stephanie Magyar said, “We put [the EK] program in place all those years ago because it cuts down significantly in kindergarten retention.” The program is flexible in that it accepts older students based on developmental screening, but will not take students born after Dec. 31.

She recommended that parents of younger children who want their kids to get a

head start in the school environment should consider applying for pre-K, even if they feel their child has outgrown it. “If your child can attend pre-K,” she explained, “then they're here in the school, and we can differentiate,” she said, meaning that staff can tailor the student's experience based on their demonstrated development and educational progress.

She noted that Region One's pre-K programs prioritize students with special needs and that placement isn't guaranteed. Plus, while students who demonstrate a special need are granted free tuition, the program costs \$1,200 annually for those who don't. There is also a middle tier for students who don't fully qualify for a special need, which costs \$600.

She noted that Falls Village's Lee H. Kellogg school is proposing to add a “combo” pre-K and EK program for the upcoming school year in response to the rule change. She said that at the moment, the addition is the only staffing and budgetary change across Region One schools resulting from the announcement.

Correcting Errors

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

Lakeville Journal reporter talks shop with young students

By Ruth Epstein

SALISBURY – Lakeville Journal senior reporter Patrick Sullivan gave Salisbury Central School students a close look at local journalism during Friday's Career Day.

In his well-known jocular manner, Sullivan, whose byline has appeared in the weekly newspaper for the past 22 years, followed a list of questions prepared for presenters by school counselor Donna Begley.

Sullivan described work at a newspaper as a place where there is no such thing as a typical day. Over the years, he has learned to expect the unexpected – usually right before deadline.

While explaining the production timeline, Sullivan painted a frenetic scene with moving parts and remote and in-person staff.

“Out of all the chaos comes two papers, The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, and an arts section called Compass,” he said.

Sullivan said the papers have a reputation for being fair and accurate purveyors of news, noting “accuracy is critical. It's important to get it right; double-checking is part of the job. Also important is the ability to take notes in a hurry. That's a great skill. I cannot emphasize that enough. Also, journalists need to keep an open mind and write concisely.”

Sullivan has been asked why he doesn't record meetings on his phone rather than take notes. “Why would I want to have to listen to a meeting twice?” he asked rhetorically, along with a grimace.

Not all the work of reporters is exciting, such as sitting through hours-long meetings of local boards and commissions, but it needs to be done to keep community members informed. He's gotten to know many inter-



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

Lakeville Journal Senior Reporter Patrick Sullivan delivers presentation at Salisbury Central School's Career Day.

esting people over the years.

Sullivan said he enjoys covering sports and watching kids he knows compete.

“But being both a reporter and photographer can be challenging,” he said.

Sullivan is the author of a column about fly fishing titled “Tangled Lines” that allows him to combine his two top talents.

Reflecting on how he got started, Sullivan said his path into journalism was unconventional.

Sullivan, who has been in alcohol recovery for 26 years, said he was working at a rehab center at the time but was ready for a change. With a degree in English and aware he was good at two things — writing and fly fishing — he called the Lakeville Journal to inquire about a job.

The timing was right. Someone had left and there was an opening.

Now, after all those years, he finds himself being a public figure, recognized wherever he goes.

During the presentation, he distributed press notebooks to everyone, pointing out their small size allows them to fit into pockets. Sullivan said he goes through about 300 in a year. He also presented students with

pens, compliments of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News.

There are jobs other than reporting at the papers, he said, listing such opportunities as photography and layout. He also spoke of the award-winning student newspaper, HVRHS Today, which students from Housatonic Valley Regional High School are producing with assistance from The Lakeville Journal.

“They do a great job,” he said.

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ADVERTISEMENT

Noble Horizons art show features bucolic work inspired by the region

By Ruth Epstein

SALISBURY – The barns that dot the tri-state corner landscape are so much more than structures. They often bring back memories of times past, help to serve useful purposes and are the focus of many artists' eyes, as witnessed at Saturday's "Barns Abound" event at Noble Horizons, a senior living community in Salisbury.

Hosted by the Noble Horizons Auxiliary, the walls of the community room were filled with artists' renditions of barns from a variety of perspectives.

"I love barns," said Jean Saliter, who came up with the theme for the past two shows. "I want to adopt them all."

Saliter said the silo she passes every day to and from work served as the inspiration for the art show. In her own painting, Saliter captured a white barn structure among the foliage.

One of the contributing artists was Marilyn Nichols of Millerton, whose bright red barn was pictured surrounded by grass.

"This is a remembrance of a barn owned by my aunt and uncle, Earl and Hazel Peck of Craryville," she said. "I loved going there."



Noreen Driscoll views the works done by the late Herbert Kates at Saturday's "Barns Abound" event hosted by the Noble Horizons Auxiliary.

Nina Mathus, a resident of Noble Horizons known for her whimsical artwork, didn't disappoint. In one entry, titled "Dream of Old MacDonald's Barn," she depicted tiny animals floating on clouds.

"I had some climbing, some struggling and some just lying on the clouds," Mathus said.

Another of her pieces was a three-dimensional barn birdhouse.

Two sketches that drew a great deal of attention were created by American painter, illustrator and writer Herbert Spencer Kates (1894 to 1947). Submitted by Anne Longley, she accompanied the pieces with an explanation.

Longley believes they were made in the 1920s or 1930s. When Kates died at the age of 54, his brother Jerome put the works in storage where they remained for 40 years. Not until the mid-2000s, long after Jerome Kates died, were they discovered in his attic.

Longley purchased pieces from the collection a few years ago and when she thought about entering the sketches into the show at Noble Horizons, she realized they were in poor condition. Completed on gossamer-thin tracing paper, the sketches sustained numerous tears and had some missing tissue. Longley carefully cut away what damage she could and repaired a few tears and added color to minimize the deterioration.

"I believe the converted barn/house was done in Westchester County where Kates grew up," Longley



Pat Henley looks at the red barn birdhouse created by Nina Mathus.

wrote. "The beautiful barn and outbuildings were likely sketched in upper New York state or possibly Connecticut — Kates spent time in Kent and nearby."

The evening also featured a raffle and extensive array of hors d'oeuvres.

The Noble Horizons Auxiliary is made up of volunteers who fundraise to pay for special items for

residents. President Teri Aitken, in her message in the latest newsletter, listed the many ways the organization is able to enhance the lives of residents because of strong community support. This includes flowers on dining room tables, new books and periodicals in the library, Netflix access, special excursions and the annual lobster luncheon.

Kent 80-unit housing development granted first of several town approvals

By Alec Linden

KENT – A proposal for an 80-unit housing development on a 12.5-acre parcel in downtown Kent cleared its first permitting hurdle on Thursday, April 9, as the Planning and Zoning Commission approved a zoning change allowing the project to move forward.

The approval, granted after the close of a two-session public hearing, allows for the creation of a Planned Development District, or PDD, on the parcel between Town Hall and Maple Street Extension. The PDD restricts use of the land to the project proposed by Kent Housing Development Associates, a group established by South Kent's Jim Millstein for its development.

The plans call for a mixed-income neighborhood-style development with 14 townhouses and larger apartment buildings. Sixteen of the units would be designated as affordable, and five acres at the southern end of the property would be publicly-accessible open space.

During the initial hearing in late March, Millstein described the development as "a village-scale residential neighborhood that fits naturally in Kent while addressing the town's documented housing needs."

As Millstein clarified during Thursday night's proceedings, the PDD approval is the first of several approvals his team must secure before construction can begin. "This is just an interim step," Millstein said.

The project still requires approval from the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission and the Architectural Review Board, and must return before P&Z with a fully engineered site

plan for final zoning approval, which Millstein said he hopes will be ready in four or five months. The Sewer Commission has already signed off on the project, indicating the town can handle the proposed increase in wastewater.

As there is no public hearing for a site plan, Thursday night marked the final chance for input from residents in the format of a zoning hearing.

The first round of the hearing on March 30 saw the public react with cautious optimism to the proposal, with many advocating for a more diversified housing landscape in Kent, while others expressed hesitation about its size.

Those concerns were echoed on Thursday night, which featured far less public testimony than the previous session of the public hearing. Bonnie Bevans, a realtor who lives near the southern end of the PDD parcel, said she felt the proposal is "too big for the location." Later in the meeting, she spoke up again, saying, "We don't need clump housing where it turns Kent into a Boston."

Denise Morocco questioned why the proposal does not specify the installation of renewable energy. "It's 2026," she said, arguing that any development of this size should account for clean and, she argued, cheaper energy sources.

Steve Pender, a realtor who was raised in Kent and now has a family in town, countered the position that the development will be too big. "80 units isn't enough," he said, saying the housing crunch has "impacted the fabric of our community." He also pushed back against claims that the development will significantly impact traffic in town. "If anything," he

said, "putting housing in the center of our village means more people walking to the grocery store, not more cars on Route 7."

Jim Millstein offered his perspective on the necessity of the project after the public had spoken. "The people who work here cannot afford to live here," he said, "and that is because we've restricted the supply of housing."

"Towns need population," he added. "Population drives economic activity... we need people to live in town," stressing the word "live."

Responding to Morocco's concerns, he said he has to plan the project with affordability in mind in order to maintain the affordable housing thresholds. "If solar is cheaper — definitely going that way," he said.

P&Z responded favorably to the proposal. "This application isn't landing before us by chance," commissioner Darrell Cherniske said, referring to the 2017 establishment of the Village Incentive Overlay District, a zone intended to promote affordable housing opportunities. "I think we're very fortunate to have a local developer who has genuine concern in the outcome here being the best for the town."

Commissioner Donna Hayes agreed, saying during her time working in the Land Use office, she had seen three other proposals with even more units than this proposal, none of which "were able to do what Mr. Millstein has done so far."

"I think that it would be a wonderful addition to the town, it would be a wonderful addition to the schools," she said. "It would be a wonderful addition to all the vendors and property owners in the center of town."

"This is probably the best use of that piece of property."



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Our Towns

Aging bridges, harsher weather strain Northwest Corner infrastructure, DOT Commissioner says

By Christian Murray

GOSHEN — State transportation officials pointed to mounting infrastructure challenges across the Northwest Corner, from aging bridges to deteriorating roadways, even as a major Route 44 project in Norfolk is now expected to be completed nearly 18 months ahead of schedule.

Speaking at a Thursday, April 9 meeting of the Northwest Hills Council of Governments — which represents 21 towns in northwest Connecticut — Garrett Eucalitto, commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation, said infrastructure across the region is under increasing strain.

“Most of the infrastructure that was built back in the ‘50s and ‘60s is now aging out and needing to be addressed and replaced,” Eucalitto said. “That’s why we see more and more bridges having to be addressed — either repaired, replaced or refurbished to extend their life.”

He pointed to ongoing bridge work on Route 8 and across the Northwest Corner as an example of that approach, noting that the state has increasingly turned to a

process known as metallizing to extend the lifespan of bridge structures rather than replacing them outright.

“So you’ll see a lot of metallizing to make sure that we can extend the life of the bridges — get the most from our bridges instead of trying to come in and just replace them,” he said.

The process involves removing existing paint — often costly due to lead — before applying treatments to preserve the steel and extend the structure’s life by decades.

“So what metallizing is, is you remove all the paint ... then we actually apply some linseed oil over it to protect the steel, and then paint over it,” Eucalitto said. “That can extend it another few decades.”

While the underlying structure of many bridges is still sound, officials said increasingly severe weather events are accelerating deterioration across the transportation system.

“We have ... weather events that are more extreme, and so that is really having an impact on a lot of our culverts and bridges and roadway infrastructure,” Eucalitto said.

Harsh winters are causing

challenges for the DOT. Officials said this past season brought supply challenges in terms of road salt, requiring both state and local public works departments to carefully manage their resources.

Despite those challenges, the state has worked to reduce salt usage through technology that monitors road and weather conditions and guides application rates in real time, Eucalitto said.

But Eucalitto pointed to a bright spot in Norfolk, where a major state project on Route 44 in Norfolk is going to be completed ahead of schedule.

The roughly \$44 million project — which began in April 2024 and includes retaining wall replacement, slope stabilization and roadway reconstruction — is now expected to be completed by the end of 2026, more than 500 days ahead of schedule.

“We were able to pull in the finish date to hopefully the end of this year,” Eucalitto said, crediting a more efficient construction approach identified by the contractor.

The project has been one of the larger projects in the Northwest Corner for some time, which has long disrupted regional traffic patterns.

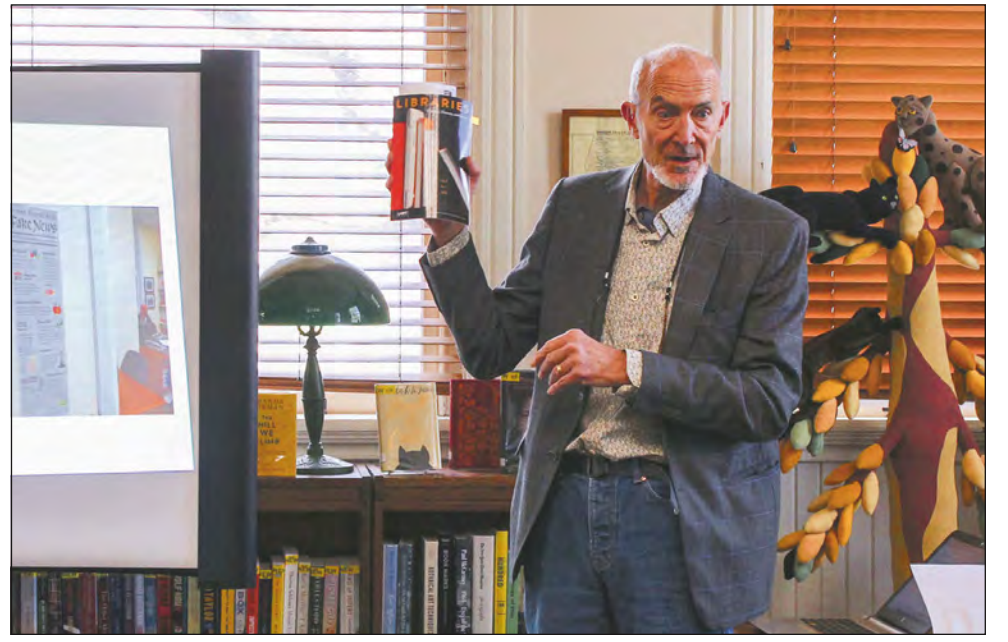


PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Author Thomas E. Johnson, Jr. speaks on public libraries in Falls Village

Author explores role of public libraries at Hunt Library Talk

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Author Thomas E. Johnson, Jr., told an audience at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village Saturday, April 11, that public libraries have played a critical role in American communities since the Revolutionary era.

Johnson, whose book “Common Place: The Public Library, Civil Society and Early American Values” examines 12 case studies of public libraries, including the Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury.

He said New England is the “epicenter” of public libraries, beginning with what he considers the first truly public library, established in 1790 in Franklin, Massachusetts.

The residents of Franklin wrote to their town’s namesake, Benjamin Franklin,

asking for a bell roughly along the lines of the famous Liberty Bell in Philadelphia.

Franklin sent books instead.

Johnson noted that the Franklin library was located on the town’s common, along with the post office, the Congregational Church where town meetings were held, and the town’s poor farm.

It was no accident that the library was adjacent to the physical location of important town institutions.

There was a squabble about the books Franklin sent. At first the Congregational Church held on to the collection, and was stingy about access.

But a formal town meeting made the books available to all.

Johnson counts the Scoville Memorial Library as the second public library in the country as of 1803.

He said the criteria are that the library actually has books, and a permanent space for them, and is open to the public without charge.

He said the Salisbury library initially charged a fee, and was not open continuously at first.

He also credited the Scoville Library for being the first public library to receive public tax dollars.

Looking ahead at the future of public libraries in the age of the internet and artificial intelligence, Johnson said libraries can help citizens sort through the barrage of information — much of it unreliable — about current issues.

He also emphasized the public library’s role as a civic institution contributing to the common good.

Johnson reflected, “Isn’t that critical to the commons, to how we govern ourselves?”

Falls Village Board of Ed. hears proposed spending plan for Lee H. Kellogg School

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — A proposed \$2.49 million spending plan for Lee H. Kellogg School in 2026-2027, representing a 4.2% increase, was presented to the Board of Finance Thursday, April 9.

The proposal totals \$2,490,716, an increase of \$100,451 over the current year.

Falls Village’s assessment for Region One is \$1,752,589, an increase of

\$208,904 or 13.54%.

Combined, total education spending for the upcoming fiscal year would reach \$4,243,305, an increase of \$309,355 or 7.86%.

The meeting was brief, with Board of Education Chair Pat Mechare and Principal Andrew Deacon delivering the presentation. Mechare, who also chairs the Region One Board of Education, left early to attend a public hearing on the regional budget proposal at Housatonic Valley

Regional High School, which overlapped with the Falls Village meeting.

No action was taken.

The finance meeting had technical difficulties. Online participants could see the meeting but there was no audio.

The finance board’s regular monthly meeting was held Monday, April 13, and the proposed spending plans from the school board and the Board of Selectmen were on the agenda.

Sharon’s BOF signs off on town spending with boosts for local nonprofits

By Alec Linden

SHARON — The Sharon Board of Finance voted at a special meeting on March 31 to send the municipal budget, which includes increased funding for several local nonprofits, to a public hearing.

The selectmen’s operating budget totals \$5,798,251, an increase of \$499,688, or 9.43%, from the current fiscal year.

First Selectman Casey Flanagan said the increase is largely driven by three areas.

A line for the town ambulance increased by nearly 50% in the fiscal year 2027 budget draft, from \$195,900 to \$290,000. Flanagan said the hike was due to a need to fund more paid staff shifts.

Another big increase was for road repairs under the Highway Department, moving from \$300,000 to \$430,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. The increase will not fully cover what Flanagan described as “an underfunded

line item,” but he says it indicates that the town is committed to “getting us closer to where we should be.”

The final major cost increase appears in the Miscellaneous category. On April 16, voters will decide whether to authorize the town to enter into an agreement with NBT Bank to finance future road and bridge projects. If approved, the Board of Selectmen anticipates interest on the \$7 million borrowing would total \$117,000, resulting in a nearly 130% increase in the Miscellaneous line item.

Some smaller town programs and nonprofits also saw increases. The Sharon Playhouse is proposed to see a \$1,000 or 15% increase, which Flanagan said is intended as a modest contribution to help the organization keep up with rising operating expenses. The organization’s ticket sales only cover a portion of expenses, he said, and donations are key. “They just

need more,” he said, “like a lot of local nonprofits.”

Sharon Day Care is marked to increase from \$40,000 to \$45,000, but Flanagan said that since its budget line hasn’t moved in the previous five years, the amount is reasonable. “We haven’t kept up with the rate of inflation, and if you take that into account, it seems like a modest increase,” he said.

The Mudge Pond Association is also budgeted \$6,000 for fiscal year 2027, an 140% increase from last year’s line. The increase will help the lake protection group pay for another lake study on water quality and invasive species, Flanagan said, making for three consecutive years of data, which increases the Association’s chances of getting state funding.

The Historical Society is slated to get a hike by nearly 50% as it undertakes programming for the country’s 250th anniversary this summer.



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GAS PRICES

Continued from Page A1

just want to know if prices are going to come down, and I have to tell them their guess is as good as mine.”

Local and National Prices

According to data compiled by AAA, the average price for a gallon of regular gas in Connecticut held steady last week at \$4.08, unchanged from the prior week but significantly higher than earlier this year.

In neighboring New York, prices are slightly higher, averaging \$4.12 per gallon as of April 13, according to AAA.

Prices in both states have climbed sharply in recent weeks. In Connecticut, gas is up 56 cents from a month ago and more than \$1 higher than this time last year. Nationally, the average price rose to \$4.12 per gallon, up 49 cents from a month ago.

Connecticut currently ranks 16th in the nation for highest gas prices, while New York prices are largely in line with the national average. The lowest prices are found in Oklahoma and Kansas, where drivers are paying around \$3.44 to \$3.49 per gallon, while California and Hawaii are paying nearly \$6 per gallon.

Legislation

Rising gas prices are impacting more than just individual drivers, with local businesses, schools and municipalities also feeling the strain as they adjust budgets and daily operations to absorb higher costs.

Local legislators in Connecticut and New York have called for relief for individuals at the pump, receiving mixed results. While Gov. Ned Lamont recently dropped hopes of a gas tax holiday in Connecticut, Dutchess County, New York, legislators advanced a resolution to cap the county's sales tax on gasoline and diesel at \$3 per gallon beginning June 1.

“It will be a modest saving, but any amount helps,” said Dutchess County Legislator Chris Drago D-19, who supported the resolution initiated by the Democratic Caucus.

Drago described the price increase as “one of many unfortunate results from this needless war in the Middle East,” adding that Dutchess County should not get a “windfall of taxes” from the war.

“As we know, it's more and more expensive to live where we live, and it's hitting families hard,” Drago said. “Anything we can do to alleviate any financial strain at this time is important.”

In Connecticut, lawmakers have explored similar relief measures, though no gas tax holiday has been approved.

Though there is precedent for a gas holiday in Connecticut, like when the Ukraine war first broke out, it has yet to happen since the Iran conflict began.

State Sen. Stephen Harding (R-30), who is an advocate for the tax holiday, said that the concept could be revisited if prices remain high. “I'm still hopeful,” Harding said. “If prices remain high, I think there's a chance it could still happen. People in this state need this type of relief right now.”

The state levies a 25-cent-per-gallon tax on regular gasoline.

For some families, pump prices reflect tipping point

For some local residents, rising gas prices are compounding an already difficult cost of living — forcing tough decisions about where to live and how to get to work.

Guy Gnerre and his wife, Kim, are now facing exactly

that reality. The couple, both longtime educators, have lived in the Salisbury area for about 25 years. Gnerre has worked as a special education teacher at Salisbury Central School for the past seven years, while his wife has spent 25 years at Hotchkiss. Now, they are preparing to make a significant change to adapt to the rising cost of living in the region.

Gnerre said home ownership in the area has been a dream for his family, but it has remained just out of reach. The couple has rented locally for more than two decades and is now being forced to move nearly 30 miles away to Torrington after receiving notice that their landlord plans to return and renovate the property.

With a daughter in college and the cost of living at an all-time high, the couple worry about what's ahead, including fears of dipping into retirement savings to purchase a home that Gnerre said needs lots of work and is in an unfamiliar city.

“Yes, we are going to get obliterated in terms of gas,” Gnerre said, noting that he and his wife plan to carpool after their move. But it's not just fuel prices that are affecting his family. “Gas is part of the checklist,” he said, adding, “I wish it was just the fuel.”

Schools that rely on diesel say “Business as usual — for now”

With diesel prices outpacing regular fuel prices, schools throughout the region are keeping a close eye on costs for buses, but say they're not ready to make significant changes.

In districts that outsource bus contracts to independent

companies, schools typically agree on a diesel rate per gallon at the start of the year. Salisbury Central School, for example, has a contract with All-Star Transportation and prepays for gallons of diesel based on a negotiated price.

“We're set for the year,” said Sue Bucceri, administrative assistant to the principal. “We're locked into the price we agreed upon last summer,” before diesel prices surged.

The average price for a gallon of diesel currently costs \$5.92 a gallon in Connecticut, up from \$3.79 a year ago, according to AAA.

Bucceri works on the budgeting process in partnership with Region One's business office, and said SCS is not making significant changes for the 2026-2027 budget based on gas prices.

“We didn't do anything out of the ordinary,” Bucceri said. “We made a nominal increase on price-per-gallon,” she added. At this time, she said the school is fortunate that it's not being significantly impacted from a budget perspective.

Just across the border in New York, the Webutuck Central School District owns its own fleet of buses and isn't benefiting from a locked-in price model.

“Gas prices do impact us,” said Robert Farrier, business administrator for the Webutuck Central School District. However, Farrier said he and his colleagues are not worried about the budget at this time, though they plan to keep an eye on prices.

Farrier said the business office padded the transportation section of their budget during the COVID-19 pandemic, and, to date, they are prepared for unexpected events such as rising fuel costs.

“We're not canceling field trips or anything like that,” he said.

HOSPITAL

Continued from Page A1

compliance marks in patient access services, such as mammograms and colonoscopies, and in workforce stability, or its ability to retain qualified employees.

Additionally, the hospital was found to have inconsistent wait periods for some Medicaid patients across different departments.

For example, McMillan noted, “a difference

was seen in neurology between how quickly Medicaid patients received access as compared to others.” He added, “Northwell will work on remedying that.”

While each of these two areas will require a follow-up, McMillan said they “do not represent substantial non-compliance.”

Michelle Robertson, market president of Nuvance, spoke about the hospital's strategic plan, highlighting five key pillars: patient experience, people, quality, financial performance and efficiency.

McMillan said the state concluded that some points of the strategic plan were missing from Sharon Hospital.

However, hospital officials throughout the state have pushed back, saying some of that information — such as business plans — should be considered confidential.

During his presentation, David Seligman, executive vice president, chief integration officer and market president of Northwell, said the aim is to keep the Northwell hospitals local.

“Our intent is to strengthen services,” Seligman said. “We always start by focusing on quality.”

In addition to matters relating to patient and fiscal operations, a significant rebranding project will kick off on May 1 and will serve as a visual representation of hospital changes. It is estimated to take around two years to complete, and will include placing Northwell's name on

hospital signage, ambulances and workwear.

“This will keep people apprised of what Northwell is all about,” Seligman said.

Sharon Hospital President and Chief Nursing Executive Christina McCulloch spoke

“Our intent is to strengthen services. We always start by focusing on quality.”

— David Seligman of Northwell Health

of the investment Northwell is making in programs, services and technology. She touched on several new initiatives, such as the Center for

Transfers and Acute Coordinated Care (CTACC), which will provide more efficient methods of patient transport; the installation of a hospital paramedic service, which will join the local emergency responders in providing care; the increase of personnel with the hiring of 30 new employees in the last few months; welcoming family medical residents to team up with doctors for clinical experiences; the installation of a new CT scanner and renovations in the emergency department.

She also listed several of the awards Sharon Hospital has received, including 5-Star recognition and honors for the maternity department and stroke care.

“I wanted to share these awards with you so you can have confidence in the care you receive,” she told the audience of about 20.

During a question and answer period, McCulloch said there are 12 members serving on the local community board, hailing from Connecticut and New York state towns with a wide range of experience in various professions.

An audience member asked whether efforts are being made to bring more family medicine practitioners to the area. McCulloch said recruitment is being done. She also responded to a question about whether the labor and delivery unit is being marketed.

“Yes,” she replied. “We are sharing that we are open and here to deliver.”

BOE

Continued from Page A1

opted to remove the amount from the salaries line of the budget, which, Brady-Shanley explained, does not necessarily mean the money will be drawn from employee wages.

“None of these options are fabulous,” she said, but she noted that reducing the salary line allows the BOE some flexibility even after the budget is voted on by the town.

“It gives us the gift of time,” Brady-Shanley said, describing the reduction as a “placeholder” solution.

She explained that even after the town approves budget bottom lines, the BOE has until June 30 to reallocate funds internally. Further, the \$2,461,304 salaries line is one of the few areas large enough to absorb a \$70,000 cut, she said.

Other options on the table were the elimination of the math interventionist position, or the removal of the building substitute and library paraeducator roles. Tomkalski, who presented these options to the Board, said that both choices would directly impact student learning and school operations.

“Our building sub is involved every day,” she said, and the library paraeducator plays a big role in the student experience both in the library and in the cafeteria, she added. That employee also supports the Early Kindergarten program, she continued.

An additional option to eliminate the school's cafe-

teria was also considered. The plan would cut all in-house food services and staff, instead feeding students via meals prepared at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School and delivered daily to the school. Cornwall Central School and the Lee H. Kellogg School in Falls Village currently have similar systems in place.

Several BOE members asked about the logistics of the plan, and Brady-Shanley affirmed that it has been successful at both schools. She noted that sacrificing the cafeteria experience may have impacts on the sense of community at the school, but that “we will get food” to the students.

Region One Business Manager Sam Herrick, speaking via Zoom, said EdAdvance, northwest Connecticut's Regional Education Service Center and Region One's food service provider, has indicated the off-site option would work for Sharon Center School.

“The only thing unaccounted for in this scenario is the mileage,” he said, but noted that since the option would reduce the budget by over \$71,000, the BOE would have to put approximately \$1,700 back into the budget, which could at least partially account for the estimated \$3,500-\$4,000 driving costs.

BOE Chair Philip O'Reilly pointed out that choosing to reduce the salaries section would leave the cafeteria option open since internal budget transfers are allowed. The final motion, made by mem-

ber Konrad Kruger, opted to trim the salary lines with the stipulation that the reduction could be transferred to eliminate on-site cafeteria services.

Some members of the BOE were disturbed by the mandatory last-minute reduction. “I'm very troubled by this process,” said Terry Vance, who helmed the BOE's budget subcommittee. “I don't feel comfortable at all.”

Peter Birnbaum said that “messaging around with [the budget] at this time is very, very unproductive,” noting that being forced to cut ser-

vices over a proposed 1.67% increase could jeopardize forward momentum for the school.

“All we do is risk progress,” he said.

Sharon Center School is currently enrolled with 94 students, eight of whom pay out-of-district tuition. Those numbers are expected to rise next year to 106 total students from early kindergarten to eighth grade, with 14 tuition students.

The BOE and municipal budgets will both go before a public hearing on April 24 before they are sent to a town vote on May 8.



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Marge Parkhurst with a collection of historic nails recovered from wall cavities during restoration work.

Marge Parkhurst, the preservation detective

By Sarah Belzer

After nearly 50 years of painting some of Litchfield County's oldest homes and landmark properties, Marge Parkhurst has developed an eye for the past—reading the clues left behind in stenciled vines, forgotten bottles and newspapers tucked into walls, each revealing a small but vivid piece of Connecticut history.

Parkhurst was stripping wallpaper in a farmhouse in Colebrook — the kind of historic home she has spent decades restoring — when she noticed something odd. Three layers of paper had already come off — each one a different era's idea of decoration — and beneath

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

MUSIC

Wings of Spring performance at the Mahaiwe Theater

By Mike Cobb

On Sunday, April 19, at 4 p.m., Close Encounters With Music (CEWM) presents On the Wings of Song at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington.

The program focuses on Robert Schumann's spellbinding song cycle Dichterliebe ("A Poet's Love"), a setting of sixteen poems by Heinrich Heine that explores love, longing, and the redemptive power of beauty. Featured artists include John Moore, baritone; Adam Golka, pianist; Miranda Cuckson, viola; and Yehuda Hanani, cello.

In a recent interview, Artistic Director Yehuda Hanani said, "Audience members will bask in the glow of Romanticism at its apex with Robert Schumann, Clara Schumann, Felix Mendelssohn and the poet whose verse underlies their music—Heinrich Heine. 'In beautiful May, when the buds sprang, love sprang up in my heart: in beautiful May, when the birds all sang, I told you my desire and longing.'"

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

RADIO

Chion Wolf brings 'Audacious' radio show to Winsted with show-and-tell event

By Jennifer Almquist

The parking lot of The Little Red Barn Brewers in Winsted was full on Wednesday, April 8, as more than 100 people from 43 Connecticut towns — including New Haven and Vernon — arrived carrying personal treasures for a live taping of "Audacious LIVE Show & Tell."

Chion Wolf, host and producer of Connecticut Public's "Audacious," and her crew, led by production manager Maegn Boone, brought the program to the packed brewery for an evening of story-driven conversation and shared keepsakes.

Reflecting on the evening's spirit, Wolf, a four-time Gracie Award winner from the Alliance for Women in Media Foundation, said: "To me, Audacious — and Connecticut Public — are about making space for people to be fully themselves: curious, vulnerable, weird, honest, all of it. 'Show & Tell' feels like that spirit brought to life."

Attendees clutched mementos — sentimental, unusual and sometimes humorous — hoping for a chance to step onto the small stage and share their stories.

Caroline Christensen of Winsted carried a large conch shell and told the audience about nearly losing her fiancé to a storm tide while he struggled to retrieve the shell she wanted.

Gerry Griswold, a wildlife rehabilitator and educator from White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield, brought a Victorian taxidermied pet dog in a glass case.

When Tim Dwyer of Coventry showed a vintage T-shirt featuring "Bill the Cat," Wolf



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Nils Johnson, co-founder and president of The Little Red Barn Brewers in Winsted, hosted Chion Wolf and her Connecticut Public show "Audacious LIVE: Show and Tell," which was broadcast on April 8, drawing a sold-out crowd.

rolled up her pants leg to reveal a matching cartoon tattoo.

Author Christine Ieronimo drove from Plymouth with a photograph of her late grandmother, Florence De Mario, holding her beauty contest trophy as a young woman, along with the original silver cup engraved with "Interstate Rhode Island and Connecticut Beauty Contest, September 28, 1929."

The evening blended humor, nostalgia and vulnerability, with food and drinks provided by Nils Johnson, co-founder of the brewery, which has become a lively gathering place in

Winsted.

Jessica Severin de Martinez, Robyn Doyon-Aitken, Meg Fitzgerald and Vanessa de la Torre were also part of the Connecticut Public team that helped produce the event. Connecticut Public is home to Connecticut Public Radio and Connecticut Public Television.

Lucy Nalpathanchil, vice president for community engagement, said the organization hosts "Audacious LIVE Show & Tell" events around the state to connect with residents and reach new audiences.

"We've hosted them so far in

Winsted, Willimantic, Hartford and Stamford," Nalpathanchil said.

"If your readers have thoughts about where the next one should be held, they can email ideas to events@ctpublic.org," she said.

Wolf summed up the night simply: "We held the space, sure, but those who attended made the magic. People walked in as strangers carrying meaningful objects from their lives, and by the end of the night, the room felt warm, open and deeply connected. That's public radio at its best."

FITNESS

New climbing gym planned for Great Barrington

By Alec Linden

Berkshire Boulders, a rock climbing gym, is set to open in the Berkshires later this year, aiming to do more than fill a gap in indoor recreation — it could help bring climbing further into the region's mainstream.

Its co-founders already have their sights set beyond the roughly 2,000 square feet of climbable wall planned for a site off Route 7, just north of downtown Great Barrington.

"There's an opportunity that I felt was on the table to bring outdoor recreation and these other sports into the public domain," said Nick Friedman, a Sheffield resident behind the project, alongside Dan Yagmin.

Friedman said that while underground communities in the region around more adventurous outdoor sports, such as rock climbing and mountain biking, have long existed, they have often been overlooked compared with more traditional pastimes like hiking.

With the gym, "I feel like we could make a start in formalizing these forms of outdoor recreation," Friedman said. He

described it as a way to create a more tangible connection between the broader community and a climbing scene that has developed quietly for decades.

Berkshire Boulders is the brainchild of Friedman, who began climbing 20 years ago on the gneiss boulders and bluffs that dot the hills around Great Barrington, and Yagmin, a climber with three decades of experience originally from central Connecticut who now lives between Winsted and Colebrook.

Both bring entrepreneurial experience to the project. Friedman co-founded Theory Wellness, a cannabis dispensary in Great Barrington where he now serves as chief strategic officer. Yagmin combined his passion for climbing, training in fine arts and years as a climbing gym route setter to start Decoy Holds, producing nature-inspired climbing grips.

Yagmin is shaping the climbing experience at the new gym at 325 Stockbridge Rd., which

will focus on bouldering, a form of ropeless climbing on walls typically under 15 feet tall, with padded floors for protection. His holds take cues from real rock types, including the granitic gneiss found across the Berkshires and prized by climbers.

Even though the gym is indoors, the connection to the rock outside is central to its mission. Friedman serves on the board of the Western Massachusetts

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

INSIDE

SPORTS

Housy baseball beats Gilbert, 7-2

CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events





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WBSL FM 91.7
Serving North Canaan, CT, Sheffield and South County, MA

...Marge Parkhurst

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

them, just barely visible under dull, off-white plaster, a pattern emerged.

“At first it just looked like old paint,” said Parkhurst, who has been painting and restoring historic homes in Litchfield County for decades. “Until I realized it was a stencil, a beautiful pattern that repeated.”

She kept going carefully — a wet sponge, hot water, a little fabric softener — peeling back until she could see it clearly. A climbing vine emerged, applied in vertical runs to give the wall the look of wallpaper. Someone had signed it. The signature was faint, tucked above the baseboard in the corner, not fully legible. But the date was clear: 1870.

Parkhurst, owner of Cottage & Country Painting Co., has worked in enough old houses to develop a practiced eye for what they conceal — understanding that layers of paint, paper and plaster in a 19th-century New England home form a kind of compressed archive of the people who lived there.

The stencil bore a strong resemblance to what historians call Moses Eaton-type stenciling — a tradition of itinerant craftsmen who traveled New England in the early 1800s with portable kits of cut-pattern stencils. Their trade flourished because imported wallpaper was expensive. Stenciling offered the same visual effect at a fraction of the cost.

“These stencilers typically worked for a combination of cash, food and lodging,” Parkhurst said. “Their compensation was modest by any standard.” She paused, “He was a tradesman. But the work he left behind — that’s art.”

The vine pattern was dull with age but still legible. One section had survived intact beneath the layers of paper. The homeowners chose not to paint



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARGE PARKHURST / COTTAGE & COUNTRY PAINTING COMPANY

A collection of historic nails recovered during restoration work.

“Walls still surprise me. If you look hard enough, you can find buried treasure.”

MARGE PARKHURST

over it — instead building a wooden frame around it, a small window into 1870.

“Preservation means protecting something to prevent further deterioration,” she said. “Restoration means returning something to a previous state. In that room, we preserved what was there.”

A Station’s Secrets

Not every discovery is decorative. Some are written into the bones of a building.

Parkhurst’s own home in Colebrook is a former railroad outbuilding moved from Canaan in 1920. Scraping the trim revealed it had once been sage green — and beneath that, a warm orange-brown soaked into the wood grain. “Old paint was made more like a stain back in the 1800s,” she said. “It penetrated the wood rather than sitting on top of it — so there’s

never a shine.”

Up in the attic, eye bolts still anchored in the framing mark where cables stabilized the building during its move a century ago.

The most memorable find came by accident. Cutting open a wall under the stairs, she found a clear glass bottle sealed with a glass stopper held by a rusted wire. The label read: Hartmann Brewing Co., Bridgeport, Conn. It took days of careful oiling to free the stopper. Inside: a handwritten list of sandwiches and drinks, a postage stamp still attached. Not treasure. But a treasure just the same.

“I worked for days to get that thing open — and it was just somebody’s lunch order.”

Newspapers stuffed into wall cavities, hand-wrought nails, paint layers thin as stain — over 50 years, Parkhurst has cataloged the details that tell a trained eye when a house was built and by whom. Litchfield County’s architecture is unusually varied: Georgian and Federal-style houses on Litchfield’s Main Street, industrial buildings

along the rivers in Torrington and Winsted. “Each town has its own fingerprint,” she said.

The most consequential mistake she sees is changing a home’s character. “When you paint over stained woodwork, you hide the details. You can’t get them back.” She has talked more than a few owners out of it. Some have listened.

Not long ago, Parkhurst and her grandchildren gathered a few small objects, wrote a letter and tucked it into a wall of her Colebrook home. Someone will find it — a record of people who were once here.

“Walls still surprise me,” she said. “If you look hard enough, you can find buried treasure.”

In a county full of houses whose walls hold untold stories — stenciled by traveling tradesmen, nailed together by farmers, papered over by housewives following the fashions — Marge Parkhurst has spent a lifetime reminding us that history doesn’t only live in museums. Sometimes it’s hiding just behind the wallpaper.

Sarah Belzer is a writer, editor and creative director whose career has crossed journalism, advertising, film and cultural commentary. Managing Editor of The American Rant and founder of Jump Advertising, she has spent three decades shaping narratives for media and national and global brands. Marge Parkhurst is the owner of Cottage & Country Painting Co. She can be reached at marge@cottageandcountryct.com or 860-379-4748.

TRAILS

Wind, tarps and trail wisdom: a day learning how to camp smarter

By Alec Linden

A happy day on the trail all starts with a good night’s sleep the night before. That’s local trekking guide Mat Jobin’s mantra, and he affirms that a good night’s sleep is possible even if it has to be on the trail itself — with the right preparation, that is.

Jobin, of Simsbury, Connecticut, is a 16-year professional guide and the founder and owner of Reach Your Summit, an outdoor experiences company that promotes self-confidence and leadership skills through a variety of excursions and educational workshops in the forests of New England. On Saturday, April 11, Jobin hosted the inaugural Campsite Selection & Skills workshop just off the Falls Village section of the Appalachian Trail.

While preparing for the course, Jobin said that the underlying principle of his workshops is to help make the outdoors more accessible and enjoyable for people by teaching them the skills they need to be prepared. He explained that the point is to make mistakes, “but doing it in a safe environment rather than making all the mistakes I made growing up without having anyone to provide me with guidance and feedback.”

Saturday’s course was all about “how you can get a better night’s sleep” when you overnight on the trail, Jobin told Mike, Karen and Andy, the three attendees whose experience varied from beginner to experienced shelter-setters.

Even though the weather was fair, fast clouds hid the sun overhead and blustery winds tore through the spacious grove surrounding the Limestone Spring shelter site, a hiker’s resource managed by the Appalachian Mountain Club. Jackets were zipped and arms crossed as the group braced against the chill.

Jobin explained that while not the most comfortable conditions to spend a day standing around in the forest, the weather made for a good learning opportunity. If a camper set up a tarp shelter the wrong direction that evening, he said, it would mean a ruined night’s sleep, and subsequently a wrecked next day.

Jobin began with fundamentals, running through the essential figure 8 and clove hitch knots as well as the “bearmuda triangle,” a cheeky term for a campsite tenet that combines Leave No Trace

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

... Wings of Spring

CONTINUED FROM B1

Dichterliebe strips away the distance between singer and listener, capturing the age-old themes of love and betrayal with exquisite sensitivity. Romanticism here is at its most personal and refined.

Heine’s poetry also captivated Felix Mendelssohn, who set several of the poet’s verses to music, including the iconic “On the Wings of Song,” which lends the concert its title. Mendelssohn’s majestic Piano Trio in D minor—one of the towering chamber works of the nineteenth century—completes the program. Radiant, urgent, and expansive, the trio reflects the composer’s unwavering belief in the possibility of a harmonious, enlightened world and the triumph of beauty through music.

“How can you not fall in love with a song cycle about a sorrowful knight that begins with these beguiling sentiments? This is the start of Dichter-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Adam Golka

liebe, or Poet’s Love, Robert Schumann’s musical rendering of Heine’s Lyrical Intermezzo. Alas, like many love stories, it does not end well. Cupids weep and mourn, and the poet packs his love and his suffering into a coffin that will be thrown into the sea—so heavy that twelve giants must carry it. All the various states of Poet’s

Love—a hothouse of responses to flowers, dreams and fairy tales—end in anger, bitterness, resignation and bewilderment. Yet, despite love betrayed, ardent faith in the power of art leads the way to a harmonious and better world. A timely message,” Hanani added.

On the Wings of Song weaves together poetry and music, intimacy and grandeur, offering audiences a rare opportunity to experience Romantic masterpieces in the uniquely close, immersive spirit that defines Close Encounters With Music.

After each performance, audiences are invited to an “Afterglow” reception to meet the artists and mingle with fellow music lovers. Select concerts will also be available online, extending CEWM’s reach to listeners far beyond the Berkshires.

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BOOKS

Grandmother Moon: Wunneanatsu Lamb-Cason book talk in Torrington

By Jennifer Almquist

The story comes full circle when educator, traditional storyteller and author Wunneanatsu Lamb-Cason (Schaghticoke/Ho-Chunk) comes to Litchfield County to read from her new book, *Grandmother Moon*, inspired by her grandmother, Indigenous educator Trudie Lamb Richmond, who lived on Schaghticoke land along the Housatonic River in Kent.

On Saturday, April 18, from 2-4 p.m., the Torrington Historical Society at 192 Main St. will host the book talk and sharing of traditional stories.

Lamb-Cason was named 2024 National History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the first Indigenous person to receive the honor, and is now the Assistant Director of Native American and Indigenous Studies at Brown University. She will speak about the importance of oral tradition for Indigenous communities and of her efforts to write down the stories.

Lamb-Cason shared her story with the publication:

“The Northwest Corner is not just where my grandmother lived; it is our ancestral homelands. Our reservation was established near Kent in 1736. My grandmother grew up in Newtown and spent her childhood returning to Schaghticoke, visiting family and learning from her grandparents. In the early 1980s, she built



PHOTO PROVIDED

Wunneanatsu Lamb-Cason (Schaghticoke/Ho-Chunk), an educator, traditional storyteller and author, will read from her new book *Grandmother Moon*, inspired by her grandmother, Indigenous educator Trudie Lamb Richmond, who lived on Schaghticoke land along the Housatonic River in Kent.

her home on the reservation with my grandfather, and that is where I spent so much of my own childhood—learning with and from the land and waters that have sustained our people since time immemorial.

“As a historian, storyteller and educator, every moment with her was a teachable moment ... and as her eldest grandchild, she felt a

strong responsibility to impart as much as she could to me ...

“A brief trek in the snow became ‘Wunneanatsu, what animal print do you think that is? Yes, you’re right, that’s Rabbit. That reminds me of a story about how rabbit got such long ears.’ ...

“Wunneanatsu, do you hear the birds singing? That one sounds like blue jay. Let

me tell you a story about how the birds got their songs.’

“My grandmother and those teachings guide everything I do; as an author, a storyteller, a relative and teacher; they inform my pedagogy and instructional style but also how I view and navigate the world. *Grandmother Moon* became an opportunity to honor her and her legacy of centering Indigenous ways of knowing in western academia and educational landscape. It was a way to carry her teachings forward for my children and future generations. It is, at its heart, a love letter to the woman who gave me so much. Essentially, my grandmother is and always will be everything I want to be when I grow up.”

Copies of “*Grandmother Moon*” will be available and the author will sign books. Native baskets from the collection of the Torrington Historical Society will be on display during the event.

Please register to reserve a spot: torringtonhistoricalsociety.org

... camping

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Mat Jobin teaches the group how to use a permanent platform to rig a tent. The privy and lean-to of the Appalachian Mountain Club’s Limestone Spring Shelter are visible in the background.

sensibilities with wildlife safety.

The sleeping area should be positioned 200 feet from the cooking and food area, which should then be 200 feet from the bathroom site, forming a rough triangle. The whole system should be set back at least 200 feet from the nearest water source for minimal disturbance to the ecosystem, Jobin said.

He then instructed the group to account for weather and topography when choosing a site. On a cool, windy day like Saturday, use the landscape for shelter, he said, while during hot and buggy weather, campers may want to find a spot with more exposure. “Use nature to the best of your ability to provide comfort and safety,” he said.

Jobin then demonstrated several ways to use a simple tarp for a quick shelter on the trail, his preferred method given its versatility and that it offers a “deeper connection to the surroundings.”

While he hitched the tarp with some cordage to a system made of trekking poles and trees, the wind whipped through the site. “I’m going under this tarp when you’re done!” Karen announced over the sound of flapping plastic.

Once it was completed, she kept her word and huddled inside. “It works!” she

announced.

For the remainder of the four-hour session, Jobin gave tips on how to set up a tent on a wooden platform, the reason he had chosen the Limestone Spring site for the course. He also taught the group how to rig a hammock system using trees and safe food storage using bear bags and bear boxes.

He urged the group to practice their shelter setups in a variety of weather conditions and locations as often as possible before debuting a system miles from the trailhead. Backyards and local parks, where allowed, are great options, he said.

“My whole thing is helping people feel more prepared and comfortable when they’re heading out, and not having to learn from really bad situations or mistakes when they’re out there for the first time,” Jobin said.

Saturday’s class was the first of its kind for Jobin, though he said he expects to run other similar campsites selection and safety workshops in the future. It’s just one of many experiences Reach Your Summit offers, which range from hiking essentials courses to 5-day backpacking adventures. A complete list of the company’s offerings can be found on its website, www.reachyoursummit.net.

ART

Photographer David Ricci’s New Book at Five Points Art Center

By D.H. Callahan

David Ricci will bring his exploration of American materialism to the Five Points Arts Center in Torrington on Saturday, April 18, at 2 p.m., where he will discuss his new book, *Hunter Gatherer*.

Ricci is fascinated by America’s obsession with objects. In *Hunter Gatherer*, he examines a distinct strain of materialism—one rooted not in the new, but in the items that endure.

When people talk about materialism, the focus often falls on the latest smartphones, gaming systems, designer bags or plush furniture. Ricci, however, turns his attention to objects that cycle in and out of people’s homes through flea markets, antique stores and curio shops.

The book features a selection of photographs from the thousands Ricci has taken while visiting more than 200 such venues across the United States. His work adopts an anthropological lens, exploring the meanings culture

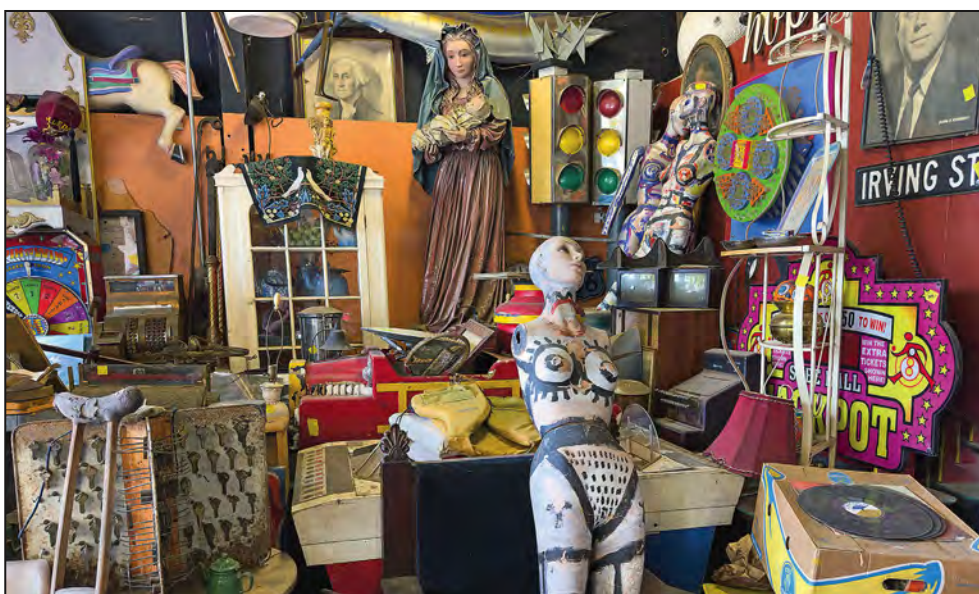


PHOTO BY DAVID RICCI - HUNTER/GATHERER

“Everything Everywhere All At Once,” a photo from David Ricci’s book *Hunter Gatherer*.

and society assign to these objects as they are bought, sold and recirculated over time.

Why are these items

considered worthy of another life? What do they reveal about Americans’ relationships with racism, misogyny and social norms?

Ricci argues that the chaotic marketplace of second-hand consumerism reflects a distinctly American mindset: “I own, therefore I am.”

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Sports

Housy baseball beats Gilbert, 7-2

By Riley Klein

WINSTED – Housatonic Valley Regional High School's varsity baseball team defeated Gilbert School 7-2 on Friday, April 10.

Chris Race pitched the full game for HVRHS and rang up 12 strikeouts in a dominant performance. The junior surrendered two hits and walked two batters.

It was the first win of the year for the Mountaineers, who opened their season the day prior at Eastern Connecticut State University baseball stadium. HVRHS lost 7-3 against Nonnewaug High School in that one.

The game against Gilbert was played at Walker Field in downtown Winsted. Conditions were ideal for a day on the diamond – partly cloudy and about 65 degrees.

The fast-paced match moved quickly through the innings and remained scoreless through five. Cole Scacca was the starting pitcher for Gilbert and gave up no runs during his five innings on the mound. HVRHS got on the

board in the sixth inning when Carson Riva hit a double that sent Race home and advanced Wes Allyn to third base. In the next at bat, Wyatt Bayer brought them both home to put HVRHS up 3-0.

Gilbert scored in the bottom of the sixth inning with an RBI double by Jackson Decker.

In the top of the seventh Anthony Foley launched a fly ball deep to center field, driving in two more runs for HVRHS. Race and Riva both logged RBIs in the inning to improve HVRHS's lead to 7-1.

In the seventh inning, Gilbert scored the final run of the game: a one-run single by Ben Jacquemin that brought the final score to 7-2.

HVRHS tallied 11 hits total. Allyn, Race, Bayer and Hunter Conklin each collected two hits. Foley, Riva and Tyler Roberts got one hit each.

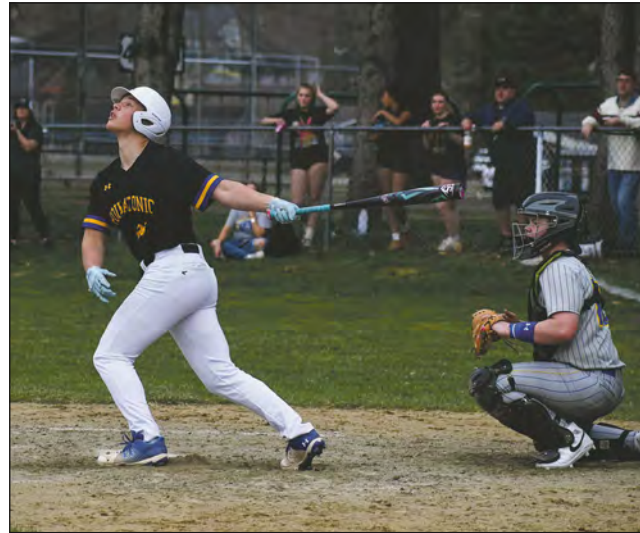
The result improved HVRHS's record to 1-1 and Gilbert moved to 1-2. The Mountaineers hosted O'Brien Tech in their home opener on Wednesday, April 15.



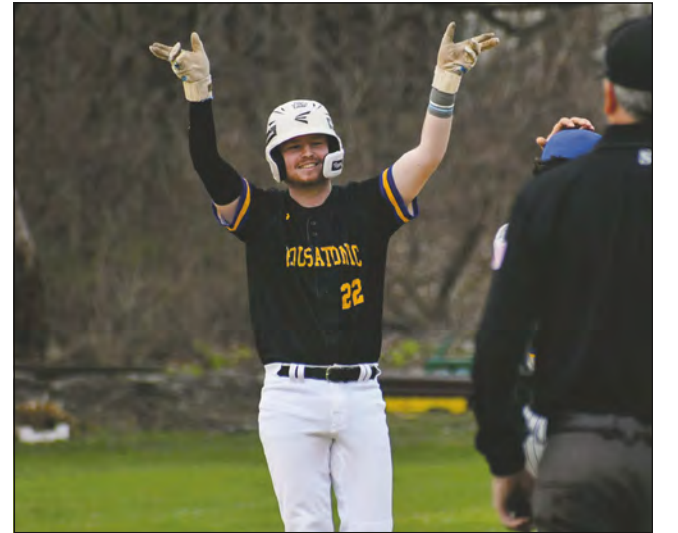
Chris Race pitching.



Anthony Foley plays short stop.



Jerron Nirschel swings.



Wyatt Bayer after hitting a 2-RBI double.

PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

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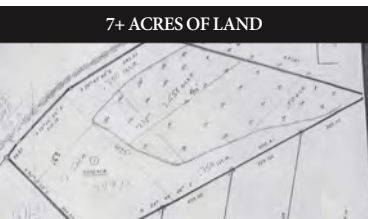
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