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MOTHER'S DAY!  
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# The Lakeville Journal

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

## Sharon budget vote could draw record turnout amid school funding dispute

By Alec Linden

SHARON – Voters at a town meeting Friday, May 8, will decide whether to approve a town budget that includes a flat Sharon Center School spending plan that has drawn weeks of pushback from parents and residents.

Officials are anticipating a larger than average turnout, which has led them to change the venue from town hall to Sharon Center School to accommodate a larger crowd.

The Board of Finance voted Tuesday, April 28, to keep education spending flat and declined to redirect about \$41,000 in out-of-town tuition back to the school, a request made by a group of parents at a heated public hearing on April 24.

The issue has exposed a divide between parents pushing to shift that revenue into the education budget and officials who argue that the town's past accounting issues, financial constraints and state funding rules make the matter more complex than it appears.

Freddy Deknatel and Emily McGoldrick, parents of two children in Sharon Daycare, said they plan to vote against the proposed bud-

get. "The Board of Finance seems to have been quite inflexible," Deknatel said, reflecting on its decision not to move tuition revenues into the school budget. "Knowing many parents who either have kids in the school or whose kids would be starting in kindergarten this coming fall, we feel that we'll vote against the budget because it's the only step left."

The current proposal follows a last-minute \$70,000 reduction in early April that drew strong public response.

The controversial \$4,165,513 budget proposal for Sharon Center School – unchanged from the current year – is now heading to a vote. It continues a years-long trend of near-zero increases and reductions, and is roughly \$178,000 lower than the school's 2020-2021 budget of \$4,343,314.

The education budget, said BOF member John Hecht, has been kept flat with a 0% increase, due in part to an accounting error that was made several years ago.

"Things that should have been capitalized were expensed," he said, referring to costs that should

See BUDGET, Page A12



Blake Myers, left, director of food programs at the Tri Corner F.E.E.D. Market in Millerton and Linda Quella, founder, take a break on a recent busy Friday.

## POCKETS OF POVERTY

### In a region of plenty, campaign aims to meet growing food needs

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SHARON — In a region often associated with affluence, hunger relief organizations say pockets of poverty are deepening, with as many as four in 10 households struggling to cover basic needs, according to regional estimates.

A weeklong fundraising campaign beginning May 11 will ask diners at local restaurants to help address that gap by funding the purchase of fresh food from local farms for distribution to area pantries.

Supported by more than a dozen restaurants and cafes across

Poverty in the Northwest Corner doesn't define an entire town. Instead, it exists in quieter pockets — apartments above storefronts, income-restricted housing and older homes where seniors and working residents struggle to keep pace with rising costs. This series examines where financial hardship exists in Region One towns, what is driving it and how communities are responding.

the tri-corner region, the Nourish Neighbors campaign raises funds to support that effort — connecting restaurants, farms and hunger relief efforts.

"We expect to have about 15 restaurants participate, from Champêtre in Pine Plains all the way to the Falls Village Inn," said Chris Armero, an organizer of the campaign. "Not many people know that four out of 10 of our neighbors have trouble paying their bills."

The effort is led by Tri Corner F.E.E.D. (Food Equity, Education and Distribution), the Sharon-based nonprofit behind Nourish Neighbors, founded in 2023 by

former Q Farms owners Linda and James Quella. The organization is advancing a model to expand access to fresh, locally grown food while supporting farmers and small businesses — a concept organizers say is increasingly needed in the tri-corner region, where many households are struggling to meet basic needs.

Tri Corner F.E.E.D. operates a local storefront at 56 South Center St. in Millerton, where food is priced on a sliding scale. It offers farm-fresh meats, seasonal vegetables, prepared foods, coffee and baked goods.

See POVERTY, Page A12

## Sharon man, 81, arrested twice after postal dispute involving dog

By Aly Morrissey

SHARON — A dispute between an 81-year-old Sharon resident and the United States Postal Service over an alleged dog bite escalated into two separate arrests in April and the suspension of package delivery to his Sharon Mountain Road home.

William "Bill" Cowie, who has lived in Sharon for 40 years, said the bite did not occur, and he described the disruption of his deliveries as "government overreach."

Cowie said the conflict began early last month when his dog, Rosie, jumped on a mail carrier delivering packages to his home. According to Cowie, the carrier told him he had been bitten, an allegation Cowie disputes.

"I was there," Cowie said. "I did



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Bill Cowie poses with his dog, Rosie, at his Sharon Mountain Road home amid legal battles stemming from a dispute with the Sharon post office.

see Rosie jump up, yes," he continued, but said he did not see a bite occur. Cowie said he apologized to the carrier and offered him \$20 in case Rosie got any mud on his jeans.

"He took the money and went off," he said.

In Cowie's mind, the incident was over. Then, his packages stopped ar-

riving.

During an April 23 visit to address the issue with the Sharon postmaster, Richard Ellis, Cowie learned that a hold had been placed on his deliveries because of the incident with Rosie.

See ARREST, Page A12

## Radar gun dispute raises questions about local speed enforcement

By Christian Murray

NORTH CANAAN — Questions about the town's speed enforcement capabilities emerged after the April Board of Selectmen meeting, where First Selectman Jesse Bunce said the town's radar gun works — a claim the resident state trooper later contradicted.

The issue was first raised during the April 14 meeting by resident Jenn Crane, who questioned whether the town's trooper has the equipment needed to address

ongoing speeding complaints.

Crane, who is also the chair of the North Canaan Events Committee, pointed to the apparent lack of a functioning radar unit and said it was limiting enforcement and the trooper's ability to police speeding. She later said safety concerns have been raised about speeding on certain roads, such as West Main Street, North Elm Street and Sand Road.

Bunce responded that the device

See RADAR GUN, Page A12



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# Regional

## In The Journal this week

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### Online This Week

#### 'Wine fit for royalty' video

To watch a video of the northwest Connecticut vineyard behind the "Heritage" Riesling served at the White House last month, go to lakevillejournal.com.

## POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

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

#### Motorcycle accident

On the afternoon of April 24, Robert Pitocco, 78, of Windsor, Connecticut was traveling south on Salmon Kill Road in Salisbury when he ran off the road, striking the post of a barbed wire fence. He was transported to Hartford Hospital with suspected injuries and his vehicle, a BMW R 1250 RT motorcycle, was towed from the scene. Pitocco was issued a written warning for failure to maintain lane.

#### Route 44 fender bender

On the morning of April 25, Harold White Jr., 68, of Colebrook was approaching the construction diversion traffic light on Route 44 in Norfolk in a Ford F350. While attempting to stop, he rear-ended the vehicle in front of him, a Ford Mustang driven by Thomas Ohea, 21, of Schenectady, New York. There were no injuries reported in the incident and both vehicles were able to be driven from the scene. White was issued a written warning for following too close.

#### North Canaan man arrested on 10 charges

On April 26, Troop B was notified that Javier Otero, 29, of North Canaan was in the custody of the Walcott Police Department. Otero had two separate warrants out for his arrest, one from an incident on April 21 and another on March 9. He was processed at Troop B for ten charges: third degree assault on a pregnant person; first degree criminal trespass; second degree criminal mischief; interfering with an officer; criminal violation of a protective order; criminal violation of a protective order with threats; operating a motor vehicle without a license; engaging police in pursuit; second degree harassment; and an additional charge for violation of a protective order. Otero was unable to post the total bonds, which amounted to \$175,000, and was transported to Whalley Correctional Facility in New

Haven. He was scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on April 27.

#### Trespass arrest at post office

On the morning of April 29, police responded to the Sharon Post Office on the report of an active disturbance. After investigating, troopers arrested William Cowie, 81, of Sharon for third degree criminal trespass. Cowie was processed at Troop B and subsequently released on a \$500 non-surety bond. He is scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on May 13.

#### Asleep at the wheel accident

On the morning of April 29, John Schneider, 64, of South Windsor, Connecticut fell asleep at the wheel while driving west on Route 4 in Sharon, veering off the road and striking a mailbox. He continued driving to work and called Troop B to announce the incident. Schneider was issued a written warning for failure to maintain proper lane.

#### North Canaan larceny arrest

On March 24, troopers responded to a North Elm Street address in North Canaan on the report of an unwanted party. After investigating, troopers arrested Ronald Andrews, 50, of Ashley Falls, Massachusetts for larceny with two stated victims: Stateline Pizza and Canaan Liquors. Andreas was released on a \$2,500 non-surety bond and was scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on May 7.

#### Asleep at the wheel accident

Around noon on May 1, Seth Shirkey, 29, of Stanfordsville, New York fell asleep at the wheel while driving on Route 44 in Salisbury near the intersection with Dunham Drive. The vehicle, a company Toyota Sequoia, veered off the roadway and struck a mailbox, a stone wall and a utility pole. The vehicle was disabled in the accident and had to be towed from the scene, but Shirkey was uninjured. He was issued a written warning for failure to maintain lane.

# Falls Village median home prices dip amid low sales

By Christine Bates

FALLS VILLAGE – The 12-month trailing median price for a single-family home in Falls Village was \$625,000 for the period ending March 31, 2026, down 4% from the \$650,000 median recorded for the 12 months ending March 31,

2025, and a 12% decrease from \$710,500 for the comparable period ending March 31, 2024.

The median price for the period ending March 31 was significantly lower than the historic 12 month high reached in February 2023 of \$794,500.

Single-family homes in Falls Village on a 12-month rolling basis remained below the historic range of 10 to 15 homes sold annually. Eight single-family homes were sold in the 12 months ending March 31, 2026, compared with 15 in the period ending March 31, 2025, and 13 sales for the 12 months ending March 31, 2024.

Inventory also remained limited as of April 30. Six single homes were listed for sale in Canaan/Falls Village, with only two priced below the current median of \$625,000 and three above \$1 million. Five parcels of vacant land were also on the market. Rentals are also limited with two homes listed for rent and only one of those on a yearly basis.

#### Transfers November 2025 through March 2026

91 Main Street – 4 bedroom/2 bath home built in 1840 on .37 acres sold by Sally Wilburn to Juliet and John Hubbard for \$665,000 transferred on November 24, 2025

Undermountain Road – 37.2 acres of land sold by Carol Flaton to Ellery Sin-



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

The renovated home at 62 Railroad Street sold for \$600,000 in February.

clair for \$200,000 transferred on December 11, 2025

36 Kellogg Road – 4 bedroom/2 bath ranch on 1.85 acres sold by 36 Kellogg House LLC to William David Hopkins IV and Claudia Jean Bliss for \$599,000 transferred on December 30, 2025

62 Railroad Street – 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home on .28 acres sold by LBC Capital LLC to Mary Allison Anne Letourneau and Kimberly Elizabeth Cooper for \$600,000 transferred on February 5, 2026

88 Railroad Street- 4 bedroom/ 1.5 bath single family home on 3.49 acres sold by Joey Leggett to Katherine Summers Berzine for \$778,000 transferred on February 18, 2026

72 Johnson Road – 3 bedroom/ 1.5 bath raised ranch on .83 acres sold by Charles and Carrie Ann Olsen to Michael and Chelsea Hill for \$340,000 transferred on March 02, 2026

63 Page Road – 3 bed-

room/1.5 bath ranch on .77 acres sold by Elizabeth Worrall to Jeanne Xanthos for \$183,345 transferred on March 9, 2026

166 Undermountain Road – 6.1 acres of land sold by Christopher Lancto and Kathleen Devaney to Vance and Carolyn Cannon for \$310,000 transferred on March 30, 2026

\* Town of Canaan/Falls Village real estate transfers recorded as sold between November 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026, provided by Cott Systems Record Hub. Property details from town assessor tax cards. 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 and also include private off market sales. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.

#### Possible motorcycle accident under investigation

On May 2 at approximately 9 p.m., troopers responded to a report of a possible motorcycle accident at the intersection of Route 7 and Ashley Falls Road in North Canaan. Troopers ascertained that the vehicle had lost control while approaching the intersection from Ashley Falls Road and eventually came to a rest on the grass median between the two roads. There were no reported injuries, and the driver left the scene. The accident remains under investigation and anyone with information is asked to contact Trooper O'Neil #907 at the North Canaan Barracks 860-626-1820.

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

# Housatonic teacher fired following disorderly conduct arrest

By Alec Linden

FALLS VILLAGE – A tenured teacher at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School was fired April 23 following his arrest on a disorderly conduct charge tied to an incident with a student.

At the end of a nearly

six-hour meeting, much of it held in executive session, the Region One Board of Education voted unanimously to terminate the contract of John Christinat, a 65-year-old technology teacher who had been employed at the school since 2001 with no prior reported incidents.

Christinat was arrested on March 20 after turning himself in on an active arrest warrant signed March 18, stemming from a Sept. 9, 2025, incident at the high school in which a verbal altercation with a 15-year-old student turned physical.

The student is autistic, according to a statement from the teen's father in the police report.

According to the police affidavit, Christinat told officers the student placed a cellphone within 10 inches of his face and that he tried to grab it. He said the student then pushed him to the floor.

"While on the floor, I then tried restraining [the student's] arm and legs so that he could not continue to punch

me, to effect a basket hold," Christinat told police, adding that he had been trained in "Applied Non-Violence," a program focused on the safe restraint of special education students, according to the police report.

Police, however, ultimately charged Christinat with disorderly conduct.

Present at the Region One meeting were board members, along with district and high school administrators, attorneys and Christinat.

Region One Superintendent of Schools Melony Brady-Shanley stated that the high school is actively seeking to hire a new technology educator.

Christinat did not respond to a request for comment.

## Town Grove stickers go on sale Memorial Day Weekend

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE – Stickers for the Town Grove's 2026 season will go on sale Memorial Day weekend at the Town Grove Boathouse and will be available for purchase seven days a week.

Proof of residency is required. Registration forms must be completed, and Grove staff will affix all stickers to vehicles.

This year's fees cost residents \$85 for the first sticker and \$55 for additional stickers. Senior citizen (65+) stickers cost \$55.00, and non-resident season stickers cost \$420.

Daily admission is \$15 per person, with children under one year admitted for

free. Additional fees apply for boat mooring, dock space and rentals.

The boat launch remains closed to outside boats to prevent the spread of hydrilla. The town has added additional boats with trolling motors for rent.

For a complete list of fees, services, and rules visit salisburyct.us/town-grove/.

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Check them out inside.

- Ocean State Job Lot
- Herrington's

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## Our Towns

# Rain doesn't deter runners from 41st Sharon Classic Road Race

By Aly Morrissey

SHARON – Runners of all ages braved cool temperatures and drizzling rain Saturday, May 2, for the 41st annual Sharon Classic Road Race, a fundraiser that benefits the Sharon Day Care Center.

The 5.3-mile run and walk began and ended at Veterans Field, looping around Mudge Pond and through scenic stretches of Sharon.

The race began almost half a century ago to raise

critical funds for the daycare, located on the property of Sharon Center School. The center, which serves infants through age five, has since grown from two to five classrooms with 17 staff. It currently enrolls 60 children.

"It's a great organization to support," said race director Stacy Hudson, who has served on the daycare's board for 18 years and helped organize the race for the past 12 to 15 years.

Hudson said the race draws runners from all over

Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts, though many are local and return year after year.

Sharon Day Care Director Carrie-Ann Olsen said the event is family-friendly.

"It's great when the kids come out and see their teachers here," she said. "They love seeing us outside of school – it's like we're famous."

Olsen's seventh grade daughter, who attended Sharon Day Care in 2015, volunteered during the race.

"It's a full-circle moment,"



PHOTOS BY ALY MORRISSEY

Ethan Goldwasser of New York celebrates the start of the Sharon Classic Road Race, May 2.

Olsen said.

The event kicked off with the annual "Kids Fun Run" and "Kids Not Quite a Mile" races for children ages two to seven.

About 120 runners were pre-registered for the race, though 84 placed in the race results, which were professionally chip-timed by Fast Track Timing. Hudson said the weather could have been a deterrent for some.

William Sanders of Marlborough, Conn. was the overall men's winner with a time of 29:29.12 and a 5:34 pace. Linda Spooner of Sturbridge, Mass. was the overall women's winner with a time of 35:46.74 and a 6:45 pace.

Among the top finishers was Wolf Donner, a 13-year-old Sharon resident, who placed fourth overall with a time of 33:22.4 and a 6:19 pace. He was the youngest registered runner in the group.

It was Donner's first time running the Sharon Classic Road Race and his first-ever race outside of cross country meets at Indian Mountain School, where he joined the team this year.



Race volunteers from left: Todd Tufts, Amanda Lucas, Carrie Olsen, Stacy Hudson and Lynn Heacox.

Donner said he began running to improve his squash game, only to discover he is "better at running" than he is at squash. He said he didn't do anything special to train, but ate a banana that morning and purchased a new pair of blue sneakers that he broke in the week before.

During the race, Donner said he focused on breathing and imagined himself mov-

ing backwards through the course.

"I had high hopes for myself," he said, adding that he exceeded his own expectations after he and his mother looked up race times from previous years.

After Saturday's finish, Donner said he plans to enter more races.

For more photos, see page A10

## Salisbury EXTRAS Gala celebrates longtime teacher, volunteer

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Salisbury-based EXTRAS (Extended Time for Recreational Activities in Salisbury) program honored longtime President Sue Bayer of Lakeville at a May 1 gala fundraiser at The White Hart, recognizing her years of involvement supporting local youth programming.

"Very few people have done as much as Sue Bayer," said EXTRAS director Alex Baker. "So to say she's had an impact on the program is quite the understatement."

EXTRAS, a Connecticut state-licensed nonprofit based at Salisbury Central School, provides an affordable, safe and educational environment for school-age children while encouraging positive social, emotional and physical development.

A teacher and mother of three, Bayer has been involved with EXTRAS in some capacity for more than 10 years.

Bayer spoke briefly after receiving a plaque from Baker, thanking attendees for the

honor and saying, "I couldn't have done it without all of you."

The May 1 gala also served as a fundraiser, featuring a silent auction with art and photography from local artists, tickets to events at Lime Rock Park, Sharon Playhouse, the Salisbury Winter Sports Association's Jumpfest, Catamount Ski Area and The Moviehouse, as well as items such as a box of locally sourced meat from Tory Hill and an inspection and oil change from Dave's Auto.

A live auction featured a one-year golf membership at the Canaan Country Club, use of a private screening room for 20 at The Moviehouse, a weekend at the White Hart, and more.

EXTRAS began in 1988 as an after-school program and has since expanded to include school vacation programming and a summer camp.

The summer camp runs from June 29 through Aug. 7 and is open to children ages 5-12. For more information go to extrasprogram.org.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Sue Bayer is honored during a May 1 EXTRAS gala.

EXTRAS also works with students from The Hotchkiss School, who volunteer weekly during the school year, helping with crafts and games, and serving as positive role models.

The program is supported by community donations and grants, including the Berkshire Taconic Madeline B. Wilde Grant and funding from Northwest CT Community Foundations, including its Cycle Grant and Women and Girls Fund.

## Traffic light replacement in Kent draws criticism

By Alec Linden

KENT – The state Department of Transportation is scheduled to replace a traffic light fixture at the Kent four corners intersection, and some residents have raised concerns about the change.

First Selectman Eric Epstein notified residents of the change through an email sent Monday, April 27, outlining the DOT's plans to replace the current wire-hung system at the intersection of Route 7 and Route 341 with metal beam-mounted fixtures. He also requested public comments to share with the agency.

By Friday, Epstein said he had forwarded five responses to DOT representatives. The unifying theme, he said, was concerns over aesthetics.

"Overwhelmingly, it was the look of these giant structures in our scenic downtown," Epstein said.

The plans call for two black-painted mast arms, measuring 40 and 60 feet, on the northeast and northwest corners of the intersection. The lights themselves will have reflective backplates with yellow borders and will feature cameras to adjust signal and timing, along with "no turn on red" signs when the crosswalks are activated.



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

A beam-mounted light structure in New Milford serves as a model for the replacement planned in Kent. Kent's beams will be painted black.

The DOT did not cite a single reason for the change when it was announced last year, but indicated the project followed an assessment that considered the signal's age, maintenance needs, local input and safety concerns.

Epstein said much of the feedback focused on how the new setup could impact the visual character of the intersection, which is centered around the historic Soldiers' Monument.

"That is a much-photographed area, and I fear the masts are going to be an eyesore forever going forward," one resident wrote.

"The current light is relatively low key and better fitting for this small New England town and it functions well for public safety,"

another resident said.

One respondent, who identified as a retired Connecticut State Police sergeant, said the change could also present an opportunity to improve traffic flow and prevent accidents.

The project was presented publicly during a meeting announcing a regional infrastructure upgrade initiative by the DOT in August 2025, and was attended by several Kent officials and members of the public. Epstein said that while the comment period has passed, he has requested that the state consider the input of Kent residents submitted last week.

Construction is not anticipated to begin until next year, and the project is entirely state funded.

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# As boating season ramps up, lake groups press lawmakers on hydrilla funding, response gaps

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SALISBURY — Boat trailers are beginning to line up at launches, docks are going back in, and the Northwest Corner's lakes are stirring to life for another season. But beneath the surface, a quieter threat remains — one that lake leaders say is far from contained.

That threat is hydrilla, an invasive aquatic plant known for its rapid growth and ability to form thick underwater mats that choke waterways, disrupt ecosystems, and hinder boating, fishing and swimming.

As hydrilla continues to shadow the region's waters nearly three years after its discovery at East Twin Lake, two local lake associations are pressing lawmakers to act on a pair of measures they say could determine whether the region stays ahead of the plant — or falls behind it.

The Twin Lakes Association (TLA) and the Lake Wononscopomuc Association, which rarely weigh in on legislation, are backing both a federal and state bill aimed at strengthening Connecticut's ability to fund and respond to aquatic invasive

species.

The push reflects lessons learned since June 2023, when the aggressive Connecticut River variant of hydrilla was first identified at East Twin Lake — the first confirmed detection of the invasive plant in a Connecticut lake — triggering an expensive, multi-year containment effort that continues today.

The legislation targets two critical gaps: consistent funding and faster response to new infestations.

"The Twin Lakes Association is not a political body and rarely weighs in on proposed laws," said TLA President Grant Bogle. "But the Twin Lakes stand to benefit from passage of both bills, which address water quality and funding for removal of harmful plants."

The federal bill would allow states to collect aquatic invasive species (AIS) fees alongside annual boat registration — a system that ended after a legal challenge. Since then, boaters have had to purchase a separate AIS stamp, a change lake groups say has reduced participation and weakened funding.

Bogle said the current

system creates unnecessary friction and the pending boating bill makes sense by bundling fees.

"I am in favor of the state being able to add on a fee whereby boaters are required to pay more money to protect the lakes," Bogle said. "We don't invest enough in protecting lake recreation and ecosystems."

The issue has drawn federal attention.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn) joined environmental advocates to request \$5.5 million in federal funding to fight hydrilla in the Connecticut River.

The request, part of a fiscal year 2026 appropriations push, would support research, eradication and long-term management of the invasive species.

Blumenthal has led similar efforts since 2022, urging full federal funding for hydrilla research and testing as the plant's footprint has expanded.

"It is a creepy, creepy monster of a plant, probably the most invasive aquatic plant in the world, and it has invaded Connecticut," Blumenthal said. "It is a plague on the Connecticut

River and also our lakes and streams."

For Twin Lakes, those dollars are critical.

The association has received three \$75,000 state grants for hydrilla treatment, part of an effort that has already cost hundreds of thousands and pushed its annual budget to about \$500,000.

Reintegrating AIS fees into boat registration, advocates say, would simplify the process and provide more reliable, predictable funding for lakes across the state.

The Connecticut Federation of Lakes underscored that point in a recent newsletter:

"Reliable funding is essential if we are going to prevent the spread of invasive species, support early detection, and respond effectively when new infestations are found," the group wrote.

At the same time, lake groups are backing a state-level proposal aimed at ensuring faster action when new outbreaks occur.

The bill — HB 5525 — would require the development of a "rapid and science-based" response framework to address hydrilla and other invasive aquatic

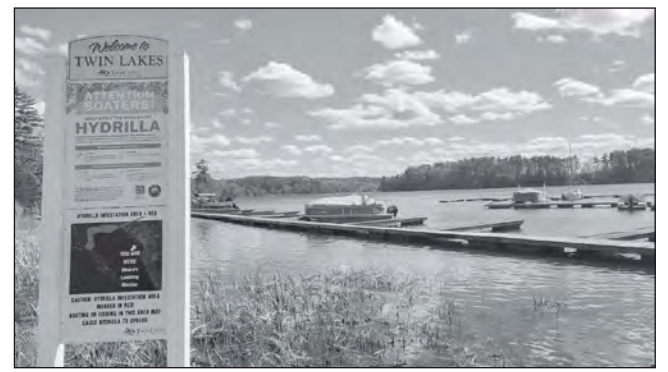


PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

**A sign at O'Hara's Landing Marina warns about the hydrilla threat as the 2026 boating season ramps up.**

species before they become entrenched.

Advocates say that kind of structure is essential.

Twin Lakes has been relatively fortunate, leaders say, in detecting the plant early and mounting an aggressive response backed by grants and private support. Even so, the battle is expected to continue for years.

"If we don't do it, the lakes are going to be sitting ducks," Bogle said.

The concern now is what happens elsewhere. Without a rapid-response system, new hydrilla infestations in lakes may go undetected and spread within and between lakes, often via boats and trailers.

On Lake Wononsco-

pomuc, also known as Lakeville Lake, where no hydrilla has been detected, prevention has already reshaped access.

The lake's association has closed its boat launch to outside boaters since hydrilla was first discovered at East Twin — a precaution aimed at limiting the risk of introduction from contaminated watercraft.

"The Lake Wononscopomuc Association strongly supports both bills," said Bill Littauer, the organization's president. "We have registered our support with the relevant committees and urge our state representatives to support them. We regard the issues as essential to prevent the spread of hydrilla."

## LEGAL NOTICES

### CANAAN FIRE DISTRICT WARNING

All persons eligible to vote in meetings of the Canaan Fire District are hereby warned that the Annual Budget Meeting of the said District will be held at the North Canaan Town Hall on Tuesday, May 19th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. to consider and act upon the following items:

1. To approve the District budget proposed for the 2026-2027 fiscal year by the Executive Committee of the District; and

2. To transact any other business proper to come before such meeting.

Dated at North Canaan, Connecticut this 7th day of May, 2026.

Anthony J. Nania  
Warden  
05-07-26

### Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing for a petition to amend the Zoning Regulations, Application #2026-0315 by Lime Rock Park II, LLC for changes to Section 221 "Additional Requirements for Uses in the RE Zone" of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations, including Section 221.1 providing standards for a Track for Racing Motor Vehicles. Proposed changes include but are not limited to modifying the days and hours of operation at the track, frequency of events for muffled and unmuffled racing cars, acoustic monitoring, prohibition of stand-alone drifting events, and control measures. The hearing will be held on Monday, May 18, 2026 at 6:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The application, agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at [www.salisburyct.us/agendas/](http://www.salisburyct.us/agendas/). The application materials will be listed at [www.salisburyct.us/](http://www.salisburyct.us/)

planning-zoning-meeting-documents/. Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to [landuse@salisburyct.us](mailto:landuse@salisburyct.us). Paper copies of the agenda, meeting instructions, and application materials may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM at the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury CT.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission  
Robert Riva, Secretary  
05-07-26  
05-14-26

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING TOWN OF SALISBURY WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026 - HYBRID MEETING 7:30 P.M.

The electors and others entitled to vote in Town meetings of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut, are hereby warned that the Annual Budget meeting of said Town will be held in person and via Zoom on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. at Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, Connecticut for the following purposes:

1. To act upon the budget and any supplements thereto for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, which budget has been prepared and recommended by the Board of Finance; said budget is available for inspection at the Town Clerk's office immediately.

2. To act upon the following items, which are customarily considered at the Annual Budget meeting for approval:

a. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow any sums of money they deem necessary to meet the Town's indebtedness and current or authorized expenditures, and to execute and deliver the Town's obligations therefore;

b. To see if the First Selectman will deliver

on behalf of the Town all documents that may be necessary for carrying out any of the items in the budget.

c. To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and expend any funds allocated to the Town of Salisbury by the Connecticut Department of Transportation for repairs and maintenance of roads and bridges during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and extending to June 30, 2027, as recommended by the Board of Finance; and

d. To authorize the Board of Finance to transfer funds from surplus to cover shortages in various line items in the 2025-2026 budget.

3. To consider and act upon a resolution to set Wednesday, February 17, 2027, as the date for the Annual Town Meeting.

4. To consider and act upon a resolution to set Wednesday, May 12, 2027 as the date for the Annual Budget Meeting

5. To consider and act upon the adoption of an ordinance providing that sealed bidding will not be required for contracts or purchases having a value less than \$35,000. A copy of the proposed ordinance will be available for inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Dated at Salisbury, Connecticut this 24th day of April, 2026. Curtis G. Rand, First Selectman

Barrett Prinz, Selectman  
Katherine Kiefer, Selectman

Join the webinar: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81009998770?pwd=Zy8dNVm0Qe9HI5FR626YzvnvFKgjs7.1>  
Webinar ID: 810 0999 8770  
Passcode: 200239 Join via audio:  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

04-30-26

05-07-26

### Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given

that the following actions were taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on April 27, 2026:

Deemed Exempt - Application IWWC-26-18 by Mike Pruss for "Prescribed Burn of 15 acres in established upland native grass field (historically farmed for corn and hay) for ecological restoration and agriculture.

and enhance established native grass and wildflower area and increase nectar and pollen production for native pollinators and honey bee Apiary." The properties are shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 23 lots 52 and 36 and are known as 70 Beaver Dam Road and 47 Hammertown Road, Salisbury. The owner of the property is Raccard Properties LLC.

Approved - Application IWWC-26-18 by Todd Parsons to "construct an addition to the main house and construct an office above the existing garage." The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 64 as lot 06 and is known as 25 Morgan Lane, Salisbury. The owners of the property are Meghna and Brian McDevitt.

Approved - Application IWWC-26-17 by Robert Colabella for "constructing approximately 2100 feet of 5' wide bituminous concrete sidewalks and appurtenances along Main Street." The properties are shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 52 lot 14 and map 11 lot 20 and are known as 166 Main Street and Vincent Preserve, Salisbury. The owners of the properties are James Demmert & Velda Brown and Salisbury Association Land Trust.

Approved - Application IWWC-26-11 by Trudy Kramer for "removing the inlet and outlet from a man-made pond and planting." The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 02 as lot 41 and is known as 32 Valley Road, Salisbury. The

owners of the property are Trudy & Harry Kramer.

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

Town of Salisbury  
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission  
Sally Spillane, Secretary  
05-07-26

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF CAROL NOEL TROTTA Late of East Canaan AKA Carol N. Trotta AKA Carol Trotta (26-00151)

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:  
Louis J. Trotta, III  
c/o Michael Peter Citrin Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP  
7 Church Street, PO Box 101  
Canaan, CT 06018  
Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
05-07-26

05-07-26

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF EDWARD APARO Late of Salisbury (26-00161)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated April 21, 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:  
Jean Aparo  
c/o Michael Albert Carrier

Webber Carrier Chace LLP  
24 Cedar St., New Britain, CT 06052

Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
05-07-26

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF GERALD B. BLAKEY Late of Cornwall (26-00153)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated April 23, 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:  
Charles R Ebersol  
Ebersol, McCormick & Reis  
LLC, 9 Mason Street,  
PO Box 598, Torrington, CT 06790

Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
05-07-26

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF PATRICIA A. BLAKEY Late of Cornwall AKA Patricia B. Blakey AKA Patricia Blakey (26-00154)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated April 23, 2023, 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:  
Charles R Ebersol  
Ebersol, McCormick & Reis LLC, 9 Mason Street,  
PO Box 598, Torrington, CT 06790

Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
05-07-23

# OBITUARIES

## Richard J. Campeglia

GREAT BARRINGTON — Richard J. Campeglia Jr., 60, of Great Barrington, died suddenly on Monday, Dec. 1, 2025. He was born in Great Barrington on Jan. 9, 1965, son of the late Richard Campeglia Sr. and Mary (Curtis) Logerwell.



Richard worked for many years as a laborer for the Sheffield Highway Department and as a caretaker. He loved hunting, golfing, fishing, and spending time with his daughter Cassie.

Richard is survived by his daughter, Cassie Campeglia of Sheffield; his mother Mary Logerwell of Fort Walton

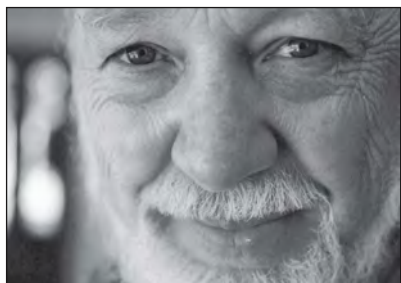
Beach, Florida; his sister Lynda Turow and her husband Bob Turow of Clearwater, Florida; his nephew Cory List of Clearwater, and his niece Kelsey List and her son Jameson Green of Gainesville, Florida.

Richard was predeceased by his father Richard Campeglia Sr. and his brother William Breen.

A service will be held at Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main St., Great Barrington, on May 16 at 11 a.m., followed by a celebration of life at the American Legion Hall in Sheffield from 12 to 2 p.m.

## Gerald Richard Hardy

SALISBURY — Gerald Richard Hardy, 87, passed away peacefully on April 14, 2026, at Noble Horizons in Salisbury.



Born in Chicago on Sept. 19, 1938, to English immigrant parents Harry and Antoinette, he had two older brothers, Harry and Elmer. Elmer was shot down over France in WWII when Gerald was 6 years old, and his parents would not receive confirmation of his brother's death until some 10 years later. Deeply affected by the loss of his brother, Gerald found solace in drawing. He would ride the Chicago el and buses to sketch the everyday life of the city and its people. He eventually attended the renowned Art Institute of Chicago, where he excelled in drawing, painting, etching, and metal sculpture.

In the summer of 1968, Gerald attended the prestigious Oxbow School of Art in Saugatuck, Michigan where he met his wife, Marilyn Davis. The two were married in Oct. of 1968 and exhibited and traveled throughout the U.S. and the world. Settling in Falls Village, Connecticut Gerald was drawn to the dramatic landscape of the falls and the surrounding area.

They had two children, David and Jordan, who often traveled with them for exhibitions in New England and Florida. Gerald and Marilyn continued to exhibit well into their 80s, traveling up and down the eastern seaboard and creating original

paintings and prints of local sites under their business

name "Favorite Places."

Gerald made the land and home in Connecticut a wonderland, with a 40' diameter carousel with 18 antique wooden horses, a flower farm with over 100 varieties of daylilies and hosta, and giant boulders he excavated by hand with a manual jack.

Gerald's work was shown in over 300 one-man shows in many states. His paintings are in such collections as the Mint Museum in Birmingham, Alabama, the Ford Motor Company, and the Interchurch Center in New York City. He was featured in Arts Magazine, Art in America, and was art editor of Christian Art Magazine.

Gerald is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Marilyn; his two children, David Hardy and his wife Abbey Williams; Jordan Hardy and his wife Lia Tjandra; and his 3 grandchildren, Monty Hardy by his son David, and Kai and Brennan Hardy by his son Jordan, along with nephews Guy, Brian, and Dean Hardy.

Family and friends are invited to share memories and offer condolences on his birthday, Sunday, Sept. 19, 2026, at The Lakeville Grove.

## Celebration of Life

### Irving Robbins

Please join us to celebrate the life of Irving Robbins on Saturday, May 30, from 11 AM to 2 PM at the Sharon Center School (80 Hilltop Road, Sharon CT 06069).

Refreshments will be served. For easier accessibility and a stair-free walk, please use the lower road to the school where limited parking is available.

## Memorial Service

### Clayton Squire Smith

Clayton Squire Smith, 90, passed away November 24, 2025. Service Update: A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 10:00a.m. at the

Noble Horizons Chapel, Salisbury. A Reception will follow in the Community Room. Ryan Funeral Home, Lakeville, is in care of arrangements.

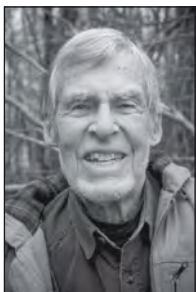
For more obituaries, see pages A7 & A9

YOUR NEWS

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## Huntington Williams

CORNWALL — Beloved and greatly respected Cornwall resident, Huntington ("Hunt") Williams, surrounded by family, died April 10, the result of an injury sustained from a fall. He was 95 years old and had lived in Cornwall, a town he loved deeply, for the last 45 years.



Born in 1930 in Hartford, Hunt was raised in rural Glastonbury, a town where his family had lived for several generations and where his great grandfather started a shaving soap business, the J.B. Williams Company. His father, Percy Williams, worked for the Aetna Life Insurance Company in Hartford, and his mother, Gertrude, was a homemaker. Hunt had one older sister, Sarah, who predeceased him.

Hunt attended Glastonbury public schools, and it was in high school that he developed an interest in and lifelong passion for farming. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1953 with a degree in animal husbandry. The Korean War was going on during his college years but Hunt was granted an educational deferment. After a summer working in Wyoming, he went on to California where he was drafted and sent to Korea. Fortunately, the cease fire went into effect in July, 1953, and his military service ended in Oct. 1955.

His deep interest in agriculture and the environment was a constant through the jobs he held and communities he lived in, starting with work for a feed company in New York State, followed by seven years with the Cornell Cooperative Extension providing education in dairy farming in New York's Herkimer and Essex counties, then on to Tenneco, a large conglomerate with an agricultural chemical branch, and a move to the Connecti-

cut Council on Environmental Quality where, among other projects, he worked on regulations regarding the development rights for farms and farmland.

During this period, he married Nancy Lewis of West Hartford. They had three sons, Peter, David and Philip.

In 1976 Hunt and his family moved to Lakeville, Connecticut, where he began a job as an adult ed teacher in the vocational agricultural department at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, a position he held for ten years. It was during this time, that Hunt and Nancy divorced, and Hunt moved to a house on Cream Hill Road in Cornwall. He met and eventually married Rebecca (Becky) Gold West. They built a house on a portion of Cream Hill Farm – a peaceful tract of land with beautiful views – where they lived with their combined families, Becky's two sons and Hunt's three sons. Hunt's last fulltime job was working for his brother-in-law Ralph Gold who had a John Deere business in Bantam.

After Becky's death in 1994, Hunt joined the fire department as an EMT, a commitment he regarded as an opportunity to give back to Cornwall. He will long be remembered for his support of John Welles who, when he decided he was too sick to continue living, took his own life in June 2004. Hunt's years of service in Cornwall include being on the Zoning Board of Appeals for 20 years and chairman for half that time. He was the Civil Preparedness Director of Cornwall for ten years. He served as a Cornwall Conservation Trust director, drove for FISH, and for five years was a "friendly visitor" to a retired teacher of Hotchkiss. He served on numerous committees, including the

Agriculture Advisory Commission.

During these last 30 years Hunt also shared his life and house with another Cornwall neighbor, Honora ("Nora") Horan, and first their Aire-dale Lulu and more recently their Welsh terrier Maggie. He thoroughly enjoyed his retirement: he joyfully cut and split countless cords of wood to heat the house; in late February he would tap 25 maple trees along Cream Hill Road, collect the sap bucket by bucket and carefully boil the sap until he had perfect maple syrup. He listened to opera while making apple pie or, later, baked apples. He traveled extensively: to New Zealand, Hawaii and the Adirondacks with his dear friend Denny Frost; and multiple trips to Europe with Nora, including one following the places in France where his father had fought in World War I. He reveled in having nearby family and watched with wonder and delight as granddaughters grew from newborns to young women. And through it all he continued to make improvements to his house, a never ending "work in progress."

Hunt is survived by his three sons, Peter and his daughter Francesca (Colorado), David (Cornwall, Connecticut), and Philip and his wife Keirsten and their two daughters Amelia and Natalie (Colebrook, Connecticut); also by his two stepsons Phillip West, his wife Kathy and daughters Thea and Andra (Cornwall, Connecticut), and Charles, his wife Michele and sons Woody and Clark (Bozeman, Montana); by his niece Anne Krauss and her husband Stephen (Jefferson, Maine); by his loving and beloved significant other/partner Nora Horan and their terrier Maggie; and by the countless friends and neighbors who treasured their friendship with Hunt.

Donations in Hunt's memory may be made to his favorite charity, Heifer International (Heifer.org), or The Cornwall Fire Department (cornwallfire.org), the Cornwall Conservation Trust (cornwallconservationtrust.org) or the Connecticut Farmland Trust (ctfarmland.org).

A memorial service will be held Sunday, May 31. Details to be announced.



## Worship Services

Week of May 10, 2026

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b><br/>9 South Main, Sharon CT<br/>Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.<br/>Transitioning through prayer<br/>All welcome to join us<br/>860-364-5260<br/>www.christchurchsharon.org</p>   | <p><b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b><br/>30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT<br/>Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!<br/>Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming<br/>www.salisburyucc.org<br/>Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy!<br/>(860) 435-2442</p>   |
| <p><b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b><br/>484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville<br/>Offering companionship along the Way<br/>Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.<br/>Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org<br/>trinity@trinitylimerock.org<br/>(860) 435-2627</p>  | <p><b>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT</b><br/>Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons<br/>Sunday, May 10 at 10:30 a.m.<br/><b>Discussion on Near Death Experiences</b><br/>For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com<br/>All are Welcome</p>  |
| <p><b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b><br/>Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people<br/>172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT<br/>Worship services Sundays at 10 am<br/>www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational<br/>860-824-7232<br/><b>FISHES &amp; LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH</b><br/>is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan<br/>Tuesday 4-6 pm &amp; Thursday 12-2 pm<br/>www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p> | <p><b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b><br/>12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT<br/>SUNDAY SERVICE<br/>10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)<br/>Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge<br/>In-Person and on YouTube<br/>www.stjohnssalisbury.org</p>  |
| <p><b>Congregation Beth David</b><br/>A reform Jewish Synagogue<br/>3344 East Main St., Amenia<br/>SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM<br/>Twice Monthly - Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org)<br/>ALL ARE WELCOME<br/>Rabbi Jon Haddon<br/>845-373-8264<br/>info@congbethdavid.org</p>  | <p><b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b><br/>Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk<br/>St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan<br/>St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville<br/><b>MASS SCHEDULE</b><br/>Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church<br/>Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary<br/>Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church<br/><b>DAILY MASS SCHEDULE</b><br/>Wednesday 6pm<br/>St. Joseph Chapel or Church<br/>Thursday 8am<br/>Immaculate Conception Church<br/>Friday 8am<br/>Church of St. Mary<br/>ALL ARE WELCOME!<br/>For information, please call 860-824-7078</p> |
| <p><b>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</b><br/>319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039<br/>9:15 a.m. Worship Service<br/>9:15 a.m. Sunday School<br/>"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"<br/>The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse<br/>860-435-9496<br/>Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>  | <p><b>UCC in CORNWALL</b><br/>Cornwall Village Meeting House<br/>Worship Sunday, 10 am<br/>Outstanding Church School (10 am)<br/>Mission Opportunities<br/>Warm Fellowship following Worship<br/>860-672-6840<br/>www.uccincornwall.org<br/>Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister<br/>Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>   |
| <p><b>Falls Village Congregational Church</b><br/>16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village<br/>10:00 a.m. Family Worship<br/>Coffee Hour<br/>A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!!<br/>860-824-0194</p>  | <p><b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b><br/>Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m.<br/>Trinity Retreat Center Chapel<br/>Lower River Road, West Cornwall<br/>in person and on zoom<br/>Warm fellowship following service<br/>All Are Welcome!<br/>www.allsaintscornwall.org<br/>Rev. Mary Gates</p>  |
| <p><b>The Sharon United Methodist Church</b><br/>112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green<br/>Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits<br/>10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care<br/>No Sunday School in Summer<br/>The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse<br/>860-364-5634<br/>sharonumc5634@att.net</p>   | <p><b>St. Thomas Episcopal Church</b><br/>40 Leedsville Road<br/>Amenia Union, NY<br/>SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30<br/>IN-PERSON AND ONLINE<br/>Visit our website for links<br/>845-373-9161<br/>www.stthomasamenia.com<br/>A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>   |
| <p><b>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church</b><br/>313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT<br/>Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M.<br/>Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.<br/>Special Services Online<br/>Rev. John Kreta<br/>860-824-1340   allsaintsofamerica.us</p>  | <p><b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b><br/>29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT<br/>Where you will find: A Warm Welcome!<br/>Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow!<br/>Sunday School - 10am<br/>Sunday Worship - 11am<br/>Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM<br/>(860) 824-5685<br/>VISITORS WELCOME!<br/>www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>  |
| <p><b>Sharon Congregational</b><br/>25 Main Street, Sharon, CT<br/>Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.<br/>Visit our website<br/>sharoncongregationalchurch.org<br/>for Sunday services<br/>Contact us at 860-364-5002 or<br/>info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>  | <p><b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b><br/>2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT<br/>8:00AM - Worship Service<br/>2nd &amp; 4th Sunday<br/>"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"<br/>The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse<br/>860-824-5534<br/>canaanct-umc.com<br/>canaanctumc@gmail.com<br/>We hope you will join us!</p>   |

## Paula Louise Pelosi

AMENIA — Paula Louise Pelosi, of Amenia and Brooklyn, New York, died on Sunday, April 19, 2026, at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center, after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer.



Paula was born on Aug. 6, 1949, in Steubenville, Ohio, to Rose and Louis Pelosi. She graduated from the Mount de Chantal Visitation Academy in Wheeling, West Virginia, and Fordham University in the Bronx, New York, and received her financial planning certification from New York University.

After graduating from college, Paula found herself working in a not particularly engaging job doing copyright title searches in the days when you had to go through endless card catalog drawers to research each application.

One night, while out drinking, Paula and a stranger decided to swap jobs and see if anyone would notice. The next day, Paula showed up at the Knoedler gallery on East 70 Street in Manhattan, New York. This happened to be the day Armand Hammer acquired the gallery, and amid the disruption and transition that followed, no one noticed that Paula did not really work there until after she had become indispensable.

From that serendipitous beginning, she went on to be indispensable to some of the

most extraordinary figures in the contemporary art world, including Gala and Salvador Dali, Sally Ganz, Agnes Gund, Phyllis Hattis, Annalee Newman, and Louise Reinhardt Smith.

Paula's longest and most significant professional relationship was working with the artist Frank Stella, both in his studio work and at his horse farm. Paula also became beautifully entwined with four generations of Frank's family.

In addition to art, travel was another through line of Paula's life: from adventures with her parents and an early job with Amtrak, to treasured trips with close friends, and even solo expeditions. Antarctica and Sri Lanka were favorite destinations in recent years.

More than anything, Paula made deep and lasting friendships everywhere she went and in everything she did, across generations and geographies. In addition to the multitudes of friends, godchildren, and honorary nieces and nephews she leaves behind, Paula was also the human companion of Angus, Dizzy (who predeceased her), and Nemo.

A memorial will be planned for this summer in Amenia, New York.

Donations in Paula's memory may be made to the Animal Farm Foundation in Bangall, NY.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Enjoyed profile of Amenia's Edgewood

I thoroughly enjoyed your article on Amenia's late Edgewood Restaurant; especially since it brought back memories of another long-gone venue on the road to Sharon.

It was the Brookside and during the Sharon Playhouse's annual season it served as sort of a green room for the actors, apprentices and audience members after the Playhouse' curtain fell.

During those years of the nineteen fifties the Playhouse was staffed by actors who were in repertory. Every week in July and August they

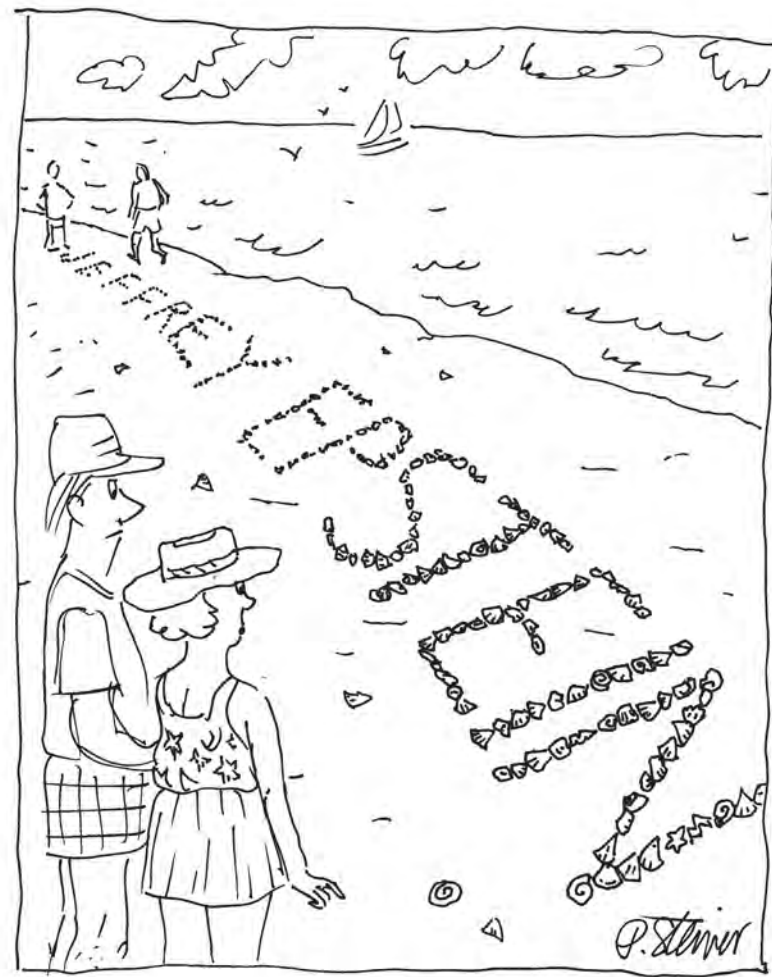
appeared all sorts of comedies showing great versatility in the roles they portrayed.

In addition, they gladly interacted with the rest of the Company, including the nightly fun at the Brookside with some getting up on the small Brookside to do a song or two.

In 1960 I worked full-time in the Playhouse's box office and was warmly welcomed as a member of the "Family."

Oh, and I often dined at the Edgewood!

**Bill Knowlton**  
Liverpool, NY



The views expressed here are not necessarily those of The Lakeville Journal and the Journal does not support or oppose candidates for public office.

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

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

## Education is not a line item to trim

As a taxpayer, a community member, and a product of public schools, I write with concern about the proposed zero-budget by the Board of Finance (BOF) for Sharon Center School. Reducing investment in our schools carries long-term economic costs that far outweigh any short-term savings.

Research consistently shows that every dollar invested in early and primary education yields significant returns — in workforce productivity, reduced reliance on public assistance, and lower rates of incarceration. Further, it has been found that students in better-funded schools earn higher wages, are more likely to graduate high school and attend college, and contribute more in taxes over their lifetimes. Cuts to education don't eliminate costs — they defer them, often with interest.

At the local level, the stakes are equally clear. Businesses considering where to locate or expand look at the quality of public schools as a key indicator of community health and the future workforce. We risk Sharon being less competitive and less attractive to the kind of investment that sustains property values and local employment.

I understand the need to make difficult fiscal decisions. But treating education as a line item to trim, rather than an infrastructure investment to protect, reflects a short-term view.

It was evident at the BOF hearing on April 28, 2026 that many members are more interested in closing Sharon Center School than in building it to be the best school it

can. Public schools are for all children — of all educational abilities. This is how a child learns compassion and how to work with others.

I am a senior. I live on a limited income. Yet, I know the importance of having a school in Sharon. This is not the parents vs. others in Sharon. I applaud Tom Bartram and Jessica Fowler, BOF members, who listened to all who presented testimony at the public hearing on April 24th, and believed that Sharon Center School should receive the \$41,250 from tuition payments — not the Town's General Fund. The answer from some BOF members was — it's always been done this way. I say, this is a new day — a new and very competent and committed BOE. All of whom want Sharon Center School to be the best it can be for ALL children. No one should want to always do things as they were done in the past. How can we ever move forward? Can the school live with a no budget increase? Possibly — but not necessarily with some of the cuts. Not something that I want to take a chance. Especially given that the tuition should be in the BOE's budget.

I hope residents will attend the Sharon Town Meeting on May 8th at 6 pm at Town Hall and vote NO on the budget. Let's tell the Board of Finance to revise the budget to credit the \$41,250 in tuition payments to Sharon Center School and not into the Town's General Fund. It's a small gesture, but it speaks volumes about our support for our school.

**Marlene Woodman**  
Sharon

## Confronting evil — counterpoint

The Thursday April 23rd edition of The Lakeville Journal included a letter to the editor titled Confronting Evil and justifying our attack on Iran. You can't argue with the terror it has spread throughout the Middle East and that it has to stop. I take issue with the justification that it was too close to "sprinting towards a bomb." This is because no part of the knowledge to build an atomic bomb from rocks you mine from the earth that is a secret. It isn't even necessary to test your bomb design once you have enough U235 — it's that reliably well understood. So, if we start with a "no bomb" red line in our strategic positioning, we will never succeed unless we kill everyone. Leaders of our government and others would lead us to believe that

making an atomic bomb is some kind of mystery and if we just take out a few leaders and destroy some equipment, the job is done. That just isn't true.

Let's please ask our leaders to focus instead on what we can control through whatever means we have but excusing our conduct or planning for a "no bomb, no enrichment" outcome is a fool's errand.

**Theodore Rudd O'Neill**  
Town

Mr. O'Neill was involved in the development of wavefront sensors (a critical technology) for the Star Wars Weapons program and was part of a due diligence team in 1986 that was invited to inspect and bid on the purchase of the U.S. only centrifugal uranium enrichment facility in Piketon, OH.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Context for Sharon's flat education budget

The Sharon Board of Finance would like to provide additional context regarding its recent request that the Sharon Board of Education consider a flat, or zero-increase, budget for the coming fiscal year. We appreciate the strong interest this topic has generated and are encouraged by the thoughtful engagement from members of our community.

A key factor in this discussion is the state's Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR). In general terms, the MBR requires towns to fund education at least at the prior year's level, regardless of changes in enrollment. Over time, this has created a structural dynamic for Sharon: as our school-aged population declines, the budget does not automatically adjust downward. As a result, even modest increases can have lasting effects on future required funding levels.

School leadership, including Board of Education Chairman (and former Sharon Center School Principal) Dr. O'Reilly and Principal Tomkalski, has indicated publicly that a flat budget would continue to support students' needs for the upcoming school year.

It is also helpful to distinguish between a budget and actual expenditures. In recent years, the Board of Education has spent less than the full amount appropriated. Based on year-to-date figures as of March 31, 2026, this pattern is continuing. While budgets must appropriately plan for uncertainty, these trends suggest that recent appropriations have provided a margin that has not been fully utilized. Notably, the cumulative surplus from the past two years exceeds the adjustment requested by the Board of Finance for the 2026–27 fiscal year.

At approximately \$48,000 per pupil, Sharon's per-student cost is currently the highest in Connecticut. We recognize that several factors contribute to this figure, including the scale of our school and the range of services we provide. In addition, a prior comparative review of certain non-salary expenditures—such as purchased services and supplies—indicated higher spending levels than a peer school, even after accounting for differences in facility size. We have requested updated information to better understand these differences and to help inform future discussions.

Our request for a flat budget reflects an ongoing effort to balance educational needs with long-term financial sustainability thoughtfully. The Board of Finance, as elected volunteers, is responsible for reviewing both Town and Education budgets, considering near-term priorities alongside future obligations, and being mindful of the diverse financial circumstances of Sharon residents. These responsibilities require us to look carefully at both current conditions and longer-term trends.

We also want to recognize the positive progress within the School. Recent assess-

ments indicate improving academic performance among students, and we appreciate the continued efforts of the Principal, teachers, staff, and the Board of Education in supporting student success and serving the broader community.

At the same time, Sharon—like many communities in our region—faces longer-term challenges related to declining enrollment and the ongoing work of sustaining and strengthening academic outcomes. The level of community engagement in this year's budget conversation is encouraging, and we hope it can serve as a foundation for continued constructive dialogue.

The Board of Finance remains committed to working collaboratively with the Board of Education in the months ahead to address both current and future needs, with the shared goal of supporting students while maintaining long-term fiscal responsibility for the town.

**Sharon Board of Finance**  
Tom Bartram  
Jessica Fowler  
John Hecht  
Carol Flaton  
Michele Pastre  
Mary Robertson  
Maryanne Toppan

Sharon

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago —  
May 1901

The new school house at Chapinville was formally presented to the district by Mr. Robert Scoville in behalf of his mother, Mrs. Frances W. Scoville on Thursday. The new building is a neat wooden structure containing two rooms opening into each other, a teachers' room and a splendid basement that can be used as a winter play room. All the modern ideas in regard to ventilation, heat and light are incorporated in the building.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Everett have returned from their wedding tour and are staying in Sharon until their home is ready for them in Millerton.

A.H. Heaton is suffering with a large carbuncle on the side of his neck and is under Dr. Bissell's care.

Wanted, to employ a person who is accurate at figures for a short time monthly at their home. Address Marcus B. Simpson, Salisbury, Conn.

100 years ago —  
May 1926

Swat the fly now and save killing a million or two later on.

Some take chances with their lives in drinking bad hooch, some try to beat the train to the crossing, and some do jaywalking. They say there is a fool born every minute but some one must have advanced the time, or stepped on the gas.

Millerton which went on daylight saving time has already tired of the change and most of the business places have returned to standard time.

A woods fire at Twin Lakes last Sunday afternoon threatened to destroy the Barnum, Brandegee and Cady cottages. Several acres were burned over, and one cottage did catch fire but the blaze was quickly extinguished. A large number of men in that section assembled with brooms, shovels, pails, and anything handy for fire fighting, and did some effective work in checking the blaze.

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

For more letters to the editor, see Page A7

### THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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Read this week's full 'Turning Back the Pages' at www.lakevillejournal.com

# OBITUARIES

## Thomas Scoville

TACONIC — Thomas “Tom” Scoville (Sept. 21, 1942-April 22, 2026) devoted husband, father, historian, public servant, and lifelong adventurer — passed away peacefully at the age of 83 at his home in Taconic, Connecticut. He was the second child of Herbert “Pete” and Ann (Curtiss) Scoville.



Born into a family with strong international and literary ties, Tom's early years were shaped by travel, culture, and formative time in Portugal, where his family's historic estate, Quinta da Bacalhõa, would later become central to his life. From a young age, he developed a love of history, music, and exploration that remained with him throughout his life.

Tom was educated at Deerfield Academy, where he first cultivated both his academic interests and a passion for mountain climbing. He went on to the University of Virginia, graduating with distinction in 1965 after also studying in Grenoble, France. He continued at King's College London, earning a Master's degree in War Studies under Michael Howard.

In 1966, answering the call of service, Tom volunteered for the draft and served in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968. His experiences there shaped both his intellectual and professional life. He later worked as a civilian historian for the U.S. Army and went on to earn a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976. His doctoral work was later published as Reorganizing for Pacification Support.

Tom's career reflected a lifelong commitment to public policy and international affairs. He contributed to several presidential campaigns, including those of Sargent Shriver, Morris Udall, Jerry Brown, and Jimmy Carter. He later served at the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament

Agency, working with figures such as Paul Warnke, George Seignious and McGeorge Bundy, contributing to national discussions on arms control and defense policy.

Following the 1980 election, Tom played an important role in helping Pamela and Averell Harriman establish Democrats for the 80s, supporting efforts to rebuild the Democratic Party. He wrote speeches and op-eds for them and contributed to the Democratic Fact Book in 1982 and 1984, which became a widely used resource.

Tom later became Policy Director and then Vice President of the American Maritime Congress, where he spent nearly two decades shaping maritime policy and advocacy until his retirement in 2000. He also served on the Board of the Public Welfare Foundation, contributing to its philanthropic work on social justice and public policy.

In 1976, Tom met Cathryn Dickert at an international policy conference in Washington, D.C. They married in 1980 at the Washington National Cathedral. Together they raised two daughters, Claire and Genevieve, who were the center of his life and of whom he was immensely proud.

Beyond his professional life, Tom was a man of deep and enduring passions. From 1967, he dedicated decades to stewarding Quinta da Bacalhõa, the 15th-century Portuguese estate originally restored in 1936 by his grandmother, Orlena Zabriskie Scoville. Built in 1480 and now a National Monument, Bacalhõa is home to some of the oldest dated tiles in Portugal. In 1975, he developed the idea of producing one of Portugal's first Bordeaux-style wines, working with his friend Antonio Francisco d'Aviliez to bring it to life. The wine helped establish one of the country's earliest chateau-style

vineyards, producing wines widely regarded among Portugal's finest.

He was also an accomplished mountaineer, climbing extensively in the Alps—including summiting Mont Blanc solo on Christmas Eve and climbing the Matterhorn five times. After his retirement, he spent extended periods in Crested Butte, Colorado, completing all 54 of the state's 14,000-foot peaks twice, despite significant physical challenges.

Tom also had a lifelong love of classical music—particularly Mahler, Strauss, and Wagner—as well as travel, history, fine wine and great conversation. In later years, Tom and Cathryn moved from Washington, D.C. to Taconic, Connecticut, where he continued to enjoy time with family and friends and reflect on a life richly lived.

He will be remembered as a gentleman and a scholar in the truest sense: thoughtful, generous, resilient, intellectually curious, and deeply devoted to those he loved.

Tom is survived by his beloved wife, Cathryn; his daughters, Claire and Genevieve; his son-in-law, Peter Bogardus; and his three grandchildren, Peter, Everardus, and Orlena Bogardus. He is also survived by his brother, Nicholas, and sister-in-law Helen Scoville; his sister, Molly Fitzmaurice, and her husband Frank; and Cathryn's sisters, Carole Dickert Scherr and her husband Jacob, and Margaret Dickert Burgess and her husband John, along with their families, and a wide circle of other family members and friends whose lives he enriched and cherished.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellowship. <https://scoville.org/donate/>

A memorial service is being planned for later this summer.

## John Montross O'Hara

SALISBURY — John Montross O'Hara Sr., age 96, a longtime resident of Twin Lakes, Connecticut, passed away peacefully at his home on May 2, 2026. Born in Torrington, Connecticut, John was raised in Twin Lakes, where he developed a deep and lifelong connection to the community. He graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, Class of 1947, and went on to attend The Citadel before continuing his studies through the ROTC program at the University of Virginia, graduating with the Class of 1951. He proudly served his country for two years during the Korean War.

Following his military service, John returned to the University of Virginia, where he earned his law degree. He went on to achieve the highest score on the New York Bar Examination at the time.

John began his legal career with the distinguished New York City law firm of Rogers & Wells, where he practiced for 10 years. In 1968, John and his family moved to Michigan to join R.L. Polk & Company as General Counsel. His leadership and vision led to his appointment as Chief Executive Officer in 1978, a role he held until his retirement in 1990. During his tenure, he made significant contributions to the automotive industry and was honored with a Distinguished Service Citation. He was also inducted into the Motor Vehicle Hall of Fame by the



American Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association at a ceremony in Las Vegas. Following his retirement, John divided his time between Rancho Santa Fe, California, and his beloved Twin Lakes, Connecticut.

In 1954, John married Mildred Michel, with whom he shared many years until her passing in 1980. In 1984, he married Sally Henby. John was preceded in death by Sally and his brother, Jesse T. O'Hara. He is survived by his children, Pamela Johnson (Wally), John M. O'Hara Jr. (Amy), and Chris Baron (Mark); five grandchildren; one great-grandchild and Sally's children and extended family.

John will be remembered for his intelligence, leadership, dedication to family, and the integrity with which he lived his life. His legacy will endure through the many lives he touched.

Funeral services for John M. O'Hara will be held on Tuesday May 12, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. in the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St. North Canaan, CT 06018. Burial will follow with full military honors in Grassy Hill Cemetery, Falls Village, CT. Calling hours will be held at the funeral home on Monday May 10, 2026 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. and again Tuesday morning from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers please contribute to the Twin Lakes Association, [twinlakesorg.org](http://twinlakesorg.org).

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Opposition to proposed Sharon Budget

I write to express my opposition to the Sharon Board of Finance's proposed 2026–2027 budget calling for a zero increase for the Sharon Center School.

I have a long and meaningful connection to the School. I attended Sharon Center School for four years in the 1970s and early 1980s, as did my brother. My parents ultimately transferred me—against my wishes—to Indian Mountain School. In hindsight, that decision did not serve me particularly well and only reinforced what I already believed at the time: Sharon Center School was providing a strong and grounded education that compared favorably with more expensive alternatives.

Sharon has approximately 1,250 tax-paying households. The School's requested increase—approximately \$69,000—would barely move the needle when spread across the town.

It is often said that too much money is being spent on the School. The Town's financial records show otherwise. For nearly a decade, the School's budget has stayed in a narrow range of roughly \$4.1 to \$4.5 million. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, the Sharon Center School budget was \$4,165,513. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, it was \$4,119,978. Adjusted for inflation, that same approximately \$4.2 million in 2016 dollars would be roughly \$5.8 million today. In real terms, the School is operating with substantially less funding than it did ten years ago, making the claim that too much is being spent difficult to sustain. Over the same period, the Town's tax base has grown significantly, with total taxable property now exceeding \$1 billion. In other words, while the School's budget has remained flat, the Town's ability to fund it has increased. The impact is visible. Sharon does not have a dedicated for-

eign language teacher and offers only limited after-school programming—hardly signs of excess.

The comparison to neighboring towns points in the same direction. Salisbury, which shares the same Region One district, supports its elementary school at roughly \$6.9 million annually—substantially higher than Sharon's approximately \$4.1 million. While Salisbury does benefit from a larger tax base, it nevertheless commits a greater share of its resources to its elementary school.

Much has been made of the rising “cost per pupil,” but that figure is a misleading shorthand. When enrollment declines, fixed costs—teachers, facilities, transportation—do not disappear, and the School must still serve every student. For many families, private school tuition is simply not affordable, and relocating to another town is not a realistic option. Even for families with the means, private schools routinely turn away qualified applicants, including those able to pay. Our public school also has a responsibility to welcome and support students with special needs—something that requires resources and continuity of funding.

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the Board is taking a philosophical stand rather than responding to a fiscal constraint. If that is the case, it is the wrong place to do it. Our elementary school should not be the vehicle for making a broader point about spending.

At the same time, the proposed budget continues

to allocate significant public funds to certain favored institutions, including the Hotchkiss Library (approximately \$130,000) and the Sharon Historical Society (approximately \$15,000). These are all worthwhile organizations, but they are also able to raise funds privately. My wife and I have been long-standing private donors to these organizations, and we value their work. The School, however, relies almost entirely on public funding to meet its basic operating needs.

It is also worth noting that the School receives approximately \$40,000 annually in tuition from non-resident students. If that amount were directed back to the School, it would cover a substantial portion of the requested increase. By contrast, private institutions such as Indian Mountain School do not contribute their tuition revenue to the Town.

This is not simply about dollars and cents. Sharon is, by any reasonable measure, a very affluent community, with many private amenities—such as a very expensive country club—supported entirely by those who choose to use them, not by the Town. In that context, it is difficult to argue that a modest investment in the one institution that must serve all children is out of reach.

I encourage the residents of Sharon to vote down the proposed 2026–2027 budget at the Sharon Town Hall at 6:00 pm on Friday, May 8, 2026 (attendance is required to vote).

Michael Lynch  
Sharon

## Secretariat wins ...

I enjoyed reading Debra Aleksinas' account of meeting the amazing Secretariat. Watching him win the Triple Crown was one of the two most impressive sporting events I have seen.

The second was seeing Bjorn Borg, down two sets and a point or two away from losing to John McEnroe, battle back to win. It took hours, and the focus and determination he showed in addressing one point at a time, and not giving in to defeatism, was

one of the greatest displays of will and discipline I have ever seen.

A friend who speaks Arabic fluently recently told me of a tribute to, probably, a long ago superhorse: “The mount whose pace/Made the world seem a smaller place.” I will never forget the stunned silence in the stands as the crowd witnessed Secretariat, half the track ahead, win the Belmont.

Pam Osborne  
Salisbury

For more letters, see pages A6

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## Realtor® at Large

This year, all members on Inland Wetlands Commissions are required to take and complete the CTDEEP course entitled: Municipal Inland Wetlands Agency Comprehensive Course. Basically, it takes 8 hours and instructs and guides agency members and staff on (1) the law they are implementing and enforcing and (2) the resources they are charged with protecting. What is excellent is that this is open to the public and is free! In our NW Corner of the state, the conservation of our wetlands, lakes and streams are of the utmost importance and this gives the public an opportunity to become familiar with the regulations and understand the responsibilities of our Wetland Commissions. For more information, please see: [clear.uconn.edu/training/ct-deep-training-certificate-courses/deep\\_iwa\\_training/](http://clear.uconn.edu/training/ct-deep-training-certificate-courses/deep_iwa_training/)



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For more obituaries, see pages A5 & A9

# Our Towns

## Wine fit for royalty

# Northwest Connecticut wine served to King Charles III and queens at White House

By Jennifer Almquist

WARREN — More than 400 years after their ancestors arrived in America aboard the Mayflower, the Hopkins family is still making history — this time in a glass of wine.

Wine produced by Hopkins Vineyard in Warren, Conn., was served at a White House state dinner for King Charles III and Queen Camilla on April 28, 2026.

Hilary Hopkins Criollo, president and co-owner of the vineyard with her husband Jorge Criollo, said the recognition came unexpectedly.

She received a call just two weeks earlier from a White House chef requesting several wines for a tasting. Soon after, an order followed for 48 bottles of the vineyard's 2024 "Heritage" Riesling.

Hilary said the chef requested expedited shipping for the \$33 bottles, still not knowing what they were to be used for.

"We saw on social media that our wine was served at the state dinner," Hilary said

of the visit from King Charles III and Queen Camilla. "I was so surprised that I asked people to pinch me."

The moment marks a milestone generations in the making.

Stephen and Elizabeth Hopkins left England on the Mayflower seeking religious freedom. During the voyage, Elizabeth gave birth to their son Oceanus Hopkins. More than a century later, after serving in the American Revolution, Elijah Hopkins purchased farmland in Warren, Conn. — land that would eventually become the vineyard.

In 1956, Bill Hopkins took over his family dairy farm. In 1979, anticipating the decline of small dairy operations, he and his wife, Judy, sold their herd, applied for Connecticut's first winery permits, and began producing wine.

By 1988, the farm was recognized as a Bicentennial Farm, having remained in the same family since the signing of the U.S. Constitution. In 2017, Hilary and Jorge purchased the 30-acre vineyard

from her parents.

The "Heritage" Riesling label reflects that legacy, featuring an image of Hilary's grandfather forking hay into a horse-drawn wagon overlooking the lake.

Bill Hopkins recalled the moment with pride.

"My wife and I are the founders of Hopkins Vineyard," he said. "I had a midlife crisis and decided to start a vineyard. I am proud of everyone involved. It's quite an honor to have the king drink our wine."

Jorge Criollo said the news was difficult to believe.

"When I woke up at 4 a.m., we were on the news," he said. "I spent the whole day not believing it. It's like a miracle. They could pick wine from anywhere in the world."

In a statement, the White House said the wine list, which included Hopkins Vineyard's 2024 Riesling "Heritage," was curated to "complement the menu while honoring the shared heritage and enduring friendship between the United States and

the United Kingdom, and to celebrate the strength of American winemaking today."

Winemaker and vineyard manager Jim Baker said producing wine in the Northeast requires patience.

He said Riesling is hardy and withstands the winter. "It takes three to four years for a plant to produce fruit and get a good crop," he said. "It's a learning curve with any new variety. Because of the rain and cold in the east, the trick is growing it."

Baker, who has worked at the vineyard for 34 years, said the landscape keeps him rooted as he walks along the row of vines where the King's Riesling grapes grow.

Bill Hopkins' granddaughter, Paloma Criollo, a filmmaker, reflected on that connection in a video featured on the vineyard's website.

"I've realized that without this land, without our farm, we lose our identity and connection to this land. This is our home, and this is my family's legacy."



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Hilary Hopkins Criollo, co-owner of Hopkins Vineyard (left) and her father Billy Hopkins, its founder, with their 2024 "Heritage" Riesling wine that was served at the White House April 28.



Grape vines at Hopkins Vineyard overlooking Lake Waramaug in Warren, Connecticut

# Connecticut wildlife expert debunks myths about fishers

By Patrick L. Sullivan

NORFOLK — A "fisher cat" is neither a cat nor the source of nighttime screeching sometimes heard in rural Connecticut.

Those were two takeaways from wildlife expert Ginny Apple's talk at the Norfolk Hub Saturday, May 2, titled, "Fishers: Connecticut's Stealth Hunter."

Apple, a Master Wildlife Conservationist with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, frequently delivers presentations in Northwest Connecticut towns.

The fisher's range runs from the Canadian Rockies to the Atlantic, in parts of Northern California, and in New England, Apple said. She estimates 100,000 exist today, a little under 100 in the state, and only half a dozen or so in northwest Connecticut.

Apple corrected common misconceptions, noting that a fisher is a member of the weasel family — not a cat.

The hair-raising screams people hear at night — often attributed to the non-existent "fisher cat" — are almost always from red foxes, Apple said.

The fisher is the rare Connecticut predator that will take on a porcupine, however.

Fishers are skilled and silent hunters and only let their guard down at night when they are relaxing in a tree.

"Then they make a little chortling sound, which you won't hear unless you're under the tree," Apple said.

Pekania pennanti, the official name of the fisher cat, is the second largest weasel species in the state, next to



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Wildlife expert Ginny Apple delivers talk about the commonly misunderstood fisher in Norfolk, May 2.

the river otter.

Fishers can rotate their hind feet, which allows exceptional mobility in trees. Apple said they are just as nimble in trees as squirrels.

They are carnivorous omnivores, meaning they prefer meat and will go to considerable effort to find it.

Males can weigh up to 18 pounds and get to be between 35-47 inches long — including their tail. Females are roughly half the size.

Fishers live up to 12 years in ideal circumstances. This does not include Connecticut, Apple said.

"We've got a lot of roadkill and rodenticide poisoning," she said.

On the latter, Apple said the use of rodenticide for rat and mouse control is trouble-

some because the poisoned rodents get eaten by predators — including fishers — who in turn get sick.

She urged attendees to use traditional snap mousetraps or "Hav-A-Hart" no-kill traps, which come in mouse dimensions.

DEEP is currently conducting a study of fishers using electronic collars to determine why they prefer the northeastern part of the state. Apple asked the audience to call DEEP at 860-424-3211 or email deepFisherSightings@ct.gov with any sightings or roadkill reports.

## Derby Day brings style to Noble Horizons

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SALISBURY —

About 80 people attended the Salisbury Rotary Club's 2026 Kentucky Derby Social at the Noble Horizons Community Room Saturday, May 2, and many dressed to the nines.

Rotarians Fran and Randy Chapell presented awards for the best Derby hat and for the best Derby outfits, and attendees cheered for their favorite horse during the televised race from Churchill Downs.

All proceeds from the event, which included auctioned items donated by local businesses, will benefit local nonprofit organizations.

## 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.



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Rae Etting, left, recipient of the Best Derby Hat award, and Kelly Galgano, scoped out the silent auction items during the Kentucky Derby Social, May 2.



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Best Derby Outfit awards go Carol Overby and Jan Hazard.

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# Our Towns

## Body recovered from Stillwater Pond in Torrington May 1

By Aly Morrissey

TORRINGTON – The body of a 65-year-old man was recovered from Stillwater Pond in Torrington, Friday, May 1. Officials from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Conservation Police (EnCon) identified the man as Stewart Rushlow of Torrington.

The body was reported to the Torrington Police Department and recovered by the Torrington Fire Department around 7:30 p.m. on Friday, officials said in a statement. DEEP's EnCon

police are still investigating what led to the death.

At this time, officials said there is "no apparent criminal aspect."

The State Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine the cause of death.

Stillwater Pond is located in Stillwater Pond State Park, known for its quiet, wooded landscape and recreational opportunities like fishing, boating and hiking. A scenic trail that loops around the pond is one of several hiking opportunities, offering views of the water and surrounding forest. Swimming is not permitted at the park.

## Region One BOE approves new hires

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE – The Region One Board of Education met for its regular meeting on Monday, May 4.

The Board opened with a "spotlight on student learning," recognizing students who participated in the recently held Troutbeck Symposium, Thursday, April 23.

The Board heard out-of-state tuition student recommendations – a process for when students in neighboring states wish to attend the Housatonic Valley Agricultural Education Program.

Policies pertaining to tuition fees, purchasing procedures, bidding requirements and paying for goods and services were also reviewed.

Before adjourning, the board went into executive session to discuss the evaluation of the superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley, a report that is expected to be published next week.

The Board also approved

a number of new hires, most of which will begin later this summer:

Julia Tracy, school psychologist for Region One, \$67,052, start date Aug. 18.

Luke Vermilyea, technology education teacher at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, \$71,806, start date Aug. 18.

Donald Crossman, technology education teacher at HVRHS, \$111,018, start date Aug. 18.

Liam O'Reilly, summer school principal at HVRHS, \$7,000 stipend paid biweekly, start date June 23 for 19 days.

Mary O'Reilly, long-term substitute Spanish teacher at HVRHS, \$541.09 per day, start date May 11.

Kerry Rooney, executive secretary to the principal at HVRHS, \$33.03 per hour, start date June 1.

Nicholas Hall, special education teacher for Region One, \$106,000, start date Aug. 18.

## Connecticut Antique Machinery Association hosts Spring Powerup Show in Kent

By Alec Linden

KENT – The Connecticut Antique Machinery Association's museum chugged, clacked and whirred to life over the weekend during its annual Spring Powerup Show May 2 and 3. Alongside its neighbor, the Eric Sloane Museum, the sights and sounds of early America and the industrial age came alive in Kent as both institutions gear up for the season.



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Jean Bindschedler demonstrates his collection of 1920s European model locomotives powered by wound-up clock gears at the model tracks behind Industrial Hall. Enthusiasts Erik Cowles and Scott Gray watch on as the antique gadget zips around the oval.

## HVRHS student art show to open May 14

By Ruth Epstein

FALLS VILLAGE – The Blue and Gold student art show will open Thursday, May 14, at the Kearcher-Monsell Gallery inside Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

The opening reception will take place from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., with the awards ceremony beginning at 5 p.m.

Now in its 22nd year, the juried art show will feature more than 100 works by HVRHS students in categories including photography, sculpture, paintings and ceramics. Many works will be for sale.

The event is free and open to the public.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Firing up the 1916 Case Steam Traction Engine, built by the JJ Case Threshing Machine Co. It was primarily used for farming operations.

## Local historian to speak at Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society

By Ruth Epstein

FALLS VILLAGE – Local historian Tim Abbott will share stories about local men who served during the Revolutionary War at the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society's annual dinner meeting on May 27 at the Emergency Services Center.

Abbott, a North Canaan resident, is a Revolutionary War scholar who regularly publishes in the "Journal of the American Revolution" and studies the military and social experiences of people from the Berkshires and northwest Connecticut during the war and early Federal era.

His first book, "The Additions: Spencer's Regiment and the American Revolution," will be published by the Oklahoma University Press in early 2027.

Abbott is also the executive director of the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA).

The dinner and meeting are open to the public. Doors will open at 5 p.m., with a buffet dinner provided by Theresa Freund served at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$35 per person. Payment may be made at the door, but reservations must be made by May 22.

To make reservations, call Kay Blass at 860-824-7259, or email kay.blass@gmail.com.



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Rick Liegl, who specializes in 17th century New England woodworking, works on a ladle during the nearby Eric Sloane Museum's opening day on May 2.

## OBITUARIES

### Lawrence

### Fredrick Twordusky Jr.

EAST CANAAN — Lawrence Fredrick Twordusky Jr., 79, of East Canaan, Connecticut, formerly of Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully on May 1, 2026, surrounded by his family after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. A cherished husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend, Larry will be deeply missed by all who knew him, especially his faithful dog, Barney.

Larry was born on February 2, 1947, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, to Lawrence and Esther Twordusky. He graduated from Tunkhannock Area High School and later from Johnson Technical School. In 1969, he married his high school sweetheart, Linda LaBar, before serving in the United States Air Force, where he was stationed in Mountain Home, Idaho.

Larry dedicated many years of service to Procter & Gamble, where he worked in various roles before retiring. A lifelong woodworker, he found great joy in carpentry and was known for his skill and meticulous craftsmanship.

From building his own home to helping his daughters with home repairs, Larry's handmade furniture and creations were treasured by those he loved. Larry had a deep appreciation for the outdoors. From a young age, he enjoyed hunting and fishing, and many of his most memorable stories came from time spent in the woods or out on the water.

Larry is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Linda; his daughters, Lori Twordusky (her fiancé, Jason English) of Bear Creek, Pennsylvania, and Amy Helminiak (Shane) of East Canaan, Connecticut; his granddaughters, Megan Woronko (her fiancé, Vance Collier) and Wren and Briar Helminiak; his great-granddaughter, Harper Collier; his sister, Sue Farrell of Montrose, Pennsylvania; and several nieces and nephews.

The family kindly asks that, if Larry touched your life in any way, you consider making a donation in his memory to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research at give.michaeljfox.org.

More obituaries appear on pages A5 & A7

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## Our Towns

# Kent cites property owner for unpermitted beaver dam removal

By Alec Linden

KENT – The Northwest Corner’s most industrious rodents are at it again, prompting a South Kent property owner to allegedly take matters into his own – unpermitted – hands by dismantling a dam. Now he’s being asked to come before the town with a permanent, and sanctioned, solution to the ongoing issue of busy beavers.

Under town code, destroying or tampering with beaver dams is a regulated activity and requires the review and approval from the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. During an IWWC meeting on April 27, Land Use Administrator Tai Kern announced that a landowner in the hills of South Kent, John Riney, had been issued a notice of violation for breaking down a beaver dam above Richards Road in early April, causing significant damage to the gravel roadway.

She noted that the dam, which may have been destroyed by Riney’s land management staff at his 25-acre Flat Rock Road property, had been flooding the waterfront area.

Kern said it was the second time she had been noti-



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

A view of the beaver dam above Richards Road, which was destroyed in early April. It was partially rebuilt by May 2.

fied of dam destruction at the site since receiving a similar complaint last year.

“This can’t keep happening,” she said. “All that stuff is getting washed into the watercourse every time. It’s not good for the watercourse, and it’s not good for the town.”

She noted that each time the dam, which obstructs a natural outflow from a pond, is breached, the water that had been backed up rush-

es downstream and overwhelms a culvert that passes below Richards Road. It has caused significant erosion to the roadway, which the town crew has to repair each time.

Kent Highway Foreman Rick Osborne said the dam had been broken and rapidly rebuilt by the beavers

several times this spring before Town Hall was notified in April. “Beavers are real

**“All that stuff is getting washed into the watercourse every time. It’s not good for the watercourse, and it’s not good for the town.”**

*Tai Kern, Kent Land Use Administrator*

handy, working all night,” he said with a chuckle.

Osborne noted that each time the dam is breached and

damages the road, it costs the town in labor and materials.

Kern noted that as of the April 27 meeting, beavers had already partially rebuilt the dam.

“They’re going to be back in the same situation in not very long, so something needs to be done,” she said.

Beaver complaints are common in the area, she said, and property owners are left with few solutions for remediation. Connecticut’s beaver trapping season runs from December through March, during which landowners with beaver conflicts may contact a certified professional for removal. Outside that period, those wishing to remove beavers have to apply for a special permit from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Beavers that are trapped are generally killed.

IWWC Chair Lynn Wer-

ner stated she’d prefer to see a more humane option. A solution that keeps the animals alive “is more palatable to me,” she said, “and it’s also more permanent.”

Kern referred to the recent installation of a device called a “Beaver Deceiver” at a pond on Camps Road as a potential option for Riney. The contraption transports water at a regular rate through a pipe from one end of the dam to the other, enabling the beaver-built habitat to remain while maintaining stable flows downstream.

Kern said several days after the April 27 meeting that living with beavers is a fact of life in Northwest Connecticut. “There’s nobody to blame but the beavers about this,” she said, “but that is what they do naturally... we just have to learn how to all cohabitate.”

Riney is expected to come before the IWWC at its May 18 meeting with a proposal. He could not be immediately reached for comment.

## 41st annual Sharon Classic Road Race

For full story, see page A3



Carrie Olsen poses with daughter Charlotte Olsen.



PHOTOS BY ALY MORRISSEY

Wolf Donner, 13, finishes fourth overall in his first-ever Sharon Classic Road Race, May 2.



Will Hutnick of Sharon finishes fifth overall.

### Local Matters

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# Our Towns



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The former Lakeville Train Station on Ethan Allen Street will be moved back about 16 feet.

## Salisbury advances plans to move former train station, installs new EV charger

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Long-awaited plans to move the former train station building in Lakeville are advancing, First Selectman Curtis Rand told the Salisbury Board of Selectmen at its regular meeting Monday, May 4.

With the project out to bid, contractors are now reviewing materials, Rand said.

The plan is to move the entire building back about 16 feet from its current location on Ethan Allen Street in Lakeville. The unmarked pavement narrows by the station, which has caused problems like panel trucks clipping the roof. Rand also said the building's brick foundation has been covered up by years of repaving the street.

The street, which is home to three restaurants and a laundromat, continues to the Grove and also intersects with Holley Street toward Route 44.

Just west of the train station is Salisbury's newest electric vehicle charger, installed last week on town property. The rate is 43 cents per kilowatt hour.

Rand also reported that Duke Besozzi of New England Naval Timbers in Cornwall delivered 10 six-

inch white oak trees to the Grove on Monday, May 4 for planting. Besozzi's company supplies timber for use in restorations and replicas of wooden sailing ships. White oak is highly water-resistant and sought after for such uses.

Katie Begley is Salisbury's new resident trooper, and was scheduled to be introduced at the meeting. Something came up, however, and she wasn't able to attend.

Rand said he was hopeful that the trooper would stick around. "We've had three in one year," he said.

The discussion redirected to speeding. Kiefer said she often receives comments from residents about the issue, and joked that she considered standing out on Route 44 holding a hair dryer like a radar gun to try to slow drivers down.

Rand said he recently noticed a 20 mile per hour speed limit on a state road in Cornwall. He said when he suggested the same speed limit to the state Department of Transportation, he was told it couldn't be done.

The selectmen agreed to keep the pressure on the DOT, with an emphasis on median islands on Route 44 heading west out of Lakeville.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

A new EV charging station in Lakeville.

## Tail-wagging fun at Kent Library

By Lans Christensen

KENT — Animal Control Officer Lee Sohl read puppy stories with her dog, Gavin, during a children's program at the Kent Memorial Library, Saturday, May 2. The ongoing popular event gives kids a chance to hear stories and interact with a live puppy. Gavin was delighted to be there for stories and petting, Sohl said.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Animal Control Officer Lee Sohl and her puppy, Gavin, read to a visitor at the Kent Library, May 2.



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

A pair of turkeys walk across a private driveway in South Kent.

## Connecticut spring turkey season opens, runs through May 30

By Alec Linden

KENT — It may be months from Thanksgiving, but Connecticut's spring turkey hunting season is now underway, running from April 29 through May 30.

Hunters are permitted up to five male turkeys during the season, known as "toms" for adults or "jakes" for juveniles, which are marked by their distinctive "beards" — protrusions of hair-like feathers that extend from their necks. Shotguns and bows are the only weapons allowed for turkey hunting in the state.

A new law passed last year allows hunting on Sundays on private land with the proper permitting. Previous-

ly, hunting wasn't allowed on Sundays in Connecticut.

Local hunter and electrical contractor Chris Harrington, who lives in Kent, said rural residents shouldn't be alarmed if they hear gunfire over the next month. "Most of the time in Northwestern Connecticut, when you hear a gunshot, it's somebody hunting or recreational shooting," he said.

He also urged outdoor recreators to dress to stand out when in the woods during any active hunting season.

"You should always be wearing bright colors when you're hiking," he said.

Harrington said he's been hunting turkeys since it became legal in the 1980s. While once plentiful in the

state, colonists hunted the birds to near elimination in New England before reintroduction efforts began to restore a stable population.

"When I was a kid, there were no turkeys in the state," said Harrington, who grew up in Kent.

Today, the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) estimates the turkey population at over 30,000.

"Wild turkeys are a conservation success story, with populations rebounding over the past few decades," said DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes in a statement announcing the start of the season.

Harrington said he hunts for food, and to carry on a

family tradition, having been taught by his grandfather.

"Deer hunting and turkey hunting and rabbits and small game and fishing was a big part of their food," he said of his grandparents.

Now, occasionally bringing his own sons along, he said he won't kill anything he won't eat.

After the spring season ends, turkey hunters have other opportunities later in the year. A short firearm season runs Oct. 3 through Oct. 31 and allows hunters up to three birds of either sex, and a fall bow season allows hunting on state-owned designated bowhunting areas and private property from Sept. 15 to Dec. 31, with a cap of two birds of either sex.

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## POVERTY

Continued from Page A1

"We really want to reduce barriers for people to be able to afford nutritious, local food," said Blake Myers, director of food programs at the Tri Corner F.E.E.D. Market.

About 75 people shop there weekly, she said, with roughly 50 relying on it as a primary grocery source.

### Demand rising at local food pantries

Local food pantries — including The Corner Pantry in Lakeville, North East Community Center (NECC) in Millerton and St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Amenia — have reported sustained increases in demand since the pandemic, even as emergency supports have receded and funding sources have tightened.

That pressure has exposed a broader challenge across the region: not only how to meet immediate need, but how to provide consistent access to nutritious food in a way that is sustainable for both households and the local agricultural economy.

Tri Corner F.E.E.D.'s approach centers on strengthening those connections, said Linda Quella, who previously farmed land in Sharon and sold her produce primarily via farm stands and farmers markets.

She said the experience underscored how difficult it is for farmers to earn a living through local sales alone.

"We were going to farmers

markets three times a week," Quella said. "People don't realize how much you have to sell to earn a living as a farmer."

She added, "Everybody that was buying our food was very well off."

That realization led to conversations with hunger relief organizations, including the NECC in Millerton and its food programs director, Jordan Schmidt.

With food pantries held twice a month, Quella saw an opportunity to host a pop-up market with the organization.

"We could tell it was a need," Quella said. "It became clear this would be welcome in this community."

Quella also researched a study from United Way that collected data from households that struggle to cover basic costs. Her efforts helped inform Tri Corner F.E.E.D.'s sliding scale model.

"Through that study, we found that farmers can't afford to discount products. They need full price for their product," Quella said. "And that consumers needed nutrient-rich food but didn't have access to it."

Quella describes Millerton as a food desert, noting the closure of the town's only food market there several years ago.

### Program pays farmers upfront

Tri Corner F.E.E.D. also purchases produce and other

goods through its Food Sovereignty Fund, which was established to buy directly from farmers and distribute those goods to local food pantries — ensuring access to fresh food while providing farmers with a stable, guaranteed market.

Farmers are paid in advance for their harvests, offering financial stability and encouraging participation in food distribution programs. The fund also connects farms with local food pantries, schools and community centers — to deliver fresh produce to underserved populations.

Participating farms include, in addition to Adamah Farm, Rock Steady Farm, Sky High Farm and the Ten Mile Farm Foundation, among others across Connecticut and New York.

### Surplus crops benefit communities

At Adamah, a nonprofit CSA (Community Supported Agriculture program), connected to the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center, the model allows members to buy a share of a farm's harvest upfront in exchange for regular distributions of fresh produce throughout the growing season — helping redirect surplus crops into the community.

"In 2025, we sold a few items a week through Tri Corner, including cherry tomatoes, zucchini and herbs,"

said Janna Siller, farm director and advocacy coordinator at Adamah.

Siller said the region produces abundant food, yet many residents rely on distant grocery stores due to cost barriers or limited access.

"Tri Corner is helping bridge that gap," she said.

Adamah also raises funds to donate produce to local pantries, sometimes delivering close to 1,000 pounds of food in a single day.

### Restaurant patrons pay it forward

That same model extends to the upcoming Nourish Neighbors campaign.

"When you visit a participating restaurant or business, you have the opportunity to pay it forward," Myers said, adding that proceeds go to Tri Corner's Food Sovereignty Fund.

Supported local pantries include The Corner Pantry in Lakeville, North East Community Center in Millerton

and St. Thomas in Amenia.

"This is especially urgent as demand for their services has risen just as federal and state support has come under pressure," Armero said.

Even as the program expands, Quella said, the scale of need continues to outpace available resources. Rising living costs strain both households and farms, leaving programs like Tri Corner F.E.E.D. to shoulder a growing share of the region's food access needs.

## BUDGET

Continued from Page A1

have been paid for through long-term capital planning by the town but were instead included in the school's annual budget.

Hecht said the issue has been compounded by the state's Minimum Budget Requirement, or MBR, which generally prevents municipalities from spending less on education than they did the previous year.

"We've been trying over the years to get that back under control," Hecht said.

He and other members of the BOF cited the issue as a key reason for maintaining a flat budget.

The main focus of the hour-long discussion, however, focused on whether to move about \$41,000 in tuition paid by families outside the district into the school's budget. The funds currently go into the town's Undesignated Fund.

The proposal was inspired by a flood of public support for additional school funding during a public hearing Friday, April 24. While many residents urged the board to transfer the tuition revenue to the school, the board ultimately decided to keep it in the municipal budget.

"I say we wait for the vote and see what happens," said Hecht.

Board members said they are motivated to work with the BOE on future plans for tuition revenues, which are substantially higher this year due to more out-of-town students, as well as other areas of cooperation in preparation for subsequent budget cycles.

BOE Chair Philip O'Reilly, who was present at the meeting, later said he was "taken aback" by the decision after he believed the BOF would work with school of-

ficials to find a way to return the funds.

While he is confident that the currently proposed flat budget is sufficient to fully fund the school and its programs, O'Reilly said the tuition issue offered the two boards — which have historically had fraught relations — a step toward compromise.

"The Board of Education and the Board of Finance must find a better way to be able to work together and solve our issues," he said.

O'Reilly urged parents to trust his experience and dedication to the school. He served as principal of SCS from 2001 to 2005 and has more than four decades in education. He also put his six children through Region One, three of whom graduated from SCS.

"I want us to be the most successful early kindergarten to eighth-grade school in Region One, and I will do everything I can to accomplish that mission," he said.

SCS Principal Carol Tomkalski similarly urged parents to trust the school's staff and leadership: "We are always going to do everything we can here to ensure our program is not compromised."

BOF member Carol Flaton, who phoned into Tuesday's meeting, posited that the school has always managed to cover costs with leftover unspent funds. "A budget is a budget," she said, "It's not an actual."

Hecht reported that the school had roughly \$200,000 remaining from last year's budget. This year, the BOE calculated that it expects to have approximately \$120,000 unspent for 2026-2027, though this number is a projection that is subject to the actual expenditures throughout the year.

Flaton argued that adding the \$41,000 in tuition revenue to the BOE budget would simply be adding to what she described as "cush-

ion."

Region One Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley, who was present at Tuesday's meeting, said that unspent funds are not guaranteed, especially since most of the time they're due staffing changes, which can be highly unpredictable.

Speaking several days after the meeting, she expressed the term "cushion" misrepresents the reality of school budgeting. "That is just patently false," she said. "We have to budget based on the actual people we have in front of us."

"We don't go into each budget season thinking how much cushion we can sneak in," she added.

She said that she hopes the various town organizations continue to negotiate how to work together for future budget cycles. Members of the BOE and BOF also expressed similar sentiments, and promised to develop a collaborative approach moving forward.

Going into the vote, some parents and residents say they remain uncertain.

A flyer distributed by a group calling itself "Concerned Parents of Sharon" is urging residents to vote against the proposed budget, arguing that a flat spending plan would effectively reduce resources for the school as costs rise.

Karen Rios, president of the SCS Parent-Teacher Organization, said after Tuesday's meeting that she remains troubled by the budget debate.

"Our goal is to make sure that Sharon not only thrives in the present but also has new generations of children who grow up and say, 'I'm proud to be from Sharon.'"

### VOTE DETAILS

When: Friday, May 8

Time: 6 p.m.

Where: Sharon Center School, 80 Hilltop Road

## ARREST

Continued from Page A1

"My dog did nothing wrong," Cowie said. "You can't just say someone did something and then punish them for it without proof."

Cowie and his wife adopted Rosie about two years ago, just one day before she was scheduled to be put to sleep. He describes Rosie — a Black Mouth Cur — as a loving dog whose only threat is licking too much.

Cowie said the loss of package delivery has been particularly difficult because his wife, Mollie, is unable to operate a vehicle. He expressed disappointment after repeated attempts to obtain proof of the alleged bite and restore his delivery service were unsuccessful. He said the situation raises questions about how such decisions are made and what recourse citizens have.

The USPS, however, has an explicit policy regarding dogs that does not require evidence.

"The Postal Service places the safety of its employees as a top priority," said Amy Gibbs, a strategic communications specialist for the USPS who responded to inquiries directed to Sharon's post office. "It is postal policy that if a carrier feels threatened by a dog, the owner may be asked to pick up mail at a Post Office until the carrier is assured the pet has been restrained."

Gibbs said curbside delivery to Cowie's home — meaning items that fit inside his mailbox — has not been disrupted, though larger packages are being held at the post office.

Cowie said the conversation with the postmaster on April 23 at the Low Road post office grew heated and led to his arrest for disorderly conduct. According to a police report, Trooper Robert Flanigan of Troop B responded to a call about an "irate customer" who was "yelling all sorts of profanities" while inside the post office. Cowie was then banned from the property.

He returned to the post office on April 29 and was eventually arrested, hand-

cuffed and fingerprinted for new trespassing charges. According to a police report, Trooper Jared Tuers of Troop B responded to the scene for an "active disturbance" with an individual who was not allowed on the property. Cowie said he spent about three hours at the police station in North Canaan and his car had been impounded.

Though Cowie has been banned from the Low Road post office following his arrests, USPS officials said he is allowed to designate another person to collect any undeliverable mail and packages — those too large to fit in a mailbox — at the post office.

Cowie said he does not regret his behavior or anything he said during the altercations, adding that he was defending his dog, whom he views as a family member, and pushing

back against the "overreach of authority."

"It was the arbitrary, unilateral power exercised by the local postmaster that irked me the most," Cowie said. "There's an erosion of civil liberties, and it has to be reversed."

Cowie argues that the disruption of his packages mirrors authoritative tactics modeled by the current administration.

If he can afford it, Cowie said, he will take his case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court for what he deems as "overreaching government power." Asked what justice looks like, Cowie said, "investigation of any government allegation before actions are taken."

Cowie is scheduled to appear in court in Torrington on May 7 and 13.

## RADAR GUN

Continued from Page A1

does function, although he said it is old. Bunce, who took office in November, said he had been told the unit is operational but that the trooper has been hesitant to use it because of its age.

"Our gun does work. It's just old," Bunce said, adding the town has been exploring grants or other funding options to replace it.

But in an interview roughly three weeks later, Trooper Spencer Bronson described a different situation.

The radar unit, he said, is about 26 years old and not currently calibrated — a requirement that makes it unusable for law enforcement. He said he did not have records indicating when it was last calibrated and was unsure, given the device's age, whether it could be recalibrated.

Bronson has served as North Canaan's resident state trooper since January 2025, having held the role as recently as 2022.

"If it's not calibrated, I can't legally use it," Bronson said.



PHOTO PROVIDED

### Trooper Spencer Bronson

The radar gun is not the only issue raised in recent weeks.

Both Bunce and Bronson confirmed that the landline to the trooper's office was down for an extended period — roughly a month to a month and a half — due to a wireless connection failure. During that time, calls went unanswered and messages could not be retrieved, Bunce said.

The issue has since been resolved, with the town now relying primarily on the trooper's cell phone: 959-228-1779. The town announced that the problem had been

rectified on Facebook and limited who could comment on the post.

There is also no active police bicycle program.

While the town has had officers on bicycles in the past, it currently does not have a usable bike, and the resident trooper is not certified to patrol on one.

"We don't have a bicycle," Bunce said, adding that certification would likely follow if equipment were available. He said the trooper does not plan to get certified until a bike is in place, something the town is also looking into. He also noted that the town is geographically large and that a bike is generally unnecessary, except perhaps for events.

Bunce said the town funds the resident trooper position — including salary, vehicle and related costs — and that equipment like radar guns has to be provided by the town.

He estimated a replacement radar gun would cost about \$3,600 to \$3,700 and said the town is exploring options to secure one.

## EARLY DEADLINE OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 25

Ad deadline for the May 28<sup>th</sup> issue is  
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for ALL Display Advertising

Classified Line Deadline is  
Noon on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

Legals Deadline is  
4 p.m. on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

Letters to the Editor deadline is  
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Lena Hall

PHOTO PROVIDED

## By any other name: becoming Lena Hall

By Natalia Zukerman

There is a moment in conversation with actress and musician Lena Hall when the question of identity lands with unusual force.

“Well,” she said, pausing to consider it, “who am I really?”

Born Celina Consuela Gabriella Carvajal into a San Francisco family steeped in performance — her father a choreographer, her mother a prima ballerina — Hall was, by her own account, “born to be onstage.”

“Like a show pony,” she joked.

She trained first as a ballet dancer, studying in France on scholarship before abandoning that path for musical theater after seeing her sister perform in “42nd Street.”

Even then, identity was something

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

FILM

## Remembering Todd Snider at The Colonial Theatre

By Natalia Zukerman

Fans of the late singer-songwriter Todd Snider will have a rare opportunity to gather in celebration of his life and music when “A Love Letter to Handsome John,” a documentary by Otis Gibbs, screens for one night only at The Colonial Theatre in North Canaan on Friday, May 8.

Presented by Wilder House Berkshires and The Colonial Theatre, the 54-minute film began as a tribute to Snider’s friend and mentor, folk legend John Prine. Instead, following Snider’s death last November at age 59, it became something more intimate: a portrait of the alt-country pioneer during the final year of his life.

What began as a simple gesture of gratitude evolved into a poignant meditation on friendship, artistic influence and loss, offering viewers an unusually personal glimpse of Snider at home in his quietest moments.

For Brad Sanzenbacher of Wilder

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

FILM

## ‘Women Laughing’ celebrates New Yorker cartoonists

By Natalia Zukerman

There is something deceptively simple about a New Yorker cartoon. A few lines, a handful of words — usually fewer than a dozen — and suddenly an entire worldview has been distilled into a single panel.

There is also something delightfully subversive about watching a room full of women sit around a table drawing them. Not necessarily because it seems unusual now — thankfully — but because “Women Laughing,” screening May 9 at The Moviehouse in Millerton, reminds us that for much of The New Yorker’s history, such a gathering would have been nearly impossible to imagine.

The documentary, created by longtime New Yorker cartoonist Liza Donnelly and directed by filmmaker Kathleen Hughes, traces the uneven history of women cartoonists at the magazine, from their presence in its earliest issues to their near disappearance by the 1950s. But the film does something more interesting still: it lets us watch these artists at work.

“The idea was talking to these women about their process and where their ideas come from,” Donnelly said. “You get to witness these women drawing in the film, and I draw with them.”

“Women Laughing” includes intimate conversations with some of the most celebrated and groundbreaking cartoonists at The New Yorker, including Roz Chast, Emily Flake, Sarah Akinterinwa,



PHOTO BY ERIC KORENMAN

Ten New Yorker cartoonists gather around a table in a scene from “Women Laughing.”

Liana Finck, Amy Hwang and Bishakh Som. Donnelly also speaks with Emma Allen, the magazine’s first female cartoon editor. During a dynamic roundtable discussion with 10 cartoonists, viewers also meet artists Emily Sanders Hopkins, Maggie Larson, Arenza Pena-Popo and Victoria Roberts.

“I will confess that it was what I was most worried about,” Hughes said of the technical challenges presented by filming 10 artists at work. “You have 10 people. That’s 10 microphones, six or seven cameras. We didn’t even have a budget for it, but our crew

donated all the gear so that we could get it done.”

Hughes was relieved that not only did it work, but it became one of the most memorable parts of the film.

“Frankly, when you put people together and have them talk on screen, it can get tiresome quickly,” Hughes said. “So I’m glad that nobody listened to me when I said I didn’t think we should do this.”

For Donnelly, whose book “Very Funny Ladies” was the impetus for the film, the documentary offered dimensions the printed page could not. For Hughes, whose previous films

have examined weightier subjects like economic inequality and gun violence, entering the world of cartoonists brought its own revelations.

“I really did think that the cartoonists were sort of in charge of what was in the magazine,” Hughes said, laughing. “That was probably the biggest revelation.”

What surprised her most was not just the structure of the magazine’s famously competitive submission process — cartoonists submit batches each week and face frequent

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

THEATER

## Sharon Playhouse debuts new logo ahead of 2026 season

By Matthew Kreta

The Sharon Playhouse has unveiled a new brand identity for its 2026 season, reimagining its logo around the silhouette of the historic barn that has long defined the theater.

Sharon Playhouse leadership — Carl Andress, Megan Flanagan and Michael Baldwin — revealed the new logo and website ahead of the 2026 season. The change reflects leadership’s desire to embrace both the Playhouse’s history and future, capturing its nostalgia while reinventing its image.

After attending the closing performance of the Playhouse’s production of The Mousetrap last September, Christina D’Angelo told Playhouse leadership she was “completely changing her design direction” for the new logo after experiencing the work and atmosphere of the Sharon Playhouse firsthand. She incorporated the barn silhouette to capture the theater campus’s history and evoke the warmth and magic of the Playhouse.

“The barn gives a fixed image of how we all feel about the Playhouse,” said Megan Flanagan, managing director. “The new branding presents the story of the great history of Sharon Playhouse — who we were, who we are today, who we are becoming — and the barn is that unifying element.”

The design was one of several options presented and was

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3



LOGO PROVIDED

New Sharon Playhouse logo designed by Christina D’Angelo.



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INSIDE

SPORTS

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CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events



## ...Lena Hall

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

inherited before it was chosen.

The Tony Award-winning, Grammy-nominated performer has spent much of her career moving between worlds: Broadway and television, rock clubs and film sets, musical theater precision and raw, unvarnished songwriting. Her latest solo album, "Lullabies for the End of the World," is an intimate, autobiographical work that explores co-dependency, heartbreak and self-reckoning.

But for Hall, whose career includes a Tony-winning turn in "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," a starring role on Apple TV+'s "Your Friends and Neighbors," and acclaimed performances in film and television, the search for artistic identity has been unfolding for decades.

The record's central themes — identity, authenticity, reinvention — are the same ones Hall has been sorting through for much of her adult life.

"It wasn't until later that I started asking those questions," she said from New York City, which she splits her time between and West Cornwall, Connecticut. "What do I want to represent? Who do I want to be? I was trying to find the authentic self instead of just going with the flow."

The search began, in part, with an unlikely catalyst: a tonsillectomy.

When Hall was 26, surgery altered her voice just as she had joined the rock band The Deafening. "They would just play really loud and never change the key," she said, laughing.

At the same time, Hall found herself confronting larger ques-



PHOTO COURTESY APPLE TV

In "Your Friends and Neighbors," Lena Hall's character is also a musician.

"At a certain point you stop asking who people want you to be and start figuring out who you already are."

LENA HALL

tions about purpose and artistic direction.

"I was going through that moment of, what do I really want out of this industry?" she said. "If I'm going to keep doing this, I need to have a purpose."

Until then, Hall said, she had largely been defined by external expectations.

"I was always who I was told to be," she said.

The surgery became a kind of reset, both vocally and personally. It also coincided with another form of reinvention: the decision to change her professional name.

"My real name is a lot," she said.

People stumbled over its pronunciation. It was harder to remember, harder to place. "Lena Hall" felt streamlined, memorable. "It also just sounds like a rock star," she laughed.

Hall, who is one-quarter Filipino with Spanish and Swedish ancestry, later grappled with whether changing her name obscured an important part of who she is. At one point, she said, she was advised that reverting to her birth name might improve her casting prospects as representation standards shifted.

She declined. "That didn't feel authentic," she said.

Instead, Hall came to see the name change as less a departure than a continuation.

After making the change, she discovered that Carvajal itself was a family alteration, adopted generations ago in the Philippines.

"I'm still honoring my family,

even in the name change," she said. "I'm continuing that tradition."

Her Filipino heritage remains central to how she understands herself, even as some parts of that history remain difficult to trace.

"I'm very curious to keep searching," Hall said. "That side of my family is where all the artistry came from."

Hall's refusal to flatten herself into a single story or cultural identity is mirrored in her journey as a multi-hyphenate artist. She is, depending on the moment, a Broadway belter, a screen actor, a rock frontwoman, a conceptual songwriter.

Her current side project, the all-female Radiohead tribute band Labiahead, gleefully complicates the picture further, reframing familiar songs through a new lens.

"When women perform something written and performed by men, it changes it completely," she said. "Nothing even needs to be said. It just happens."

The same could be said of Hall's own work.

Across mediums, she is an artist interested less in performance as display than performance as revelation.

Onscreen, she said, that often means doing less.

"The camera is literally on your nose," she said. "You just have to think, and it picks it up."

Between Celina Carvajal and Lena Hall, between ballet and rock, Broadway and Cornwall, Hall is making peace with multiplicity.

"At a certain point," she said, "you stop asking who people want you to be and start figuring out who you already are."

## ... 'Women Laughing'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

rejection — but the sheer persistence required to sustain the work.

"It was inspiring to see the dedication everybody had to the craft," Hughes said. "And how creative everybody is, not just in making the cartoons themselves, but in supporting themselves through it."

An audience reaction that has surprised both Donnelly and Hughes is the laughter. By the time the filmmakers finished editing, they had seen each cartoon so many times that the humor had become technical material — questions of pacing, framing and sequence. The first public screening changed that.

"All the laughter really kind of blew us away," Hughes said. "You forget."

The audience response underscores something else the film makes clear: just how much skill lies behind the apparent simplicity of a single-panel cartoon. Donnelly noted that the form is "a lot harder than you think." Like the cartoons it celebrates, the documentary values economy and precision. At just 37 minutes, its compact running time reflects that ethos.

"A lot of people have said it's a great length," Hughes said. "It's almost like a cartoon version of a documentary."

Donnelly appreciates the response she hears most often after screenings. "You leave them wanting more," she said.

Like the best New Yorker cartoons, "Women Laughing" says a great deal with remarkable economy, leaving audiences laughing and looking more closely at what appears, at first glance, deceptively simple.

"Women Laughing" will screen at the Moviehouse (48 Main St., Millerton) on May 9 at 7 p.m. followed by a conversation with Liza Donnelly, Kathleen Hughes and cartoonist Amy Hwang. Moderated by Joe Donahue of WAMC. Tickets at themoviehouse.net



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Gary Dodson demonstrated the two-handed switch rod cast on the Schoharie Creek on April 18. The author failed to learn said cast.

## A Tangled First Foray to New York in 2026

The last time I tried fishing in the Catskills, in the fall of 2025, I had to stop pretty abruptly when it became apparent my hip was not going to cooperate.

So it was with considerable trepidation that I waded across a stretch of the "Little Esopus" that turned out to be a little bit deeper and a tad more robust than I thought.

This was on Thursday, April 16.



**Tangled Lines**  
Patrick L. Sullivan

The Esopus is a tailwater, meaning cold water comes out of a dam and supplies the river with regular infusions of cold water that is good for trout.

But it is an unusual tailwater,

in that the added flow comes out of the Schoharie Reservoir in Greene County and travels 18 miles through a pipe running under a considerable chunk of mountains and empties into the Esopus in the hamlet of Allaben.

This is officially known as "Diversion from Schoharie Reservoir" or the "Shandaken Tunnel." In practice it is called "the Portal."

Between the Portal and the Ashokan Reservoir about 13

miles downstream the Esopus is a big brawling trout river, roughly the same size as the Housatonic. Upstream of the Portal the Esopus is a medium-sized

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

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The Salisbury Conservation Commission Cool Talks series presents

**Allen Cockerline, Farmer**  
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The White Hart Ballroom,  
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Allen Cockerline and his wife, Robin, have been farmers for over fifty years. They currently raise grass-fed angus beef at their farm, Whippoorwill Farm, and the Hotchkiss School. Allen will speak about the history of farming and current trends in local farming.

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FILM

# Mahaiwe's '100 Years of Movies' returns

By Brian Gersten

The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center will light up the silver screen this summer with the return of "100 Years of Movies," a beloved film series celebrating the enduring legacy of American cinema.

Now in its third consecutive year, the program blends entertainment with insight, as director and film scholar Deborah Reinisch introduces each screening with historical context, behind-the-scenes anecdotes and a deep appreciation for the craft of filmmaking.

This year's series carries added resonance, aligning with the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It also pays tribute to iconic performers whose careers shaped generations of moviegoers, including the late Robert Redford, Diane Keaton, Gene Hackman, Rob Reiner and Robert Duvall.

The series opens May 15 with "Bringing Up Baby"



PHOTO BY KEVIN SPRAGUE

The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington.

(1938), the quintessential screwball comedy starring Cary Grant and Katharine Hepburn. A week later, audiences can dive into the shadowy intrigue of "The Big Sleep" (1946), featuring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall.

Additional highlights include "All About Eve" (1950), starring Bette Davis; "North by Northwest" (1959), direct-

ed by Alfred Hitchcock; and the Oscar-winning thriller "The French Connection" (1971). Later in the summer, the series continues its journey through decades of filmmaking with canonical works such as "The Godfather" (1972) and "All the President's Men" (1976).

With a thoughtfully curated lineup, "100 Years of Movies" offers both long-

time cinephiles and casual viewers a chance to experience the films that have helped define American culture. As Reinisch notes, the series provides "a splendid way to explore our American experience," one frame at a time.

Tickets are available at mahaiwe.org or through the Mahaiwe box office at 413-528-0100.

## ... Sharon Playhouse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

selected unanimously by Playhouse leadership. D'Angelo also designed this season's branding, creating a visual throughline for the 2026 season.

The Playhouse remains committed to its taglines and mission statements, "Create. Community. Together." and "Your destination for the arts." While those phrases are no longer reflected in the logo itself, Carl Andress, artistic director, said the organization is not moving away from them and

that they will continue to appear in publications and on the updated website.

"The refreshed brand aims to shift the narrative in the community, reinforcing the Playhouse's role not only as a theater but as a vibrant gathering place and artistic home," Playhouse leadership said in a press release.

For more information, including a video about the updated logo and details on the upcoming 2026 season, visit sharonplayhouse.org

## ... Handsome John

CONTINUED FROM B1



PHOTO PROVIDED

"A Love Letter to Handsome John" screens at The Colonial Theatre on May 8.

House Berkshires, bringing the film to the Northwest Corner has been deeply personal.

"I've been a huge fan of Todd Snider and John Prine for 20 years," he said. "I lived in the Bay Area before I moved here, and I would see Todd live probably at least four times a year — sometimes back-to-back nights. I was that kind of super Dead Head-type fan that was on tour."

Sanzenbacher said he had the chance to meet Snider several times and attended the musician's Catskills retreats.

"He was just one of those people that I really connected with strongly," he said. "Like a lot of people, when he passed away, I was really shocked and devastated."

When he learned screenings of the film were beginning to pop up around the country, he wanted to bring that communal experience here.

"I know there are a lot of Todd Snider fans everywhere who want closure on his life and maybe a chance to feel like they're in the room with him again," he said. "I thought it would be a really cool ex-

perience to bring the film to the community."

The screening is part of what Sanzenbacher calls the film's organic, fan-driven momentum.

"I love the grassroots movement of the film," he said. "They were going to do two screenings and that was going to be it, and now they're showing it all over the country because fans have reached out to say, 'How can I bring a screening to my town?' I feel really lucky we're able to show it."

He hopes the evening captures some of the camaraderie that defined the Todd Snider fan experience.

"One of my favorite things about being a Todd Snider fan was when you'd go to two or three shows in a row, you'd turn into a little caravan and make friends with strangers and become this community," he said. "That's kind of something I'm hoping happens at the film."

The screening begins at 7 p.m. Friday, May 8, at The Colonial Theatre, 27 Railroad St., North Canaan. Run time is 54 minutes, with time afterward for audience members to gather and connect.

FOOD

# A savory onion pie recipe from Dugazon

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

This savory pie is a delicious alternative to quiche or tomato pie (which we'll share in the future). Bobby's mother made a similar recipe, and it was a huge hit.

Ideal for breakfast, brunch or lunch entertaining. Serve hot with a crisp white wine and a crispy green salad. Great for groups. Yum!



PHOTO BY BOBBY GRAHAM

Savory onion pie

**Savory Onion Pie**  
Inspired by a recipe from Barbara Dugazon Graham

- Yield: 6 to 8 servings  
Ingredients  
For the crust:
- 1 cup crushed saltine crackers
  - 1/4 cup salted butter, melted
- For the filling:
- 2 cups thinly sliced onions
  - 1 clove garlic, finely chopped (optional)
  - 2 tablespoons salted butter
  - 1 cup milk
  - 2 large eggs
  - 1/2 teaspoon black pepper



### What's cooking at Dugazon?

Bobby Graham & Matthew Marden

- 1 1/2 cups grated cheddar and Parmesan cheese
- 5 dashes Tabasco sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon Tony Chachere's Cajun seasoning
- Leaves from 1 fresh thyme sprig, or 1/2 teaspoon Italian seasoning

- 1 to 2 green onions, finely chopped, for garnish
- Preparation
- Heat oven to 350 degrees. Place rack in center of oven.
  - Make the crust: Combine cracker crumbs and melted butter. Press firmly into a 9-inch metal pie pan to form an even crust.
  - In a skillet over low heat, melt 2 tablespoons butter. Add onions and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened and lightly caramelized, about 5 to 7 minutes. Add garlic, if using. Let cool slightly, then

- spread evenly over crust.
- In a large bowl, whisk together milk, eggs, black pepper, Tabasco, Cajun seasoning and thyme. Stir in cheese until well combined. Pour mixture over onions.
  - Bake uncovered until golden and set, 45 to 60 minutes. Watch closely during final baking.
  - Let cool 5 minutes. Sprinkle with green onions, slice and serve hot or at room temperature.
- Notes: Pie can be frozen after assembly and baked later. A metal pie pan is recommended for best results.

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## Nourish Neighbors

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A Community United for Food Security

PHOTO PROVIDED

Support local food access during Tri Corner FEED's second annual Nourish Neighbors, May 11-17, by dining and shopping at 18 participating businesses across the Northwest Corner and eastern Dutchess County, with donations benefiting the organization's Food Sovereignty Fund. For a list of participating restaurants and businesses, visit [tricornergeed.org/nourishneighbors](http://tricornergeed.org/nourishneighbors)

## Tri-Corner Calendar

### MAY 7

#### Three Sisters Pizza

Indian Mountain School, Qianxun Performing Arts Center, 211 Indian Mountain Road, Lakeville, Conn. 7 p.m.

Indian Mountain School presents Three Sisters Pizza, an original musical adaptation of Chekhov's Three Sisters, with book, music, lyrics and direction by theater director Danny Tieger. Free admission; open seating, first come, first served.

#### Millbrook Film Club:

**"Cielo"**  
Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. 6 to 8 p.m. Screening of a documentary exploring the night sky in Chile's Atacama Desert, presented in honor of NASA's Artemis II mission.

### MAY 8

#### Beginning Storytelling

**Workshop**  
Spark of Hudson, 502 Union St., Hudson, N.Y. In partnership with Ancram Center for the Arts, this free workshop invites participants to explore personal storytelling through creative exercises. 6-8 p.m. Free; registration required. [ancramcenter.org/workshops](http://ancramcenter.org/workshops)

#### A Love Letter to Handsome

**John Film Screening**  
The Colonial Theatre 27 Railroad St. Canaan, Conn. 7-8:30 p.m.

One-night-only screening of *A Love Letter to Handsome John*, a documentary by Otis Gibbs offering an intimate portrait of Todd Snider in the final year of his life. Sponsored by Wilder House Berkshires.

#### Susan Monserud

**Retrospective**  
The Good Gallery, 23 South Main St., Kent, Conn. May 8-9

Exhibition celebrating the life and work of the artist and architect, featuring paintings and monoprints from the 1960s to 2026; open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### Meet-and-Greet for New

**Recreation Director Alycia Soule**  
Falls Village Inn, 33 Railroad St., Falls Village, Conn. 5 p.m. Community welcome event hosted by the Falls Village Recreation Commission to introduce new Recreation Director Alycia Soule and share ideas for future programs and activities.

#### "Un Real" Opening

**Reception**  
Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. 6 to 8 p.m. Exhibition featuring Fern Apfel, Betsy Brandt, Monica Miller Link, Kevin Mosca, Laura Von Rosk and Daniel Walworth. On view May 8 through June 28.

#### "Romeo and Juliet"

Walker Auditorium, The Hotchkiss School 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn. May 8-10

Hotchkiss Dramatic Association presents Shakespeare's classic tragedy, directed by Andrew Steven Knight. Performances Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. Content advisory: includes depiction of suicide.

#### Chore Service and Western CT Area Agency on Aging

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. [hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org](http://hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org) 12:30 p.m.

Meet representatives from Chore Service and the Western CT Area Agency on Aging to learn about resources for aging in place. Lunch served; registration required at [hotchkisslibrary.org](http://hotchkisslibrary.org).

### MAY 9

#### Soup Night: A Fundraiser for Random Harvest

1785 New York 23, Craryville, N.Y. Help Random Harvest weather the detour and enjoy a cozy evening upstairs in the community space. Enjoy soup and other delicious things to eat and drink, live music, and a room full of friends and neighbors. 5 to 7 p.m. RSVP requested at [bit.ly/42eJB0h](http://bit.ly/42eJB0h)

#### 2026 Season Artist

**Conversation**  
Ancram Center for the Arts 1330 County Route 7, Ancram, N.Y. Meet the artists behind Ancram Center's 2026 season at an afternoon conversation featuring playwrights, directors, designers and actors discussing upcoming productions and their creative process. 2 p.m. Free; RSVP appreciated. [ancramcenter.org](http://ancramcenter.org)

#### Railroad Earth

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass. Americana jam band Railroad Earth makes its Mahaiwe debut with the genre-blending sound that has earned the group a devoted following for more than two decades. 8 p.m. Tickets [mahaiwe.org](http://mahaiwe.org)

#### Erica Child Prud'homme: A Dialogue with Nature

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. [cornwalllibrary.org](http://cornwalllibrary.org) May 9 to June 20

The Cornwall Library presents a memorial exhibit of artwork by Erica Child Prud'homme (1932-2026), featuring oil paintings and watercolors from her personal archive, including landscapes, seascapes, still lifes and mandalas. Proceeds from art sales will benefit the library's art programs and cultural events. Opening reception May 9 from 6 to 8 p.m.; registration requested at [cornwalllibrary.org/events](http://cornwalllibrary.org/events).

#### Women Laughing: Documentary Short Film Screening + Panel

The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. 7 p.m.

Special screening of *Women Laughing*, followed by a panel discussion and Q&A with directors Liza Donnelly and Kathleen Hughes, cartoonist Amy Hwang, and moderator Joe Donahue (WAMC Radio). **Reggie Harris Concert: John Brown Birthday Celebration**

Five Points Arts Center, 855 University Drive, Torrington, Conn. Musician and storyteller Reggie Harris performs a program honoring abolition-

ist John Brown, blending folk, spirituals and history; 3 p.m. Free; registration encouraged at [torringtonhistorical.society.org](http://torringtonhistorical.society.org).

#### Hotchkiss Chorus: "American Dreams: 200 Years of American Choral Music"

Hotchkiss Chapel, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn. The Hotchkiss Chorus presents its annual spring concert celebrating America's 250th anniversary with a diverse program spanning folk, gospel and classical traditions. 7 p.m. Free and open to the public. [hotchkiss.org/arts/news](http://hotchkiss.org/arts/news).

#### Something for Mom: Mother's Day Flowers

Foxtrot's Flower Shop, 6854 Route 82, Stanfordville; Vitsky Bakery, 3 Main St., Wassaic, N.Y. May 9-10

Preorder spring bouquets for Mother's Day pickup, with locations in Stanfordville (May 9, 9 a.m. to noon) and Wassaic (May 10, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Order at [foxtrot-farmflowers.com](http://foxtrot-farmflowers.com)

#### Garden Matters: Roots to Blooms with Kristen Essig

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Discussion on whole-plant use, sustainable practices and food systems, led by Stonewood Farm's director of culinary outreach and development.

#### Herman Melville in the Berkshires

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org) Author John Dickson discusses his book on Herman Melville's years in the Berkshires, including the writing of "Moby-Dick" and the landscape that shaped his work. Talk at 2 p.m.; books available for purchase and signing.

#### Tablao Flamenco

Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. Andalusia-style flamenco performance featuring international artists, including dance, guitar, vocals and percussion, in an intimate "tablao" setting designed to capture the spontaneity and intensity of traditional flamenco, 7:30 p.m. Tickets [thestissingcenter.org](http://thestissingcenter.org)

#### Birdfest

Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road (Route 4), Sharon, Conn. Free, family-friendly celebration of bird migration featuring live bird encounters, guided walks, aviary tours and children's activities, 12 to 3 p.m. Suggested donation supports conservation programs.

#### Cottage Course: Embroidered Socks

Troutbeck, 212 Leedsville Road, Amenia, N.Y. Introductory embroidery workshop embellishing a pair of socks; all materials provided. 1 to 2:30 p.m. \$50. Register at [cottagecourses.com](http://cottagecourses.com)

### MAY 10

#### Guided Meditation Hike at Trinity Forest Preserve

Trinity Forest Preserve Trail, Dibble Hill Road, Salisbury, Conn. Celebrate Mother's Day with a guided meditation hike through Trinity Forest Preserve. All ages and family members are welcome. 10 a.m. Free. [conservect.org](http://conservect.org)

#### Mother's Day Pop-Up at Chaseholm

Chaseholm Farm, 115 Chase Road, Pine Plains, N.Y. Second annual Mother's Day celebration with breakfast, flowers, puppets and farm fun for all ages. Doors open at 9 a.m. Free and open to the public.

## ... Tangled

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2

to small freestone stream. Hence "Little Esopus."

My compatriot Gary Dodson and I were messing around on the "Little" section a couple weeks ago.

The weather was summery. The water temperature was 58 degrees F, about ideal.

The forsythia was blooming everywhere, and that usually means the first significant mayfly hatch of the year, the one imitated by the Hendrickson fly, is going on.

And I did see some Hendricksons floating around here and there.

But mostly I saw zip, except for when I spooked a couple of suckers.

Old joke: Suckers are often mistaken for brown trout. They tend to dive and tug like browns when hooked, adding to the illusion.

It's only when one comes to the net that the angler feels like a sucker for being taken in. Again.

The day before, with high winds complementing the summer feel, we tried the Batavia Kill impoundment in Windham, where I attempted to crack the code on the two-handed rod cast.

I failed there and blamed it on the wind. So we went to the Schoharie,

where legions of recently-stocked trout should have been eager to eat anything, and the wind wasn't quite as bad.

I failed there too. This is going to take a while.

Meanwhile the usual Harry Homeowner opening up experience included a highly satisfactory lack of mice and their droppings, and a leaky hot water heater.

We've had the thing for about 50 years, so it's hard to complain too much. Phil the Plumber installed a new one and we're good for another 50 years.

The wading adventure described above felt a little hairy but I managed, and I found an easier place to cross on the return trip.

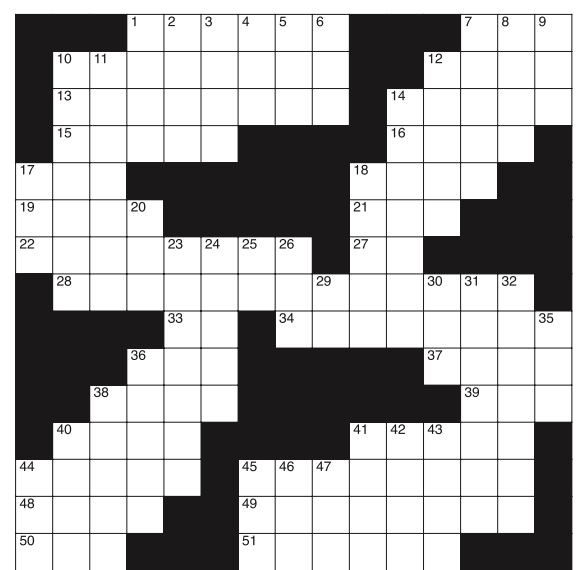
The new hip didn't bother me at all. My thigh muscles were pretty sore the next day, though. Too much couch time over the bleak winter.

And while our rabbit population seems to have moved on, the resident deer were messing around on the lawn in the evenings. I like to sit outside reading and occasionally chirrup to them. They like to ignore me until they take fright for a mysterious deer reason and go bounding off into the woods.

## Brain Teasers

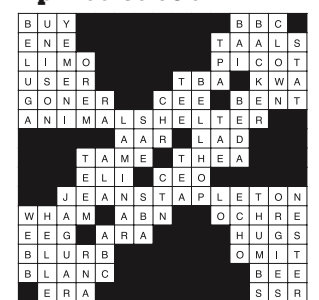
### CLUES ACROSS

- Large dung beetle
- Gambling game \_\_\_-lo
- Further along
- Type of tobacco
- Looked for
- Silk fabric
- Computer method to solve equations
- As fast as can be done (abbr.)
- Tear
- Brews
- "Famous" cookie baker
- Women's Army Corps
- Front parts of an animal
- It's causing quite a stir
- Beloved March holiday
- 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
- More impudent
- Indicates center
- Young woman (French)
- A cause of distress
- Santa's helper
- Hillside
- Many wombs
- Is afraid of
- Popular baked goods ingredient
- Popular computers
- Conceiving of
- Google certification (abbr.)
- Sturdy

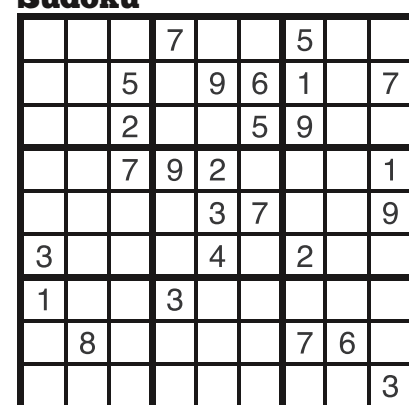


- Reciprocal of sine
- Discomfort
- British Air Aces
- Exit sleep
- Solar energetic particle
- Plagues characterized by starvation
- Short musical composition
- Trauma center
- Habitual twitching
- A place where checks are exchanged (abbr.)
- Decameter
- Hinged surface in a wing
- Shouting
- Sports official
- Volcanic craters
- Supportive device
- It's part of a rosary
- Two-toed sloth
- Body art
- Let out
- Foreign medical graduate
- Nonprofit journalism organization (abbr.)
- Couples say it
- Bird's beak

### April 30 Solution

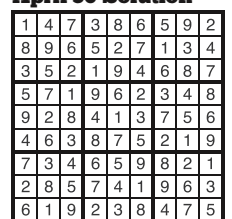


### Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

### April 30 Solution



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# Sports

## Housatonic tops Northwestern in girls tennis

By Riley Klein

WINSTED – Northwestern Regional High School's girls tennis team hosted Housatonic Valley Regional High School on Monday, April 27.

The series of singles and doubles matches unfolded beneath ideal tennis conditions: clear skies and a comfortable 62 degrees.

HVRHS came out on top with a team score of 4-3.

In the first singles match, Northwestern's Keria Mann

defeated Housatonic's Victoria Brooks 6-1, 6-3.

Housatonic's Eliana Lang won the second singles match 6-4, 6-3 against Northwestern's Lauren Kacmarcik.

Housatonic's Mia DiRocco won the third singles match 6-4, 1-6, 10-4 against Northwestern's Willow Byrne.

Housatonic's Mia Belter won the fourth singles match 6-4, 6-3 against Northwestern's Mia Zuccaro.

In the first doubles

match, Northwestern's Ava Burrell and Jilyn Rosado defeated Housatonic's Abby Perotti and Kate Money 6-3, 6-0.

Northwestern's Hannah Burgo and Allison Cravanzola won the second doubles match 6-1, 6-1 against Housatonic's Noell Laurry and Lydia Fleming.

Housatonic's Tess Churchill and Lily McCabe won the third doubles match 6-2, 6-0 over Northwestern's Harmini Thomas and Kyle Quach.



Lydia Fleming plays doubles.

PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN



Eliana Lang returns forehand.

## Housatonic JV baseball drops to Northwestern

By Riley Klein

WINSTED – Housatonic Valley Regional High School's junior varsity baseball team took on Northwestern Regional High School in Winsted Monday, April 27.

The Highlanders won 25-5 on their home field. Despite the lop-sided score, the Mountaineers remained positive through to the end.

HVRHS started strong. TJ Coon and August Olson reached home in the first inning to give the Mountaineers a 2-0 lead. Northwestern responded with eight runs in the bottom of the first.

The Highlanders consistently extended their lead in the second, third and fourth

innings.

Trailing by a wide margin late in the game, sophomore Nate Young continued to encourage his teammates.

"Let's get these bats going, boys," Young said in the dugout before the fifth inning. "We need 23 runs."

The Mountaineers came out swinging and quickly loaded up the bases. Young, Travis Barber and Ian Thomen crossed the plate before the inning was out to add to HVRHS's score.

"We almost came back," Young remarked after the game ended.

Occurring at the same time in Falls Village, the varsity squads for HVRHS and Northwestern were playing. The Highlanders won that game as well, 5-1.



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Above, Travis Barber swings. Left, Bryce Salmon plays first.



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### REAL ESTATE

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