

The Lakeville Journal

Nonprofit Spotlight, Page A2

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THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026 \$3.00

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

Sharon voters reject controversial school budget, 114-99

By Alec Linden

SHARON – More than 200 residents packed the Sharon Center School gymnasium Friday, May 8, where voters narrowly rejected the Sharon Board of Education's proposed 2026-27 spending plan by a vote of 114-99, sending the budget back to the Board of Finance after weeks of heated debate over school funding.

The rejected proposal – the ninth version of the budget since deliberations began months ago – carried a bottom line of \$4,165,513 for the elementary school, unchanged from last year. The flat budget came after the BOF ordered the BOE in early April to remove nearly \$70,000 from its spending plan.

The venue for the town meeting and budget vote was moved in advance from Sharon Town Hall to Sharon Center School to accommodate the anticipated crowd.

By 5:50 p.m. Friday evening, cars were already circling the full Sharon Center School lot looking



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

The May 8 town meeting and budget vote were moved from Sharon Town Hall to Sharon Center School to accommodate what officials said was the largest turnout for a Sharon budget meeting in recent years.

for a spot. First Selectman Casey Flanagan held the door as residents, many with small children in tow or propped up on shoulders, streamed through the SCS door.

Friday's vote drew by far the largest turnout for a Sharon budget meeting in recent years. By com-

parison, about 50 members of the public attended the 2023 vote, when both budgets passed unanimously. Attendance rose slightly to 60 in 2024, while fewer than 40 residents showed up last year.

The current 2025-2026 budget also faced a last-minute order from

the BOF to reduce its proposal by \$70,000, but it did not generate the same level of pushback that this year's flat proposal brought.

Josh Holden, a Sharon resident of over a decade, stood outside in the late afternoon light as he bounced his two-year-old on his arm. He said he supported funding the school, a sentiment shared by many other young families in town.

"It seems like there's a wave of families in the daycare that are taking more interest in the school and want to send their kids there," he said. "I want it to be a good school."

Many of those young families

See BUDGET, Page A12

Mother's Day Northwell signals support for Sharon Hospital maternity care

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON – After nearly a decade of turmoil and public backlash over efforts to shutter Sharon Hospital's labor and delivery unit, the facility celebrated Mother's Day with a commemorative onesie for babies born on or around the holiday – a signal of Northwell Health's commitment to supporting local maternity care.

Over Mother's Day weekend, onesies were presented to newborns and mothers, and hospital officials said the initiative "honors mothers and highlights the hospital's dedication to women's health." The gifts were accompanied by a Mother's Day message that Sharon Hospital said symbolizes Northwell's commitment to supporting new mothers and families.

The labor and delivery unit became the focus of intense

See HOSPITAL, Page A12

Little Guild opens doors to new West Cornwall animal shelter

By Jennifer Almquist

WEST CORNWALL – The Little Guild opened its new animal shelter Saturday, May 9, welcoming hundreds of visitors to the grand opening of its new 8,000-square-foot facility in West Cornwall. The opening comes after eight years of planning and fundraising, and two years of construction.

Community members gathered alongside volunteers, donors and board members to tour the new shelter during the open house, which was held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The completion of construction last week made way for cats, kittens and dogs to move into their new space ahead of the event.

A modern, sleek building for animals

Light-filled and serene, the modern building fits into the wooded landscape with flowering trees and colorful plantings. The facility features a granite patio and four large dog pods.

Animals will benefit from a variety of rooms and features.

A cat care hub is designed for feeding and cleaning cat litter boxes, though the most popular



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Little Guild supporter Mary Woodman of West Cornwall, 99, and her identical twin daughters Nora Sebben, left, and Noreen Warner, right.

features are the cat pavilion and "Catio," an outdoor extension of the play area for feline residents intended to help reduce stress levels. Dogs will enjoy living rooms designed for stressed pups and recently surrendered dogs, and a dedicated dog bath has a ramp to the cobalt-blue bathing space.

Kelly Bozzuto, Little Guild board president, expressed joy after seeing years of hard work and planning finally pay off.

"It's aesthetically beautiful, but the functionality of every detail was planned to make it the best possible scenario for animals in what can be a stressful environment," Bozzuto said. "We have veterinarians on our board that weighed in on the best decisions for the animals."

Veterinarians can examine animals in the facility's full medical

See LITTLE GUILD, Page A9

North Canaan residents urged to lock car doors after theft attempts

By Aly Morrissey

NORTH CANAAN – Residents in North Canaan are being urged to lock their cars and keep keys inside after a number of attempted car thefts were caught on camera in the early-morning hours of Thursday, May 7. Despite several documented attempts, no vehicles were reported stolen.

Attempted thefts were reported on Casey Hill Road, Allyndale Road and Pease Street, according to First Selectman Jesse Bunce, who said the suspects appeared to target higher-end vehicles, like an Audi and an electric BMW.

Video footage from a Ring camera shared on Facebook shows a vehicle driving through a residential neighborhood before a hooded person dressed in dark clothing jumps out, checks the driver-side

"Working together and staying alert helps keep our communities safe."

Spencer Bronson,
North Canaan Resident Trooper

door of a BMW and quickly returns to the car when it is found locked. The encounter lasted only a few seconds.

North Canaan Resident Trooper Spencer Bronson urged residents to "remain vigilant and take a few simple precautions to help prevent thefts from vehicles."

Bronson said residents should make locking vehicle doors part of their nightly routine. He said locking vehicle doors, removing valuables from plain sight and

See THEFT ATTEMPTS, Page A12



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Regional

In The Journal this week

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Online This Week

Falls Village town hall healthcare pushback

Late in the budget season, Falls Village encounters pushback on its health insurance policy. Read more at www.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.

Vehicle strikes stop sign, fence, leaves scene

At approximately 8:50 p.m. on May 3, Stephen Seward, 66, of West Sheffield, Massachusetts was driving north on North Elm Street in North Canaan when he failed to stop at the stop sign at the intersection with Route 7. He collided with the stop sign, then proceeded into the Stadium Systems parking lot across Route 7 where his Toyota Tundra struck a fence. He then left the scene in the vehicle, continuing northward on Route 7 into Massachusetts. Enforcement action is pending for this incident.

Driver leaves scene of single vehicle accident

Just before 10 p.m. on May 3, Matthew Atkins, 41, of Falls Village, ran off the road while traveling west on Johnson Road in Falls Village. His Jeep Grand Cherokee struck about 50 feet of wire rope guardrail and eventually collided with a utility pole, disabling it. Atkins left the scene of the accident, but was later located with no injuries. Enforcement action is pending for the incident.

Threat to child, animal cruelty arrest

On May 5, troopers arrested Barrie Richardson, 34, of Salisbury on an active warrant relating to an incident on March 24 of this year. He was processed for two counts of risk of injury to a child, two counts of disorderly conduct and one count of cruelty to animals. He was released on a \$50,000 cash bond and is scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on May 19.

Detained individual floods Troop B cell with clogged toilet

On the evening of April 26, Troop B received Javier Otero, 29, of North Canaan

from the Walcott Police Department to process him for a warrant on two charges: the violation of a protective order and second degree harassment. While under Troop B's custody, Otero became disorderly when instructed to remove his belt and shoes. Just after leaving him in a cell, troopers returned to find Otero standing on the toilet and holding a roll of toilet paper down with his foot, causing the toilet to clog and flood the cell. The cost to clean the cell block was reportedly \$250. On May 6, while at court for the initial charges, Otero was arrested for third degree criminal mischief, interfering/resisting an officer, and disorderly conduct relating to the incident.

Car rolls after pole strike

On the morning of May 6, Leanne Wilcox, 57, of Winsted was driving west on Route 44 in Norfolk, .4 miles east of the intersection with Locust Hill Way, when she ran off the road and struck a utility pole, causing her Toyota Highlander to roll. The vehicle was disabled and fully deployed its airbags. Wilcox was transported to Charlotte Hungerford hospital with suspected injuries. She was issued an infraction for failure to maintain lane.

New Hartford man arrested on child porn charges

On May 7, troopers arrested Adam Chase, 45, of New Hartford on a warrant relating to an incident from Nov. 30 of last year. He was processed for first degree possession of child pornography and was held on a \$250,000 bond. He was scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court the same day.

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.

Correction

In the May 7, 2026 edition, Laura Knoepler was incorrectly identified as Jan Hazard in a photo caption accompanying the Kentucky Derby event story on page A8 about the Best Derby Outfit award.



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Sharon median home prices hold above \$700K

By Christine Bates

SHARON – Single-family homes in Sharon, excluding condos, ticked up in April from March to a median price of \$730,000 for the 12-month period ending April 30, 2026. Prices have remained above \$700,000 since December 2025.

The \$730,000 figure marks a 30% increase from the \$560,000 median recorded for the 12 months ending April 30, 2025, and a 13% increase from \$647,500 for the comparable period ending April 30, 2024. The peak median price on the same 12-month trailing basis was \$880,000, reached in August 2024.

Unit sales of single-family homes in Sharon on a 12-month rolling basis remained within the historic range of 35 to 45 transactions a year. A total of 38 single-family homes sold in the 12 months ending April 30, 2026, compared with 43



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Built in 1927, the 1,356-square-foot Cape-style house at 50 Jewett Hill Road was remodeled and sold for \$560,000.

sales in the period ending April 30, 2025, and 38 sales in the 12 months ending April 30, 2024.

The seasonal spring surge of new listings has yet to appear, and inventory across all categories remains low.

As of May 6, just 11 single-family homes were on the market. Of those, eight were listed above \$1 million, while two residential properties were listed below the current

\$730,000 median price.

Eleven parcels of land were listed for sale on the MLS, with only one parcel smaller than five acres. Summer rentals ranged from \$6,000 to \$25,000 per month, while unfurnished rentals accounted for just two of the 13 rental listings.

Sharon Transfers Recorded in April 2026
20 Kirk Road – 3 bedroom/3 bath ranch on 3.61

acres sold by Michael Grigsby to From Russia with Love 323 LLC for \$3,150,000

34 Morey Road – 15 acres of forest land sold by Thomas Hollinger Trust and Kathryn E Coe Revocable Trust to Carol Rand for \$22,000

50 Jewett Hill Road – 3 bedroom/1.5 bath home on .66 acres sold by Komu Limited Liability Company to Lorianne Chevrement for \$560,000

*Town of Sharon real estate transfers recorded between April 1, 2026, and April 30, 2026, provided by Sharon Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS and market statistics from Infosparks. Note that recorded transfers may lag sales by a number of days. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate, salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.

U.S Rep. Jahana Hayes campaigns in Cornwall, warns democracy is at stake

By Ruth Epstein

CORNWALL – Speaking before a crowd gathered in a large barn in Cornwall, Saturday, May 9, U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes said preserving democracy is the country's most urgent priority as she campaigns for a fifth term representing Connecticut's 5th District.

Introducing Hayes, Cornwall First Selectman Gordon M. Ridgway criticized leadership in Washington and urged attendees to remain politically engaged.

"America is going backward due to the reckless lack of leadership in Washington," Ridgway said. "Jahana is not a career politician; she's always been here for us. The whole country needs her leadership. It's time to do our part to uphold democracy."

Hayes accused Republicans aligned with President Donald Trump of undermining democratic norms through tactics such as gerrymandering and political intimidation.

"They can't win on policies so they change the rules," Hayes said, citing the redrawing of voting districts as an example.

She also said she has witnessed Republicans threatened with primary challenges if they dissent from Trump's agenda.

Hayes, a former Waterbury teacher who was named the 2016 National Teacher of the Year while working at John F. Kennedy High School, said feeding children remains one of her top priorities.

"I have colleagues who don't," she said, indirectly calling out politicians who do not have the same priorities.

Hayes said she is particularly concerned about special education and cuts to the Department of Education, where she said most of the employees have lost their jobs.

"The idea of not educating all children is egregious to me," she said.



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-5) campaigned in Cornwall Saturday, May 9.

Using the event as a forum to hear from constituents, Hayes fielded questions about the nation's increasingly divisive political climate.

"It's not about Democrats and Republicans," she said.

"The Republican Party is operating like a cult," she added, noting that many are voting against their own in-

terests to follow party lines.

"I fear when we take the government back – not if, but when – we're going to find it will be worse than expected."

Asked whom she aligns with in the Democratic Party, Hayes said she has several friends' groups, ranging from James Clyburn to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. She

has a high level of curiosity and is invited to join many circles, earning respect as a moderate.

With discussion turning to national flashpoints, including the war in Iran and plans for a White House ballroom, Hayes said, "All the chaos and confusion are by design. We have to be working on all cylinders and messaging."

Regarding state politics, she said Connecticut's 5th Congressional District has long been a Republican target.

Hayes argued that gerrymandering efforts targeting the 5th District are aimed at diluting the voting coalition that elected her.

She concluded by encouraging Democrats, Republicans and unaffiliated voters to become engaged in the political process.

"We can't do anything if we can't win," Hayes said.

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Our Towns

Falls Village

New recreation director brings passion for sports, coaching

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Community members had a chance to meet the new Falls Village Recreation Director, Allycia Soule, during a meet-and-greet on Friday, May 8, at the Falls Village Inn. She officially stepped into the new role May 1.

A Salisbury native and graduate of Salisbury Central School and Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Soule brings a strong background in youth sports and community involvement. She currently works as a special education paraeducator at North Canaan Elementary School and is pursuing a degree in sports management at Connecticut State Community College.

Soule lives in North Canaan with her husband, Trevor, and their two daughters, ages 12 and 9. She also has an adult daughter who lives in Vermont.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Allycia Soule is the new Falls Village recreation center director as of May 1, 2026.

"I am super passionate about sports," Soule said. "I'm involved in sports in North Canaan and I thought

it would be a good fit." An avid hockey player and coach, Soule coaches the Berkshire Rattlers Youth

Hockey Club and plays for the Salisbury Stingers, an all-women's ice hockey team. She also coaches the Region One middle school girls soccer team.

As Soule settles into the position, she said her first priority is preparing for summer at the town pool located on Route 63.

With the help of a state grant, the poolhouse is expected to be refurbished before the season opens in June, though the opening date has not yet been announced.

Soule will also help organize Falls Village's Memorial Day parade on May 25. The Recreation Commission invites interested parade participants to contact Soule at recreation@canaanfalls.village.org.

The parade will line up at Lee H. Kellogg School at 9:30 a.m. and step off on Main Street at 9:45 a.m., proceeding to the Green for a ceremony and speakers.



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Kent springs into Restaurant Week

By Alec Linden

Diners took advantage of some proper May weather at the Villager Restaurant on Tuesday during Kent Restaurant Week. Restaurants across Kent, Gaylordsville, Cornwall and Warren celebrated Northwest Corner cuisine in their own styles between May 1 and 9.

Local farmer shares lessons from decades of agricultural experience

By Ruth Epstein

SALISBURY — Local farmers Allen and Robin Cockerline shared insights into the farming industry and their decades-long agricultural journey during a talk at the White Hart Thursday, May 7. The event was part of the inn's ongoing speaker series.

"I was smitten with dairy farming as a child," Allen Cockerline said of a passion that has guided him through about half a century and across multiple states.

Today, he and his wife operate Whippoorwill Farm in Salisbury, where they raise grass-fed Angus cattle—an approach Cockerline said was once viewed skeptically in the industry.

Raised in Middlesex County in Massachusetts, Cockerline grew up in a region once dominated by small dairy farms, many with herds of just six or eight cows. Over time, he gravitated toward vegetable farming and eventually opened his own farmstand in Concord, Massachusetts.

His work later brought him to Litchfield County, where he managed a Falls Village farm purchased by Tom Coolidge with the intention of raising sheep. The operation later transitioned to dairy farming, and Cockerline remained there for 23



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Allen Cockerline delivers a talk about his 50 years of farming experience in the region May 7.

years before starting his own venture.

While he was able to secure easy financing with the help of the late John Rice, a loan agent for farmers, it was a challenging endeavor.

"I remember someone telling me that he thought it was easier getting into farming than getting out of it," Cockerline said. "It's a commodity business. You can do everything right and work on scale and it still doesn't always work."

In December 1999, as milk prices declined, the couple left the dairy business and purchased property on Salmon Kill Road, where they began raising grass-fed beef instead of grain-fed cattle.

Cockerline said many

people doubted the viability of the approach.

"If it failed, we knew it was on us," he said.

He said a tipping point came with the release of Michael Pollan's book "The Omnivore's Dilemma," which inspired people to think about the food they consume — expanding demand for grass-fed beef.

Today, Cockerline manages about 350 acres, much of it rented free of charge. His herd numbers approximately 80.

He said it takes about 30 months to raise a proper steer, allowing for the meat to marinate and become tender.

To his surprise, customers now travel from across the region to purchase their meat in large quantities.

Cockerline gives back by working with students at Hotchkiss School's Fairfield Farm, teaching them about growing crops that help supply meals at the school.

The event was sponsored by the Salisbury Association, Sharon Audubon, and the conservation commissions of Salisbury, Sharon and Cornwall.

Jam Food Shop approved for retail space in Salisbury

P&Z approves restaurant to retail zoning change

By Alec Linden

SALISBURY — Jam Food Shop, a popular deli and specialty grocer currently located in Sharon Farm Market, could be eyeing a move to Salisbury, according to a recent decision by Salisbury's Planning and Zoning Commission.

During the Commission's regular meeting on May 4, members voted to allow 19 Main Street, the downtown address that currently houses Neo Restaurant and Bar, to be permitted for retail rather than restaurant use. The application, which is publicly available on the P&Z's website, lists Jam as the party requesting the zoning change.

Jam leadership declined to comment on the potential move, and details surrounding the business's intentions remain unclear following the zoning approval. Neo also declined a request for immediate comment.

In a letter to the P&Z commission dated April 28, Jam co-founder Leonora Kennedy indicated a potentially significant move after operating in Sharon for more than 15 years, outlining her vision for a new location.

"This location will offer the same Jam experience, with the benefit of limited indoor/outdoor seating," Kennedy wrote. The letter said renovations to the restaurant's interior would be "cosmetic," and that Jam plans to use the existing kitchen, including some equipment.

If finalized, the business would continue to be counter-serve only, with no table service. Food would be made on site, and goods

"If we're going to have something that's more retail-directed, I love it. The town needs it and I think it's a great thing."

Bob Riva, P&Z Secretary

from other producers would also be available, according to Kennedy's letter.

The Salisbury building has flipped between retail and restaurant use in the past, noted attorney William Grickis during the May 4 meeting, who represents Kennedy and Jam Food Shop.

The space has been zoned for restaurant use since the Lockup Restaurant opened in 2016. Prior to that, it was zoned for retail.

Salisbury's P&Z commissioners said they would be eager to welcome the popular food shop, if plans move forward.

Chair Cathy Shyer said the application presented a "great new business for town." Secretary Bob Riva said while he is disappointed to see Neo leave, he welcomes the opportunity for more shopping on Main Street.

"If we're going to have something that's more retail-directed, I love it," Riva said. "The town needs it and I think it's a great thing."

Jam has operated from within the Sharon Farm Market since 2010 after its founding in 2008. The business's plans to either move or expand — or both — have yet to be officially announced.

Send news tips to editor@lakevillejournal.com

EARLY DEADLINE
OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 25

Ad deadline for the May 28th issue is Noon on Thursday, May 21st for ALL Display Advertising

Classified Line Deadline is Noon on Friday, May 22nd

Legals Deadline is 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 21st

Letters to the Editor deadline is 10 a.m. Friday, May 22nd

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Sharon Hospital extends 'Straight A' patient safety streak

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SHARON — Two hospitals serving the Northwest Corner have earned top marks for patient safety in the latest ratings issued by The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit watchdog organization focused on hospital quality and safety.

Sharon Hospital and Charlotte Hungerford Hospital each received "A" grade in Leapfrog's Spring 2026 Hospital Safety Grades, which evaluate how well hospitals protect patients from preventable medical errors, accidents, injuries and infections.

For Sharon Hospital, the recognition continues a streak of consistently high marks. The hospital has maintained "Straight A" status since Spring 2024, meaning it has earned an "A" grade in every grading cycle for more than two years.

"Earning an 'A' Hospital Safety Grade reflects the dedication of our care teams and colleagues who work every day to keep patients safe," said Christina McCulloch, president of Sharon Hospital, in a statement released May 6.

"Maintaining 'Straight A' status since Spring 2024 demonstrates the consistency of that commitment and our focus on continuous improvement for the patients and families we serve in Sharon and throughout the region."

Leapfrog issues grades twice a year, assigning hospitals letter grades from "A" to "F" using up to 30 national performance measures related to patient safety.

The ratings are based on factors including infection prevention, medication safety, staffing levels, hand-washing practices and rates of preventable medical



PHOTO PROVIDED

Nurses at Sharon Hospital, which just earned an "A" grade for patient safety, pause to celebrate National Nurse's Week, observed annually from May 6 through 12. From left: Carrie Coulette, Cheryl Crump, Ann Meach, Christina Kontogiannis, Katie Weiser, Trish Marinan

complications.

Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group, praised Sharon Hospital for maintaining high marks over multiple grading periods.

"Sharon Hospital deserves recognition for its unwavering focus on protecting patients and delivering safe care, earning an 'A' Hospital Safety Grade for five consecutive cycles," Binder said. "Sustaining this level of excellence over time shows a true, organization-wide commitment to making patient safety a top priority every single day."

Connecticut as a whole ranked No. 1 in the nation in the Spring 2026 report, with 64.3% of hospitals statewide receiving an "A" grade. The state had ranked fourth nationally in the previous grading cycle, which was released in Fall 2025.

Among the 18 Connecticut hospitals receiving top grades this spring were Sharon Hospital, Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, Hartford Hospital, Danbury Hospital and Yale New Haven Hospital.

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, based in Torrington and part of the Hartford HealthCare network, also serves many residents in the Northwest Corner, particularly in Winsted, Norfolk, Colebrook and surrounding communities.

Sharon Hospital, part of the nonprofit health network Northwell Health, remains the primary acute-care hospital for much of the rural Northwest Corner and nearby areas of New York and Massachusetts.

Leapfrog officials said national patient safety data showed improvements this year in several key areas, including reductions in health-care-associated infections and advances in medication safety systems designed to catch prescribing errors before they reach patients.

The organization noted that its Hospital Safety Grade is the only national ratings program focused exclusively on preventable patient harm and safety performance.

Hospital safety grades for individual hospitals can be viewed at HospitalSafetyGrade.org.

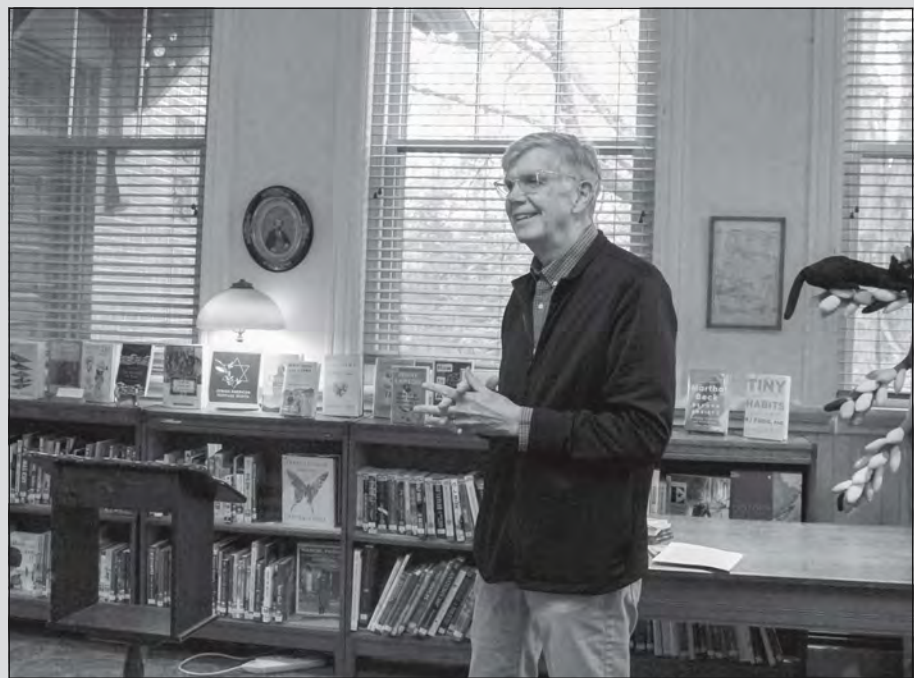


PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Author John Dickson speaks at the D.M. Hunt Library May 9.

The Berkshire mountain that inspired Moby-Dick

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — When Herman Melville created his great white whale, Moby-Dick, he was probably thinking of Mount Greylock in Massachusetts. At least, that is the opinion of author John Dickson, who spoke at the D. M. Hunt Library Saturday, May 9, to discuss his book, "Herman Melville in the Berkshires."

Readers may be surprised to learn that Melville bought a home, known as Arrowhead, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts and lived there from 1850 to 1863. Arrowhead, also known as the Herman Melville House, is a museum today where Dickson volunteers.

The author posits that Melville had the images of snow-covered fields and a looming Mount Greylock in mind when he envisioned Moby-Dick. In the famous novel, the whale is described as "a snow hill in the air," not a coincidence, according to Dickson.

Dickson said Melville was unusually observant and spent considerable time exploring nature and absorbing what he saw for later use.

"It's right out there," Dickson gestured. "He went for walks or on horseback or in a cart, alone and with friends. The things he saw made their way into his books."

When Melville arrived at Arrowhead, he already had an initial draft of "Moby-Dick," which he set aside as he dug into his new home.

Inspired by his new surroundings, he picked it up again.

Dickson said a group of women were responsible for moving the book along. Melville's wife and three sisters "took his scribbles and copied it." They went back and forth and produced 12 drafts by hand.

Writing the book required an enormous amount of paper. Dickson said it was fortuitous that nearby Lee, Massachusetts

produced a whopping 40% of the paper manufactured in the United States at the time.

Melville spent time with other authors during his Arrowhead years, including Nathaniel Hawthorne. Dickson said Melville was inspired by his walks with the older, more established writer.

Today, "Moby-Dick" is largely considered Melville's masterpiece, but it was not a commercial success when it was published in the U.S. in 1851. By the time Melville published his first work that was not about the sea — "Pierre" in 1852 — "Moby-Dick" was already out of print.

Melville left Arrowhead in 1863 and moved to New York City.

Dickson said alert readers can follow in Melville's footsteps and see Mount Greylock, the Ice Glen Trail in Stockbridge, and other areas that inspired him.

"For the most part, they're all still there."

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Pursuant to Section 7-344, General State Statutes of Connecticut, notice is hereby given that the Board of Finance for the Town of Kent, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing on Friday, May 15, 2026 at 6 p.m. in person at town hall and via Zoom.

Topic: Town of Kent FY '27 Budget Hearing

Time: May 15, 2026 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89088399033

Meeting ID: 890 8839 9033

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To present itemized expenditures of the Town of Kent for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 and to hear all persons who may wish to be heard in regard to any appropriation that they are desirous that the Board shall recommend or reject.

Copies of the proposed Town of Kent Budget FY 2026-2027 are available at Town Clerk's and First Selectman's Offices in Kent Town Hall, 41 Kent Green Boulevard, and on the town website <http://www.townofkentct.gov>.

Any disabled person requiring special assistance should contact First Selectman Eric Epstein for

A.D.A. coordination at 860-927-4627 or firstselectman@townofkentct.gov prior to this meeting.

Dated at Kent, Connecticut, this 4th day of May 2026.

Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick,
Board of Finance Chair
05-14-26

Legal Notice

The Cornwall Republican Party will be holding its upcoming caucus on May 14th to elect a candidate for the upcoming Registrar of voters election at the Cornwall library, 30 pine st, Cornwall, CT at 7:00 pm. Please bill to "treasurer, Cornwall Republican town committee, 256 Kent Rd S, APT 11, Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754-1237"

05-14-26

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/. The application materials will be listed at 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. 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 Decision Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following actions were taken by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on May 4, 2026:

Approved - Special Permit Application #2026-0312 by owners Claudia Pacicco Remley + Kevin William Remley + Kevin William Remley, a detached apartment on a single-family residential lot in accordance with Section 208 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 66 as Lot 28 and is located at 80 Rocky Lane, Salisbury.

Approved - Site Plan Application #2026-0317 by homeowner Dayana Herrera, for modified site plan to construct 8'x16' shed and 5'x9' mudroom associated with special permit #2024-0244 multifamily housing in the Multifamily Housing Overlay District in accordance with section 803.5 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 56 as Lot 05 and is located at 28 Undermountain Road, Salisbury. The owner of the land is Salisbury Housing Trust.

Approved - Site Plan

Application #2026-0318 by Kennedy Foods LLC for change of use of non-conforming low turnover restaurant to retail within an existing mixed-use building in the C20 Zone in accordance with section 501 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 54 as Lot 06 and is located at 19 Main Street, Salisbury. The owner of the property is Salisbury Center LLC.

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

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

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-26-21 by owner Sunset Holdings CT LLC for a dock. The property is shown on

Salisbury Assessor's map 60 lot 07 and is known as 102 South Shore Road, Salisbury.

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
05-14-26

TOWN OF CORNWALL NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Electors and citizens qualified to vote at Town Meetings of the Town of Cornwall are hereby notified and warned that a Special Town Meeting will be held on Friday, May 15th, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. at Cornwall Consolidated School, 5 Cream Hill Rd, West Cornwall, CT 06796.

1. To adopt the budget for the Town of Cornwall for fiscal year 2026/2027 as recommended by the Board of Finance.

05-14-26

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

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

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

OBITUARIES

John Michael Barry

NORFOLK — John Michael Barry, 83, of The Villages, Florida, passed away peacefully on Jan. 1, 2026, at Moffitt Cancer Center, after a brief period of illness, in the presence of his loving family.

John was born on June 4, 1942, in Winsted, Connecticut, and raised in Norfolk, Connecticut, where he developed the values of faith, service, hard work, and deep devotion to family that defined his life.

A lifelong Catholic, John's faith was a constant source of strength and guidance. His final parish was St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Wildwood, Florida, where he remained spiritually grounded and closely connected to his faith community.

John proudly served in the United States Army Reserve, attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant, reflecting his leadership, discipline, and commitment to service. He dedicated 25 years of his career as a correctional officer with the Connecticut Department of Corrections, earning the respect of colleagues for his integrity and professionalism. Following his state service, John continued his career with The Hartford Insurance Company until his full retirement in 2009.

An avid saltwater fisherman, John found peace and joy by the ocean. He spent countless weekends and summers at Race Point Beach in Cape Cod, pursuing his passion for striped bass fishing—traditions and memories that became deeply cherished by family and friends. John also was avid fan and supporter of the

Boston Red Sox and UCONN girls basketball teams.

John was actively involved in fraternal and service organizations throughout his life. He was a proud member of the Southington Elks Lodge, where he served as Past Exalted Ruler, and was also affiliated with the Lions Club, the Falcon Club, and the American Legion. He was also a member of the Norfolk Connecticut volunteer fire as well as a charter member of Norfolk Ambulance.

Above all else, John's greatest joy was his family. He is survived by his beloved wife, Deborah Barry; his son, Sean Barry, and daughter-in-law, Carmen Barry, of Colebrook, Connecticut; his daughter, Erin Barry, of New York, New York; his grandson, Edward; and his granddaughters, Lillian and Sarah, who were the pride and joy of his life. He is also survived by Lorraine McCafferty, the mother of his children, with whom he maintained a lifelong friendship.

John will be remembered for his quiet strength, unwavering devotion, deep faith, and the countless moments shared with family especially the time spent with Deborah, which he treasured above all else.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on May 16, 2026, at 10 a.m. at The Immaculate Conception Church in Norfolk, CT. Burial to follow at St. Mary's Cemetery in Norfolk.

In lieu of flowers the family ask donations be made to Moffitt Cancer Institute in honor of John Barry.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



Liane McGhee

MILLERTON — Liane McGhee, a woman defined by her strength of will, generosity, and unwavering devotion to her family, passed away leaving a legacy of love and cherished memories.

Born Liane Victoria Conklin on May 27, 1957, in Sharon, Connecticut, she grew up on Fish Street in Millerton, a place that remained close to her heart throughout her life. A proud graduate of the Webutuck High School Class of 1975, Liane soon began the most significant chapter of her life when she married Bill McGhee on Aug. 7, 1976. Together, they built a life centered on family and shared values.

Liane was a woman of many passions. She found peace in the outdoors, whether she was taking scenic country rides, fishing, or walking her dog. An avid reader and a talented painter, she possessed a creative spirit and a caring heart that extended to all animals. Above all, Liane was most at home when surrounded by her family.

Liane is survived by her devoted husband of nearly 50 years, Bill McGhee. Her

legacy continues through her three children: Joshua (Tanya) McGhee, Justin McGhee, and Jaclyn (Joe) Perusse. She was the proud grandmother of Connor, Calia, and Kennedy McGhee, as well as Lillian and Tillman Perusse. She is also survived by her siblings,



Larry Conklin and Linda Holst-Grubbe. Liane was predeceased by her parents Martin and Lillian Conklin, and her brother, Robert "Bob" Conklin.

In keeping with Liane's generous nature, the family requests that, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made to Hudson Valley Hospice (by mail to 374 Violet Ave, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 or online at <https://www.hvhospice.org/donate>) or to the Millerton Fire Company at PO Box 733, Millerton, NY 12546.

A celebration of life was held on Friday, May 8, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY.

Her family will remember her as the strong-willed and caring matriarch who always put them first. She will be deeply missed.

Frank Lalli

LAKEVILLE — Frank Lalli died on April 27, 2026, of complications of multiple myeloma, at Calvary Hospital in New York City. He was born on Feb. 20, 1942, and raised in Teaneck, New Jersey. He earned a BA at Miami University of Ohio and went on to have a long career in journalism.

Frank and his wife, Carole Lalli, lived in New York City where they raised their daughters, Carla and Nina. His life was enriched by his city, for its cultural treasures and for the simple pleasures of everyday life—"the street," as he put it. The family have had second homes in Lakeville for more than 30 years where they enjoyed time off even more when their grandchildren, Leo, Cosmo, Gia and Remo came along.

Frank began his career as a 20-year-old reporter at the Bergen Evening Record, in New Jersey. He went on to be a writer and then West

Coast Bureau Chief for Forbes magazine; Executive Editor at New West; City Editor at the Los Angeles Herald Examiner and spent 17 years at Time Inc, including five years as Managing Editor of Money magazine. He became Editor-in-Chief of George following the death of John



F. Kennedy Jr. Frank's journalism included his book, "Your Best Healthcare Now" (2016); he was the Healthcare Detective on NPR's local station, Robinhood Radio, for several years. His work earned him many awards, but he was proudest of Magazine Publishers of America's Champion of Diversity Award for his efforts to diversify the editorial staffs at Time Inc.

Frank's greatest pleasures were reading, particularly on U.S. history and politics, travel in Italy, and the New York Yankees, but nothing came close to being at a table with family and friends. He will be missed.

For another obituary, see page A10

OUR TOWNS

Grumbling Gryphons prepares for summer children's theater

By Ruth Epstein

CORNWALL — Grumbling Gryphons Traveling Children's Theater is gearing up for another summer season of entertainment, education and hands-on theater programs for children.

Founded 46 years ago by Artistic Director Leslie Elias — a Cornwall actress, playwright and musician — the company focuses on participatory theater and experiences for children.

"I saw a need for participatory theater," Elias said. "I love bringing together children, mythology and theater while working to empower young people."

Elias said environmental themes are also woven into some productions.

From Monday, July 6, through Thursday, July 9, Grumbling Gryphons will partner with the American Mural Project for "Curtain Up!" a musical theater program featuring art, singing, dancing and a production of

"The Ghost Net."

The production will take place Thursday, July 9, at 1:30 p.m., with the American Mural Project's giant mural serving as a backdrop.

The program is open to children ages 7 and older.

To register, visit americanmuralproject.org/summer or call 860-379-3006.

A second theater camp will run July 27 to July 31, at Grumbling Gryphons headquarters on Lake Road in Cornwall for children ages 6 and up. Participants will work with professional performers and present a show Friday, July 31, at 5:30 p.m.

More information is available at grumblinggryphons.org or by emailing grumblinggryphons@gmail.com.

Scholarships are available for Region One students for both programs through the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. Applications are due June 15 at berkshiretaconic.org/grants/arts-fund-for-region-one.

Send news tips to editor@lakevillejournal.com

Local Matters

Your nonprofit community news source needs your ongoing support to flourish.

Please visit lakevillejournal.com/donate to give a donation of any size.

Thank you!

The Lakeville Journal - The Millerton News

Lawrence Fredrick Twordusky

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.

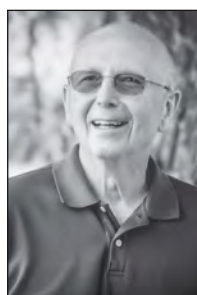
Larry was born on Feb. 2, 1947, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, to Lawrence and Esther Twordusky. He graduated from Tunkhannock Area High School and later from Johnson Technical School. In 1969, he married his high school sweetheart, Linda LaBar, before serving in the United States Air Force, where he was 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: <https://give.michaeljfox.org>



Worship Services Week of May 17, 2026	
Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org	The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442
Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627	St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org
North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232	ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078
FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org	UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community
Congregation Beth David A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org	The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates
The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net	St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality
Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194	Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org
The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net	Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 8:00AM - Worship Service 2nd & 4th Sunday "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!
The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building	All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us
Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org	Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-3138

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Grateful for community on National Day of Prayer

Our hearts are filled with thanks to our wonderful Salisbury/Lakeville community for sharing the goodness of the Lord as we celebrated the 75th National Day of Prayer.

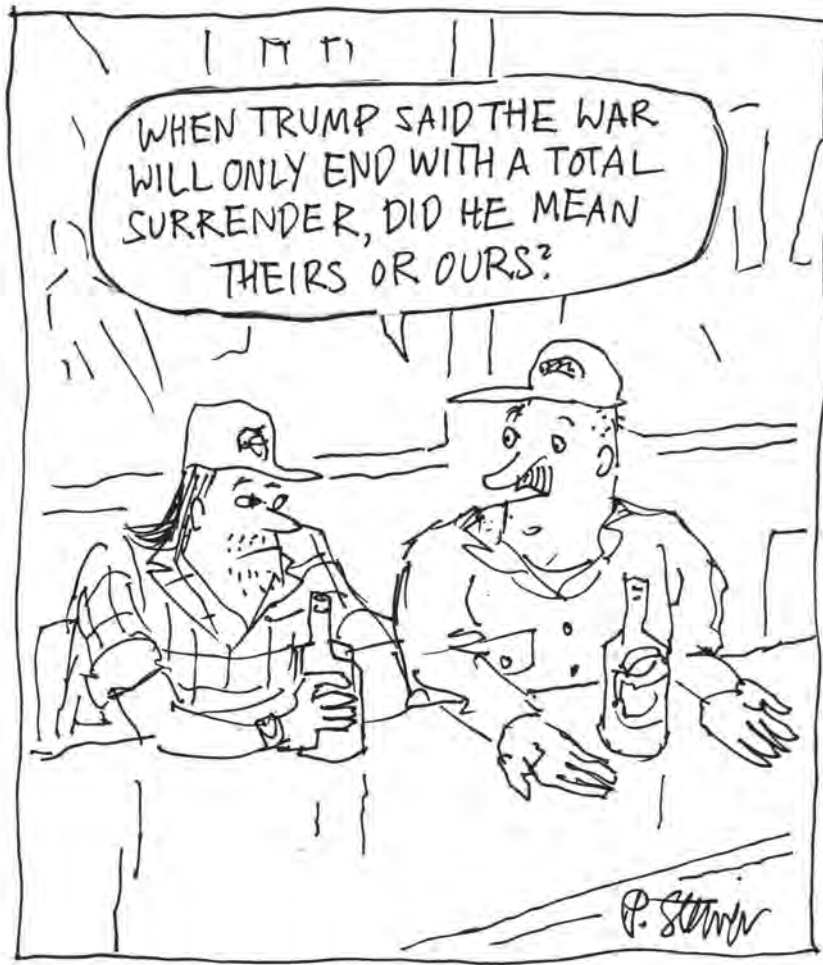
Windy, cool conditions didn't keep you hearty New Englanders from turning out to pray, a hundred strong. It was a privilege to have an eighth grade Eagle Scout lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance with such clarity, an Army Sergeant and his daughter praying for our military and veterans and a family all delighting in praying together. There was a warmth of fellowship and spirit in singing patriotic songs interspersed with prayer that nourished our souls.

As this is the 250th celebration of our country's founding, we thank Town

Historian Lou Bucceri for joining us as narrator giving historical vignettes of how prayer has played an important role in our country from its inception. Sharing quotes from our CT governor Trumbull and Noah Webster and our own Congregational church Minister Jonathan Lee, he brought us up to the recent past with quotes on prayer from FDR and Martin Luther King, all reminding us of the integral part prayer has played in our nation.

Thank you to all participants, Salisbury Town Hall, National Day of Prayer team and all of you who attend and make this day so special each year.

With grateful hearts,
Newt and
Barbara Schoenly
Salisbury



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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.

EARLY DEADLINE
The deadline for letters to the editor for the May 28 issue is 10 a.m. on Friday, May 22.

Agricultural hurdles ahead

OCCASIONAL OBSERVER MAC GORDON

Most of us tend to take food supply for granted. Our grocery stores and supermarkets are full of most everything we might wish to eat except for the occasional out-of-season fruit or vegetable---and even these have become more available. But there are some increasing signs that our food complacency may be short-sighted, that there may be trouble down the road.

Over the past eighty years, the world's human population has quadrupled and still continues to grow. Just providing food for people in the less affluent regions is more and more difficult. All over the world forests are being torn down to make way for economically viable but strictly for export crops like palm oil trees. In many parts of the U.S., clean, fresh water, a basic requirement for agriculture is becoming scarcer thereby making agriculture considerably more expensive and food scarce. Drought caused by climate change is making more land around the world unsuitable for growing crops. Over-harvesting can devastate land; 2,000 years ago most of North Africa was forested and fertile but largely through poor management it became over the centuries nearly desert.

President Trump's war in Iran has disrupted global commerce beyond expectations. The predictable closing of the Strait of Hormuz has limited trade of most everything coming to or going from the Middle East, the most obvious commodities being oil and gas which run most industrial (and agricultural) operations worldwide. The Middle East also supplies a major portion of the world's

fertilizer, both the finished product and the raw materials and that is for most of the world not just Europe and America. A significant reduction in world food supply is expected.

Currently before the U.S. Supreme Court is a case regarding the legal liability of Monsanto, now a subsidiary of Bayer, for its herbicide, Roundup, the country's most popular weed killer. The suit concerns whether product liability warnings issued by a state agency are overruled by a differing federal ruling. While the state has a warning label on the container saying that the contents are "probably carcinogenic" to humans, the federal Environmental Protection Agency has said Roundup is not carcinogenic. Countless lawsuits and billions of dollars of possible settlements await the Court's verdict.

To help diminish future lawsuits, a home gardening version without glyphosate, the key ingredient, has recently come on the market. Should standard Roundup actually be banished, the effect on conventional industrial agriculture would be huge. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who has campaigned repeatedly for organic farming, has backtracked, speaking out forcefully against a ban on glyphosate saying that such a move would be "too abrupt" (thereby infuriating most of his "MAHA" supporters).

But a banning of Roundup's glyphosate with no proven successor and a swift return from industrial agriculture to basic organic farming techniques would raise food prices enormously and probably cause a lot of political dissent.

Another looming problem comes from PFAS, often referred to as "forever chemicals" because of their inability to break down. In 1946, DuPont introduced nonstick cookware coated with Teflon. Today the family of fluorinated chemicals that sprang from Teflon includes thousands of non-stick, stain-repellent and waterproof compounds called PFAS, short for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances.

Back in the 1970s I was involved in the creation of several community parks and gardens on vacant lots in New York City. To cover the crushed rubble ground surfaces, we located a large supply of special compost soil from a drug company's corporate campus in the suburbs---free but for the trucking. Composed of company dining hall food waste, sewage sludge, mycelium from drug manufacturing, and other organic waste. The compost proved to be fertile, humusy soil, an excellent growing medium, a good prototype for rich planting soil (without chemical fertilizers).

Over the decades more and more farm fields have

drastically cut back on their use of expensive chemical fertilizers and, at the same time and are providing disposal for municipal sewage and other composted waste. But a few years ago, a New York Times environmental reporter discovered that compost from many sewage treatment plants across the country were contaminated with high levels of PFAS and other dangerous contaminants. Subsequently, this widespread use of sewage sludge fertilizer is being restricted in many instances and will continue to be discouraged until the federal Environmental Protection Agency follows through on its earlier promises to mandate cleaning up public water facilities of PFAS and other contaminants.

In 1935, the Dupont Corporation came up with one of the most famous advertising slogans of the era: "Better Living Through Chemistry". But the naive optimism of the original slogan now carries a more sardonic tone. Modern science has made great strides in agriculture as in so many fields but our problems feeding ourselves and keeping healthy are not behind us. The Green Revolution that came into being after WW2 doubled world food production but also left us with perhaps insolvable medical problems.

Architect G. Mackenzie Gordon, AIA lives in Lakeville.

AI judgement is fake news for authors

I have been increasingly concerned over AI and questions of originality of journalists' work, authors' manuscripts, plagiarism. A new manuscript submission an agency made to a publisher was rejected because they ran the author's text through an AI detector and claimed it was mainly AI generated.

The manuscript was an anthology of short stories and true histories the author had written and compiled (about the history of dogs) over more than 10 years. The author claimed that most of the text was written before AI was around. The only editing he has done has been within the confines of MS Word (grammar and spell check). He has "NEVER used AI, ever."

So I ran portions of the dog book text in Grammarly and Pangram and it came back "42% appears to be AI-generated" and "49% AI-generated," respectively. Incredible.

So, as a test of these and two other AI detection systems, I ran 15,000 first (unedited) words of a manuscript I wrote in 2018 and was published in 2022 (Elephant Safari) and this was the result in a third AI checker: "75% of your text has signs of AI." Considering I wrote this thriller on the dining room table in the dark of night without any copy and paste whatsoever, I knew this AI plagiarism was misleading, to say the least.

So I went further back and chose text from a book written in 1990... delivered in Nov. 1990, edited by Victoria Wilson at Knopf and still in print: Marlene Dietrich: By Her Daughter Maria Riva Result? On "JustDone" AI checker: "82% AI content." This manuscript was handwritten on yellow legal pads.

So, the question we all have to ask is this: If AI memory already contains many of the materials, texts, of published books in AI memory... are they all now considered AI owned/generated? Or is AI actually saying that the material is not new to AI and therefore labels it as plagiarized?

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE PETER RIVA

The issue here seems to me to be a definition of "original" -- original to whom? If an author sends a Gmail with a manuscript to an editor, Gmail (Google) has the file and their AI can presumably read it. Also, if Google or other AI platforms have scanned a previously published magazine article or a book, I believe the very familiarity of what is in the AI memory will give the result that "AI is familiar with this text" and therefore leads to accuse an author of plagiarism.

As for me, I have no faith whatsoever in these so-called AI detection systems. They provided complete nonsense on something I wrote in 2018 and an author delivered in Nov. 1990! To further illustrate the point, I ran Act 1 of HAMLET: "Most of your text is AI/GPT Generated," so Shakespeare is also a plagiarist? Teachers, professors, and editors everywhere are relying on these false readings and contributing to fake literature appraisal.

Peter Riva, a former resident of Amenia Union, New York, now lives in Gila, New Mexico.



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Perspective

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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Thursday, May 14, 2026

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Viewpoint

The death of dignity in leadership

The concept of dignity encompasses many traits of a virtuous person. It speaks to seriousness of purpose, gravitas, reserve, and self-respect. Throughout our nation's history, we have considered it indispensable to effective leadership. Our two greatest presidents – Washington and Lincoln – were avatars of dignity.

Donald Trump's utter inability to conduct himself in a dignified manner, and the follow-on effects that has created, has to rank as one of the most pernicious ways in which he has coarsened and degraded our society. Certainly this is not the worst of his misdeeds. But it is nonetheless important to understand, because it sets the tone for his administration and his followers, and tears at the fabric that binds us together, or used to.

His lack of dignity has been clear for decades. He infamously bragged that he could "grab [women] by the p****" without consequence. He posted an AI video of himself in a fighter jet dropping payloads of excrement on No Kings Day protesters.

GUEST COMMENTARY JAMES SPEYER

He gave a worker the middle finger during an auto factory tour. He wrote "Good, I'm glad he's dead" about Robert Mueller, a decorated war hero. After a hammer-wielding Trump supporter bashed in the skull of Nancy Pelosi's husband, he sneeringly asked a crowd "how's her husband doing by the way, anybody know?" One could roll out literally hundreds of similarly graceless and appalling examples.

Try to imagine Washington or Lincoln behaving this way – impossible. Actually, try to imagine any human being with the slightest sense of decorum or decency acting this way – also impossible.

The dignity deficit extends to his Cabinet – that collection of hacks, nonentities and bootlickers who periodically assemble before him to compete to see

who can degrade themselves the most by showering him with absurdly over-the-top praise (actual example: at one of these gatherings the (since fired) Secretary of Labor said "Mr. President, I invite you to see your big beautiful face on a banner in front of the Department of Labor because you are really the transformational president for the American worker."). In what can only be understood as a self-inflicted humiliation ritual, male Cabinet members belown themselves by sloshing around in oversize dress shoes because Trump has bestowed them without regard for the proper shoe size, and they fear offending him by not wearing them. Former Attorney General Pam Bondi displayed all the refinement of a feces-flinging baboon when in a Congressional hearing she bizarrely told Congressman Jamie Raskin "you don't get to tell me anything, you washed up loser lawyer. You're not even a lawyer." (Raskin is the foremost constitutional law scholar in Congress). Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said that if Trump

fired him he'd say "thank you sir, I love you sir." He actually said that.

Republicans in Congress are similarly afflicted. On January 6, 2021, Trump exhorted his supporters to march on the Capitol to stop the peaceful transfer of power, and then sat by and refused to lift a finger for hours as they ransacked the building and viciously attacked Capitol police while members of Congress – of both parties -- hid and cowered in fear for their lives. Instead of forsaking him for this – the most traitorous act ever committed by an American president – within a few weeks Congressional Republicans embraced him as the leader of their party once again. The degree of self-abasement it must take to support a man after he has sicced a violent mob on you (and refused to apologize for it) is off the charts. No one with a shred of self-respect could act that way.

Stripping other, less powerful people of their dignity is also a hallmark of this administration. Former DHS Secretary Kristi Noem flew to El Salvador for a photo op in front of dozens of caged, half-naked deportees deployed as props – a shameful, dehumanizing spectacle. Trump regularly demeans and degrades all Somali-Americans as "garbage." ICE detains thousands of undocumented immigrants in inhumane and filthy human warehouses.

We used to expect more from our presidents. In this way, as in so many others, Trump has broken the mold.

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

Our Home, Our Future Voices from our Salisbury community about the housing we need for a healthy, economically vibrant future

If you've ever wandered through Paley's Farm Market, you probably know Renee Wilcox. For thirty years, she has been greeting you with unmistakable warmth—always ready with a smile. Renee grew up in Millerton, but it was in Salisbury that her family found something they'd never had before: a true sense of home. In 2003, she and her husband Bill were living in Millerton, but Bill—a volunteer with the Lakeville Hose Company—was already part of Salisbury life. When the Salisbury Housing Trust finished eight new homes on East Main Street (Dunham Drive), Renee and Bill were the first to sign on.

The story of those houses is really a story about the best parts of our community. Richard Dunham and his wife, Inge, along with the Housing Trust board, poured years of energy and hope into the project. Renee can't help but light up when she talks about the people who helped her family settle in. Digby Brown came by to install appliances and bathroom cabinets; Barbara Niles spent hours painting; Carl Williams assembled bunk beds for the kids. Rick Cantele, at Salisbury Bank, helped them with their finances so they could qualify for a mortgage, while neighbors arrived at their door with fruit baskets and welcoming words.

For the Wilcox family,



Renee Wilcox

AFFORDABLE HOUSING MARY CLOSE OPPENHEIMER

owning a home in Salisbury changed everything. The house gave them more than just a roof; it was a dream come true. Renee says, "My son—now thirty-three—was slipping through the cracks at school. He is now an avid reader. The schools have made all the difference." When Bill suffered a serious workplace injury in 2023, the community they'd come to love rallied around them. Local businesses, friends, and neighbors showed up, offering help in big and small ways. "We are so grateful to live in this community," Renee says, "I can't even put into words how much it meant to us."

But not every family is so lucky. Renee hears all the time from people from all walks of life who are upset that their kids can't afford to live here. The numbers tell a tough story—sky-high home prices, almost no rentals, and over 100 families on a waitlist for an affordable apartment. The result? We have lost a whole generation of young people in our community.

Renee's story is a reminder that community isn't just about geography—it's about making space for each other. If we want to keep that spirit alive, we need to fight for more affordable homes, more welcoming front doors, and more stories like hers.

Mary Close Oppenheimer is a member of the Salisbury Affordable Housing Commission.



CARTOON TO THE EDITOR BY STEVE DUTTON

TURNING BACK THE PAGES NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago — May 1901

NOTICE. All persons are forbidden dumping rubbish or anything on our land. Especially on Lands between the Bradley and McDuffie farms. M.H. Robbins.

SALISBURY — Three forest fires have started thus far this season in this section. The woods near the town farm in some way took fire last Sunday. A force of twenty or more men soon had the fire extinguished.

100 years ago — May 1926

Once more we wish to allude to the sounding of the fire siren. Paste this in your hat and remember it if you have occasion to sound the alarm: Within the fire district limits- one continuous blast; outside the fire district- three blasts. Simple enough if remembered.

Peter A. Kisselbrack, who has been at the Town Farm since last fall, has become mentally deranged and has been taken to the Middletown Insane Retreat. Peter for the past two years has been steadily losing his eyesight and became unable to follow his trade as painter, and his old friends in this section feel very sorry to learn of his further misfortune.

50 years ago — May 1976

SALISBURY — A proposal for a 300-member "very high-grade residential country club" on the site of Fair Acres Farm at the foot of Smith Hill was brought before the Planning and Zoning

Commission Monday night. The plan, as outlined by associates Florence and Anselmo Ortiz, owners of Fair Acres, calls for an 18-hole golf course, indoor and outdoor tennis courts, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a stable and indoor riding ring and a "health facility."

Paul Schmitt, a Housatonic Valley Regional High School senior from Canaan, won national recognition this week for his original work in computer programming. Schmitt was named one of 59 students from across America whose projects will be displayed at the 1976 National Computer Conference June 7-10 in New York City.

A joint effort by the towns of Salisbury and Sharon was initiated Monday morning in the official opening of a solid waste transfer station on Route 41 in Salisbury. Sharon First Selectman William Wilbur threw the first bag of garbage into the compacting unit while Salisbury selectmen looked on. The \$120,000 facility can be used by Sharon residents now and by Salisbury residents beginning July 1.

LAKEVILLE — The state Public Utilities Control Authority has denied a request from the Lakeville Water Company for a 34.4 per cent across-the-board rate hike for all types of customers, but will allow the company a smaller increase. The exact figure has yet to be determined, Lakeville manager Edward Kipp

said Tuesday night.

Debbie and Bruce Bennett will officially open their new greenhouse in Kent this Saturday. Guest speaker for the occasion will be Elvin McDonald, garden editor of House & Garden magazine. Kent Greenhouse was located for three years in Railroad Square in Kent. The all-new complex on Route 7 south of Kent enabled the Bennetts to "expand everything."

CANAAN — Becton-Dickinson plant manager Daniel O'Donnell this week cited the company's excellent second quarter performance, saying that his firm has been hiring and expects to continue hiring. In recent months B-D, which manufactures disposable plastic hypodermic syringes, has re-hired all of the 50 employees laid off during the 1975 recession. The plant manager refused to comment, however, on reports that increased production at the plant is the result of a national program to inoculate the United States populace against swine flu. Company employees have reportedly been working overtime schedules since Easter.

Canaan brothers Mark and Stephen Clarke are among the performers who appear in the movie "American Years," the feature presentation at Philadelphia's Living History Center. The movie sweeps the viewer through 200 years of American history through a series of vignettes,

CORNWALL — Clarence Meier — artist, ceramicist and retired Cornwall postmaster — will have on sale at the Town Hall on May 31 the pottery collection which he has accumulated over his past years as a resident of Cornwall. The birds, animals and designs which he originated and created, are the result of Meier's lifetime interest in nature. Besides being a ceramicist, he is also the designer and creator of the wall murals on display in the Cornwall Post Office and the National Iron Bank in Cornwall.

CORNWALL — When the Bicentennial Committee met Friday night to review plans for the celebration of the nation's 200th birthday, chairman Paula Holmes reported that the ladies of St. Bridget's Church are moving ahead so rapidly with squares for the Bicentennial quilt that there may be enough for two quilts. The first will be a gift to the Historical Society. The second will be offered at a raffle.

KENT — Jeanne Howard is the first woman member in the 65-year history of the Kent Fire Department. She was elected to membership at the department's monthly meeting last week.

25 years ago — May 2001
CANAAN — Bicon Electronics, a certified global manufacturer of solenoids and transformer products, has acquired SMA LLC, a solenoid manufacturer in Concord, N.H. All manufacturing operations have been

transferred to the Bicon Canaan plant. This acquisition broadens Bicon's solenoid product offerings, technical expertise and sales coverage, customer service, engineering and manufacturing organization.

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

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The Lakeville Journal - The Millerton News

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May is migratory month, when thousands of birds pass through CT on the way north, and Sharon Audubon is celebrating with guided bird walks the next three Saturdays at Miles Wildlife Sanctuary, 99 West Cornwall Road in Sharon. Bethany Sheffer of the Sharon Audubon Center and George Wallace of the American Bird Conservancy will lead the walks and help identify the migrating birds. Registration is required. Please either call Bethany at 860-364-0250 (ext. 115) or email her at bethany.sheffer@audubon.org with questions. For more information, please visit: act.audubon.org/a/spring-migration-bird-walk-5092026



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\$75,000 MATCHING CHALLENGE

THE GOOD NEWS

**The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News
are alive and well and thriving.**

Thanks to you, our two local newspapers have DEFIED the troubling economic trend that has led to thousands of America's small town newspapers shutting down.

But we still need your help to build the future. If we don't grow, we won't survive.

To help guarantee the future, members of our board are offering an urgent **\$75,000 matching challenge through June 15.** Every dollar you give up to \$75,000 will be doubled.

Here's how the money will be spent

- **Investing in how the news reaches you**
We're expanding our digital reach, publishing online throughout the week, and offering several highly popular newsletters.
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- **Investing in future talent**
We revived the school newspaper and journalism programs at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, and plan to do the same at high schools in our New York coverage area. And for the fourth year, we will continue our paid summer internship program for college students.
- **Publishing more prize-winning reporting**
The Lakeville Journal earned multiple awards from the New England Newspaper & Press Association, including First Place for Natalia Zukerman's "Bearing Witness at Auschwitz," a powerful story about memory and responsibility.

Yes, the future of local news for our community is promising—but not guaranteed. **Please join us. Every dollar you give—up to \$75,000—will be matched.**

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Local Matters

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Our Towns

Little Guild opens doors to new animal shelter

Continued from Page A1

center, and the shelter eventually plans to offer dental services.

The facility was designed by chief architect Christopher Nardi, of Silver, Petrucci & Associates in Hamden, and built by Burlington Construction based in Torrington.

In contrast to the new building, Little Guild's evolution was documented through a series of photos that ranged from the original 1960 shelter to the trailers in Cornwall Bridge that temporarily housed operations while the former building was razed.

Community reacts to new shelter

West Cornwall resident Mary Woodman, 99, came to the grand opening with her identical twin daughters Noreen Warner and Nora Sebben. Woodman said she was delighted by the new space and expressed pride in her community.

Board member Priscilla McCord turned at one point, saying, "Well, I am in tears seeing what a huge turnout of support from our friends."

Dr. Matt Nebel, veterinarian and current board member, also brought his family. Nebel has been involved with the project, consulting on the design and functionality of the facilities.

The human staff of 12 said they are happy to finally have their own break room, a place to hang their coats and new bathrooms.

Shelter manager Tiffany Lemelin said she hopes the animals feel at home in the new space. "I hope they feel it - that sense of warmth and comfort, like walking into a place that feels like home."



The Humphrey family came to support their daughter Cassidy, the Little Guild's feline manager.



"Every day at the Little Guild animals are healed and loved, pet owners are supported, and families are built. It is a daily lesson in love and resilience."

—Little Guild director Jenny Langendoerfer

Support from donors

The animal shelter is named in honor of Robert R. Rosenheim. Little Guild director Jenny Langendoerfer said that Robert R. Rosenheim Foundation has been the organization's partner in building the much-needed new animal shelter from day one.

"We could not have gotten here without their abundant support every step of the way," Langendoerfer said. "We are honored to be a part of Mr. Rosenheim's legacy of



love and dedication to animals."

Bozzuto credited Karen Doeblin, former board president, plus members of the Little Guild Advisory Council, including Chuck Short, Richard Lanier, and

Alice Yoakum with the early planning and funding of this project.

Alice Yoakum, who lives in Lakeville, is a founding member of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, and has been a ma-



Above: The "Catio," an outdoor space designed for feline recreation. Left: Four-year old Belgian Malinois mix, Marley, is available for adoption.

major supporter and board member of the Little Guild for years. She smiled in approval, pausing to look back at the crowd as she left the celebration, clearly enjoying the success of the project. She once said, "It's simply what you do. You give back to the community."

Funding for this project was provided by donations from Little Guild supporters, and community foundations including the Robert R. Rosenheim Foundation, the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation, the William and Mary Greve Foundation, the Draper Foundation, the Kathleen Bradford Foundation, the Seherr-Thoss Foundation, the Torrington Savings Bank Foundation, and the Town of Cornwall.

Community donations provided 75% of the funding for the project.

Designer Bunny Williams founded and supports the annual Little Guild fundraiser, "The Great Country Mutt Show," which is scheduled for Sunday, June 7, 2026, at Lime Rock Park.

Little Guild supports the community with Pet Pantries for families in need, providing free food for pets, support for domestic violence survivors by caring for their pets through Project SAGE, free vaccination clinics, and vouchers for free spay and neuter procedures.

Little Guild's Lasey Fund provides financial assistance for veterinary care to eligible Litchfield County residents. The Little Guild is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, originally founded in 1957 by Muriel Alvord Ward and Eleanor Kleinschmidt, and is now the largest no-kill animal shelter in Northwest Connecticut. Its 99% save rate is one of the highest in the nation.

"Every day at the Little Guild animals are healed and loved, pet owners are supported, and families are built. It is a daily lesson in love and resilience," said Langendoerfer.

The new facility is located at 285 Sharon-Goshen Road in West Cornwall. For more information, visit littleguild.org.

Towns gather for National Day of Prayer

By Patrick L. Sullivan

Towns across the region gathered for a National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 7, taking time to pray, reflect and express gratitude.

The National Day of Prayer Task Force provides a format for the event, with community members reading prayers for families, education, businesses, the military, government and the arts.

In Salisbury, about 50 people gathered at Salisbury Town Hall for the event. Barbara Schoenly opened the ceremony with a quote from Abraham Lincoln on the importance of prayer.

"I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had no place else to go," she said.

Town historian Lou Buccheri cited Benjamin Franklin's remarks to the Constitutional Convention in 1787.

"I therefore beg leave to move - that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the Clergy of this City be requested to officiate in that service."

First Selectman Curtis Rand read the National Day of Prayer Proclamation and Attie Bergin, an Eagle Scout, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Musician Michael Brown played the electric piano and guided the crowd in the National Anthem, "America the Beautiful," and "God Bless America." to close.

Paul Ramunni, Peter Becket, Rev. Dr. Anna Crews



The National Day of Prayer in Salisbury took place by the war memorials at Town Hall.



Chuck Lewis started off the National Day of Prayer on a historical note in Falls Village.



Troy Ramcharran, an Amry veteran, read the military prayer in Salisbury.

Camphouse, William Becker, the Williams Family, Liz Ives, Deirdre Broderick, Kaki Schafer Reid, and Troy Ramcharran also read prayers.

In Falls Village, a smaller crowd of about 14 gathered on the town Green. Chuck Lewis, a historian, opened by noting the official proclamation from the President was issued in the afternoon. Lewis quoted the proclamation of March 16, 1776 from the Second Continental Congress.

"In times of impending calamity and distress; when the Liberties of America are imminently endangered by the secret machinations and open assaults of an insidious and vindictive Ad-

ministration, it becomes the indispensable duty of these hitherto free and happy Colonies, with true penitence of heart, and the most reverent devotion, publicly to acknowledge the overruling providence of God; to confess and deplore our offences against him; and to supplicate his interposition for averting the threatened danger, and prospering our strenuous efforts in the cause of Freedom, Virtue and Posterity."

Dick Heinz expressed gratitude for the Falls Village Congregational Church. "We pray it may thrive," he said.

Margo Lewis gave thanks for the teachers and administrators of the Lee H. Kellogg

School and the Region One school district, noting their "dedication, compassion and kindness."

Chuck Lewis added a prayer that parents and grandparents share their faith with their children and grandchildren. "It might be the only time they get it," he said.

Dave Barger prayed for military families. "We can never forget that they sacrifice as much as our military personnel by being separated."

Carmela Barger, Bob Anderson and the Rev. Dr. Kirk Hall of the Falls Village Congregational Church also led prayers.

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Our Towns

Region One voters approve \$19.5M budget

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE – Voters in Region One towns approved the district's proposed \$19.5 million 2026–2027 school budget Tuesday, May 5, by a vote of 333-120.

From noon to 8 p.m., 453 total voters turned out from Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon.

The budget passed in every town except Falls Village, where the proposal failed by 12 votes.

The vote passed with the highest percentage in Cornwall and Salisbury, with 94% and 91%, respectively.

The budget totals \$19,533,640, an increase of \$1,048,431, or a 5.67% increase over the current year.

The Region One budget is divided into three components: Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS), Pupil Services and the Regional Schools Services Center (RSSC), also known as the central office.

Votes by Town

Cornwall: 60 yes, 4 no
Falls Village: 33 yes, 45 no
Kent: 69 yes, 11 no
North Canaan: 46 yes, 39 no
Salisbury: 94 yes, 9 no
Sharon: 31 yes, 12 no

Town Assessments

Region One town assessments were also approved, and are based on the number of students each town sends to HVRHS, meaning costs can shift as enrollment changes.

Town	Assessment	Change
Cornwall	\$2,168,169	increase of \$163,895
Falls Village	\$1,752,589	increase of \$208,904
Kent	\$2,783,359	increase of \$171,360
North Canaan	\$6,140,112	increase of \$519,526
Salisbury	\$4,798,928	increase of \$17,835
Sharon	\$1,890,486	decrease of \$33,356

Falls Village moves spending plans to vote

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Following a May 8 public hearing, the Falls Village Board of Finance voted Monday, May 11 to send the proposed 2026-27 municipal and education spending plans to a town vote scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, May 22, at the Emergency Services Center.

Voters will weigh in on the Lee H. Kellogg School spending plan of \$2,449,328, an increase of \$59,063 or 2.47%, and the municipal spending plan of \$2,503,382, an increase of \$80,556 or 3.32%.

The Region One budget passed a referendum vote last week, with the town's assessment approved at \$1,752,589, an increase of \$208,904, or 13.53%. Total education spending will be \$4,201,917, an increase of \$267,967 or 6.81%.

At the May 11 meeting, the Board of Finance trimmed about \$42,000 from the selectmen's spending plan with cuts to the Recreation Commission, the transfer station, and health insurance.

The finance board made no changes to the Board of Education's proposal as presented at the May 8 hearing.

Prior to the May 8 public hearing, the finance board asked the selectmen for \$100,000 and the Board of Education for \$50,000 in cuts.

The school board came up with \$41,387 in reductions, which included eliminating an early Kindergarten (EK) assistant position with a salary of \$24,667, reduce the hours of a part-time physical education teacher by \$5,214, cut the telecommunications/internet line by \$3,696 in anticipation of a state grant, eliminate the principal's cell phone (saving \$1,069), reduce a combined \$11,443 from Chromebooks and textbooks, and cut \$4,774 by not purchasing EK furniture.

The selectmen made roughly \$75,000 in reductions for the hearing, including reducing the garden maintenance line from \$3,000 to a \$1 placeholder, eliminating the special events line by \$1,500, reducing the town bus line by \$500, and reducing contributions to non-recurring capital accounts by \$50,000.

"Painfully we decided we would not put as much in this year. I know this puts us behind," First Selectman Dave Barger said at the hearing.

Nature lovers flock to Sharon Audubon Center's Birdfest

By Alec Linden

SHARON – Drizzle and chill couldn't quell bird enthusiasts Saturday, May 9, for the Sharon Audubon Center's Birdfest, an all-out avian fete in celebration of World Migratory Bird Day.

The internationally recognized effort is meant to bring awareness to the safety and wellbeing of the billions of migratory birds that return to their summer breeding grounds each spring.

"Many of them have flown thousands of miles," said Bethany Sheffer, naturalist and volunteer coordinator at the Center, noting that the initiative is meant to make the lives of these weary travelers easier – and more secure – as they either settle here for the season or continue northward.

Migrating birds face many dangers in their long journeys, and many of them are human-caused, such as confusion from light pollution or collisions with built structures like windows or moving vehicles. A 2024 study estimated that a billion birds are killed each year by flying into buildings, contributing to the loss of about 25% of the continent's bird population – about three billion birds – in the last half century.



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Sharon Audubon Center naturalist and volunteer coordinator Bethany Sheffer shows off Mandala, a red-tailed hawk who lost an eye after being hit by a car more than a decade ago.

Sheffer said the point of the annual observance was not only to raise awareness about the risks birds face during migrations, but how people can help mitigate those dangers.

Kent Land Trust Executive Director Connie Manes, who attended the event, said conservation is a regional project, not one defined by human boundaries. "We may have town lines but our birds don't pay attention to them," she said.

The stars of the show, inevitably, were the winged residents housed in the aviaries, located a short walk from the main Center building. As the Center's volunteers will tell

you, there is no shortage of personality at the aviaries.

"Norabo is our turkey vulture and he has his moments," said Kim Champagne, a veteran volunteer raptor curator at the Center, from within an enclosure as a group of about 20 Birdfest goers watched on. As she spoke, Norabo jumped from perch to perch, spreading his impressive wingspan and sometimes obeying Champagne's commands, sometimes not.

"It's an amazing privilege to be in here with these guys so close," she said after the group moved on to watch the highly sociable duo – an American crow and fish crow named Maverick and Mischievous, respectively.

Sheffer hosted a live

demonstration with some of the facility's winged residents who must remain under permanent care, either due to debilitating injury or because they "imprinted" on humans at an early age and associate more closely with our species than their own.

She began with Darrell the wood duck. "He's very fancy," she said, and the crowd of about 20 fascinated onlookers agreed, murmuring their appreciation for his vibrant plumage.

Sheffer closed by carrying Mandala, a docile, 20-plus red-tailed hawk known affectionately as Mandy, out into the open air on her gloved hand. Mandy has been at the center for more than a decade, and is in permanent care after having lost an eye when she was struck by a car.

"If they aren't able to keep both eyes on [their prey], they're going to have much more limited success out in the wild," she explained.

Shennan Flannery said volunteering for the Center, as she does, is a great way to connect more deeply to wildlife, even if it doesn't mean feeding the raptors directly – "that takes a special kind of person."

Regardless of the specific job, "it's such a good feeling" to volunteer, she said, "because you know you're doing good."

OBITUARY

Gregory Phillip Sheridan

NEW MILFORD — Gregory Phillip Sheridan died peacefully surrounded by family on May 5th in New Milford, Connecticut at the age of 77. He was born on March 19th, 1949 in Poughkeepsie, NY, to Phillip and Catherine Sheridan.

Gregg is survived by his wife of 54 years, Judy, his son Matthew Sheridan of Glastonbury, CT, his son Lucas Sheridan and his wife Allison of Malverne, Long Island, his daughter Anne Sheridan and her husband Aaron Miller of Boston, MA. He is also survived by his sister, Regina Hagstrand and her husband Charlie of Rexford, NY, his sister-in-law Barbara Steele and her husband David, and by seven adoring grandchildren: Colin, Delaney, Elliot, Lucy, Leo, Abel and Eliza.

Gregg grew up in Pawling, NY and attended SUNY New Paltz where he majored in art and met Judy. They married in 1971 and later moved to South Kent and started their family. Gregg ran his own contract design business from the barn next to their home and found success and meaning in his work for over four decades.

Gregg will be remembered as a bright light. He was a warm, generous, kind man who loved his family

deeply, especially his wife, Judy. He was an active community member who would happily lend a hand when needed. Throughout his time living in Kent, he coached youth sports, volunteered for Habitat For Humanity, and worked on local affordable housing. His Catholic faith was central to how he lived his life. Gregg took pleasure in the small things in life. He loved to sing and dance and always enjoyed the opportunity to meet new people. He was a passionate fan of Notre Dame football and UConn basketball. Gregg loved driving with the windows down, telling stories, drawing and painting, watching his grandchildren swim in the pool, and cutting into a slice of pie with a cold glass of milk. He was light hearted, optimistic, full of energy and always made time for the people he loved. He will be greatly missed.

Visiting hours will be held at Lillis Funeral Home in New Milford, CT on Tuesday, May 19th from 5-7 pm. A funeral mass is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20th at 11 am at Sacred Heart Church in Kent, CT. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Gregg's life. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Kent Affordable Housing: PO Box 265, Kent, CT 06757.

For more obituaries, see page A5

North Canaan postpones town budget vote to May 18

By Christian Murray

NORTH CANAAN — North Canaan has postponed its town meeting on the proposed 2026–27 municipal and education budgets until May 18 after officials identified a scheduling conflict with a major high school event expected to draw a large turnout.

During its May 4 session, the Board of Selectmen voted to move the annual town meeting from May 13 after concerns were raised that many residents would be attending the Housatonic Valley Regional High School FFA open house that same evening.

The FFA Open House is an annual event held at the high school that highlights the school's agricultural education program, including

student projects and hands-on learning experiences.

The board voted to reschedule the meeting for May 18 at 7 p.m.

The proposed budgets total about \$14.6 million, including a \$3.35 million municipal budget and an \$11.24 million education budget, the latter reflecting a 7.92% increase over the current year. About \$5.1 million is allocated to North Canaan Elementary School, while \$6.14 million represents the town's share of the Region One School District budget, which voters approved last week.

A public hearing on the budgets held April 20 lasted about three minutes and drew little public comment. Officials said the proposed budgets are not expected to face significant opposition.



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Our Towns



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

The swimming pond at Emery Park, which has been out of use for six years, will get an upgrade under the plan.

Kent moves forward with Emery Park master plan

By Alec Linden

KENT — The Kent Board of Selectmen accepted a \$37,000 proposal for a master project plan for the redesign of Emery Park during a special meeting Tuesday, May 5.

The proposal was brought to the town by the Parks and Recreation Commission, which has been discussing a comprehensive survey of the site with Meriden-based firm Cardinal Engineering since early March. The rehabilitation project for the park has centered around a defunct swimming pond — a stream-fed, man-made basin that has been out of use for six years — but Cardinal's plan intends to address general accessibility and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, which is requisite for municipal park facilities.

During the May 5 meeting, Parks and Recreation Director Matt Frasher said redesigning the swimming area without accounting for access would be irresponsible for what is intended to be a public resource. "If we're limiting access, we're really doing a disservice to the community," he said.

The plan is meant to address features of the lower section of the park beyond the swimming pond, including a playground, sloping

grassy field and proposed future installments such as toilets and showers.

Emery Park features a lower area with a pond, playground and several fields, surrounded by steep wooded hillsides with a growing network of hiking trails.

Late last year, an RFP was put out for just the swimming pond, but was later repealed due to issues with guidelines surrounding funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, \$100,000 of which had been granted to the town for the project.

These funds, known by the acronym ARPA, are highly regulated and have to be spent before the end of the year, or they will be retracted by the federal government. Treasurer Barbara Herbst reported on May 5 that she has been in communication with the state as to whether the funds can be used to finance the plan itself.

Cardinal's Vice President Timothy Cermola and engineer Roy Seelye were confident the funds will be applied to some aspect of the project that could be completed before the year's end, and will not go to waste.

They anticipate the survey will be complete by the end of summer, which will act as a guideline for more specific construction and design plans down the road.

Swift House Committee recommends nonprofit approach to fill funding gap

By Alec Linden

KENT — After two months of deliberation, the Swift House Investigative Committee presented its recommendations to the Board of Selectmen for the future handling of the historic — and controversial — downtown building: protect it with a preservation easement, build a nonprofit to steward it, and if all else fails, sell it.

The temporary committee was established by the selectmen in February to formulate a plan for the town-owned structure before the May budget vote, which is scheduled for the 29th. The late 18th century building has been owned by the town since 1974, but has been effectively defunct for several years with no clear path forward, sparking disagreement between residents who wish to keep it as a historic town asset and others who view it as a tax burden.

During a special meeting held by the BOS on May 5, James Anderson, chair of the committee and co-owner of Kent-based letterpress card outfit Saturn Press, suggested that the first step is to protect the iconic façade of the building that faces Route 341.

"Recognizing that future ownership is uncertain, there was a desire on the part of the committee to ensure that the exterior façade of the house is preserved as part of the streetscape," he said, recommending that the town place a preservation easement on that aspect of the structure.

The next move would be to initiate the process of finding the building a placement on the National Register of Historic Places, which Kent Historical Society President Christine Adams, who also sits on the committee, said is a crucial step in applying for external support. "Many won't look at an application unless it's registered," she said of the various grant-writing institutions who may consider



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

The Swift House Investigative Committee recommended the town place a preservation easement over the historic façade of the Swift House facing Route 341.

funding such a project.

If the town is to retain ownership, outside funding must be the priority, Anderson stated. He noted that there is a large gap between projected renovation costs, estimated at about \$2 million in a 2024 report by architecture firm Silver Petrucelli & Associates, and town capital funds available for the project.

Much of that sum would be dedicated towards bringing the building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, which is "non-optional" if the building remains under public ownership, Anderson said.

After the Board of Finance voted on April 14 to move \$200,000 over the line to 2032 in the Five Year Capital Plan, \$225,000 remains in the taxable part of the proposal. With the change, \$375,000 sits beyond the five year line for the Swift House, used for planning purposes but not actionable.

Part of the Investigative Committee's recommendation report was that any capital funds allocated towards the project be should kept, since most grants for this type of project are matched, meaning the town must contribute funds as well: "If we wish to secure these grants, then we're going to have to show that the town is willing to spend some of its resources to help... if we come in with zero, we're not going to get a warm reception is my prediction," Anderson said.

Anderson noted, with Selectman Lynn Harrington's support, that an additional way to appeal to grant makers is through a nonprofit rather than the municipality itself.

"A 501(c)(3) is a much better place to apply for grant money and go after resources that are external to the town," he said, explaining that with this approach, ownership could remain public.

He compared the ap-

proach of town support, nonprofit management and external funding to a "three-legged stool."

"That kind of three legged stool," he said, "is much more powerful than either a two legged stool, or a one legged stool, which is very unpowerful — you fall off it."

The report stipulates that if the nonprofit model proves dysfunctional after a year, the town should seek to sell the building.

Anderson urged that the town include in its 2026-2027 operating budget \$5,000 for a consultant to apply for a position on the Registry, as well as \$5,000 to fund a grant writer to kickstart the nonprofit effort.

The 2026-2027 municipal operating budget proposal contains a line of \$19,600 for general maintenance and basic repairs of the building, but "nothing that's going to make a dent in the work that needs to be done to make it usable as a town facility," Anderson said.

Selectman Lynn Harrington suggested the group should present its case to fund the two initiatives and bring the capital back over the line to the Board of Finance during the annual budget hearing on Friday, May 15.

"We'll beat the bushes and get as many people there as we can," said Marge Smith, curator at the Historical Society and a member of the Investigative Committee.

The BOS will review the Committee's recommendations during its next scheduled regular meeting on May 19.

A handmade tale

Salisbury group showcases locally made crafts and goods

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Handmade group of artists and craftspeople planned to host their spring sale on the lawn of the White Hart Saturday, May 9. Mother Nature had other plans, delivering a chilly and rainy day.

Karin Gerstel of Undermountain Weavers — and one of the event organizers — thanked the White Hart for accommodating the group inside, even though the inn was extra busy hosting a wedding.

One vendor, Leslie O'Neill of Lakeville, showcased her unique jewelry using seed beads, crystals, semiprecious stones and pearls. Some of the pieces on display had clean, geometric lines while others, O'Neill, said, were intentionally more "free form." She has been making and selling her jewelry since the 2010 Salisbury Fall Festival.

"I believe the urge to adorn is so ancient," she said. "It's a primal instinct."

Gina Amoroso showcased organic, plant-dyed, block-plated accessories for sale from her shop, Hettle.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Laura Hammond of Millbrook shows off greeting cards featuring her encaustic paintings of natural settings.

Scarves, wraps, napkins, socks and even scrunchies were made from leftover material. Amoroso, who lives in Becket, Massachusetts, said she has been in business since 2008 and is part of the Railroad Street Collective in Great Barrington.

Laura Hammond of Millbrook presented greeting cards using her encaustic

paintings in beeswax of natural settings, such as vernal pools or landscapes in different seasons.

Hammond said she doesn't have to travel far for inspiration. "And I am very grateful for that," she said.

The Salisbury Handmade website is www.artisansale.org. The next sale is Saturday, Oct. 10, at the White Hart.

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BUDGET

Continued from Page A1

turned out Friday night, and, in a break of tradition for a town meeting vote, were permitted to speak out during the proceedings for a short public comment period before the formal tally.

Many described frustration with what they viewed as inflexibility from the Board of Finance, which has pushed for flat budgets for years while attempting to correct a past accounting error that mistakenly placed capital expenses in the operating budget.

Due to a state law known as the minimum budget requirement, municipalities may not reduce education spending from the previous year, which the BOF has stated has left the BOE with an “inflated” budget.

Emily McGoldrick, who has two children at Sharon Day Care and one entering kindergarten next year, said SCS is primed for success, but it “can’t improve with its

hands tied behind its back.”

Anne Vance, former BOE member, echoed McGoldrick’s frustration. “My experience is the Board of Finance does not listen and does not negotiate,” she said.

Others, including BOE Chair Philip O’Reilly, pushed back against claims the school would be underfunded with the current budget. O’Reilly said he supported the proposal because the school is well-funded under its current financial planning, largely due to expected year-end surplus funds and other reserves, totaling close to a quarter million dollars.

Meghan Flanagan, a SCS parent, supported O’Reilly’s position.

“I am 100% yes,” she said, adding that “there is money in the school, and the kids are okay.”

Flanagan said she was encouraged by the strong display of community engagement and school support.

“There are bigger problems that I would like you all to get involved with,” she said, adding that “it’s not a money issue.”

Chip Kruger, another BOE member, also announced his support for the proposal, though Nancy Hegy-Martin, BOE vice chair, said she did not support the plan.

She gestured to the packed gym as testament to the importance of the issue of school funding.

“Look around!” she said, “Do you know what a joy it is to see this many young people at a meeting around here?”

After the comment period, the registrars tallied the votes, which were cast by paper ballot due to the large crowd. Usually, the budget vote is conducted via an oral “yea or nay” or a show of hands.

As votes were counted, residents gathered in small

groups around the room. Recent Sharon arrivals Jonathan Kupferer and Lara Dittkoff said they entered the meeting undecided, but swayed toward rejecting the proposal after hearing arguments that the denial of \$70,000 reflected stubbornness from the Board of Finance. “If it’s such a small amount, why is it such a big deal?” Kupferer said, but noted, “I’m still on the fence.”

Dittkoff agreed, but said she supports funding education as a fundamental value. “Every little bit towards the kids is money well spent,” she said.

After registrars shared the results, many noted the margin of 15 votes was tight.

BOF member John Hecht said that he was disappointed with the outcome – “unfortunately this was a vote of facts versus emotion.”

“When Philip O’Reilly stood up,” Hecht said of the BOE Chair’s testimony, “that

was proof that this budget fully supported Sharon students...no student would be harmed at all by this budget.”

He said he will prioritize working with the BOE and the town as the budget negotiations continue.

BOF Chair Tom Bartram said his takeaway was that “everybody got the message that [the townspeople] really don’t care if it adds to our minimum budget requirement and they want to see more funding get to the school.”

“But I’m just one of six,” he added.

The Board of Finance now must reconvene to find a solution, with discussions expected to continue at its next regular meeting on May 19. If a new budget is not approved by July 1, the town will revert to the current year’s spending plan until a new budget passes – effectively keeping the proposed flat education

budget in place for part of the next fiscal year.

Regardless of the outcome, many officials were pleased at the robust display of local politics Friday evening. Walking back to his car after the meeting, Chair O’Reilly said that no matter the vote, “the result is that we have an engaged public... that’s a win for the town.”

“I love it,” said First Selectman Flanagan. “It’s wonderful to see people engaged and I hope that it continues.”

The total town of Sharon spending plan – the combination of the municipal, elementary school and high school budgets, as proposed on Friday night totaled \$11,502,187. With Sharon’s contribution to Region One high school expenses, total education spending in town totals \$6,056,000. These figures could change as the BOF revisits the budget following Friday’s vote.

HOSPITAL

Continued from Page A1

public debate after Nuvance, which acquired the hospital in 2017, proposed closing the department, citing low birth volumes and the high cost of maintaining the services. The proposal sparked widespread backlash and led to the formation of the grassroots advocacy group Save Sharon Hospital.

Rallies were held over the years and numerous state officials voiced opposition to the plan, warning that the Northwest Corner and nearby parts of Dutchess County could become “maternal-care deserts” without local labor and delivery services.”

Connecticut’s Office of Health Strategy ultimately denied Nuvance’s certificate of need application – a state requirement before making major healthcare changes like shutting down a labor and delivery department – finding that it failed to meet five of the eight criteria.

Last year, following the merger of Northwell and Nuvance, an agreement with the Connecticut attorney general’s office required the maternity unit to remain open for at least five years.

A statement posted to Save Sharon Hospital’s website last spring said, “Sharon Hospital will now be under leadership that wants not only to improve and expand services at Sharon Hospital, but also to maintain its cur-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Emily and Dennis Le from New Milford welcomed baby Oliver to the world on May 11 at Sharon Hospital.

rent vital services such as maternity.”

In a statement, hospital officials said, “The health system’s integration with Nuvance Health has further strengthened the maternity and women’s health services at Sharon Hospital, ensuring

that families in the greater Sharon community receive exceptional care during one of life’s most precious moments.”

Christina McCulloch, president of the hospital, said, “Mother’s Day is a celebration of the love, strength

and resilience of mothers everywhere. Our labor and delivery team is honored to welcome new lives into the world, and this special gift from Northwell Health reflects our shared commitment to compassionate, high-quality maternity care.”

THEFT ATTEMPTS

Continued from Page A1

keeping exterior lights on when possible can prevent crimes from occurring.

He also urged residents to contact Troop B immediately if they witness any suspicious behavior.

“Working together and staying alert helps keep our communities safe,” he said.

Bunce also urged people to keep car key fobs inside and far enough away from vehicles that they cannot be detected remotely.

He said the incidents resemble a string of thefts that occurred in North Canaan roughly two years ago and were linked to suspected gang activity. During that spree, Town Clerk Krysti Segalla’s vehicle was stolen from her driveway after it was left unlocked with the key fob inside.

Segalla said the theft happened while she was pregnant, just one day after her baby shower. The vehicle was later traced to Waterbury, Connecticut, where authorities identified a group of teenage suspects. She recovered the car two days later.

“It smelled like weed, there were joints inside and my child’s toys were gone

from the back seat,” Segalla said.

She said she was later given the opportunity to recommend jail time or a corrective program for the teenagers and chose the latter, writing them a letter encouraging them to change course.

“There’s still time to change your lives around,” she recalled writing.

Bunce said he believes North Canaan is a target because it is generally viewed as a quiet community.

“That’s why they come here and pick on us,” he said. Bunce added that younger suspects are often used in these theft operations because they are less likely to face serious penalties. Segalla noted the teenagers involved in her case were first-time offenders.

Trooper Bronson said people committing these crimes “don’t typically do it in their own towns.”

“Generally, they come from out of town,” he said, adding that no suspects have been identified in connection with last week’s incidents.

Residents are urged to report suspicious activity to Troop B at 959-228-1779.

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PHOTO PROVIDED

Caroline Kinsolving and Gary Capozziello at home in Salisbury with their dogs, Petruccio and Beatrice

Two artists, two Hartford stages, one shared life

By Jennifer Almquist

Actor Caroline Kinsolving and violinist Gary Capozziello enjoy their quiet life with their two dogs in Salisbury, yet are often pulled apart to perform on distant stages in far-flung cities. Currently, the planets have aligned, and both are working in Hartford, across Bushnell Park from one another. Bridgewater native Kinsolving is starring in “Circus Fire,” the current production of TheaterWorks Hartford, while Capozziello is a violinist and assistant concertmaster of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. While Kinsolving hates being

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

ART

Summer exhibition opens at Wassaic Project

By Natalia Zukerman

The Wassaic Project, the 8,000-square-foot, seven-story former grain elevator transformed into a vibrant arts space, opens its 2026 Summer Exhibition, “Because, now is the time of monsters,” on Saturday, May 16, from 3-6 p.m. at Maxon Mills, launching a season-long presentation featuring 39 artists working across installation, performance, video and sculpture.

The opening celebration will include an afternoon of exhibitions and live programming throughout the historic mill building and its surrounding spaces. Gallery and Art Nest hours run from 12-6 p.m., with special presentations scheduled throughout the day.

Highlights include “Life’s a Game, Boy,” an end-of-year exhibition by the Wassaic Project’s JV and varsity art clubs (4-6 p.m.), showcasing work by students in grades 5-12 from across the region. At 4:30 p.m., artist Ace Lehner presents “Barbershop: The Art of

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INSIDE

SPORTS

Track and field athletes meet in Winsted

CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events

COMMUNITY

Trade Secrets: a glamorous garden event with a deeper mission

By Aly Morrissey

Tucked away on Porter Street in downtown Lakeville, Project SAGE is an unassuming building from a street view. But cross the threshold a week before Trade Secrets — one of the region’s biggest gardening events, long associated with Martha Stewart and glamorous plants of all varieties — and you’ll find a bustling world of employees and volunteers getting ready for the organization’s most important event of the year.

“It’s not usually like this,” laughed Project SAGE director Kristen van Ginhoven. “But with Trade Secrets just around the corner, it’s definitely like this.”

Van Ginhoven points to towers of boxes containing event programs, various ribbons, elegant decor and stacks of magazines, all in preparation for the event.

Project SAGE will celebrate its 26th year hosting Trade Secrets, but it’s so much more than a garden event.

“It’s a fundraiser for domestic violence prevention and intervention,” van Ginhoven said. “Anybody who attends knows they’re supporting a really meaningful and important cause.”

The fundraiser accounts for at least 30 percent of the organization’s overall budget, she said, and attracts around 3,000 people from across the region each year, creating an unmatched opportunity for Project SAGE to share its mission and generate support. The event, though expen-



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Heavy stone garden ornaments, a specialty of Judy Milne Antiques from Kingston, at Trade Secrets 2025.

sive to produce, generates enough income to significantly support Project SAGE’s direct services and prevention services.

Officials said a wave of new underwriters have emerged this year.

“We’re very grateful, because we live in a time when funding is uncertain,” van Ginhoven said.

Hundreds of copies of the annual Trade Secrets guide sat at Project SAGE headquarters, ready for distribution at the event. The book doubles as a domestic violence resource,

complete with warning signs, myth-busting information and scripts for difficult conversations.

Volunteers will be present throughout the event to connect with community members. Each volunteer must be certified as a domestic violence counselor in order to work with Project SAGE.

“It means they can help us drive clients, move clients, take them to appointments or the grocery store,” van Ginhoven said.

Project SAGE officials said education about domestic vi-

olence should start early. The organization has developed a comprehensive curriculum spanning early childhood through grade 12 and visits schools throughout the region. The class of 2026 will be the first graduating class at Housatonic Valley Regional High School to have received all four years of training from Project SAGE.

The organization’s partnerships extend throughout the region and include on-site training in schools and

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

FILM

Local filmmaker turns spotlight back on Hollywood’s Mermaid

By D.H. Callahan

For decades, Esther Williams was one of Hollywood’s brightest stars, but the swimming sensation of the silver screen has largely faded from public memory — a disappearance that intrigued Millerton filmmaker Brian Gersten and inspired him to revisit her legacy.

As a millennial, Gersten grew up largely unaware of Williams’ influential career. His teen years in Chicago were spent with friends who obsessed over movies, spending hours at their local independent video store, and watching anything that caught their eye. Somehow, though, they never ventured into the glossy world of synchronized-swimming musicals of the 1940s and ‘50s.

Gersten’s life changed when he first saw the documentary “Hoop Dreams,” which follows two young Chicago basketball players as they’re groomed and recruited by scouts with hopes of college stardom — and

possibly the NBA. These boys grew up just 40 minutes from Gersten’s home, yet their world felt far away. The film’s power pushed him to take his love of movies to the next level.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Colorado, Gersten realized documentaries were his passion. He enrolled

at the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies in Portland, Maine before heading to Wake Forest University in North Carolina, where he earned an MFA in documentary film.

Since then, Gersten has made a series of short, often heartwarming documentaries on subjects ranging from pigeon enthusiasts and hollerin’

competitions to the history of bowling in America and even Balloon Boy, the nickname for Falcon Heene, the child at the center of a bizarre media frenzy.

When he’s not making his own films, Gersten often edits and helps structure other proj-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3



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...Caroline Kinsolving and Gary Capozziello

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

away from home, she feels the distance nourishes their relationship.

"We are guardians of each other's confidence and self-esteem," she said.

"We met during the pandemic, a bleak time," Kinsolving said. "On our first date, we met at The Hickory Stick Bookshop and walked outside six feet apart. We fell in love."

They lived in a tiny studio near Averill Farm in Washington, Connecticut.

"He played his violin, I worked on my lines, we walked the dog, and suddenly we were circling each other perfectly," Capozziello said with a laugh. "When I told her I was a violinist, she mentioned 'Appalachian Spring' by Aaron Copland. I sent her a recording of me playing it, and it became our song."

"For our wedding, we wanted all our friends and family out in the field listening to that music," Kinsolving said. Capozziello's friends from Orchestra New England performed the piece at their wedding.

"Circus Fire," written by Connecticut's own Jacques Lamarre and directed by Jared Mezzocchi, is a multimedia world-premiere tribute to the Hartford Circus Fire. On July 6, 1944, the big top of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus caught fire, killing 167 and injuring 700 in Connecticut's worst fire disaster.

Capozziello, who grew up in Fairfield, began: "I came from very limited means, though my parents gave me the kind of support that mattered most. I had



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Caroline Kinsolving and Gary Capozziello

"He played his violin, I worked on my lines, we walked the dog, and suddenly we were circling each other perfectly."

CAROLINE KINSOLVING

a hard time in school. My music teachers, noticing my knack for music, kept me in school." As he became a teenager, he realized how demanding classical violin truly is. "I had the honor of playing in a master class for Isaac Stern when I was 18," he said. "That was the wake-up call. He was relentless with my intonation, telling me I must 'feel the fire in my belly.'"

At SUNY Purchase, he "met a wonderful violin teacher who taught me to play, study and practice five hours a day." Af-

ter studying at the New England Conservatory, Capozziello earned his doctorate from The Hartt School in 2018. He now teaches at The Hotchkiss School and performs with the Hartford Symphony.

He explained that his role as assistant concertmaster is the direct line between conductor and musicians, and that the orchestra is "a family dynamic, a democratic unit, truly a living, breathing organism."

On May 2, Capozziello was soloist with Orchestra New England, performing the world premiere of Neely Bruce's "Concerto for Violin," along with "The River" by Jan Swafford and Aaron Copland's "Appalachian Spring" at Battell Chapel at Yale.

"I care about bringing classical music into communities and spaces where people may not expect it," said Capozziello.

"Music is most powerful to me when it feels alive, human and accessible, not distant or formal."

For 20 years, Kinsolving has acted in film, television and theater in London, New York and Los Angeles. "I was first on-stage at Washington Montessori School playing Peter Pan," she said. "I improvised a line, got a laugh and liked the feeling."

She enjoys performing Shakespeare. "I love Titania's monologue because it speaks to our current climate crisis. Lady Macbeth surprised me. I fell in love with her while I was doing it. I could play those scenes forever; so much range and depth to explore," she said.

Kinsolving added, "I love Shakespeare's comedies for the fun and rhythm. I have loved Rosalind, Viola, Olivia, Helena and Kate, yet the top of my bucket list is Beatrice. Each character reflects a shade of my soul. Shakespeare had the brilliance to illuminate them. If I ever get a tattoo, it will be a list of their names."

Kinsolving, whose parents, poet Susan Kinsolving and author William Kinsolving, live in Lakeville, studied at Milton Academy, universities in China, and Vassar College. Her theater training includes Stella Adler Studio of Acting, Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, Yale Drama Intensive and she is currently studying online through Juilliard. She founded Theatre for Good, which donates its proceeds to charity.

Both artists are looking forward to June, when they will have more time to spend with their dogs.

... Trade Secrets

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Martha Stewart signing her new book at Trade Secrets 2025.

nonprofit organizations, including the Sharon Playhouse. Community support also goes directly to Project SAGE, including a recently donated array of colorful gift bags bearing posing affirmations and filled with toiletries and basic necessities from students at the Frederick Gunn School in Washington, Connecticut.

The people who visit Project SAGE have often left uncomfortable or dangerous situations and leave without any belongings.

"Some of them have nothing," van Ginhoven said. "They just show up because they had the courage to leave."

Project SAGE staff say many referrals come through local hospitals, police and sister agencies.

The organization serves people in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York.

With the stress of event planning mounting, van Ginhoven spent a "previous life" preparing for this exact moment. She spent 30 working at the intersection of arts and activism, having co-founded WAM Theatre, a Lenox-based organization focused on stories and issues affecting those who self-identify as women and girls. During her tenure, WAM donated \$100,000 to 25 local and global organizations working toward gender equity in areas such as girls' education, teen pregnancy prevention, gender-based violence, sexual trafficking awareness and midwife training.

"I love the adrenaline of putting on a show," van Ginhoven said with a laugh. With the help of volunteers and organizers, she said she isn't bothered by the stress.

"The show will go on," she said.

MUSIC

Hotchkiss to host inaugural International Piano Competition

By Natalia Zukerman

The Hotchkiss School will launch a major new addition to its arts programming with the inaugural Hotchkiss International Piano Competition, a three-day event taking place May 15-17 in Katherine M. Elfers Hall.

The competition will bring together young pianists ages 10 to 18 from around the world, with participants representing the United States, Thailand, Korea, China, Canada, and Azerbaijan. Performers will compete across multiple age divisions, culminating in final rounds that will be open to the public, offering audiences the opportunity to hear a wide range of emerging international talent in performance.

The jury features an internationally recognized panel of performers and educators, including Artistic Directors Fabio Witkowski and Gisele Nacif Witkowski of The Hotchkiss School, alongside Gloria Chien, Olga Kern, Leonel Morales, and Álvaro Teixeira Lopes. Together, the panel brings broad global experience as performers, pedagogues, and competition jurors, and will evaluate contestants over the course of the event.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Murong Yang '08, a founding supporter of the Hotchkiss International Music Competition, helped establish the program through the Yang and Hamabata families to support young musicians and artistic excellence.

The competition is made possible through founding support from the Yang and Hamabata families. Murong Yang (Class of 2008), whose experience at Hotchkiss shaped her early connection to music and the arts, and her husband Corey Hamabata envisioned a program that combines artistic rigor with personal growth

and international exchange. Their support establishes the competition as part of a longer-term commitment to nurturing emerging musical talent.

"This competition offers a platform for extraordinary young artists to challenge themselves, share their artistry, and connect with a global community of musicians," said Fabio Witkowski, Artistic Director.

The final rounds of the competition will be open to the public, inviting audiences to experience live performances from some of the most promising young pianists on the international stage.

More information is available at hotchkiss.org/piano-competition.

stage in their careers. Winners will receive a total of \$25,000 in prize awards, along with opportunities for broader recognition and future performance engagement.

Organizers describe the competition as both a rigorous artistic platform and an opportunity for cultural exchange, emphasizing performance under professional conditions and the development of young artists at a formative

At The Movies

		SHOWTIMES & TICKETS ►	
FRI 05/15 > THU 05/21		themoviehouse.net	
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2	THE SHEEP DETECTIVES	Sat. 5/16 @ 7PM Meet the Director HOLLYWOOD'S MERMAID + Q&A with BRIAN GERSTEN	
MORTAL KOMBAT II	THE A.I. DOC A Community	Tue. 5/19 @ 7PM & Sun May 24 @ 1PM Exhibition on Screen FRIDA KAHLO	
Conversation will follow the 7pm show on Wed. 5/20 led by JENNIE BAIRD of The Ethical Tech Project.			
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ART

Open Studios by Upstate Art Weekend invites visitors inside 240 workspaces

By Natalia Zukerman

Art lovers will have an opportunity to step inside working artist's studios across the region next weekend as Open Studios by Upstate Art Weekend returns Saturday, May 16, and Sunday, May 17, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The annual event invites the public into the creative spaces of 240 artists throughout the Hudson Valley and Catskills, offering an intimate look at artistic practices across disciplines while fostering direct connections between artists and visitors.

This year marks the first standalone edition of Open Studios. While the event previously took place alongside June's Upstate Art Weekend festival, founder Helen Toomer said dedicating an entire weekend to studio visits allows the focus to remain fully on artists and the experience of encountering their work where it is made.

"While Open Studios previously took place alongside Upstate Art Weekend in June, dedicating an entire weekend to studios allows the focus to remain fully on the artists and the experience of visiting them in their creative spaces," said Toomer. "We're excited to welcome both returning and



PHOTO PROVIDED

"Untitled" by Christine Domanic, one of the 37 artists featured in "Earthen Plot," opening Friday, May 15.

new participants this year."

Founded in 2020, Upstate Art Weekend has grown into a major regional arts platform spotlighting artists, organizations and creative communities throughout the Hudson Valley and Catskills.

The self-guided, region-wide program transforms private studios into temporary public spaces for conversation, discovery and engagement with contemporary art.

Toomer said the shift creates a distinctly different experience from the larger June festival.

"One of the biggest differences from June is the pace and focus," she said. "Open Studios offers a more intimate experience — giving visitors time to connect directly with artists, see where work is made, and engage more deeply with their practices."

She added that the two events complement one another.

"Together, the two events create a meaningful balance: Open Studios in May centers

the artists, while June's Upstate Art Weekend gives participating artists the opportunity to explore the region's museums, galleries and organizations themselves."

This year's Open Studios will kick off with the opening reception for "Earthen Plot," a group exhibition curated by Toomer, from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, May 15, at UAW headquarters in Kingston.

The exhibition features work by 37 artists selected from more than 200 Open Studios participants and explores artistic practices shaped by place — physically, spiritually and intuitively.

Through sculpture, painting, installation and ephemeral forms, "Earthen Plot" examines relationships between land, material and environment.

The exhibition will remain on view through June 29, with regular Saturday hours and extended hours during Open Studios weekend and Upstate Art Weekend, which takes place June 25-29.

Visitors can plan their Open Studios routes using UAW's online interactive map and create customized itineraries to explore studios across the region.

"More than anything, we hope both weekends encourage people to discover the richness of the Hudson Valley's creative community in a personal and memorable way," Toomer said.

More information is available at upstateartweekend.org.

... mermaids

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO PROVIDED

Esther Williams in "Million Dollar Mermaid" (1952).

ects, including the cycling documentary "Enter the Slipstream" and "Radical Wolfe," a profile of writer Tom Wolfe.

It was while editing one of these projects that Gersten first encountered Williams.

"Who was this figure? What was going on in these films?" he wondered.

What he learned fascinated him. Williams starred in over 30 movies despite having no formal acting training. A champion swimmer, she made the 1940 U.S. Olympic team, but when the games were canceled because of World War II, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer saw an opportunity.

Studio scouts recruited Williams, and she took to film like a fish to water. Her confidence, athleticism and, crucially for Hollywood, photogenic looks lit up the silver

screen. In 1944, "Bathing Beauty" rocketed her to stardom.

For nearly two decades, Williams starred in one or two films a year, including "Million Dollar Mermaid" and "Skirts Ahoy!". But as Hollywood turned toward grittier fare, synchronized-swimming spectacles fell out of fashion.

Williams stepped away from the camera, and her fame slowly receded — until Gersten stumbled across a clip and dove in.

Gersten's short documentary, "Hollywood's Mermaid" (2026) will screen alongside "Bathing Beauty" (1944) at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at The Moviehouse in Millerton. It will also screen later this month at the Berkshire International Film Festival. Tickets are available at themoviehouse.net.

Trash or treasure? Choose your groundcover with care

This brief period in the spring, before the mosquitoes and poison ivy proliferate, is irresistible to me. I want to do everything all at once: plant, remove invasives, examine what is coming into leaf and tend to plants that need protection, whether from deer or downy mildew.

Amid the nonstop gardening work, I recently made time to join a tour of two nearby gardens. Each had a fascinating history, and we looked at photos to see how much had changed and what was still there and flourishing, including a stand of large yellowroot with delicate brown-and-yellow flowers that look like a cross between an orchid and a lilac. It has been there for decades, a lesson in successful gardening with native plants.

As we toured, I overheard someone grumble about having too much wild strawberry in their garden. I secretly laughed, as I have worked for several years to encourage the spread of this sweet plant with its pert white flowers and miniature fruit. I have planted it under trees, encouraged it along woodland paths, and sat on the edges of the lawn for hours pulling out the very similar mock strawberry, *Potentilla indica*, to allow the native one to proliferate.

One of its characteristics is that it spreads readily, given room. As a groundcover, it also controls erosion. According



The Ungardener
Dee Salomon

to Native Plant Trust, *Fragaria virginiana* supports 75 different species of butterflies and moths throughout their life cycles and supports numerous other insects, as well as mammals and birds. This makes it a "keystone" plant, a designation that means without it, an ecosystem is vulnerable to collapse. That is a big responsibility for a small plant.

One person's trash is another's treasure. On the very same garden tour, another person was extolling the flowering lily of the valley, *Convallaria majalis*, situated in a stone-walled bed. I used to feel the same way until I noticed large swaths of it growing in the woods.

This romantic and fragrant flowering plant is a wolf in sheep's clothing. Its deep rhizomatous roots crowd out native groundcover neighbors. Lily of the valley is highly toxic to mammals and, as a nonnative, supports only a few insects that use its pollen. I have tried digging and pulling it out to no avail. This year, I am using a strimmer, aka weed whacker, even though I risk damaging

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

...Wassaic Project

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Queer Failure," a participatory performance and installation that reimagines the barbershop as a space for queer world-making through improvised haircuts and collaborative exchange. Haircuts will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.

In the evening, artist Nate King will present "When I Was Younger and Now That I'm Older" (8-10 p.m.), a projection work that transforms the facade of Maxon Mills into a shifting visual field of memory, geometry and childhood imagery, reflecting on time, age and perception.

The exhibition, organized by the Wassaic Project, will be on view through Sept. 12 and brings together a wide range of contemporary artists working in and around the Hudson Valley region. More information is available at wassaicproject.org.

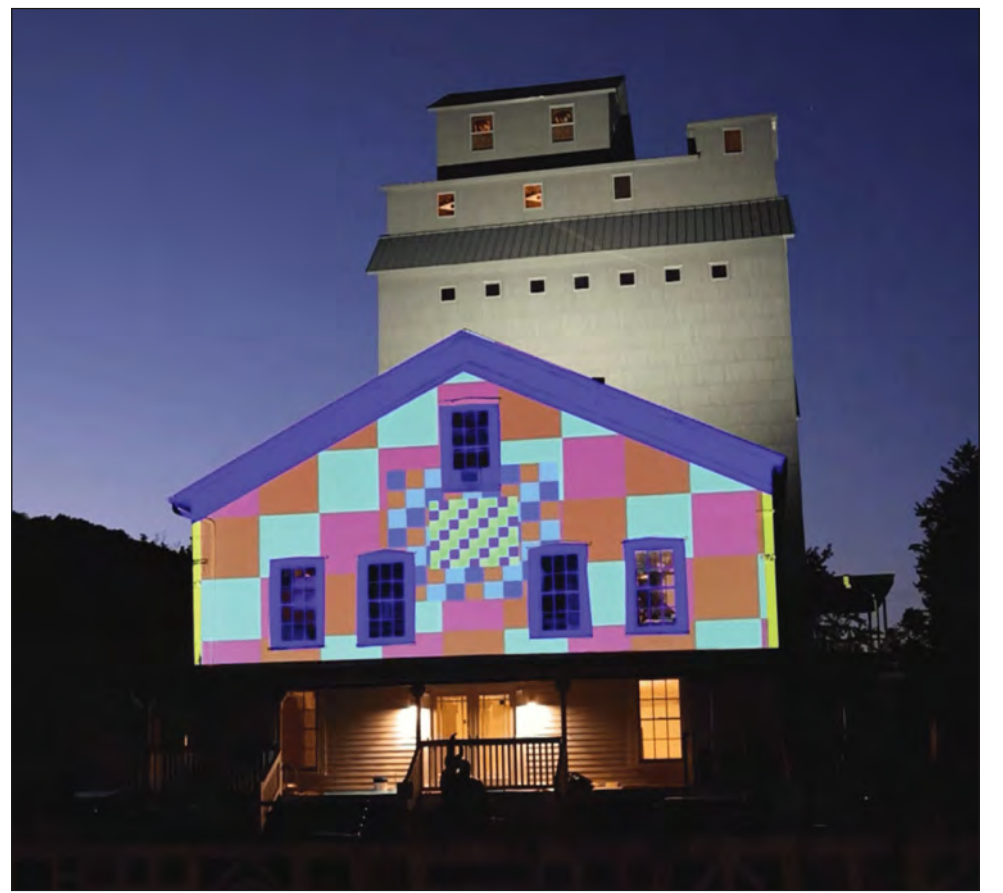


PHOTO COURTESY NATE KING

Nate King, "When I Was Younger And Now That I'm Older," 2026, Digital projection, digital animation, photography.

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Dahlia Daze is a multi-farm dahlia tuber festival and seedling sale featuring local growers, rare varieties, and plant starts, plus a Dahlia Talk on Saturday at 2 p.m. at Foxrot Farm & Flowers, 6862 NY-82, Stanfordville. Reservations required at foxrotfarmflowers.com

PHOTO PROVIDED

Tri-Corner Calendar

MAY 14

Fly Tying Meetup

The Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. The Center on Main launches its new Monthly Meetup Series with this free, casual gathering for fly tyers and anyone curious about the craft. Drop in anytime from 6 to 8 p.m. to swap fishing stories, learn tips and techniques, and connect with fellow makers. Participants should bring their own equipment and materials. Additional meetups are scheduled for June 4 and July 23.

Blue and Gold Student Art Show Opening Reception

Kearcher-Monsell Gallery, Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Falls Village, Conn. The 22nd annual juried student art show opens to the public from 4 to 6 p.m., with an awards ceremony at 5 p.m. The exhibition features more than 100 works by student artists, including photography, sculpture, painting and ceramics, with many pieces available for purchase. Admission is free, and all are welcome. The Sharon Woman's Club will also raffle a quilt during the event.

Nourish Neighbors

Various locations (Millerton, Lakeville, Amenia, Salisbury, Wassaic, Pine Plains, Falls Village) May 11-17

The second annual Nourish Neighbors returns, bringing together 18 area restaurants, cafés and shops for a weeklong community fundraiser supporting the Tri Corner FEED Food Sovereignty Fund. For a list of participating restaurants, visit nourishingneighbors.org

The Spotted Lanternfly: Connecticut's Uninvited Guest

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org 2 p.m. Entomologist Dr. Gale Ridge of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station discusses the invasive insect's spread, life cycle and how to protect local plants and trees.

Genre Fiction Book Club

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org Discussion of "The Stolen Crown" by Susan Higginbotham, with conversation and snacks, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Copies available to borrow. Registration appreciated at scovillelibrary.org

MAY 15

Wassaic Commons Farmers Market

Wassaic Commons Farmers Market, 3 Main St., Wassaic, N.Y. Debut of new indoor farmers market at 4 p.m. on Friday. It will also run Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hotchkiss International Piano Competition

Katherine M. Elfers Hall, Esther Eastman Music Center, The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn. May 15-17

The Hotchkiss School presents the inaugural Hotchkiss International Piano Competition, welcoming exceptional young pianists ages 10 to 18 from around the world to compete before an internationally acclaimed jury. Artistic Directors Fabio Witkowski and Gisele Nacif Witkowski are joined by Gloria Chien, Olga Kern, Leonel Morales and Alvaro Teixeira Lopes. Final rounds are open to the public. Cash prizes total \$25,000. For more information, visit hotchkiss.org/piano-competition.

Amanda Forsyth Cabaret Performance
The Grace Note at The Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. 7:30 p.m.

Internationally acclaimed, Juno Award-winning cellist Amanda Forsyth brings an intimate cabaret performance to The Grace Note, blending lush melodies, humor and storytelling in a one-woman program directed by Doug Fitch and joined by pianist Danny Zelibor. This genre-crossing evening offers a playful and personal look at Forsyth's artistry beyond the classical stage. Tickets: thestissingcenter.org.

Master Gardener Plant Sale Fundraiser

Cornell Cooperative Extension Farm and Home Center, 2715 Route 44, Millbrook, N.Y. May 15-16

Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Annual sale featuring annuals, perennials, vegetables and herbs grown by Master Gardener volunteers. Information booth, gardening advice and soil test kits available. Proceeds support community horticulture programs and outreach.

100 Years of Movies

Mahaive Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass. The Mahaive's popular summer film series returns with introductions by director Deborah Reinisch. Screenings include the classic comedies and dramas *Bringing Up Baby* (May 15), *The Big Sleep* (May 22), *All About Eve* (June 6), *North by Northwest* (June 18) and *The French Connection* (July 5), with additional films to be announced. \$8; \$5 ages 12 and under. Most screenings 7 p.m. More info at mahaive.org

MAY 16

Spring Migration Bird Walk & Brunch for Women

Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn. A women-focused spring bird walk and brunch led by Bethany Sheffer at Miles Wildlife Sanctuary. Participants will explore a bird-rich and historically significant property known for warblers and scenic features, followed by a brunch with vegan and gluten-free options. The program is designed for women and those who identify as women. Pre-registration is required at audubon.org/sharon

Trade Secrets

Various Locations May 15-17

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

Annual garden tours begin Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., followed by Sunday's rare plants and garden antiques sale from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lime Rock Park.

Pete Seeger: A Life in Song

Twelve Moons Coffeehouse at The Center on Main 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. Presented by The Juckets, a musical celebration of a great American activist at Twelve Moons Coffeehouse. 7 p.m. Tickets available online or at the door.

Homegrown Plant Sale

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org May 16-17

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Annual sale featuring tomatoes, vegetables, annuals, perennials and houseplants from local growers and HVRHS. Proceeds benefit the library and HVRHS; details at huntlibrary.org.

Meet the Director: "Hollywood's Mermaid" & "Bathing Beauty" + Q&A

The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. 7 p.m. Screening of "Hollywood's Mermaid: The Esther Williams Story" and the 1944 film "Bathing Beauty," followed by a discussion and Q&A with director Brian Gersten. Tickets at themoviehouse.net

Volunteer Fair

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fifth annual fair connecting residents with local organizations focused on animal welfare, food security, literacy, health and more.

Because, Now Is the Time of Monsters: 2026 Summer Exhibition Opening Reception

Wassaic Project, 37 Furnace Bank Road, Wassaic, N.Y. May 16 (through September 12)

Group exhibition curated by Eve Biddle, Bowie Zunino, Jeff Barnett-Winsby and Will Hutnick, featuring 39 artists exploring contemporary themes through installation, photography, painting and sculpture. Opening reception May 16, 3 to 6 p.m.

MAY 17

Denim Salon Conversation

Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Rd., Amenia, N.Y. AVANT founder Eric Maggiori and denim specialist Spencer Barksdale discuss the history and cultural meaning of denim, with archival garments on view; 3 p.m. Free with RSVP. at troutbeck.com

The Four Seasons x 2: Vivaldi and Piazzolla

Mahaive Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass. Close Encounters With Music presents the Vivace Baroque Orchestra with violin soloist Siwoo Kim performing works by Vivaldi and Piazzolla at 4 p.m.

Book Launch: Tom Shachtman, A Jericho's Cobble Miscellany

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org Author Tom Shachtman, in

... The Ungardener

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

nearby plants. I am hoping that after doing this a few times over the next several years, I will succeed in getting rid of it. I will keep you posted.

Native groundcover may not be our first thought when we garden, but it is an easy and fundamental way to tie together a garden bed, especially when garden plants are still immature, while helping nature at the same time.

In addition to wild strawberry, another keystone groundcover in our area is violet; it is the exclusive larval host plant



PHOTO BY DEE SALOMON

Violets, a keystone groundcover.

for dozens of fritillary butterfly species. They are flowering now in numerous shades of their namesake color. I find them to be a native treasure, too long taken for granted and eschewed for fancier plants.

In shady areas, two gorgeous native options are foamflower, *Tiarella cordifolia*, which has a delightful early spring flower — a 4-inch spike of tiny white foamy blooms — and wild ginger, *Asarum canadense*, a dignified option that creates a bed of overlapping semicircles completely covering the soil beneath.

If you are looking for something that forms a clump, the species *Heuchera americana* and *Heuchera villosa* are known as alumroot or coral bells. Finding the original species version can be diffi-

cult, as there is an abundance of colorful cultivars at nurseries. Aside from being too flashy for my taste, the versions with red and purple tones will be largely ignored by the native insects we are trying to protect. Stay away from those and stick with the green-leaved versions.

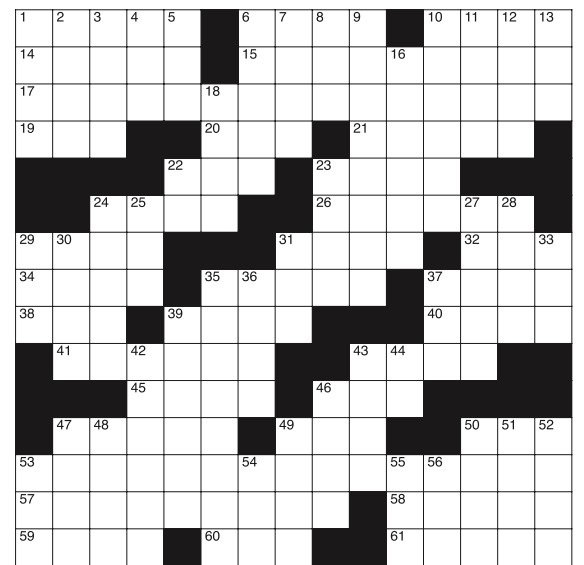
Where do you find these and other useful and beautiful plants? The Cornwall Garden Club is hosting its annual native plant sale Saturday, May 23, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the terrace at The Pink House Restaurant, 34 Lower River Road in West Cornwall. I will be there, as will Michella Paladino from Lindera Nursery and Heidi Cunnick from the Cornwall Conservation Commission. Come visit and say hello.

Dee Salomon 'ungardens' in Litchfield County.

Brain Teasers

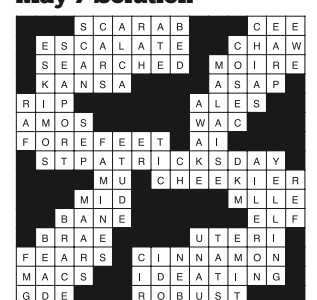
CLUES ACROSS

- Notable casino destination
- Current units
- Roman military unit
- American lizard
- Fates
- The Yankees have lots of these
- Unhappy
- Mimic
- Remove from the record
- Where cargo ships dock (abbr.)
- A way to fight
- Turfs
- Contract
- Country along the Arabian peninsula
- Tree species
- Pituitary gland secretion (abbr.)
- Perfect
- "Partner" to groans
- Jewish calendar month
- Where wrestlers work
- Egotistical
- Potted plants
- Containers
- Large, flightless birds
- Part of a book
- American spies
- Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
- Swiss river
- Disfigure
- Have surgery
- Formal withdrawal
- Early English council
- Area units
- 2,000 lbs.
- Siskel and ___



- Vale
- Former CIA
- Middle Eastern nation
- Exhausts
- South Dakota
- The complete duration of something
- Kids love him
- Singular
- Cod genus
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- Resistance unit
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Cast out
- 60-minute periods
- Most worn
- European river
- Atomic mass unit
- Items of food
- Body parts
- Ireland
- Partner to Pa
- Sammy ___, songwriter
- Dutch settler
- Full-grown pike fish
- Sun or solar disk
- Minute arachnid
- From a distance
- A monthly expense
- Young women's association
- Brazilian state
- Air freight provider
- Pointed end of a pen

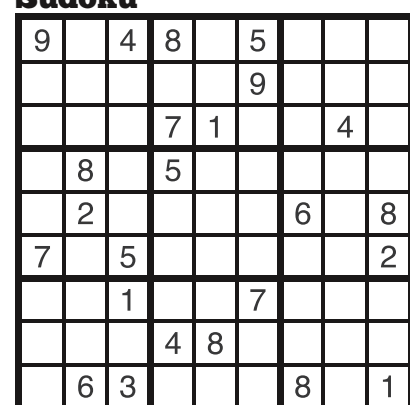
May 7 Solution



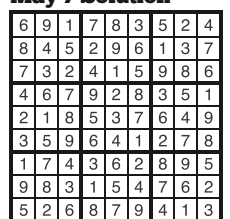
CLUES DOWN

- Animal jaws
- Small water buffalo
- An appliance has one
- Every
- Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- Very skilled
- No more than what is specified
- Tire measurement
- Towers
- Forward
- Jacob ___, American journalist

Sudoku



May 7 Solution



Level: Intermediate



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Sports

Track and field athletes meet in Winsted

By Riley Klein

WINSTED – Northwest-ern Regional High School hosted varsity track teams from Housatonic Valley Regional High School and Terryville High School Tuesday, May 5.

The sunny afternoon of competition featured 18 events for boys and 17 events for girls – there were no female pole vaulters.

The meet was well attended with spectators lining the fence around the track.

In team scores Northwest-ern won, followed by Housatonic and then Terryville. As for individual winners, Housatonic placed first in 18 events, Northwestern won 14 events and Terryville won three events.

Many competitors set new personal bests and season bests. For full results, visit athletic.net/TrackAndField/meet/663562/results/all



Hannah Johnson runs the 1600m.

PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN



Rand Copley and Simon Markow in the 110m hurdles.



Housatonic Valley Regional High School placed second in team scores Tuesday, May 5.



Cole Simonds jumped 17 feet, 10.5 inches.

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