

The Lakeville Journal

Small Business Spotlight, Page A4

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THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026 \$3.00

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



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Lime Rock opens season with Trans Am Memorial Day Classic.

Lime Rock summer season off to the races, with regulation change under review

By Alec Linden

LIME ROCK – Lime Rock Park's 2026 summer season is underway following a packed Memorial Day weekend that drew large crowds for the Trans Am Memorial Day Classic – three days of car shows and professional road racing.

The season opened as proposed regulatory changes – shaped by longstanding tensions between the track and its neighbors – remain under review while signaling growing cooperation between residents and Lime Rock's leadership team. For years, neighbors have raised concerns about noise and sought to preserve the track's longstanding ban on Sunday racing, while Lime Rock officials have pushed to maintain a full season of motorized and non-motorized programming.

The parties reached an agreement earlier this month that calls

for updating the decades-old operating rules for Lime Rock Park. The deal features preserving the Sunday ban, while establishing new limits on racing hours, unmuffled events, drifting and overnight activity. The deal allows a limited number of non-racing events on select Sundays.

"This is a win for the Northwest Corner of Connecticut," said Lime Rock President and CEO Dicky Riegel of the agreement, which was approved by the state Superior Court in Torrington on May 12 as a stipulation to an original 1959 injunction that banned racing on Sundays in the Park. Under the new rules, Sunday racing remains banned, Riegel assured.

Although the agreement has already been approved by Superior Court and is now governing the

See LIME ROCK PARK, Page A10

Rain, remembrance mark Memorial Day across northwest Connecticut

Under gray skies and following a weekend of rain, communities across northwest Connecticut gathered Monday for solemn Memorial Day observances honoring members of the armed forces who died in military service.

Parades, ceremonies and tributes throughout the region brought together veterans, local officials, emergency responders, marching groups and residents in a shared day of remembrance, reflection and gratitude – longstanding traditions centered not on celebration, but on honoring those who never returned home.

For full story and more photos, see page A7.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Region One inches closer to study on enrollment declines, rising costs

By Alec Linden

FALLS VILLAGE – Facing declining enrollment and soaring per-pupil costs – many of which are the highest in the state – Region One is moving closer to launching a wide-ranging study that could

shape the future of education in the Northwest Corner. The proposal, first introduced in March, was revisited at a May 21 meeting and now heads to member towns to decide whether they'll participate.

At last week's ABC meeting – the All Board Chairs Committee, which includes Board of Education chairs from each of Region One's six member towns – Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley presented a proposal for a long-term investigation into how the district might address declining enrollment and rising costs. While officials stressed no decisions have been made, the study could include discussions about regionalization and potential school consolidation – a contentious subject for years among Region One towns.

"Class sizes are getting smaller, populations are getting smaller, and, unfortunately, the cost of everything is rising," Brady-Shanley said. She said the investigation will analyze "demographic trends, enrollment patterns and

operational capacities" to establish a "future-focused framework that maximizes opportunities for students, strengthens and aligns academic programming and responsibly stewards community resources."

Brady-Shanley was careful to explain that the study would be informative, not prescriptive, so that each town could use the data to make informed decisions regarding the future of its school.

Salisbury BOE Chair David Valcin, who also heads the ABC Committee, agreed. "The intent is to look at whether there are any ways in which we can reorganize ourselves better," he said. "It's asking the question – it's not proposing anything."

Falls Village BOE Chair Pat Mechare said she hopes the value of a local school is considered if the study is undertaken, and not overshadowed by the financials.

She said there is an ineffable quality to the region's towns that

See SCHOOLS, Page A10

North Canaan reclaims 27-acre Camp Brook Greenway after 35-year effort

By Christian Murray

NORTH CANAAN – The Town of North Canaan has acquired the now overgrown Camp Brook Greenway parcel, a 27.45-acre property located behind Caddy Shack and State Line Pizza, with plans to revive it as a destination for recreation and walking trails.

The parcel includes wooded trails and looping paths that many longtime residents remember using decades ago. First Selectman Jesse Bunce said the property once served as a place for short hikes and out-

See GREENWAY, Page A10



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

The overgrown Camp Brook Greenway will return to its roots, offering residents outdoor recreation opportunities.



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Local Matters

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See ad on page B3

In The Journal this week

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Online This Week

People and Places event

Eric Sloane Museum offers a window into early American craftsmanship and art during People and Places event in Kent. 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.

Asleep at the wheel accident

Michael Maston, 20, of Torrington was driving west on Route 128 in Cornwall at approximately 8 a.m. on May 16 when he fell asleep, veering off the road and striking a tree. Maston reported no injuries but the Jeep Liberty Sport he drove was towed. He was issued a written warning for failure to maintain lane.

Stop sign semi-truck crash

Near midday on May 16, Lawrence Carlson, 65, of East Canaan was driving a semi-truck belonging to Laurelbrook Farms on Route 7 in Falls Village. At the same time, Jacob Ellison, 20, of Guilford, Connecticut arrived at the intersection with Route 7 from Page Road, and failing to stop, collided with the semi. The truck was undamaged, and Ellison's Toyota Tacoma sustained minor

damage. Neither driver was injured. Ellison was issued a written warning for failure to obey a stop sign.

Operating under the influence arrest

At approximately 3:30 p.m. on May 16, troopers were dispatched to Railroad Street in North Canaan on the report of a driver slumped over the wheel. Upon arriving, troopers determined that the driver, Kenneth Whitman, 68, of Ancram, New York, showed signs of intoxication. He was placed under arrest for illegal operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and was released on a \$500 non-surety bond. He is scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on June 5.

Collision with oncoming vehicle

On the afternoon of May 18, Kerry Magrath, 50, of Meriden, Connecticut was driving a GMC Terrain SLE south on Route 7 just north of the intersection with Page Road in Falls Village. While rounding a curve, she drift-

Kent median home price remains above \$600,000 amid limited inventory

By Christine Bates

KENT – Kent's housing market remained relatively stable this spring, with home prices holding steady despite a limited number of sales and continued tight inventory.

The 12-month trailing median sale price for a single-family home in Kent —

excluding condominiums — was \$607,500 at the end of April, unchanged from January, February and March. The figure reflects a market that has leveled off after several years of sharp price increases during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Even with the recent stabilization, prices remain significantly higher than pre-pandemic levels. The current median is 35% above the \$450,000 median recorded during the 12-month period ending April 30, 2025, and sits just 3% above the \$590,000 median recorded for the comparable period ending April 30, 2024.

Kent's highest trailing 12-month median price was reached in July 2024, when it climbed to \$753,000.

Sales activity has also remained relatively consistent in recent months. A total of 28 single-family homes sold during the 12-month period ending April 30, 2026, averaging roughly two to three sales per month during the first four months of the year. By comparison, 23 homes sold during the previous 12-month period, while 32 homes sold during the year ending April 30, 2024.

The market remains well below the pace seen during the height of the pandemic-era buying frenzy, when annual sales peaked at 81 transactions during the 12-month period ending May 2021.

Inventory began to expand entering the spring selling season. In mid-May, 14 single-family homes were listed for sale in Kent, up from seven listings in March. Four new properties priced



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Built in 1979, 132 South Kent Road has a primary bedroom on the first floor with a fireplace and three bedrooms upstairs. It sold for \$555,000 in April well under the median price of \$607,500 for the Town of Kent.

above \$1 million entered the market during the previous week alone.

Despite the increase in listings, lower-priced inventory remains scarce. Only three homes were listed below \$1 million in mid-May, and none were priced below the town's current trailing 12-month median price of \$607,500.

Homes in Kent also continue to sell close to asking price, typically closing at between 98% and 100% of their listed value.

March & April Transfers in Kent

Richards Road – Approximately 5 acres of vacant land transferred by Philip Helmut Mader and Helmut Mader to Jason Dubray on March 3, 2026, for \$215,000

80 North Main Street, Unit #B2U2A1 – 1 bedroom/1 bath first floor 858 square foot condo transferred by Margaret Doncecker on March 20, 2026, to Old Town Hall LLC for \$310,000

80 North Main Street – 2 bedroom/2 bath condo transferred by Susan Guillen to Gregory and Judith Sheridan on April 1, 2026, for \$395,000

132 S. Kent Road – 4 bedroom/2.5 bath colonial on 2.469 acres transferred by Kathy M Brown, Kathy P Brown, James Palmer Jr, and Scott Palmer to Caterina Conti on April 28, 2026, for \$555,000

** Town of Kent real estate transfers recorded between March 1, 2026, and April 30, 2026, provided by Kent Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS and market data from Info Sparks. Note that recorded transfers frequently lag sales by a number of days.*

Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.

Correction

In last week's Police Blotter, Troop B incorrectly identified Nicholas Brazzale of Salisbury as the operator of a 2016 Ford F250 involved in a collision with a motorcycle. Troop B later clarified that the operator was Brian Brazzale, 34, of Sharon.

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

Check them out inside.

- The Lakeville Journal
- Ocean State Job Lot
- AARP

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Our Towns

Salisbury reverend announces retirement after seven years

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY – Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson of the Salisbury Congregational Church will retire Sunday, June 14, after leading the church through the COVID-19 pandemic and a period of renewed community engagement and growth.

“I wanted to retire as thoughtfully as possible,” he said, noting the decision came after “two years of thinking and praying about it.”

Nelson came to the Salisbury church in April 2019, just months before the pandemic transformed church life and forced congregations nationwide to rethink how they gathered and worshipped.

One of the defining challenges of his tenure came shortly afterward, when the church had to quickly adapt to pandemic restrictions. Nelson said the congregation initially

spaced choir members six feet apart and made services available on YouTube.

The first attempts at streaming were less than seamless.

“It was a lot of work,” Nelson said. “It was awkward. The quality wasn’t great.”

Over time, however, the church developed more polished recorded services that included music, lay readings, sermons and pre-recorded music.

“I taught myself video production,” he said.

In addition to the logistical hurdles of navigating the pandemic, Nelson said the church also grappled with the spiritual health of the congregation. He said it was clear that people were distressed.

“My phone wasn’t ringing off the hook, but the pandemic was so front of mind for everybody,” he said. “It was so destabilizing spiritually, economically. There was an abiding

sense of fatigue.”

Some lasting changes emerged from that time period. Nelson said the experience made church leadership realize the importance of finding ways for people to participate in worship or church meetings using Zoom or a streaming service.

Today, church meetings are now all hybrid, and the services have eight to 10 regular watchers. Nelson said this benefits “people who can’t get out or who live at a distance but want to stay connected.”

Under Nelson’s leadership, the church also established two Bible study groups — one for men, one for women.

“Those are really important for the participants,” he said.

Nelson also pointed to a “visioning” process as one of the highlights of his time in Salisbury.

“It’s been one of the better ones I’ve experienced,”

Nelson said.

The effort included forming small groups, hiring a consultant and developing an action plan focused on increasing “the visibility of the church as a hub of spiritual activity, of faith, of the community, of learning and of music.”

“Let’s see how quickly we can wear the carpets out,” Nelson remembers saying.

One visible result of that project includes the church’s First Friday concert series, held at noon on the first Friday of each month.

“These have been just phenomenal concerts,” said Nelson, who is a musician himself. “We’re lucky that [music director] David Baranowski has so many talented friends.”

The church also launched a NetZero initiative that included upgrades to lighting, heating and cooling systems, as well as the installation of an elec-



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson of the Salisbury Congregational Church will retire Sunday, June 14.

tric vehicle charger aimed at reducing emissions.

As he prepares to step away from ministry, Nelson said he believes the church is in “a really strong place.”

The congregation currently has 170 members, with average attendance around 75 people.

“That’s an energized church,” he said.

Nelson credited much of that success to the church leadership, which he described as “thoughtful and positive.”

In his retirement, Nelson plans to spend more time with his wife, Angela Lomanto, their children and grandchildren. He will also focus on beekeeping, traveling, woodworking and taking piano lessons.

Farmers market brews up success in Colebrook

By John Coston

COLEBROOK – More than 100 people turned out Wednesday, May 20, for the inaugural Northwest Farm to Fork farmers market at Norbrook Farm Brewery, where 12 vendors gathered under the venue’s new pavilion to sell locally grown food, baked goods and farm products.

Held at 204 Stillman Hill Road on the Colebrook-Norfolk line, the market featured a mix of local farms, food vendors and live music.

Fifteen-year-old Bailey Carlotto of Sheffield’s Rolling Rock Farm brought her gentle chicken, “Blondie,” for visitors to pet. Ty Ford, an East Canaan farmer, offered locally raised meats, rhubarb and baked goods. And The Stead Farm in



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON
Founders Devin Grosso, left, April Carter, middle, and Lisa Auclair attract a large crowd at the inaugural farmer’s market May 20.

Barkhamsted brought an assortment of lamb products, many of which sold out early.

“I’m just happy to see farmers coming together with the locals,” said April Carter, a fifth-generation farmer in Torrington. “It’s

nice to have an easy, relaxing evening.”

Carter is one of three women who teamed up to launch the market after Norfolk’s farmers market closed last year. The other two founders are Devin Grosso and Lisa Auclair,

both of Norfolk.

Grosso said the market will be held every third Wednesday through October, with 18 vendors expected at the June 17 event.

The atmosphere was festive, with live music and a beer truck.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BAUER FUND AND FOUNDATION COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Through grants to colleges, The Bauer Foundation provides indirect scholarship assistance for undergraduate college education to students residing in The Connecticut Regional School District One based on merit and need.

The Bauer Fund operates in the same manner. However, grants from the Fund are limited to students attending either Cornell or Wellesley.

Students attending Cornell or Wellesley should apply to the Fund. All others should apply to the Foundation.

New and returning application forms for the 2026-2027 school year are available at: www.bauerfundfoundation.org.

Completed and fully documented applications must be returned to The Bauer Foundation at PO Box 1784 Lakeville CT 06039-postmarked no later than June 22 2026. Scholarship awards will be announced by August 23 2026.

05-14-26
05-21-26
05-28-26

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application #2026-0319 by Todd Parsons for vertical expansion of a non-conforming structure and site plan application for development activities in the Lake Protection Overlay District at 25 Morgan Lane, Salisbury, Map 64, Lot 06 per Sections 503.2 and 404 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The hearing will be held on Monday, June 1, 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-2026-0319/. 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
05-21-26
05-28-26

Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on May 18, 2026:

Authorized the Zoning Administrator to issue a Temporary Zoning Permit, ZP-26-49, for the unmuffled racing event that begins on May 21, 2026, under the unusual circumstances associated with the stipulated agreement. Authorization was granted in accordance with Section 906 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor’s Map 04 as Lot 16 and is located at 497 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville. The applicant and owner of the Property is Lime Rock Park II 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
05-28-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF NANCY C. HOWARD Late of Massachusetts (26-00164)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated May 14, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
Camille A. Alberico
c/o Anthony R Dechello Dechello Law Firm, LLC
110 Washington Avenue North Haven, CT 06473
Jordan Bergs Clerk
05-28-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF DAVID F. MORRISON Late of Salisbury (26-00197)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the

Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated May 14, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
Frances Parkman Morrison
c/o Margaret St John Meehan
Day Pitney, LLP
One Stamford Plaza
263 Tresser Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06901
Jordan Bergs Clerk
05-28-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF BARBARA A. DELPRETE Late of Salisbury (25-00459)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated May 12, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
George R. DelPrete, II

39 Laurel Oak Road
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Jordan Bergs
Clerk
05-28-26

SHARON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

To Whom It May Concern, notice is hereby given that on Monday, June 8, 2026 at 6:00PM, at the Sharon Town Hall, 63 Main Street, Sharon, CT, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on the following Appeal:

Appeal #194 of Stefan Wolf for a variance to construct an addition to an existing garage with a side line setback of 18 feet where the Regulations require 30 feet, Article IV. The property location is - Assessor Map 17 Parcel 38, 158 Gay Street, in the Rural Residence Zone.

At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communication received. The application is on file at the Selectmen’s Office, Sharon, CT.

Dated at Sharon, CT this 19th day of May 2026.

William Trowbridge
Chairman
Sharon Zoning Board of Appeals
05-28-26

Our Towns

Secretary of State campaigns on election security message in Salisbury

By Ruth Epstein

SALISBURY – Connecticut Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas, who recently secured the Democratic endorsement for reelection, spoke Tuesday, May 19, at a meeting of the Salisbury Democratic Town Committee.

Thomas centered her remarks around what she describes as ongoing threats to the country's election system, describing the past year and half as "crazy."

She said the administration in Washington, D.C., has sought to alter voting procedures, but said resistance from states has been growing, with many filing lawsuits.

"Thirty states have refused the request to turn over their voting rolls," Thomas said. "All the cases have been lost by the Department of Justice."

She also discussed one of President Donald Trump's executive orders, which she said could give the United States Postal Service a role in determining the eligibility for mail-in voting and allow postal workers to reject ballots from voters not included on newly created federal voter lists.

"That is still in court, and most are being stopped by injunctions," she said.

Thomas also addressed what she described as threats by the current administration to deploy federal agents to polling locations to oversee elections.

Thankfully, she said, there is bipartisan pushback against the idea across the country.

Thomas said she is equally concerned about what she describes as the gutting of the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, known as CISA, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security.

She said the cuts end funding for the system that alerts state officials of election security threats across state lines. Connecticut, she said, may ultimately have to pay for voter security measures itself.

The administration also stopped funding the Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center, or EI-ISAC, which alerts state officials to active election threats in other states.



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas visits with Lee Greenhouse and Flora Lazar at the Salisbury Democratic Town Committee meeting Tuesday as committee Chairman Al Ginouves looks on.

Noting she often hears how lucky people in Connecticut are, Thomas pointed to legislation signed that day – May 19 – by Gov. Ned Lamont enacting a no-excuse absentee ballot law. Voters will no longer need to meet one of the six limited requirements to obtain such a ballot.

Asked about early voting schedules for the November election, Thomas said there will be no changes from last year, though tabulators will now be allowed for those ballots.

In traveling across the state to discuss her role, she often focuses on such topics as business fraud and labor trafficking. Thomas said she enjoys speaking at schools, but lamented that her office has no funding for voter education.

Thomas was raised in New Jersey in affordable housing, and said she recalls times when her home was dark because the electricity was shut off. She worked hard at her studies and was given a scholarship to attend New York University.

Most of her career has been spent in the nonprofit sector as a way of giving back. Although politics was not an aspiration, listening to the Trump and Hillary Clinton debates spurred her interest.

After moving to Norwalk, Conn., Thomas saw there were eight representatives in the area running unopposed. Feeling voters deserved a choice, she launched an unsuccessful

2018 bid for state representative in the 143rd district, running again successfully in 2020. When former Secretary of State Denise Merrill announced she was not seeking re-election in 2022, Thomas threw her hat into the ring.

"It was the best job I ever had until January 2025," she said, alluding to the official start of the second Trump administration. "It's been difficult."



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Sharon Playhouse season marquee goes up

By Aly Morrissey

SHARON – The Sharon Fire Department helped install the Sharon Playhouse summer season marquee Tuesday, May 19, unveiling this year's MainStage and YouthStage productions.

"The moment our

marquee goes up for the season is when we finally feel like 'Game On! It's showtime,'" said an enthusiastic Michael Baldwin, the Playhouse's education and community director.

"We're so grateful for the Sharon Fire Department for their support each year."



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

North Canaan's newest taco spot opens its doors May 21 at 85 Main St.

Teo Tacos officially opens doors on North Canaan's Main Street

By Christian Murray

NORTH CANAAN – Teo Tacos officially opened its doors Thursday, May 21, at 85 Main St., bringing a new family-run Mexican restaurant to downtown North Canaan.

Owned by Carlos Gomez, who is originally from Mexico, and his wife, Yesica Gomez, from the Dominican Republic, the restaurant occupies the former McMuckle's Market space near the train station. Customers began arriving shortly after the doors opened at noon Thursday, with about 10 people stopping in during the first hour, Yesica Gomez said.

Among the first customers Thursday was Sarai Perez of Bristol, who came specifically to support the new business.

"I've known her for a couple of years and I know that she cooks very good," Perez said. "So I wanted to be one of the first to come here and try out her food."

The husband-and-wife duo, who live in Torrington, said they were drawn to North Canaan because of the town's strong sense of community.

"We would always travel through North Canaan," Carlos Gomez said last month. "We saw the town, and it always looked like a happy town. There are always people walking around, and we love to see that."

The couple had originally planned to open April 30, but Yesica Gomez said delays related to fire marshal inspections and required approvals pushed the opening back until May 21.

Inside, bright orange walls, wood tables and large arched mirrors create a casual dining atmosphere. The menu features tacos, burritos, enchiladas, quesadillas, nachos, chips and salsa, and guacamole. Yesica Gomez said the restaurant also plans to introduce a breakfast menu in the coming days.

Teo Tacos seats about 40 people and does not serve alcohol. The restaurant is located near Trakside Tacos, which opened in July 2025.

The restaurant's name, Teo Tacos, is a tribute to Carlos Gomez's mother, Teodora, who still lives in Mexico.

Teo Tacos will operate from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday through Monday. The restaurant will be closed Tuesdays and open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays.

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OBITUARIES

Sheila C. Bellamy

AMENIA — Sheila C. Bellamy (née Carmel), age 92, of Sarasota, FL, died on May 9, 2026, at her home, after a brief illness.



Sheila was born on May 28, 1933, the oldest daughter of the late Rose (Brown) and Arthur Carmel. Her beloved sister, Ann, soon followed. Sheila was raised in Brooklyn's Bensonhurst neighborhood and graduated from New Utrecht High School and Brooklyn College, where she earned an English degree while working in the biology and physiology laboratory. Later, while raising four children and working, she earned a master's degree in education from SUNY New Paltz and advanced certificates in teaching and special education.

After a short stint in North Carolina as a military spouse, Sheila lived in Amenia, New York for 37 years, where she was a devoted educator. She first taught as a substitute teacher in the local school system and then as a teacher at a youth residential facility in town, but most of her many teaching years were spent in special education at the Wassaic Developmental Center.

During her Amenia years, Sheila was a member and leader of several organizations, including the Beth David Congregation, the Webutuck PTA, and the Girl Scouts, and her personal kindness, support, and humor left a lasting impact on many within our community as well.

Sheila met the love of her life and future husband, Ronald Bellamy, R.N., at work more than 45 years ago. They were married in Amenia on July 8, 1990. Sheila and Ron lived an idyllic retirement in Sarasota beginning in 1995, during which they traveled the world and had adventures both at home and abroad, while continuing to serve as volunteers. Sheila was chosen by the Sarasota-Manatee Chapter of Hadassah as their 2004 Woman of the Year.

In addition to her husband Ronald, Sheila is lovingly survived by daughters Barb Klees (and husband Mark Glickman), Margie Gerrard (and husband Ed), and Carrie Klees; son Ed Klees (and wife Susan); stepdaughters Dawn Brinson and Fraun Bellamy-Baker (and husband Ron Baker); stepsons Tony Bellamy (and wife Alison) and Ronald Bellamy Jr; 19 cherished grandchildren; two beloved nieces; and other relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her sister Ann and her stepdaughter Tammy Bellamy. A funeral service was held on May 19, 2026.

Sheila was a devoted wife, mother, daughter, sister, mother-in-law, grandmother, aunt, friend, educator, and community member. She modeled perseverance and kindness, beauty and intelligence, and love and humor, throughout the twists and turns of life. She generously gave her time, effort, and financial support to many meaningful causes. In her memory, please donate to the charities of your choice, and give love to those who need it.

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Robert Clayton Smith

KENT — Robert "Bobby" Clayton Smith. The family is sad to announce Bobby's passing on Saturday, May 16, 2026, after his courageous battle with cancer came to an end at the home of his cousin, Tonya and Daniel Soule, in Kent, Connecticut. Born on Sept. 2, 1956, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Eleanor Hart Smith and James Smith. Bob's family resided in Sharon, before purchasing and moving to the Bog Hollow Inn in Wassaic, New York where he was a stellar bartender.



He graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School class of 1974 and served in the United States Navy. Bob worked at Tri Wall Container Co. in Wassaic, and later as a self-employed painting contractor. Bob lived life to the fullest. He inherited his love for hunting and fishing from his dad, Big Jim, who surely taught him everything he knew. With his Dad, he built a camp in Danforth, Maine that while being a time-consuming experience, was enjoyed and cherished by the entire family. He also enjoyed bowling, golf, horseshoes, all card games and was a serious and crafty dart player, affectionately named, "Bull's Eye Bob."

Bob enjoyed days on the softball field and played in various leagues. He had an unmistakable presence that made him a familiar face both on the field and around town. He affectionately bragged that he could kick anyone's "butt," - especially to his four nephews.

Even during his illness, Bob continued to enjoy gathering and socializing with friends and family. He watched the Yankees and NY Giants, usually with a Bob "opinion included." He enjoyed watching television shows including the "Price is Right," "Deal or No Deal," "Jeopardy," and the Grit TV network and was a frequent Keno and 13-21 lottery game winner.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his sister, Rhonda Osolin and two brothers, Donald Smith and James "Gigi" Smith. The family and friends extend special thanks to Danny and Toni Soule for all the comforts, support and love they gave Bob in the last year. He was quite happy and content in his surroundings and a place he called "home."

Calling hours will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, June 19, 2026, at Hufcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY. Funeral services will follow at 1 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will take place at Valley View Cemetery in Dover Plains, NY. Memorial contributions may be made to the Kent Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 355, Kent, CT 06757 or online at <https://www.kent-fire.org/>. To send the family an online condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneral-home.com.

Bill was an especially talented skier. The higher the mountain, the happier he was flying down it on fast skis. This past season, he had just broken his own record by skiing 62 days.



SALISBURY — William (Bill) C. Hower III passed away unexpectedly on May 15, 2026, after a brief affliction at the age of 66. He was the beloved husband of Rosanne Foley Hower and father of Amanda and Charlotte Hower.

Bill was born in 1959 to Bill and Gloria Hower (Tino) in Torrington. He graduated from Oliver Wolcott Technical High School in 1977 and continued onto a career in the automotive industry, primarily with his family business, Jim's Garage in Canaan.

After retiring in 2015, he enjoyed exploring many interests including time spent in Montana, other traveling, co-operating his antique store, enjoying his community and spending lots of time with friends.

Bill was predeceased by his parents and his sister Frances Scaia. He is survived by his wife Rosanne, daughters Amanda (Long) and Charlotte, grandchildren Josephine and August, sisters Willette Murphy, Ingrid Devita, Monica McGlothlen, and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Bill's life will be held on Sunday, July 12 at Catamount Mountain Resort at 1:00 p.m.

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YOUR NEWS
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Worship Services

Week of May 31, 2026

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

OPINION

Connecticut Foundation for Open Government high school essay contest

Student or Visitor?

Note: This essay was a second-place winner in a high school essay contest sponsored by the Connecticut Foundation for Open Government.

In March 2025, a Tufts University doctoral student from Turkey had her visa stripped away after constructing an opinion piece critical of her university's position on the war in Gaza. The administration's argument is that a visa is a privilege, not a right, and that non-citizens do not enjoy the same First Amendment protections as Americans. This view is flawed; it misunderstands the nature of a student visa and the values America claims to uphold.

Legally, the F-1 student visa frames its recipient as no more than a temporary visitor. Federal standards state that students have to maintain a foreign residence they have no intention of abandoning. This suggests someone visiting, not putting down roots. But the reality of a doctoral program tells a different story. Graduate students can spend around seven years on American campuses. They teach undergraduates, conduct research, serve on committees, and become key parts of their university communities. They do not come to America to visit attractions. They come with the intent of changing the world.

Starting in elementary school every kid is taught that America is a 'melting pot'. A nation where people from all walks of life are invited to become part of a shared civic life. The melting pot assumes that newcomers will engage, debate, and contribute to the national conversation. A student who writes an op-ed in the school newspaper is doing exactly that. She is acting like a citizen in every meaningful sense, even if her passport says otherwise. So when the government punishes her for speaking, it sends a contradictory message: "We want you to join our community, but only if you lose your voice." They strive to strip them of any authentic thought.

There is a deeper constitutional principle at play. The First Amendment does not say "citizens" have freedom of speech. It says "the people" do. Courts have long recognized that non-citizens within the United States are among "the people" entitled to constitutional protections. Federal judges have already pushed back on the administration's position. In a similar case regarding a revoked student visa, a judge ruled that the government likely acted in a "viewpoint-discriminatory way to chill protected speech." Another judge, appointed by President Reagan, deduced that the administration's choice violated the First

PRITHIKA VENUGOPAL ROCKY HILL HIGH SCHOOL 12TH GRADE

Amendment. This matters because of what the Supreme Court has repeatedly said about laws that target specific beliefs. In cases involving religious freedom, the Court has ruled that the government cannot single out particular viewpoints for punishment. If the government only revokes visas from students who speak out on one side of the Gaza conflict, while leaving students with opposing views untouched, that is in no way neutral enforcement.

The government is correct in saying that a visa is a privilege. No one has a right to study in the United States. But once a person is here, the Constitution follows. The government cannot condition a privilege on giving up a constitutional right. It is inherently flawed, similar to a town stating "Usage of the public park is permitted as long as the individual does not criticize the mayor." The Supreme Court has struck down such conditions before.

America invites students from around the world to join its universities. It asks them to engage, to learn, and to contribute. When they do that, either by joining a debate or composing an op-ed, the government punishes them. A student visa may call its holder a visitor, but the Constitution treats them as a person. That protection should not depend on which side of a political argument they stand on.

LET'S HEAR IT...



LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

What is one change you'd make to your town center to make it more welcoming?

"Parking downtown. And definitely need a small grocery store perhaps next to the liquor store in the empty building."
— Robert Bloxson Jr., North Canaan

"Build more village housing dedicated to low and middle income residents."
— Dan Dwyer, Salisbury

"Flowers on the posts in town throughout the summer like other towns have"
— Renee Fleming, North Canaan

"Garbage cans like other towns have. So people with takeaway coffee and ice cream can toss trash and people with dogs have a place to put poop. In town and also along the Rail Ramble from Lakeville into Salisbury."
— Laura van Straaten, Salisbury

"Cornwall Bridge and West Cornwall both need parking and public bathrooms."
— Michelle Shipp Schatz-Mullins, Cornwall

THIS WEEK

Bear encounters are being reported with increasing frequency across the region — rummaged trash cans, damaged bird feeders, and face-to-face surprises.

Have you had a run-in with a bear? What happened, and how did you handle it? And what do you think towns and neighbors should be doing to keep both people and bears safer?

Send your responses to publisher@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, June 1 at 10a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We'll publish a selection in next week's paper.

Editor's note: Dan Dwyer is the Board Chair of LJM Media, Inc.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump chaos decimates democracy

Watching the chaos and dangerous decisions stemming from King Trump's presidency has been staggering. His corruption, deceit, and continuing crimes have decimated so much of our democracy.

The war with Iran is one of the most atrocious decisions King Trump could make. After this debacle the Iranians will never trust us to make any legitimate deal. Trump is sending in our young men to fight an illegitimate war that doesn't have congressional approval. What about the children that were killed in a bombing that was sanctioned?

King Trump's sycophants continue to do his bidding while gas and food prices rise significantly. The laws that protect the people and our

country are disregarded while Trump rakes in billions.

Is anyone worried about the gutting of the voting rights act. The supreme court ruling enables states to dismantle minority voting power in state legislatures, county commissions and city councils nationwide. This is "Jim Crow" rearing its ugly head again.

Every immigrant, both legal and illegal, is subject to detention by ICE. ICE would classify them as "applicants for admission" a legal designation that requires them to be locked up without opportunity for bond. ICE has been given unprecedented power and the abuses include murder.

King Trump's executive decisions have violated our constitution repeatedly. He has

attempted to end birthright citizenship, reinstate Schedule F to fire civil servants, restrict diversity, close the department of education, all without congressional approval yet he continues to flout every rule of our constitution.

The teflon Don and his minions are butchering our democracy at warp speed with alarming repercussions. GOP legislators, governors, even the supreme court are in on this flagrant conspiracy to destroy democracy. The United States has never had a dictator at the helm of our country, but unless King Trump is held accountable for his corruption, we will be calling him the "Fuehrer."

Gretchen Gordon Sharon

Falls Village should not retreat on affordable housing

Late in 2025, the Falls Village Housing Trust, the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy and Habitat came together with the Town of Canaan / Falls Village at the firehouse to discuss plans for a 66 acre parcel and a 14 acre adjacent parcel both owned by Habitat on River Road. Based on guidance provided by the Planning and Zoning regulations originally published in 2013, and updated in 2024, thoughts were brought before the community regarding a mixed-use development to expand affordable housing opportunities and a proposal to offer a substantial part of the property to the NCLC for recreational access to the Mohawk, or Blue Trail. The proposal was met with great enthusiasm by the community as the need for increased affordable housing and expanded recreational opportunities are recognized in all of Northwest Connecticut.

In a surprise move, an initiative brought forth in March of 2026 by one community member sought to reverse

the Incentive Housing Zone overlay regulations agreed to in a town meeting in 2013 and made an element of the town's Planning and Zoning Regulations.

As a result, guidance on the development of this opportunity for the community which had been the foundation of plans for affordable housing are being summarily squashed. Included in the new regulations is also a stipulation disallowing any waivers for housing density which had previously been the purview of the P&Z Commission. This amendment, as well as an effort to change the P&Z regulations regarding the maximum number of housing units which may be built in the IHZ Overlay Zone were passed at a open hearing meeting attended by 5 members of the public on May 14th.

Given the short notice of the public hearing to members of the community, any opposition to this effort was effectively suppressed.

As the P&Z Commission had previously approved the development being done on

10 acres of the IHZ Overlay Zone by the Falls Village Housing Trust, the Commission let stand their development plans. However, this change quashed any effort on the part of Habitat to utilize the density statues for the IHZ Overlay Zone which had existed in the regulations since 2013.

Habitat's intention had been to develop 3 single family homes on roughly 3 acres of the 70 acres retained after transferring 10 acres to the FVHT. Under the previous Zoning regulations, this was a highly acceptable use of the property, and was in fact encouraged by the community and the P&Z Commission. One voice, in conjunction with their spouse's position, was sufficient to stop this effort.

Habitat is now researching all means at its disposal to facilitate the development of their property. One voice should not hold such sway over so critical an issue as the providing of affordable housing.

Lyman Whelan Litchfield



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

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

Crypto companies see beyond bitcoin

THE RETIRED INVESTOR BILL SCHMICK

There is a brave new world out there for crypto miners, brokers, and blockchain entities. The same process that allows cryptocurrencies to trade and settle in the blink of an eye is now being applied to other assets. The hope is that this new technology can help some companies escape another long, crypto winter. It is called asset tokeni-

zation. And whether we are talking about stocks, bonds, real estate, or anything else that trades in the real or digital world, all these areas can be tokenized. The first question many ask is what is a digital token?

It is a programmable digital asset, just like any crypto currency, issued on an existing blockchain such as Ethereum. But unlike cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, which have their own blockchain, tokens can be issued on just about anything, including asset ownership of things (paintings, properties, dollars), access rights, voting power, identity, predictions etc.

A stock, for example, which trades on a digital market (and most of them do), can now be converted into a digital token on a blockchain. This allows for fractional ownership, faster transactions, and broader market access. While tokens can be applied to anything, they have an obvious use in expanding financial infrastructure where settlement of money is extremely important.

One way to think about this technological trend is as a new way to handle the flow of financial assets that trade globally, 24 hours a day. Money changes hands constantly and the expression 'time is money' takes on real meaning when trillions of dollars are involved. Tokens act as a new kind of plumbing that allows mon-

ey, instead of water, to flow faster, with fewer cracks, leaks or clogs, and therefore greater predictability. In past columns, I have written about stablecoins, which also use blockchain technology to effect fast, secure, and borderless transactions in the currency world. This is simply another use for this technology.

Crypto companies have embraced digital tokenization with open arms. Bullish, a crypto exchange run by the former head of the New York Stock Exchange, acquired a tokenized equity company, Equiniti, for \$4.25 billion in a stock transaction a week ago. Recently, Centrifuge, which specializes in tokenizing exchange-traded funds and credit products, announced a deal with Coinbase, a leading cryptocurrency company.

Robinhood, the broker, is also interested in the area but has yet to ink a deal. CEO Vlad Tenev did say that "our strategy is to take crypto infrastructure and apply it to assets that have real-world utility. That's why we care so much about tokenization."

Crypto companies hope tokenization will allow them to expand beyond simple cryptocurrency trading. As readers know, crypto currencies can be notoriously volatile and have been subject to periods of massive underperformance. Over the

years, the crypto companies have had to weather periodic 'crypto winters', which can last for years. If tokenization catches on, it could allow the industry to diversify away from volatile crypto trading toward a more stable and predictable business model.

But tokenization is in its infancy. As it stands, there are only about \$27 billion in tokenized real-world assets on the blockchain. That's a drop in the bucket when one considers the \$200 trillion plus in global digital equities alone.

However, the settlement arms of Nasdaq and the Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation (DTCC), which do the lion's share of equity settlements, are now engaged in pilot programs studying both blockchain-based settlement and tokenized securities. Larry Fink, the CEO of BlackRock, the mega-billion-dollar asset management company, believes tokenization could transform finance. He may be right. One thing is for certain: blockchain technology is here to stay, and its uses will continue to multiply.

Bill Schmick is a founding partner of Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires. Bill's forecasts and opinions are purely his own and do not necessarily represent the views of Onota Partners Inc.

For this week's "Turning Back the Pages," go to www.lakevillejournal.com

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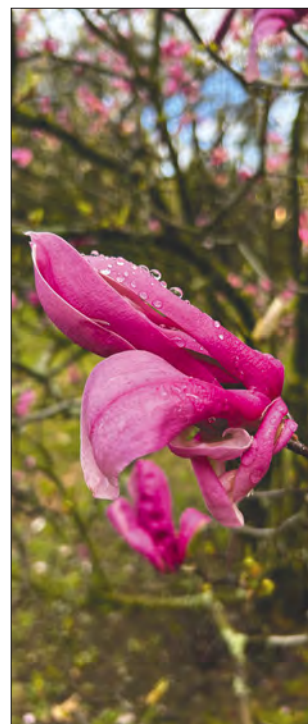


PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

Spring rain

Memorial Day

Honoring sacrifices

Following a weekend of rain, communities across northwest Connecticut marked Memorial Day with a mix of modified observances, indoor ceremonies and canceled events as towns adapted to the weather while honoring members of the armed

forces who died in military service. Parades, ceremonies and tributes throughout the region brought together veterans, local officials, emergency responders, marching groups and residents in a day of remembrance, reflection and gratitude.



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Veterans stand during Monday's Memorial Day observance at Sharon Center School. From left: Ray Aakjar, Ric Carley, Dave Peterson, Tate Begley and Mark Anderson.

Sharon

Rain and a gloomy forecast forced officials to cancel the annual Memorial Day parade, though speeches and remembrances were held inside Sharon Center School. The standing-room-only audience honored the town's veterans, heard the Sharon Center School's band and choir perform, listened to a three-gun salute held outdoors, held a bike-decorating contest and stood as taps was played.

During Monday's observance, the town's only son lost in the Vietnam War was remembered by his sister.

Carol Carley spoke about the night in 1967 when, as a sixth-grader, she heard the knock on the door that brought the devastating news that her brother, Michael John Carley, had been killed.

"It had been an ordinary night that forever changed my family's and my life along with it," she said. "I heard my mother's wail that pierced my soul."

Carley said she and her mother, Connie Worthington, who at-

tended the ceremony, collaborated on the remarks she delivered.

She said her brother, disturbed by reports of the Viet Cong's treatment of prisoners, decided to join the Marines. His son who was also in the audience, said his father was a helicopter pilot and received several awards, including the Captain's Bar, 12 Gold Stars and the Purple Heart posthumously.

He was only two when his father was killed and has no memory of him, though he has since connected with several men who served alongside him.

Carol Carley said she spent years fantasizing that her brother wasn't really gone and would someday return, but eventually came to accept the reality of his death. The family, she said, has learned how to celebrate his life while moving on with theirs.

She said the best way to carry on his mission is by serving others, "by giving of ourselves - identify the good in ourselves and honor those lost with our lives. Let us remember."

- Ruth Epstein



PHOTOS BY JOHN COSTON

A U.S. Marine Corp honor guard leads the North Canaan Memorial Day parade ahead of the elementary school band Monday, May 25.



North Canaan

Residents lined Main Street Monday morning for one of the region's few Memorial Day parades to proceed as planned. Spectators gathered near the Doughboy monument, Collins Diner and storefront sidewalks as North Canaan honored fallen service members with a parade, patriotic music from the North Canaan Elementary School band and somber speeches.

Rain threatened early in the morning but ended in time for the parade from Town Hall through downtown. Families with children and dogs in tow tailgated in their cars, set up lawn chairs and waved as the entourage passed.

Kirk Harrington, commander of Couch-Pipa Post 6851 in North Canaan, introduced Ken Merrill, who led everyone in prayer

before Joan Segalla Baker, Grand Parade Marshal, spoke to the crowd of approximately 150 who circled around the Doughboy statue, a tribute to American infantrymen in World War I.

"We remember those who did not come home," Baker said. "When I was in high school, we had three graduates from HRVHS who never made it home from the Vietnam War."

"I would like to honor Staff Sgt. Norman Stoddard from Kent," she said, "George W. Clark, United States Marine Corps, from Lakeville, and Lt. Michael John Carley of Sharon, a helicopter pilot."

Baker also pointed to "Hometown Heroes" banners flying from the town's utility poles, a new initiative to recognize local veterans.

- John Coston

Falls Village

Rainy weather proved no match for Falls Village's patriotic spirit on Memorial Day.

Other than moving the ceremony inside the spacious Center on Main, the event proceeded as planned, kicking off at 10 a.m. sharp with the Lee H. Kellogg School's marching band playing its first performance in several years, welcoming the Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department color guard into the building.

First Selectman Dave Barger then delivered the invocation and offered



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Residents mingle on Main Street outside the Center on Main following the ceremony May 25.

some opening remarks, appealing to residents to embody the spirit of those who gave their lives protecting the nation. "They did not fight for glory, money or medals," he said, but "a belief that our nation, and its

ideals of liberty and justice, was worth defending."

Selectmen Judy Jacobs and Chris Kinsella presented the Volunteer of the Year award to Adam Sher, the board chair of Center on Main and vice chair of Falls

Village's Board of Education.

Carol and Louis Timolat, longtime volunteers involved with institutions across Falls Village — including the school, David M. Hunt Library and Town Hall — were recognized for their decades of service with the Community Service Award.

Following the placing of the wreath by Fire Chief Matt Hansen and the President of the Ladies Auxiliary Linda Paviol and the BOS, Barger gave the benediction.

- Alec Linden

Kent

Threatening skies and forecasts forced organizers to cancel Kent's annual Memorial Day parade and move the observance indoors to the Town Hall meeting room Monday morning. But as the 10 a.m. ceremony approached, the rain let up and a large crowd gathered to honor the nation's fallen service

members. Hosted by American Legion Post 153, the ceremony opened with remarks from Cemetery Sexton Brett Kallstrom, who welcomed residents, veterans and local officials. Reverend Richard J. Clark of St. Andrew's Church delivered an invocation, offering prayers for peace and saying, "May the

day soon come when we are living in peace."

Though the ceremony was moved inside, traditions continued outdoors with a gun salute. The Kent Center School Band played and the Choir Club sang "America The Beautiful." Town First Selectman Eric Epstein read the names of Kent veterans killed in wars, while Pastor John of the Kent Congregational Church closed the observance with prayers honoring veterans "for giving their last full measure of devotion to protect and defend us."

- Lans Christensen



Kent Sexton Brett Kallstrom, master of the ceremony, welcomes all.



PHOTO BY SIMON MARKOW

Cornwall veterans are recognized May 25.

Cornwall

Although Cornwall officials decided to cancel the town's annual parade, the rain didn't stop the community from honoring veterans. Events began with a 9 a.m. ceremony at the North Cornwall Cemetery, followed by the Seamans Memorial, held in West Cornwall at the covered bridge. The main ceremony was moved to Cornwall Consolidated School's gymnasium.

Attendees were greeted by the CCS Band, which played patriotic music. Eighth graders delivered an informative presentation about Robin Starr, a formerly enslaved Revolutionary War veteran. The students later unveiled a gravestone they were unveiling in the afternoon.

David Cadwell was the master of ceremony. He honored veterans Kenneth "Ken" Conn, Thurlow "Tim" Prence and Huntington "Hunt" Williams that had passed away in the previous year by telling their story about how they made Cornwall so special.

The VFW Citizenship Award was given to Richard Griggs for his years of service to Cornwall recording town events. Cornwall's ceremony will be uploaded to YouTube by Richard Griggs.

Afterward the carnival took place at the UCC church with games and a cake walk. Kids won prizes and sugar filled delights with wet but sunny weather conditions.

- Simon Markow



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Kent Volunteer Fire Dept. starts the ceremony.

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Now that swimming pools are open for the summer season, it would be good to ensure that you have escape routes in the pool for the amphibians and small animals that fall into the pool. If you look at your pool, it is readily apparent that it is easy to get in but impossible to get out if you are a small creature. Fortunately, a wildlife biologist became aware of this issue and designed a cheap and simple device to allow frogs, salamanders and small mammals a safe way up and out of the pool. Aply named the Froglog, it can be ordered online. For more information, please go to: froglog.us/. A lot of small wildlife will thank you!



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Our Towns

With federal cuts in sight, Community Health and Wellness Center boosts fundraising efforts

By Patrick L. Sullivan

NORFOLK – A northwest Connecticut health-care provider serving thousands of rural patients is preparing for anticipated federal Medicaid cuts by launching new fundraising efforts and searching for additional revenue sources to help offset rising financial pressure.

Joanne Borduas, chief executive officer of the Community Health and Wellness Center (CHWC), discussed the potential local impact during a talk Wednesday, May 20, at the Norfolk Hub.

CHWC, which is headquartered in Torrington and has offices in North Canaan and Winsted, provides primary, behavioral and dental care. It also runs school-based health centers in the Torrington public schools and throughout Region One, including Housatonic Valley Regional High School, North Canaan Elementary School, Sharon Center School, and, soon, Salisbury Central School.

Borduas said CHWC and other nonprofit health care providers are anticipating approximately \$80 billion in cuts to federal Medicaid spending beginning in January 2027.

Federal funds currently cover roughly 18% of CHWC's operating costs.

"After that, we have to make it work, just like any other business," Borduas said.

Additional revenue

comes from billing private insurance and from grants.

"We have razor-thin margins," she said. "So we look at expenses and at new sources of revenue."

To help sustain services amid anticipated funding cuts, CHWC recently established a fundraising department led by Kelly Baxter Spitz.

"Philanthropy has never been a part of this, but it is now," Borduas said.

The organization is not starting from scratch. Borduas said CHWC has secured two grants from medical technology company BD, which manufactures medical devices at its North Canaan facility, and also partners with the Walgreens in North Canaan to offer discounted prescriptions to qualifying patients.

Borduas said CHWC has 7,500 patients, many of whom are uninsured or underinsured and deviate from stereotypes often associated with poverty.

"Today the face of Medicaid has changed," Borduas said. She said she knows several single parents whose employers do not provide health insurance.

Apologizing for using yet another acronym, Borduas said many of CHWC's clients fall into the "asset limited, income constrained, employed," or ALICE, category — working households that earn above the poverty line but still struggle to afford basic necessities.

She said obtaining insurance through the

Affordable Care Act exchange isn't necessarily a viable option, with only two insurance providers participating in the Connecticut exchange, and premiums recently tripled.

Borduas said the CHWC team is focused on finding solutions to the current challenges, and never turning anyone away.

"Every day we have to get creative about how to do the next day's work," she said.

Lakeville resident Janet Lynn suggested handing out CHWC brochures at food pantries and observed

that in her experience, many northwest Connecticut residents are unaware of the organization and how it can help them.

Borduas said CHWC works closely with food pantries and even maintains food supplies at its three locations.

As for publicity, she said events such as the May 20 talk and a January "town hall" at the Colonial Theater in North Canaan are one way of getting the word out.

Still, she said there is more work to do. "It's been a challenge getting the word out."

Kent celebrates new farmer's market location

By Alec Linden

KENT – The first trial run of the Kent Farmers Market's new downtown location was a hit Friday afternoon, according to Spencer Lord, a local mushroom and poultry farmer who took over management duties of the market for this season.

"This is what a farmers market should be," Lord said, gesturing toward couples and families strolling the leafy grounds around the Kent Welcome Center.

Some visitors spread

out picnic blankets and camping chairs to enjoy live jazz by Jonah Weinstock & Friends, while others relaxed in lawn seating. Many of the 35 vendors were half out of stock by 4:30 p.m., and that's a good sign, Lord said.

There was plenty of parking and pedestrians who just happened to stroll in, which delighted Gary Kidd, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and owner of sweets shop 45 On Main across the street. "You can't walk past here and not come in," Kidd said.



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

The Kent Farmers Market's new downtown location draws a large crowd May 22.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Rosie's Kitchen is one of 35 vendors to attend the Kent Farmers Market May 22.

"The atrium is a beautiful spot to read, enjoy the plants and socialize—there's nearly a party here almost every week."

— Resident Doug D.



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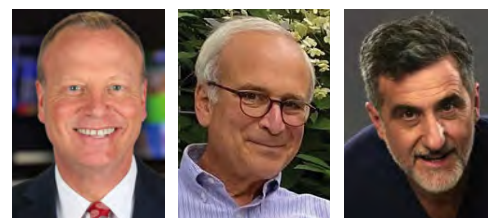


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SCHOOLS

Continued from Page A1

she wants to preserve, and local schools are part of that. "I think something is lost when you don't have a school in your town," she said.

Philip O'Reilly, chair of Sharon's BOE where budget discussions remain in deadlock with the Board of Finance over high costs per pupil, suggested that the study's findings would be more nuanced.

"It isn't about closing the school," he said. "My personal belief is none of our towns will ever consent to that because they are such a foundation to each of our communities."

He suggested other options that have been floated in the past – such as a regional eighth grade – may end up being considered, and that further questions and concerns will arise as the study is conducted.

Cornwall BOE Chair Iris Hermann said that she expects the biggest challenge would be how to preserve local town identities if regional options are considered.

Brady-Shanley said history and tradition would be top considerations within the research if the study is to move forward. She affirmed that the process will be open, transparent and receptive to the public throughout, with regularly scheduled public forums and informational meetings.

Sam Herrick, who has been the business manager for Region One since 1998,

said that given the economic and demographic realities, "I think we owe it to our constituents to at least do the analysis."

He pointed to soaring cost per pupil prices in the region, most of which are the highest in the state. Sharon, at \$46,587 in 2024-2025, when the most recent data was drawn from, is the most expensive in Connecticut, while Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, and Norfolk round out the top five.

Salisbury comes in at the eighth highest, while North Canaan lands at 18th, with a per-pupil cost just over \$29,000.

"There are just so many questions that I think it behooves us to do some financial analysis," Herrick said, noting that sometimes, the act of investigating can yield surprising results.

"It's been a very uncomfortable several months looking at budget numbers," said Heather Brand, chair of Kent's BOE. "This is unsustainable to just have rising costs and dwindling enrollment," she said, while noting that she also recognizes concerns from parents about consolidation.

The next steps for the study are for each BOE to review the proposal over the summer and decide whether to opt in. If it goes forward, Brady-Shanley predicts it would last throughout the next school year, with results by June 2027.

GREENWAY

Continued from Page A1

door recreation.

"So a lot of young people in town don't have a lot of things to do," Bunce said. "And this is a very nice stretch of land."

North Canaan voters approved the purchase at a May 18 town hall meeting, authorizing the town to pay \$1,000 to acquire the property from the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

In documents submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly in 2025, the town noted the state previously attempted to auction the parcel in 2022-23 for \$200,000, after appraising it at \$190,000, but received no bids. Town officials argued the wetland-heavy property has limited development potential and is best suited for passive recreation and open space.

The transfer required approval from the Connecticut General Assembly through conveyance legislation sponsored by state Sen. Stephen Harding (R-30) and state Rep. Maria Horn (D-64)

The land had long been tied to the controversial "Super 7" Route 7 expansion project, a 1960s proposal to convert the winding, scenic road to a four-lane highway, which was ultimately abandoned decades ago. Much of the land for the failed project has been owned by the CT-DOT for decades without being maintained.

Bunce said he signed the

deed Tuesday, May 19, formally transferring ownership to the town after what he described as a process more than 35 years in the making.

According to Bunce, the town had leased the land from the state for years, but once the lease expired the area gradually fell out of use. It is unclear when the lease ended.

The trails, however, are now overgrown, and the parcel unempt.

"People have talked about, 'Hey, I really enjoyed playing disc golf down there,' or 'I loved going on walks,'" Bunce said. "It's a nice walk through the woods."

The town now plans to revive those recreational uses. Bunce said officials will meet this week to discuss reopening and maintaining the trails.

"There is a Greenway Committee in town, so we're going to try to get the committee active again a little bit and see what their bandwidth is on doing that," he said.

Bunce credited longtime local advocate Geoffrey Drury with helping push the acquisition forward over several decades, along with former First Selectmen Doug Humes, Charlie Perotti and Brian Ohler.

"A lot of the legwork had been done on this," Bunce said. "I was just lucky enough to be sitting in the seat when the deed finally came through."

LIME ROCK PARK

Continued from Page A1

track's operations, Salisbury officials are still working to incorporate the new provisions into local zoning regulations. In the meantime, the Planning & Zoning Commission issued Lime Rock a temporary permit for the summer season while the zoning revisions remain under review following a public hearing on Monday, May 18 for the proposed change.

During the hearing, Riegel asserted that the agreement protects property owners' interests while allowing the park to operate a robust season.

Riegel explained that the requested regulation change, which would codify the agreement's new rules into town code, was the result of four and a half years of close collaboration between the Park, once he and his partners took over control in 2021, and the Lime Rock Citizens Council, a residents' group with about 250 members formed to amplify concerns from the neighborhood.

Bill Rueckert, another general partner in the Park, said that he acknowledges the difficult history between the park and the neighbors, which has involved years of court arguments, and that this agreement should be evidence of the new leadership's commitment to rectifying relationships with the community.

"It took time," said Doug Howes, a member of the Steering Committee for the Citizens Council, "but I think we came up with a good agreement at the end."

Riegel said the new rules "should be in place, we hope, for the next 30 years and beyond."

The last amendment to the stipulation dates to 1988, Riegel said, and the new agreement makes a number of changes to that charter beyond the maintenance of a Sunday racing ban.

Under the agreement, muffled racing, where engine sounds are suppressed, is now limited to 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, when previously cars could race until 10 p.m. Unmuffled races are now limited to 23 Tuesdays each year between noon and 6 p.m., and will also be allowed on 10 Fridays and Saturdays, amounting essentially to "10 unmuffled weekends per year," Riegel said.

Unmuffled racing will also be allowed on three Thursdays per year to account for three-day weekend events.

Overnight racing, which was allowed five times per year under the 1988 amendment, has been eliminated under the new agreement. Motorcycle racing remains banned.

The stipulation also allows for a small number of non-racing motorized and

non-motorized fundraising events on Sundays throughout the year, such as Project Sage's Trade Secrets, which occurred on May 15 and 16 at the Park.

Traffic control, noise monitoring, and enforcement provisions were also included in the amendment. A full list of the changes is available via P&Z's "Meeting Documents" webpage.

P&Z commissioners lauded the two groups for working together to find a compromise. Allen Cockerline, who said he remembers reading hundreds of public testimonials in prior applications relating to the Park, said that the hearing on Monday night, which saw zero public comment, was evidence of the agreement's strength.

One condition in the proposal concerned him, though, as well as other commissioners: drifting. Drifting is a type of vehicle demonstration where a driver intentionally loses rear-wheel traction while maintaining control around a turn, often producing tire smoke. The new change allows for drifting to occur once per year on two consecutive days, with no more than three demonstrations of 15 minutes per day and with a cap of 10 participating cars.

Cockerline said: "The whole goal is to create as much air pollution as you can in a short period." He added, "Personally, I think it's offensive."

Riegel stated that drifting is a fundamental component of the annual Gridlife event that visits the park each August, and that significant control measures, including air quality monitors, have been put in place since complaints arose about drifting three years ago.

Howes said that the group had taken issue several years ago when drifting first came to the park, but that limitations since have been effective in mitigating pollution.

Ultimately, P&Z told Riegel and Rueckert that regulation changes require specific language and procedure, and that legal consultation would be needed to rewrite the proposed amendment in a way that fits zoning code. The Commission recognized the urgency of the matter, though, with the first unmuffled race of the season occurring just days later, and issued the Park a temporary permit for the summer season as the Commission reviews the proposed changes.

The hearing will resume on June 1, where Lime Rock's representatives will return before P&Z to continue the discussion.

Following Trans Am, the next big weekend for the park is NASCAR's Liuna 150 on July 10 and 11.



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

International GT Sprint Race 3 at Lime Rock Park Opening Weekend.



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

Pine Plains teacher Jim Benincasa takes a parade lap.

Student-built race cars take the track at Lime Rock

By Graham Corrigan

LIME ROCK, Conn. — The Winners Circle, a youth development program centered around auto racing, returned to Lime Rock Park this weekend.

Since 2019, the non-profit program has given students the opportunity to get hands-on experience by building a race car from the ground up. The materials are sponsored by The Dyson Foundation, the automobile parts company Factory Five Racing, and individual donations. Pine Plains Racing, a team composed of Stissing Mountain High School students, participated for the first time this year.

Over the course of the school year, students build their car from parts supplied by Factory Five. They're given assembly kits for one of a number of different roadster models. Pine Plains Racing built a Shelby Cobra.

On Saturday, cars from seven area schools were put to the test by professional drivers from the Dyson racing team. Pine Plains was joined by student crews from Owego, Arlington, John Jay, Ketcham, Dover and Roosevelt. All in all, nearly 250 students participated in the program. The cars are all street-legal, and are sold at auction. Pine Plains had already found a buyer before their car hit the track at Lime Rock.

"It takes a team to get a winning car to the track," Mark Dougherty said. He's the Build Director for the Winners Circle and travels to the participating schools to oversee and advise students on the project. "They're trying to build a car, but we're trying to build

people."

At the project's outset, the high schoolers join either the build or marketing team. They're responsible for the car's construction and telling its visual story, respectively. That wide array of interests is essential to the program's mission, said Winners Circle Program Director Matteo Lundgren. "There's real collaboration, and that's like the real world. I love empowering young minds to think for themselves," said Lundgren. "So when my buddy Pius had an idea to bring the trades into high schools, in a way that wasn't isolated just for gear heads, that was pretty cool."

Pius Kayirra is the Executive Director of Winners Circle. "The program has morphed into so much more than we could have imagined," he said. "One thing I've learned is that if you give kids opportunities, they will never let you down. That's really what WCP is about — coming together and realizing we are a team with a unified goal."

Two students from Pine Plains, Jackson St. Bernard and Luke Blackburn, offered proof of Kayirra's belief. "It's a lot of problem solving and a lot of new skills," said Blackburn. "I've never worked on a car with this kind of power."

"I already had something of a background working with my dad in the garage," added St. Bernard, "but I learned a lot about fabricating things. We made a couple of brackets for the overflow tubes in the car."

For a full breakdown of the program and photos of the cars, visit winners-circle.org.

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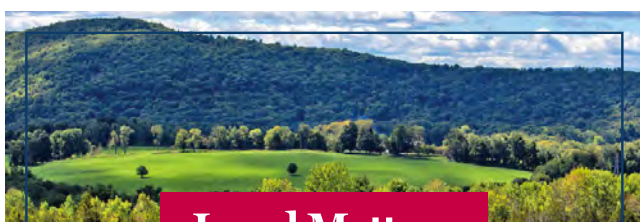
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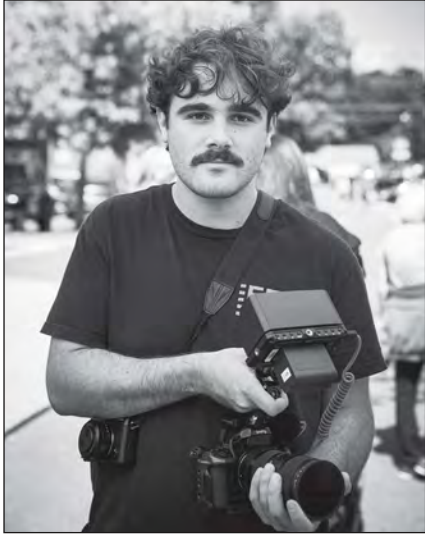


PHOTO BY LISA VOLMER

Filmmaker Yonah Sadeh at work.

Local filmmaker Yonah Sadeh takes his lens to China

By Robin Roraback

Filmmaker Yonah Sadeh of Falls Village left May 8 for China, where he will shoot a short documentary.

"I got into a documentary film intensive program where we have two weeks to shoot, edit and screen a 10-minute documentary about a topic of our choosing," he said. "I'll be in Changsha, Hunan, making a film about a fifth-generation shadow puppet master."

It is an exciting opportunity for Sadeh, who has built his own business, Sadeh Studios, by working with small area businesses and nonprofits, "helping to tell their stories through film," he said. Some of his projects have included

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

BOOKS

Author Courtney Maum to discuss new novel at Norfolk Library

By Jennifer Almquist

Norfolk Library celebrates the release of Courtney Maum's latest novel, "Alan Opts Out," with a book launch party Tuesday, June 2, at 5:30 p.m. The author will speak about her book in conversation with WAMC radio producer Sarah LaDuke.

A graduate of Brown University with a degree in comparative literature, Maum is an acclaimed author of five books, including the romantic comedy "Touch," a New York Times Editors' Choice and NPR Best Book of the Year; "Costalegre;" and "I'm Having So Much Fun Without You." Her memoir, "The Year of the Horses," was chosen by the TODAY show as top pick for Mental Health Awareness Month. Vanity Fair listed her author's guidebook "Before and After the Book Deal," as a best resource for writers, and she has an eponymous Substack newsletter.

"This is a story of an advertising executive whose rogue rejection of capitalism inspires waves of reprioritiza-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

COMMUNITY

A blessing for pets — and a lifeline for their health

By Natalia Zukerman

For many pet owners, animals are family. On Saturday, May 30, that bond will be celebrated in a uniquely practical and heartfelt way when the Blessing of the Animals returns to Third Lutheran Evangelical Church in Rhinebeck alongside a free rabies vaccination clinic hosted by Hudson Valley Animal Rescue & Sanctuary.

The event, scheduled from noon to 4 p.m., is free for Dutchess County residents and open to dogs, cats and domestic ferrets three months and older. While the clinic itself provides an important public health service, organizers say the day has become about much more than vaccinations.

"It's a very simple afternoon of kindness," said event curator Rosemary Joyce. "I think of it like a gardener — you go someplace, you learn how to plant seeds and then you take those seeds home and grow them in your own community. Except these are the seeds of kindness."

The annual blessing is now entering its fourth year, with each event honoring a different theme. This year's celebration pays tribute to renowned primateologist and animal behaviorist Jane Goodall.

"Most people know her from her work with primates," Joyce said, "but she also taught us to understand that animals are sentient creatures — they feel like we feel."

Joyce pointed to recent scientific studies that scanned dogs' brains using MRI technology.

"When dogs are presented



PHOTO PROVIDED

Lazarus, a Eurasian eagle owl, poses with Dr. Laura, his longtime handler. The rescue raptor — known as the event's "wow factor" for his striking presence and six-foot wingspan — will appear as the Raptor Ambassador at Rhinebeck's Blessing of the Animals.

welfare groups, each bringing "ambassador animals" for visitors to meet.

Among the most anticipated returning guests is Lazarus, a 9-year-old Eurasian eagle owl with a six-foot wingspan.

"He's the wow factor," Joyce said. "I watched a father hustling his two boys to leave last year because they had another appointment. I told him, 'If you haven't seen what's over there, you haven't seen this event.' He walked over, looked at Lazarus, and his mouth just dropped open. The little boy came out in him."

Other participants include rescue horses from the Southlands Foundation, adoptable dogs from Animal Farm Foundation, reptiles from Two by Two Animal Haven, small animals from 4-H and rescued farm animals from Hope Farm Animal Sanctuary, including Rosie, a 200-pound potbellied pig.

Joyce said one of her favorite aspects of the event is watching

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

with the scent of the people they love, the part of their brain that lights up is the exact same part of our brain that responds to love," she said. "So not only do they love us — dogs love the way we love."

Unlike larger ceremonial blessings often held around the feast of St. Francis, Rhinebeck's blessing is much more personalized.

"This is not where everyone

gathers and gets blessed all at once," Joyce said. "This is individual and hands-on. You walk up to Pastor Jim Miller, and he talks to you and your animal."

Past participants have brought everything from dogs and cats to chickens, parrots, reptiles and even an iguana "draped around someone like a scarf," Joyce recalled.

The event also features more than a dozen rescue and animal

MUSIC

Silvano Monasterios wows packed Cornwall Town Hall audience

By Natalia Zukerman

Grammy-nominated pianist, composer and producer Silvano Monasterios performed works from his upcoming "Solo in Paris," his seventh album, on Sunday, May 23 at Cornwall Town Hall to a packed audience. Presented by Music Mountain in partnership with the Cornwall Town Hall and Cornwall Library, the concert showcased Monasterios' signature fusion of sophisticated jazz harmonies and vibrant Latin rhythms. Throughout the performance, he moved seamlessly between intricate compositions and spontaneous improvisation. The concert built excitement for Music Mountain's upcoming summer jazz series, which will bring an array of acclaimed performers to the historic venue. For more information, visit musicmountain.org



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Silvano Monasterios thrilled a sold out audience in Cornwall.



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INSIDE

OUR TOWNS
Salisbury's 'Fix-It' pop-up shop returns

CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events



... Yonah Sadeh

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

ed projects for local affordable housing organizations and area nonprofits such as Berkshire Busk, Berkshares, Naturalis Healing, local after-school programs and the Falls Village Fire Department. Current projects are for Berkshire Mountain Bakery and a documentary about Great Barrington's revitalization in the 1990s.

Sadeh discovered early in life that he wanted to make films and began to develop his process and distinct style.

"It started with puppet shows and musical performances, and then, when I was around 12, a family friend showed me how to use my family's computer to record and edit short homemade videos using iMovie. From that point on, it was pretty much all movies. I would set up my mom's computer on a stack of books and record with the webcam."

An early influence was Wes Anderson's "Fantastic Mr. Fox," which, "inspired my Claymation videos when I was 10 and remains one of my favorite films."

He said getting his first camera made a big difference in his filmmaking.

"I was no longer stuck filming wherever I could set up the laptop. I could move with the camera and be more intentional about how things looked."

Finding some of the technical aspects challenging, he watched YouTube to learn.

"I would imagine these big scenes, like fight sequences with lighting and effects, and then have to figure out how to actually make them. That process pushed me to learn. I spent a lot of time



PHOTO BY MATT KASHAN

Filmmaker Yonah Sadeh on a shoot last year in New York City.

"When I was around 12, a family friend showed me how to use my family's computer...from that point on, it was pretty much all movies."

YONA SADEH

watching people like Casey Neistat, Film Riot and Corridor Digital, and just trying things out."

Knowing the path he wanted to take, he pursued his high school education at Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, MA. The school has since relocated to Barrytown, New York.

"Simon's Rock was not a film school in a traditional sense, but it had incredible faculty that I was able to work with one-on-

one throughout my years there," he said. "It gave me the flexibility and time to make films both in and outside of class, and to start my production business while still in school."

He was able to take college-level film courses while still in high school.

"It seemed like the perfect opportunity. I loved it so much that I stayed at Simon's Rock after graduating from the academy for my bachelor's degree."

After graduating, he focused full time on his freelance business.

"Most of my professional work is in documentary, where I am a one-man crew overseeing every aspect of the process, from meeting with clients to develop the idea to planning, filming and editing it all together. I love working in this way, with my hands in every part of the project."

In addition to documentaries, he also works on narrative films.

"The script I am working on now is set over the summer solstice and follows two kids over a short but formative period of time. I feel like this idea of land and place, and the passing of time, is a pretty consistent theme in all of my work, both narrative and documentary."

Narrative films involve working with a crew, and he said writing and directing have presented different challenges.

"By the time I get to production, I've usually been sitting with the story for a while and have a pretty clear picture of how I want each scene to feel. So a lot of directing is about communicating that vision to the actors and crew. It can definitely be stressful, especially with the pressure of being on set. But I've been lucky to work with people I really trust and enjoy collaborating with, which makes a big difference."

The finished film, Sadeh said, "becomes something built by everyone involved."

Eager to share his love of filmmaking, Sadeh recently took on the role of curator of the VideoWall at the Hunt Library in Falls Village.

"I would love the VideoWall to become a place that showcases the work of local filmmakers, and I hope that other creatives in the area will submit their work to be shown."

Reflecting on his chosen path, Sadeh said, "I feel really excited and creatively fulfilled to be doing the work I love in the place I grew up."

Learn more at sadehstudios.com



PHOTO PROVIDED

Author Courtney Maum will discuss her new novel with WAMC's Sarah LaDuke at the Norfolk Library on June 2.

...Courtney Maum

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

tion throughout his neighborhood," said Maum of her new novel.

When asked about her inspiration for "Alan Opts Out," Maum mused, "There is a reminder in the lyrics of the Justin Moore song 'Time's Ticking' to 'make a memory, not just money,' that sums up the emotional experience I aimed for with this novel. The suspicion that I was living to work instead of working to live was — like for so many of us — one that became especially pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic."

She continued, "I found myself enjoying the enforced change of pace where priorities shifted to health, time with loved ones and deep, honest gratitude for what I already had, because I sure as heck didn't know what tomorrow would deliver. Was the pandemic offering me a chance to opt out of the rat race?" Maum began to wonder what would happen if she did. "I took these sentiments, cranked up the volume on them to explore the existential 'aha moment' of somebody who did, in fact, opt out."

In his advance praise for the book, author Carl Hiaasen writes, "Like all good satire, 'Alan Opts Out' is vivid, lacerating, and funny, but also presents uncommon empathy for those it skewers."

Literary Hub describes the book as "the eat-the-rich farce we need, from one of our funniest writers."

Maum lives in Norfolk and is married to filmmaker Diego Ongaro. She states simply "I write, and I help writers write," and describes herself as a "human fighting for my wildness."

Founder of The Cabins, a collaborative arts retreat, Maum also runs a writer's workshop in New Mexico combining her 20 years in advertising with her love of craft. Maum is a brand strategist, publishing expert, writing coach and creative consultant. She says she wants to "help people hold on to the joy of art making."

To register for the event, go to norfolklibrary.org. Those who pre-order from Oblong Books (oblongbooks.com) will also receive a lobster sticker.

FILM

Survival and conflict on screen at Berkshire International Film Festival

By Brian Gersten

A new documentary exploring survival, trauma and resilience will make its world premiere later this month at the Berkshire International Film Festival. "The Choice," directed by John David Coles, is scheduled to screen at 12:30 p.m. May 30 at The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington.

Inspired by the bestselling memoir of Holocaust survivor and psychologist Edith Eger, the film brings together the stories of several women confronting profound personal loss and trauma. The documentary follows Eger alongside Iris Haim, an Israeli mother whose son was killed by the IDF while escaping Hamas captivity. The film examines how individuals navigate grief while attempting to rebuild their lives.

Coles, whose previous directing work includes television series such as House of Cards, Homeland



PHOTO COURTESY THE CHOICE FILMS

and The Sinner, will attend the screening.

The festival will also screen "Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk," on Sunday, May 30, at 4:30 p.m. at The Triplex in Great Barrington. Directed by Sepideh Farsi, the documentary is built from video conversations with Palestinian photojournalist Fatma Hassona documenting daily life in Gaza during the ongoing war. The film gained

international attention after Hassona was killed in an Israeli airstrike shortly before the documentary's premiere at the Cannes Film Festival.

Together, the films underscore BIFF's focus on urgent, emotionally resonant storytelling from around the world.

Now in its 20th year, the Berkshire International Film Festival runs May

28-31 and features more than 75 films, along with appearances by Karen Allen, Amy Goodman and other filmmakers and performers, as well as screenings, filmmaker conversations and special events across Great Barrington and Lenox.

For more information and tickets to the Berkshire International Film Festival, visit biffma.org

Psychologist, Holocaust survivor and specialist in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, Edith Eger's book, "The Choice" has now been adapted into a documentary premiering at the Berkshire International Film Festival.

At The Movies

Moviehouse SHOWTIMES & TICKETS

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<p>Sun. May 30 @ 7 PM: Meet the Filmmakers HARRY ROSEMAN: CHINA 1987</p>	
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Sat. May 30 at 4:00 PM
Saint James Place, Great Barrington, MA
BWV 230 Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden
BWV 227 Jesu, meine Freude
BWV 228 Fürchte dich nicht, ich bin bei dir

Sun. May 31 at 4:00 PM
Trinity Lime Rock, Lakeville, CT
BWV 229 Komm, Jesu, komm
BWV 226 Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf
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THEATER

Sharon Playhouse opens season with Spotlight Gala Celebration

By Natalia Zukerman

The Sharon Playhouse will kick off its 2026 summer season with its annual Spotlight Gala, “Hey There, Good Times!,” on Saturday, May 30, honoring longtime board member Skip Barber and arts educator Sarah Combs during the theater’s signature fundraising celebration of music, performances and community.

“Few individuals embody innovation, excellence, and community spirit quite like Skip Barber,” said artistic director Carl Andress. “While many know him as a legendary force in American motorsports and the longtime steward of Lime Rock Park, we are equally grateful for the energy, generosity, and community leadership he has brought to this region and to the Sharon Playhouse. He is a true original, and we are thrilled to honor him,” he continued.

Education and community director Michael Baldwin said honoring Combs with the first Spotlight Spirit Award is “both joyful and deeply fitting.”

“Sarah Combs has devoted her life to the transformative power of the arts — not only as a gifted performer, but as a teacher, mentor, and tireless advocate for young artists and



PHOTO PROVIDED

Skip Barber and Sarah Combs to be honored during Sharon Playhouse gala.

community creativity,” Baldwin said.

The evening begins at 5 p.m. with cocktails, dinner by Rita Welch Catering and a fundraising celebration in The Bok. A second “Patio Celebration” option beginning at 6:30 p.m. will feature live music by Ram Miles and Joe Finn, outdoor dining and pre-show festivities.

The gala performance and award presentation, directed and choreographed by Krystyna Resavy with music direction by Eric Thomas Johnson, will feature a Broadway-style musical revue performed by Sharon Playhouse favorites, guest artists and members of the YouthStage Company. Performers include Will Nash Broyles, Michael Siktberg, Ricky Oliver, Lucy Rhoades, Sasha Spitz and Michelle Lemon, along with

special guests from upcoming season productions including “Swingtime Canteen,” “Come From Away,” “42nd Street” and “Zombie Prom.”

“This is truly one of the most joyful nights of our year,” Andress said. “The Spotlight Gala is a celebration of everything the Playhouse represents: professional theater, arts education, community, and the incredible artists of all ages who bring our campus to life.”

Proceeds from the gala support the Sharon Playhouse Fund, which helps sustain professional theater productions, arts education programs and the theater’s Northwest Connecticut campus.

More information and tickets are available at sharonplayhouse.org.

COMMUNITY

Greenwoods Puppet Festival returns to Norfolk Library with whimsy and wonder

By Mike Cobb

The third annual Greenwoods Puppet Festival returns to Norfolk Library May 29 and 30 with two days of puppetry, storytelling and hands-on workshops featuring nationally recognized artists and family-friendly performances.

Children’s librarian and events coordinator Eileen Fitzgibbins said, “The first Greenwoods Puppet Festival was sparked by a question I had: Where does magic occur?”

The festival begins Friday, May 29, at 5:30 p.m. with an adult sock puppet workshop in the Great Hall at Norfolk Library. Eric Weiss of Homeslice Puppetry will offer a behind-the-scenes look at puppet-making while guiding participants in creating their own puppets. A simple dinner will be served.

On Saturday, May 30, at 10 a.m., award-winning puppeteer Liz Joyce will present

“The Doubtful Sprout,” an ecological wonderland featuring multiple puppetry styles, projections and songs.

From 12:30 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Heather Henson, daughter of Jim Henson, creator of The Muppets, will present a program for all ages called “Remember The Way: Where water flows and creatures return, balance is remembered.”

“We invited Heather Henson to come this year to give a performance. She has been very supportive of our town having puppet festivals,” Fitzgibbins said.

Using puppets, masks and dance props, participants will explore planetary movements, seasonal rhythms and interconnected waterways through immersive animal role-playing. Guided by whales, cranes, sturgeon and bison, audiences will journey through shifting landscapes while taking part in rhythmic

dance games, song circles, crafting and interactive storytelling designed to illuminate the connection between local water systems and the ocean beyond.

At 3 p.m., puppeteer Sarah Nolen will present “Party Animals,” which follows four furry friends as they navigate throwing their first party. At 4:15 p.m., a children’s dress-up parade will take place outside around the library. Costumes are encouraged. There will also be opportunities to meet the puppeteers until 5 p.m.

Fitzgibbins concluded, “Puppetry is an ancient form of artistic expression. It is an avenue that can spread seeds of change, tackle issues of social justice and spark creativity. Puppets are tools of storytelling and are amazing works of art. It is an experience not to be missed.”

For tickets and information, visit norfolklibrary.org/events

\$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.

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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.

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- **Investing in how the news reaches you**
We’re expanding our digital reach, publishing online throughout the week, and offering several highly popular newsletters.
- **Expanded enterprise and lifestyle reporting**
With a new Executive Editor, we are strengthening our newsroom, producing enterprise reporting on major issues and expanding our coverage of the arts and community events in the re-designed *Compass* section.
- **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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Please go to LakevilleJournal.com/donate or use the remittance envelope in today’s paper.

Local Matters

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The Hillsdale Workshop Alliance (HWA) is a collective of independent producers offering creative workshops in and around Hillsdale. Once a year, HWA comes together to present the Workshop Experience Weekend, a carefully curated festival of hands-on learning, creativity and community with over 26 workshops and events. This year's Workshop Weekend takes place May 30-31. For tickets, visit theworkshopexperience.org.

Tri-Corner Calendar

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

MAY 28

Learn to Play Ukulele with Julie Stepanek Murray
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Learn the basics of ukulele with instructor Julie Stepanek Murray, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Open to ages 8 through adult, with no prior experience required. Ukuleles will be provided. Registration requested at scovillelibrary.org.

Millbrook Film Club: "A Man Named Pearl"
Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y.
6 to 8 p.m. Documentary on topiary artist Pearl Fryar and his transformative garden. Free screening.

MAY 29

Opening Day at Wethersfield Estate & Garden
Wethersfield Estate & Garden, 257 Pugsley Hill Road, Amenia, N.Y.
Explore Wethersfield Estate & Garden, home to one of the country's finest classical Italian gardens, with sweeping hilltop views and a surrounding woodland garden featuring stately statuary. Picnics are welcome; carry-in/carry-out policy applies. Reservations are recommended. Membership includes free admission and guest benefits. wethersfield.org

MAY 30

Artist Talk: Near and Far, a Solo Exhibition by Richard Marr
Tyte Gallery, 3280 Franklin Ave. (2nd floor), Millbrook, N.Y.
An evening with artist Richard Marr from 6 to 8 p.m. in conjunction with his solo exhibition, Near and Far which is on view through June 7. Marr's evocative landscape paintings explore water, movement and the interconnected rhythms of the natural world.

Homeowner Series: Backyards that Support Birds
Sharon Audubon Center, Sharon (private residence location provided upon registration)
Part of a three-program series focused on habitat management, this session explores how homeowners can support bird populations through backyard habitat design. Topics include native plantings, reducing lawn space, and improving biodiversity through land stewardship. The program is led by Bethany Sheffer and Beverly Sullivan. Pre-registration is required audubon.org/sharon

Free Pet Vaccination & Microchipping Clinic
Third Lutheran Church, 31 Livingston St., Rhinebeck, N.Y.
Hudson Valley Animal Rescue & Sanctuary (HVARS) hosts a free rabies vaccination clinic for dogs, cats and domestic ferrets 3 months and older, 12 to 4 p.m. Microchipping will also be available for \$45 per pet. Rabies vaccinations are free for Dutchess County residents; pre-registration is required at hvvars.org. Walk-ins accepted as space allows. All dogs must be leashed and cats/ferrets in carriers. Rain or shine.

Crescendo Performs Bach Motets

Saint James Place, 352 Main St., Great Barrington, Mass.
Crescendo presents the first of two performances of Johann Sebastian Bach's celebrated motets, featuring the Crescendo Vocal Ensemble and professional soloists under the direction of Christine Gevert. The program includes three motets and organ chorale preludes, with commentary illuminating the music's spiritual and musical themes. Audience members will also be invited to join in singing select chorales. 4 p.m. crescendomusic.org

Members' Art Show

Spencertown Academy Arts Center, 790 State Route 203, Spencertown, N.Y.
Annual exhibition featuring work by 100-plus regional artists in a range of media; reception May 31, 3-5 p.m.; gallery hours Fri.-Sun., 1-5 p.m. Free; most works for sale.

Nature is the Art Gallery

Gallery of Dreams, 156 Gay St., Sharon
Noon to 5 p.m.

Art opening at the Gallery of Dreams (on view through July 26). Potluck dinner at 5 p.m. Paintings, pastels, photography, sculpture, furniture, fabric art and jewelry by local artists. Gallery hours: Fri-Sun 12 to 5 p.m.

Workshop Experience Weekend

Various locations
Workshop Experience Weekend, a two-day festival of hands-on learning, creativity and community, will take place May 30-31. The event features more than 26 workshops and activities. Details and tickets are on sale at theworkshopexperience.org

"The Blessing of the Animals" - The Year of the Humane Child

Third Lutheran Evangelical Church, 31 Livingstone St., Rhinebeck, N.Y.
Celebrate "Be Kind to Animals Week" with this free, outdoor community event in honor of Dr. Jane Goodall. Pastor Jim Miller will offer hands-on blessings for pets, while Ambassador Animals from local charities, including Animal Farm Foundation, Hope Farm Animal Rescue, P.A.N.T., Two by Two Animal Haven, and the State Police Canine Unit, greet visitors. Enjoy live music from a harpist, meet rappers and farm animals, and honor pets on the Pet Remembrance Tree. All furred, finned, feathered, and scaled friends are welcome. Noon to 4 p.m.; rain date May 31, 1 to 5 p.m. More information at lutheranparishnorthern.dutchess.org/blessing-of-the-animals.html

MAY 31

Telling Stories About The Things You Love
Ancram Center of the Arts, 1330 County Route 7, Ancram, N.Y.
The Spring workshops continue with a conversation and storytelling session with Mary Randolph Carter and Joan Osofsky. Participants will explore how meaningful objects—from heirlooms to flea market finds—can become the basis for personal stories, and will be invited to share an object that holds special meaning

in their own lives. Register at ancramcenter.org/workshops

Whistle Pig Sidewalk Sale

62 Main St., North Canaan, Conn.
Stop by Whistle Pig Books between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. for its Spring Sidewalk Sale, featuring a wide selection of used books for \$1 each. Browse fiction, non-fiction, children's books, and more! For more information visit whistlepigbooks.com.

Crescendo Performs Bach Motets

Trinity Church, 484 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville, Conn.
The second concert in Crescendo's Bach motet series features the award-winning vocal ensemble performing works by Johann Sebastian Bach, including selections from BWV 225-230, with organ chorale preludes and audience participation. Conducted from the keyboard by Christine Gevert, the performance concludes a yearlong study of Bach's masterworks by the ensemble's amateur and professional singers. 4 p.m. crescendomusic.org

JUNE 2

The Righteous Brothers: Lovin' Feelin' Farewell Tour

Warner Theatre, 68 Main St., Torrington, Conn.
Bill Medley, joined by Bucky Heard, performs classic hits including "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'" and "Unchained Melody," 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$56.

JUNE 3

New Patterns & Edging: Knitting with Bruce Weinstein

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Best-selling author and knitting expert Bruce Weinstein leads a workshop on new stitches for shawls, blankets and decorative edging, 2 to 4 p.m. Recommended for knitters with some experience. Additional session on July 2. Registration required at scovillelibrary.org.

Library Jam & Community Sing-Along

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y.
6:30 to 8 p.m. Monthly gathering led by Eric Marshall. Bring an instrument or just your voice. All ages and abilities welcome. Meets first Wednesday of each month, indoors or on the porch depending on weather.

JUNE 4

How to Talk to Your Doctor with Bruce Weinstein

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Board-certified patient advocate Bruce Weinstein presents practical strategies and take-home tools to help participants navigate health care with greater knowledge and confidence from 10 to 11:30 a.m. A question-and-answer session will follow. Registration requested at scovillelibrary.org.

SOAR Trivia Night

Salisbury Central School, Salisbury, Conn.
SOAR invites teams of up to four for an evening of trivia, pizza and friendly competition 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Salisbury Central School.

Pizza dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., with trivia starting at 6 p.m. Teams may include parents, grandparents, friends, students and neighbors. Cost is \$10 per person and includes pizza. Advance registration is required by May 29; walk-ins will not be accepted. Final room location will depend on the number of teams registered. Register at <https://bit.ly/4wi9QAS>

JUNE 5

Ned Ames Lecture: "Cultivating Resilient Food Systems in a Changing Climate"

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Lovejoy Auditorium, 2801 Sharon Turnpike (Route 44), Millbrook, N.Y.

... Blessing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

it create unexpected connections.

"I'm always amazed that people who would never talk to each other on the street are suddenly sitting on the lawn talking like old friends," she said. "Animals are great catalysts for human connection."

This year's rabies clinic, provided by HVARS, adds a critical public service component.

Rabies vaccinations are required by New York state law for all dogs, cats and domestic ferrets by four months of age. Owners who fail to comply can face fines of up to \$200.

"A lot of people don't realize that," Joyce said. "And they also don't realize how affordable this clinic makes it."

Vaccinations are free for Dutchess County residents with proof of residency and \$15 per pet for non-residents. Vaccines are valid for three years with proof of prior vaccination, or one year without it.

Microchipping will also be available for \$45, and one-year distemper vaccines for \$25.

"It's the size of a grain of rice," Joyce said of the microchips. "It's tiny, safe, affordable and permanent. If your pet is lost or stolen, all someone has to do is scan it."

She noted that the service can be especially important as pet thefts have risen in recent years.

The clinic was made possible through a donation from the Estate of Charles Svatek, whom Joyce described as someone "known for true acts of kindness and a loving desire to make the world better for all living creatures."

For Joyce, the event reflects a larger message about compassion — for animals and for each other.

"If this event does anything," she said, "I hope it reminds people that kindness ripples outward."

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged at hvvars.org, though walk-ins will be accepted as space permits. Dogs must be leashed; cats and ferrets must be in carriers. The event will be held rain or shine.

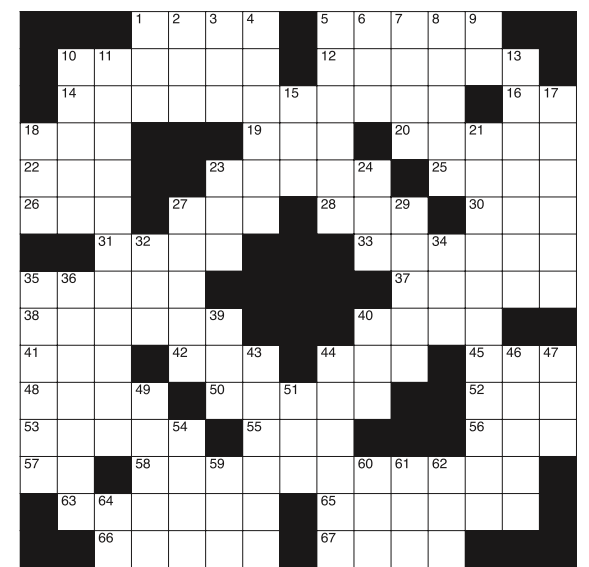
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Brain Teasers

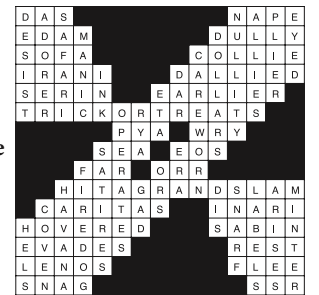
CLUES ACROSS

- Streetcar
- Take ___ of it!
- SW Asia peninsula
- Beating wings to escape from a perch
- One who revitalizes
- Indicates position
- Dishonorable man
- Singer King Cole
- Short-tailed marten
- One point east (clockwise) of due north
- The god of the underworld in ancient mythology
- Dirt
- Superconducting super collider
- Not good
- A way to sink
- Unwell
- Follow orders
- Deep ravine
- Perfumery practice
- Indian film director Sultan
- Member of U.S. Navy
- Wing-like
- Very fast airplane
- Slang for cigarette
- Most cars still need it
- Political war chest
- Cools down
- Diminish toward one end
- Indigenous person of Thailand
- Combined
- Container
- Expression of satisfaction
- Thou
- Return a favor
- Go over once more
- Removed
- "Silence of the ___"
- Comedian Rogen

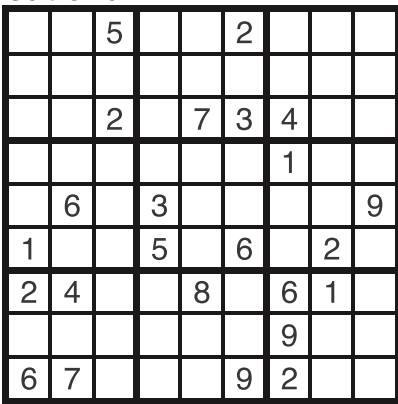


- Designs anew
- City associated with Jesus
- Cool!
- Bank employee
- Central nervous system
- Standardized piece of text
- A type of fever
- Baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Threaten persistently
- Aspirations
- Baby's eating accessory
- Actress Thurman
- Turn into bone
- One who saves you
- Consume
- Swiss river
- A part of a river where the current is very fast
- Categories
- Expressed amazement
- It's important in respiration (abbr.)
- Greek war dance
- Bland, semi-liquid food
- Regard in a specified way
- Taxi
- Naturally occurring solid material
- Feline
- Post-burning residue
- Elevated railroad

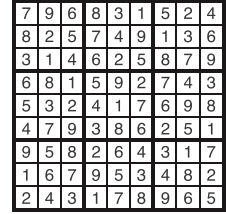
May 21 Solution



Sudoku



May 21 Solution



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Our Towns

Sharon education budget talks at a standstill following board meetings

By Alec Linden

SHARON – The controversial Sharon Center School budget will remain flat for now, following two heated meetings last week that produced significant debate but no changes to the bottom line.

The meetings marked the first official gathering between the Board of Finance and Board of Education since the town's proposed spending package was voted down by residents May 8 – a vote that saw the highest turnout in recent memory.

A second town vote has yet to be scheduled, although the Board of Finance and Board of Education plan to gather in June to continue conversations. The next budget, whether updated or unchanged, is due June 30. The previous proposed spending package was set at \$11,502,187, with a zero per-

cent increase for the Board of Education.

On Tuesday, May 19, the polarizing topic of out-of-district tuition funds was revisited during a Board of Finance meeting. Some residents and parents have been calling for the funds – which are predicted to total \$32,250 for 2026-27 – to be earmarked for the school budget rather than going into a general fund in the municipal budget, where it currently sits. However, a motion to create a new line item for school use in the municipal budget failed.

During a follow-up special meeting Wednesday, May 20, BOE member Pam Jarvis said she was discouraged by Tuesday's discussion. "What I took away from last night is that they're not interested in a compromise," she said of the BOF.

Sharon Day Care Center parent Veronica Betts also expressed disappointment.

"This is coming down to principle," she said during Wednesday's BOE meeting. Betts said the BOF's perceived unwillingness to negotiate "says that the town does not care."

For its part, the BOF has maintained that its position is meant to address a years-old accounting error that "inflated" the budget, which can't be reduced due to a state law that prohibits municipalities from decreasing education spending year to year, as well as on a cost-per-pupil basis. At just over \$46,000, Sharon has the highest in the state.

Moving forward, BOF Chair Tom Bartram said his committee will hold a special meeting to resume budget discussions before its next scheduled regular meeting on June 16. The BOF must provide at least two weeks' notice before holding another town budget vote ahead of the June

30 deadline. Bartram said he cannot predict whether the board will make changes or opt to send the same budget back to the vote.

If no budget is voted through by the town by then, property tax assessments will default to the current budget until a vote passes. Bartram said this would leave the school budget flat, but could have more immediate consequences for the town, which has new spending wrapped into the fiscal year '27 proposal.

Despite the rocky start, leaders of the two boards maintain they are committed to improving cooperation as this budget season passes and the next begins. "The two sides have lost track of why we're doing this," said BOE Chair Philip O'Reilly. "There is a need for both sides to sit down without arguing to determine a way out of this challenge."



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Expert fixers make small repairs to common household items at the Salisbury Congregational Church Saturday, May 23.

Salisbury's 'Fix-It' pop-up shop returns

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY – Nearly 100 residents attended a fix-it event held at the Salisbury Congregational Church Saturday, May 23, armed with jewelry to be fixed, garments to be mended and knives to be sharpened.

The "Fix-It Pop-Up Shop," sponsored by the church and the Scoville Memorial Library, took place indoors, including bicycle repairs, which were forced indoors because of the rain.

Nine fix-it stations were assembled inside the church hall. Karen Vrotsos from the library and Sarah Curtis from the Transfer Station Recycling Advisory Committee (TRAC) checked in attendees who made appointments ahead of time.

Fixer-upper included:

Bob Palmer, knife sharpening.
Shepherd Myers and Paul Bacsik, basic bicycle maintenance.

Arthur Fort, lamps and small appliances.

Bob Buccion, small electronics and soldering.

Pastor John Nelson of the Congregational Church, small furniture gluing.

Steven Wolf, small furniture and electrical items.

Barbara Reeves, mending knitted garments.

Pat Palmer and Angela Lomantio, sewing and mending.

Karin Noyes, simple jewelry repair.

TRAC also had a recycling information table.

Falls Village approves budget, increases mill rate

By Patrick L. Sullivan

S FALLS VILLAGE – Voters approved the \$6.7 million 2026-27 budget at a town meeting Friday, May 22 at the Emergency Services Center, including the municipal and Board of Education proposed spending plans.

During the town meeting, the municipal budget of \$2,503,382 passed by a vote

of 28-9 with one abstention. The vote was conducted by paper ballot.

The education budget of \$4,201,917 also passed with a voice vote and show of hands after a motion to use a paper ballot failed. Three people voted no.

Directly after the meeting, the Board of Finance set the mill rate at 23.82, an increase of 1.37 mills (5.92%).

The finance board used a combination of the mill rate increase and \$144,800 from the general fund to cover a shortfall of \$479,000. The action leaves a general fund balance of roughly \$804,000, which is 12% of the total budget.

Voters approved by unanimous voice vote an ordinance establishing a 15-year real property tax abatement for

surviving spouses of residents in public service, including law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical service providers who lose their lives in the line of duty.

In other business, the town voted to join the Northwest Resource Recovery Authority, the group of Northwest Connecticut towns that will take over the Torrington transfer station.

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