

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



Drift drivers show off their skills in front of spectators at Lime Rock Park on Saturday, Aug. 22.

Smoke and Speed

GridLife brings racing, drifting and new fans to Lime Rock Park

By Madi Long

LIME ROCK — Thousands of spectators gathered at Lime Rock Park on Aug. 21 and 22 as GridLife Circuit Legends returned for its fifth year, bringing two days of racing, car culture and live entertainment to the Northwest Corner.

GridLife is more than a traditional race weekend. The festival combines competitive racing with

car exhibitions, music and other entertainment, creating the community-driven atmosphere that has become central to its identity.

Among the weekend's most anticipated — and controversial — attractions was drifting. The exhibition gives teams and individual drivers an opportunity to entertain spectators by throwing their cars sideways around the track, producing clouds of tire smoke.

Controversial drifting will remain at Lime Rock Park under tighter regulations

By Alec Linden

LIME ROCK – After months of public hearings, the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved a broad set of new regulations last week governing operations at Lime Rock Park, including racing hours, noise monitoring and enforcement.

But drifting emerged as the most contentious part of the package. The new regulations continue to allow the activity at the track while limiting it to one two-day event per year and imposing new air-quality monitoring requirements.

The Tuesday, Aug. 18, approval by the commission was promptly put to the test over the weekend during GridLife, the one event on the track's annual calendar that features the controversial drifting activity.

The only substantive change to the draft regulations presented to the commission was a change to the enforcement of drifting, a vehicle demonstration that produces plumes of tire smoke and noise. The topic has emerged as a sticking point in debates over new regulations for the track, first proposed to the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission in May. At that time,

"The thing about Lime Rock is it has this energy and this kind of soul that exists in some capacity at other tracks, but it's so unique here," said Chris Stewart, GridLife founder and chief creative officer.

Stewart launched GridLife in 2014 alongside Adam Jabaay, who brought years of experience in road course and autocross racing. When the Circuit Legends concept first came together, Stewart said Lime Rock's character and energy made it a natural fit for the festival.

"I remember the first year here and just the concept of Circuit Legends, and we built this event and the energy specifically around the feeling that we got from the track. It just melds so well," he said.

Throughout the weekend, spectators also witnessed a wide range of competition, including TrackBattle, which challenges drivers to chase the fastest lap rather than compete wheel-to-wheel. Fans also watched a variety of tight, action-packed races like the GridLife Touring Cup, GridLife GT and the GridLife RUSH Series.

The entertainment continued after the cars left the track. Friday night featured karaoke, arcade games and a preview of "Drifter," an upcoming action film directed, co-written and co-produced by Sung Kang, who attended the

Former IMS coach, trainer arrested for alleged sexual contact with student

By Aly Morrissey

LAKEVILLE — A former Indian Mountain School coach and athletic trainer was arrested Tuesday, Aug. 18, by state police on three felony charges related to alleged sexual conduct with a 15-year-old student while he was employed by the school.

Maxwell Abendroth, 32, was charged with fourth-degree sexual assault. The charge identifies the alleged victim as a student under

16 and Abendroth as a coach. He was also charged with illegal sexual contact with a minor and risk of injury to a child. State court records list Jan. 25, 2026, as the date of the alleged offenses. Abendroth was serving as the athletic director and athletic trainer at IMS at that time.

After police obtained a warrant for his arrest, Abendroth turned himself in to Troop B Headquarters in North Canaan on Tuesday, ac-

See ARREST, Page A10



A fire destroyed this barn on Winchester Road in Norfolk early Wednesday, Aug. 19. There were no injuries.

Pre-dawn fire destroys Norfolk barn, home undamaged

By Alec Linden

NORFOLK — An early morning blaze engulfed a Winchester Road barn on Wednesday, Aug. 19, destroying the structure. The fire was extinguished by late Wednesday morning, and there were no in-

juries to residents, first responders or animals, Norfolk Public Information Officer Jon Barbagallo said.

Approximately 25 responders from the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department, Norfolk Emergency

See FIRE, Page A10

Region One seeks input on school consolidation

Region One has launched a survey as part of an organizational study that includes examining the possible consolidation of its six K-8 schools. Families, staff, students, alumni, and community members may respond through Sept. 23.

No changes are currently proposed, and the results will help identify areas for further research and discussion. The survey can be found at my.thoughtexchange.com/scroll/813321095



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Our Towns

Nancy Kissinger remembered for her commitment to Kent

By Ruth Epstein

KENT - Nancy Kissinger, 92, widow of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, died at her South Kent home on Aug. 20. She is being remembered by townspeople as a warm, thoughtful woman, who, while protective of her privacy, also embraced the town and its residents in many ways.

The Kissingers split their time between a Manhattan residence and a 300-acre farm in South Kent.

Deborah Chabrian and her husband, Ed Martinez, were acquaintances of the couple and recalled her graciousness.

"She was very warm, very thoughtful," Chabrian said in an interview this week. "She had no airs and was down to earth, yet there was a sense of formality. She did many acts of kindness that people didn't know about."

Known as a philanthropist, Kissinger financially supported many local causes, including the Kent Historical Society, of which Chabrian is president. The society is headquartered in the former home of artist George Laurence Nelson and when a project to upgrade the room named for his wife, Helen, was initiated, Nancy Kissinger's donation was a big part of making it happen, Chabrian said.

Kissinger was often seen around town, always in a low-key manner. Chabrian said she enjoyed doing her own errands. "She was a familiar face at the South Kent Post Office. I once ran into her at a farm stand in



PHOTO BY ED MARTINEZ

Nancy Kissinger, left, is seen with Deborah Chabrian, president of the Kent Historical Society, at a Kent Firemen's Ball, several years ago. Kissinger died at her South Kent home last week at age 92.

Litchfield. She would attend the annual firemen's ball and in earlier years, she and her husband would be seen at the firemen's fair."

Martinez, an artist, was commissioned to paint several portraits for the Kissingers, including portraits of family members. Chabrian laughed when telling the story of him being asked by Kissinger to paint a picture of their dog, Abigail, for her husband's birthday.

He did two sketches. "She liked one and he, the other. In the end, they took them both. She was a strong force."

When they would deliver portraits, Chabrian and Martinez would occasionally be invited to stay for tea.

Chabrian also remembered hearing about the time Kissingers' car broke down on a Manhattan highway coming back from Kent. A policeman came and helped her out and she made a point of sending a note of praise to his boss about the incident.

The Kissingers were also loyal supporters of the Kent Memorial Library. Ken Cooper, past president of the board of directors, recalled a time when the library held a series of talks, bringing dignitaries to speak.

"We were at Kent School when Army Gen. Colin Powell, who had served as secretary of state, was the guest speaker," Cooper recalled. "Powell was asked why he would agree to come to a program at a small town. He replied, 'Because Nancy asked me to.'"

Another of her interests was the environment and conservation. William Arnold, a member of the Kent Land Trust, said she showed that in many ways. She was the honorary chairman of the organization's annual benefit cocktail party for several years and would faithfully come to welcome guests.

He remembered her request to have a purple martin

(a type of swallow) colony on the farm's property and how much she enjoyed feeding and watching those birds. "She would come to my farm every year to see the bobolinks nesting in the tall grass. She loved wildlife; birds in particular."

Arnold shared that the Kissingers loved dogs and had a series of labs, most of whom were named for first ladies.

Laurie Doss, a teacher at Marvelwood School, described her relationship with Kissinger as "bird buddies." She helped Kissinger put up her purple martin nesting box, and when it wasn't drawing guests, Doss suggested she move it closer to a pond. The change of location met with success. Kissinger, she said, was always concerned with what movements in the environment would impact birds, such as wind turbines.

But it was her caring for others that Doss stands out when she thinks of Kissinger. When Doss was in treatment for cancer, Kissinger sent her a cashmere shawl to keep warm.

"She was the most down-to-earth caring person," she said.

First Selectman Eric Epstein called Kissinger "a pillar of the community." He, too, spoke of the many organizations she supported.

"I will cherish Dr. Kissinger and her taking time each August to attend our firemen's fair to enjoy a sausage and pepper grinder and play a few rounds of bingo. Her presence and commitment to Kent will be missed."



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Danny Tieger, left, greets Debbie Labbe and Harley the llama at the Scoville Memorial Library.

Songs, sketches and a llama delight children at Scoville Memorial Library

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Danny Tieger is known for "Danny Sings About Everything," a series of children's events at the Scoville Memorial Library featuring Tieger, his guitar, an easel with a sketch pad and markers, and a crowd of children brimming with suggestions.

From this mix, Tieger creates extemporaneous songs and drawings.

On Sunday, Aug. 23, things got more specific. "Danny Sings About a Real, Live Llama" featured a llama named Harley and his owner, Debbie Labbe of Country Quilt Farm in Cornwall.

Tieger got the 18 or so children primed during the half-hour before Harley's arrival.

He started with a couplet:

"We'll have songs and very silly dances/At the end we hope the llama prances."

He then asked the children to name an animal for a quick song.

"A duck!" said a child with a squeaky voice.

Tieger thought for a moment, strummed a chord and launched into it. "Ducks are excellent/Of them I am fond/I look for them in rivers/In lakes and in ponds."

The group then worked up the beginning of a song for Harley, leading into a chorus of "Hey! It's a llama."

Then it was time to sing it to Harley, who entered the children's area of the library led by Labbe on a loose leash.

Harley turned out to be a placid, unflappable llama, although Labbe asked the children to wave their hands rather than clap.

Labbe pointed out the different colors of Harley's fur: brown, black, gray and a little white around his nose.

"Those are the basic llama colors, and it's how we tell them apart," she said.

Labbe said Harley, a fully grown 4-year-old llama, weighs 350 pounds. Llamas typically live 18 to 20 years.

Harley lives at the Cornwall farm with five other llamas.

Labbe runs programs for older adults at nursing homes, convalescent centers, assisted living facilities and adult day care centers, as well as programs for children at libraries, schools and day care centers.

The llamas are friendly with people, and petting is encouraged.

Labbe, with Harley beside her, read "Is Your Mama a Llama?" by Deborah Guarino, and shared additional llama facts.

"You can't ride a llama," she said. "They're not designed for it."

"But they are excellent pack animals and can be trained to pull a cart. So that's how you could go for a llama ride."

She asked the children whether they had heard Harley make an identifying sound, the way a cow moos.

The children said no. "They're very quiet," Labbe said. "When they do talk to each other, they make a humming sound."

An exception is when there is cause for alarm, such as a coyote sneaking up on a flock of sheep the llamas are guarding or a bear appearing at the perimeter of the farm.

Labbe described a llama's alarm call as a cross between a donkey braying and an alarm clock going off.

"It's really obnoxious."

The children got to pet Harley, who took the attention in stride.

Whether Harley liked the song was difficult to gauge. He remained poker-faced throughout.

Music, dancing close Hunt Library's final summer concert

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — More than 50 people turned out for the final free outdoor concert of the summer at the David M. Hunt Library Friday, Aug. 21.

The event featured an open-mic format, and master of ceremonies Adam Sher encouraged the audience to get involved in any way they liked, such as performing gymnastics or telling a joke.

First up was a four-person version of the Berkshire Resilience Brass Band, featuring Dathalinn O'Dea on alto saxophone and three members of the Sadeh family: Lev and Shamu on trumpet, and Jamie on percussion.

Emmet King was up next with a short solo piano piece.

Mary Fellows of Salisbury followed, singing and accompanying herself on acoustic guitar. She started with Albert Hammond and Mike Hazelwood's "It Never Rains in Southern California."

Taking Sher at his word, there was a brief interlude as a couple of youngsters did

some gymnastics.

Then a group from Adamah Farm called "Ground Staples," consisting of Kate Franklin, Lucy Rappaport, Ira Becker, Ozi Kaplan and Sara Rukseyer performed "The Swimming Song." After that, Franklin and three girls, Sarit Berger, Tzof Siller, and Dahlia Berger, sang and danced to a recording from "Six," a British musical about the wives of King Henry VIII.

The Falls Village Fiddler and the Wonder Whistler, aka Rachell Gall on violin and O'Dea on the penny whistle, took the stage. After some tuning adjustments, the duo tore into "The Banshee," which inspired the Adamah contingent and others to dance enthusiastically.

Brook and Leo Martinez, aka "The Mystery Twins," wrapped things up with the former on acoustic guitar and Leo, Brook's son, on electric guitar and lead vocals. The pair began with "Dirty Work," written by Donald Fagen and Walter Becker, which was originally recorded by Steely Dan.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Members of the Berkshire Resilience Brass Band played at the final outdoor concert at the David M. Hunt Library Friday, Aug. 21. From left, Shamu Sadeh, Lev Sadeh, and Dathalinn O'Dea.

Send news tips to editor@lakevillejournal.com



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Spontaneous dancing breaks out at the Hunt Library.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND AT MUSIC MOUNTAIN

SAT., SEPT. 5 | 7:00 PM

Borromeo String Quartet & Raman Ramakrishnan, Cello

Featuring ARENSKY Quartet in A Minor, Op. 35; BEETHOVEN "Eyeglasses" Duet for Viola/Cello; Landmark KODÁLY Duo for Violin/Cello, Op. 7

Music Mountain Summer Festival

SUN., SEPT. 6 | 3:00 PM

Penderecki String Quartet & Victoria Schwartzman, Piano

Featuring BEETHOVEN "Razumovsky" Quartet; Krzysztof PENDERECKI Quartet No. 4 (2016); DVOŘÁK Piano Quintet No. 2 in A Major, Op. 81

Tickets \$50-65 | \$30 for Student / Teacher / Veteran / 19-40 y.o. Free Under 19 y.o. (860) 824-7126 and musicmountain.org

Teen rides from Salisbury to the Canadian border to raise funds for The Little Guild

By Aly Morrissey

SALISBURY — This summer, Hotchess junior Maggie Reid completed a 275-mile bike ride from Salisbury to the Canadian border, raising \$5,600 to support The Little Guild, a West Cornwall-based animal shelter.

Reid made the four-and-a-half day journey with her father and riding partner, Alex Reid, carrying most of what they needed in bags attached to their bikes.

Reaching the border, she said, was “definitely one of my proudest moments.”

“It was a hard four and a half days, and I was just really glad that we completed it,” Reid said.

Riding for a cause has become a tradition for Reid and her father, although this trek has been the longest and most challenging.

“This ride was definitely more intimidating because it was much longer than the previous ones,” Reid said. “After the first day, I was defi-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Maggie Reid and her father, Alex Reid, completed a 275-mile bike ride from Salisbury to the Canadian border, raising \$5,600 for The Little Guild animal shelter.

nately feeling a little sore. But I just refused to quit.”

Her father said Reid’s love for animals began at a young age.

“When she was younger, Maggie watched news coverage of animals displaced by a devastating hurricane and wanted to find a way to help,” he said. “She and a friend or-

ganized a neighborhood lemonade stand, raising several hundred dollars for the Humane Society.”

Today, she remains involved in supporting at-risk animals. At Hotchkiss, Reid is a co-leader of the school’s Humane Society Club, which has teamed up with The Little Guild in the past.

“I’ve learned more about the incredible work The Little Guild does to rescue homeless dogs and cats, help them heal, and find them loving homes,” Reid wrote on her fundraising page. “They also provide training, food, and other support that helps keep pets with the families who love them.”

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Maggie Reid

For the ride north, Reid and her father packed most of their belongings into bags attached to the front and back of their bikes.

“We had to pack light and be very intentional about what we chose to bring,” she said. “I had to sit on my bags because they wouldn’t close.”

Long distance biking has become a father-daughter tradition.

“We just kind of do it for fun as a bonding activity,” she said. “It’s kind of our thing now.”

Reid attributed her success, in part, to the encouragement she received from her father along the way, especially during hills and

inclines when mental and physical fatigue can set it.

To keep the vibes high, the duo has a soundtrack for the more scenic and safe stretches of their rides. They kick off each journey with Queen’s “Bicycle Race.”

The second and third days, they hit some inclines and elevation, but the scenery was worth it. She said they rode past corn fields, mountains and scenic overlooks. “Toward the end, we were biking toward Lake Champlain, so that was a really pretty view.”

By the fourth and fifth day the temperature skyrocketed and created another challenge. “We had to stop for more Gatorade breaks,” she said.

On their final day, they made it to the Canadian border after biking a short 30 miles, she said. They treated themselves to Ben & Jerry’s ice cream. “That was my big reward,” Reid said.

Reid said she doesn’t plan to stop biking. “It reminds me of happy summers,” she said.

Scoville Library talk explores pitfalls and benefits of AI

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The confused and the curious convened at the Scoville Memorial Library on Thursday, Aug. 20 for a freewheeling discussion of the 2024 book “AI Snake Oil: What Artificial Intelligence Can Do, What It Can’t, and How to Tell the Difference” by Arvind Narayanan and Sayash Kapoor.

Leading the discussion were Kat Zdar and Stevo Ledbetter, self-described “tech survivors” with considerable experience in the field of technology. It was the second installment of the discussion.

Zdar said that large language models (LLMs) are not a form of magic.

“People built this,” she said of tools like OpenAI’s ChatGPT. She said LLMs “are good at some things, not so good at other things.”

Ledbetter said artificial intelligence “is a marketing term, intentionally broad and



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Kat Zdar, left, and Stevo Ledbetter talk about AI.

hard to define,” but attempted to define it anyway.

“It’s a computer program that uses massive amounts of data to predict the most probable outcome for a given input,” he said.

One commonly used example of AI, he said, is the predictive text feature on phones and computers.

Zdar then defined what AI is not. “It is not human, magic or free. It is a tool, de-

signed by people.”

AI has considerable potential for causing harm, the speakers said. As an example, Ledbetter asked an AI program the question, “How many rocks should I eat each day?” The answer is “one small one.”

AI reflects the biases of its creator, he continued, and is designed to flatter the user with responses such as, “That’s a really smart question.”

Zdar said AI is not very good at answering questions about current events, because the information hasn’t yet been entered by the very large numbers of data workers worldwide.

Ledbetter said data labor is another problem caused by AI. He said data workers around the world are typically poorly paid and often exploited.

Other pitfalls include skill atrophy. Zdar said people who rely on AI find their ability to do things the old-fashioned way deteriorates.

Zdar said AI is not a math whiz. “AI cannot reliably count or calculate.”

And, in extreme cases, heavy use of AI can produce “AI psychosis,” in which the user’s grip on reality can become badly damaged and distorted.

Zdar said the real risk in AI is people using it for harmful purposes rather than a science fiction scenario of AI “turning into a

sentient god-tyrant.”

So what is AI good for? Zdar provided five examples of helpful uses for AI.

A condolence note when the writer is stuck on the first line. Simple translation, such as “Where is the bathroom?” in another language. Planning a trip. Brainstorming on a subject such as how to raise funds for the local food pantry.

AI users should be aware of its shortcomings and pitfalls and practice basic safety. Zdar and Ledbetter’s list of basic AI hygiene includes keeping data anonymous whenever possible.

Give context when using AI. Good quality information going in means good quality responses coming out.

Along similar lines, users should define the format they want AI to use and ask for adjustments along the way.

And the two big ones: “Don’t trust, always verify,” said Zdar firmly.

“And don’t use AI for stuff you want to be good at.”

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application # 2026-0328 by Patrick Mulberry for establishment of a single-family residential use in the Inner Corridor of the Housatonic River Overlay District and the Flood Plain Overlay District, with associated site work, at 11 Route 7, Salisbury, Map 04, Lot 31-1 per Sections 401 and 402 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 6:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The application, agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at www.salisburyct.us/agendas/. The application materials will be listed at www.salisburyct.us/planning-zoning-meeting-documents/. Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to landuse@salisburyct.us. Paper copies of the agenda, meeting instructions, and application materials may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM at the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury CT.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
Robert Riva, Secretary
08-27-26
09-03-26

Legal Notice

The Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Application ZBA-26-1 by Emily Vail for a variance of Section 304 and 300.2 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations pertaining to a property owned by 145 Farnum Road LLC located at 145 Farnum Road Lakeville, CT 06039, map 48 lot 15. The hearing will be held on September 8, 2026 immediately after the regularly scheduled business of the 5:00PM meeting. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to and speak on the matter. Instructions for attending this virtual meeting will be listed on the agenda and at <https://www.salisburyct.us/agendas/>.

The application materials will be listed at <https://www.salisburyct.us/zoning-board-of-appeals-meeting-documents/>. Attendance is encouraged but 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. The agenda, meeting instructions, and application materials may also be reviewed in the Land Use Office, Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

Salisbury Zoning

Board of Appeals
Lee Greenhouse,
Secretary
08-27-26
09-03-26

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 March 7, 2022:
Approved — Regulation Amendment Application #2026-0315 by Lime Rock Park II, LLC amending section 221 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations "Additional Requirements for Uses in the RE Zone" as amended by the Commission through and including its meeting of August 17, 2026 with the finding that the amendment is consistent with the plan of conservation and development, and in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan of Zoning with an effective date of September 7, 2026.
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
08-27-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF DONA L. ALEXANDER,
Late of Lakeville
AKA Dona Olinger
(26-00319)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated August 10, 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:
Sarah H. Hadoulis
c/o William O. Riiska
William O. Riiska
3 Farnam Road

PO Box 1340
Lakeville, CT 06039
Jordan Berghs,
Clerk
08-27-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF GREGORY THOMAS MCAVOY,
Late of
Cornwall Bridge
(26-00311)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated August 10, 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:
Mark McAvoy
17 Brookside Drive
Plainfield, CT 06374
Jordan Berghs,
Clerk
08-27-26

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
08-27-26

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OBITUARIES

Stephen Michael Brandt

LAKEVILLE — With heavy hearts we are saddened to report that Stephen passed away at Sharon Hospital after a long illness at age 62. He lived in Sharon early on and then resided in Lakeville later in life.

He was an accomplished and well-respected painting contractor. He had a huge heart, was a great friend to everyone (always there to help) and had the quickest wit and greatest sense of humor ever.

He was predeceased by his beloved grandparents, Katherine MacNeil Brandt, his parents Dolores and Robert Brandt, a stepmother Elizabeth (Peg) Brandt, sister Linda and brother David.

He leaves behind his sisters, Debbie Holtman (Dave), Barbara Brandt (Patrick Goff) and Dina Brandt.

He also leaves his two nephews, Jared Holtman (Rena) and Tyler Holtman

(Ashley Ganon) as well as a long list of good friends and especially his best cat friend “Cupcake cat.”



In addition to always being the life of the party, he loved to fish, hunt, collect coins and antiques and play Bluegrass music with his musical friends.

He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge No. 13 in Lakeville.

Friends and family are welcome to join a Masonic service at the Montgomery Lodge #13, 41 Sharon Road, Lakeville, CT on FRIDAY AUGUST 28. Service at 6 PM with dinner and music and conversation to follow. Doors will be open at 5:30 PM. ALL WELCOME.

Donations in Stephens’ honor can be made, if you wish to: Salisbury Family Services, PO Box 379, Salisbury, CT 06068 or the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service, PO Box 582, Salisbury, CT 06068.

Barbara Hinkel-Azzara

WEST CORNWALL — Barbara Mary Hinkle-Azzara, long-time resident of Princeton, New Jersey, completed her life journey on Aug. 15, 2026, and is now reunited with her beloved husband Joe. Barbara’s passing leaves a deep quiet, as she was one of those rare souls whose generosity, kindness, and instinctive thoughtfulness made life sweeter for everyone around her.



Born in Macedonia, Ohio, Barbara grew up in the Nordonia schools and received her sacraments at Our Lady of Guadalupe. She graduated from Nordonia High School in 1983 and earned her degree in Medical Records Management from Bowling Green State University in 1987. She soon moved to New York City, beginning a long and respected career in medical records at St. Vincent’s Hospital and other major institutions, where colleagues admired her expertise and her unfailing willingness to help.

In the mid-1990s, while working at St. Luke’s–Roosevelt Hospital, Barbara met Joseph Azzara, the love of her life. They married in 2001 at a favorite Long Island vineyard and built a warm, welcoming home in Princeton. Joe’s sons, Michael and John, lived with them part-time, and Barbara embraced them with wholehearted affection, creating a family life defined by support, humor, and shared experiences.

Barbara and Joe shared a deep love of travel, especially their many trips throughout Italy, where they delighted in food, wine, and the simple joy of exploring together. They also treasured visits to France to see her sister Julie, ski trips, and countless weekends spent cheering at the boys’ soccer games. Barbara approached every journey — near or far — with curiosity, gratitude, and her signature generosity of spirit.

Her faith was a steady anchor throughout her life. She was a devoted member of St. Paul’s in Princeton, where her spiritual life deepened over many years. After the loss of her father and later Joe, Barbara found profound comfort and support at the Chapel of All Saints in West Cornwall, Connecticut, where she spent

meaningful time held in prayer, companionship, and quiet strength.

Barbara’s kindness was quiet but constant: thoughtful notes, small gestures, meals delivered, and an uncanny ability to sense when someone needed comfort. She lived by a line from her

favorite band, Dave Matthews — “Celebrate we will, because life is short but sweet for certain.” And she truly did: celebrating others, celebrating love, celebrating the everyday moments that make a life full.

In 2025, Barbara faced her diagnosis of a rare, inoperable brain glioma with courage, hope, and unwavering faith. A new treatment brought brief encouragement, but she ultimately passed peacefully in Connecticut, surrounded by those who loved her.

Barbara was preceded in death by her husband Joseph and her father William. She leaves behind her step-sons Michael Azzara of Charlotte, North Carolina, and John Azzara (Gina) of Asbury Park, New Jersey; her mother Mary Jean Hinkle of Hudson, Ohio; and her siblings Steve (Gloria), William (Nancy), Mary Ann (Peter), Mark (Joan), Kathryn (Jim), Peter (Evelyn), and Julie Saint-Jacques. She was a beloved aunt to many nieces and nephews across both families.

Barbara’s legacy is one of tenderness, generosity, faith, and radiant kindness. Those who knew her will carry her light forward, comforted by the belief that she rests in peace and is reunited with the loved ones who went before her.

There will be a memorial for Barbara with Chapel of All Saints @Trinity Retreat Center West Cornwall CT at a future date. Ryan Funeral Home, Lakeville, is in care of arrangements.

There will be a livestream Funeral Mass celebrated Saturday, August 29, 2026 @ 10:00 am St Paul Catholic Church, 218 Nassau St, Princeton, NJ 08542 (Live stream link/directions available at ryanfhct.com)

Donations can be made to National Brain Tumor Society: braintumor.org/donate

To offer an online condolence, please visit ryanfhct.com.

SHARON — Nedra Hope Guyette, age 95, of Sharon, Connecticut, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Aug. 12, 2026.

Nedra, also known to many as Mom and Grammy, was born on Feb. 25, 1931, in Stamford, Connecticut. Her family later moved to New Portland, Maine, in Somerset County, where she and her two brothers led an active, outdoor life she cherished and missed for the rest of her days.

In 1948, she married a handsome war veteran, Wallace Yahn, and the two settled nearby, building a painting and construction business that kept them on a snowbird’s schedule: six months in Maine, six months in Florida. During the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, they decided to put down permanent roots in Maine, where they raised their four children in a house that they built themselves in Wilton. In 1972, they purchased the Mount Blue Motel, a bustling year-round 19-room motel that served skiers and outdoorsmen and ran it as a thriving business until they sold it in 1984. They then bought a beautiful farm in New Vineyard, Maine, until Wally, her husband of 38 years, sadly passed away from cancer.

In 1987, Nedra married Joseph Guyette, a teamster



and retired truck driver originally from Woonsocket, Rhode Island. Together they bought an 18-wheel Peterbilt and hauled fruits and vegetables from Maine to California and Florida. They eventually retired to Brooksville, Florida, where Nedra once again became a snowbird and remained under the loving care of her daughter, Janet, in Topsham, Maine, and her granddaughter, Missy while in Florida after the death of Joe in 2010. In Jan. 2026, Nedra moved to Sharon, to be near her son Walter.

Nedra was a tremendous athlete who was either watching sports or playing them herself. She was a member of the 1948 Maine state championship basketball team at Central High School, and in the 70’s Nedra went to the Nationals for her Maine bowling team, traveling to Las Vegas, Reno and Denver. She had a wide circle of friends and loved a good round of golf and playing games like cribbage and dominoes at her Florida clubhouse in the evenings.

Nedra was also a devoted sports mom. When her children were young, she traveled all over New England to competitive ski races, rising early each morning to check the weather and wax their skis. She could just as often be found on the sidelines of track meets and football

Dr. Joseph Valentine Hajek

SHARON — Dr. Joseph Valentine Hajek of Sharon, Connecticut, died in the early morning of Saturday, Aug. 15, 2026. He was 89.

Joe was born in New York City on Sept. 8, 1936, the son of Joseph Hajek, born in 1889 in Prague, Bohemia and Olga Weber Hajek. He attended Trinity School and Philips Exeter Academy, and he graduated from Harvard College in 1958. After his undergraduate years in the Harvard ROTC, he entered the Navy for three years, achieving the rank of Lieutenant JG.

After his honorable discharge, he married Cicily Warren in 1962 while attending Harvard Medical School. After an internship at Massachusetts General Hospital, he took up an orthopedic residency at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City. He also spent time abroad on a traveling fellowship, studying with John Charnley in England and Maurice Mueller in Bern, Switzerland. After a return to Brooklyn, New York, Joe and his family settled in Sharon in 1975, where he became the first orthopedic surgeon at Sharon Hospital. He retired in 2004 and spent the rest of his life in Sharon.

Joe led an active outdoor life, enjoying rowing, tending his apple orchard, mak-

ing play equipment for his grandchildren, and caring for his dogs. He maintained his expansive property with his beloved tractors, chain-saws, log splitter, and other equipment perhaps less precise than his surgical tools, but which he used no less ably.

Joe is survived by his loving wife of 64 years and by his sister Barbara Ulman of Lake Oswego, Oregon. He was predeceased by his sister Olga Cassard.

He is also survived by his daughter Schenley Hall and husband Jeffrey of Tucson, Arizona and grandsons Jonathan, Benjamin, and Nicholas; son Luke and wife Janet of Denver, Colorado, and grandsons Ryan and Trevor; daughter Mathilde Ross and husband Rob of Brookline, Massachusetts; and grandchildren Calvert, Josephine, and Winthrop; and son Justin of Sharon and granddaughter Julia.

Funeral services will be held at Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon at 11:00 AM on Saturday, Aug. 29.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to any of three organizations near and dear to Joe’s heart: the Sharon Audubon Society, the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, or Christ Church Episcopal.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Nedra Hope Guyette

games and was famously the carpool mom for whichever team needed one. That devotion carried into the next generation. She attended many soccer and baseball games for her grandchildren and was never shy about letting a referee or umpire know her opinion about a call.

She will be remembered as a hard worker, a loyal friend, a lover of all animals and a fiercely protective mother and grandmother.

Nedra is survived by her older brother, Robert Meade, and his wife, Avis Meade, of Woolwich, Maine. James and Pat Yahn of Rockwood, Maine, Janet Dyroff of Brunswick, Maine, Walter and Joanie Yahn of Sharon, Connecticut, Mary Jane Yahn-Hull and DD Yahn-Hull of Fort Collins, Colorado, and Roland and Cheryl Guyette of Millville, Massachusetts. Nedra is also survived by her grandchildren, Melissa

Yahn of Brooksville, Florida. Rachel and Robert Nichols of New Sharon, Maine, Lindsay Dyroff and Jonathan Waite of Brunswick, Maine. Maggie and Hector Umana of West Hartford, Connecticut, Ellie Yahn of Denver, Colorado, Willy Yahn of Kent, Connecticut, Cody Brown of Fort Collins, Colorado, Chris Guyette of Webster, Massachusetts and Eric Guyette of Woonsocket, Rhode Island. She is also survived by many great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by her brother, Donnie Meade; her husbands, Wallace Yahn and Joseph Guyette; and her son-in-law, Michael Dyroff.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Somerset Humane Society, P.O. Box 453 Skowhegan, Maine 04976, or online at <https://shsanimalshelter.com/>

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Celebration of Life

Lynne Killmer Stanton

A celebration of life for Lynne Killmer Stanton will be held Sunday October 25th from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Salisbury Town Grove.

 Worship Services <i>Week of August 30, 2026</i>	
Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon <i>9 South Main, Sharon CT</i> Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. <i>Transitioning through prayer</i> All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org	The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. <i>30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT</i> Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God’s shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442
Trinity Episcopal Church <i>484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville</i> Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627	St. John’s Episcopal Church <i>12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT</i> SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge <i>In-Person and on You-Tube</i> www.stjohnssalisbury.org
North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC <i>Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God’s people</i> <i>172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT</i> Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232 FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH Is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan <i>Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm</i> www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org	ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH <i>Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk</i> <i>St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan</i> <i>St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville</i> 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 <i>St. Joseph Chapel or Church</i> Thursday 8am <i>Immaculate Conception Church</i> Friday 8am <i>Church of St. Mary</i> ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078
Congregation Beth David <i>A Reform Jewish Synagogue</i> <i>3344 East Main St., Amenia</i> 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	UCC in CORNWALL <i>Cornwall Village Meeting House</i> 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 <i>Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</i>
The Lakeville United Methodist Church <i>319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039</i> 10 a.m. Worship Service <i>“Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors”</i> The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net	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
Falls Village Congregational Church <i>16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village</i> 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour <i>A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!!!</i> 860-824-0194	St. Thomas Episcopal Church <i>40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY</i> SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com <i>A Community of Radical Hospitality</i>
The Sharon United Methodist Church <i>112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green</i> <i>Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits</i> 9 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net	Promised Land Baptist Church <i>29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT</i> <i>Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow!</i> Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting — 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org
The Smithfield Presbyterian Church <i>656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 85, Amenia, NY</i> Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org <i>21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</i>	Canaan United Methodist Church <i>2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT</i> 11:00AM - Worship Service <i>“Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors”</i> The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com <i>We hope you will join us!</i>
All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church <i>513 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT</i> Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us	
Sharon Congregational <i>25 Main Street, Sharon, CT</i> Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org	

For more obituaries, turn to page A7

Think Local: We Do

Local Matters

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The Lakeville Journal • The Millerton News

LET'S HEAR IT...

THIS WEEK

As summer comes to a close and students head back to school, the new season brings a chance to reflect on what we've learned along the way. Whether it came from a summer adventure, a new experience, a challenge or simply spending time in the community, we want to hear what lessons people are carrying with them into the fall.

What's one thing you learned this summer—big or small—that you'll take with you into the fall?

Send your responses to social@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, Aug. 31 at 10 a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We'll publish a selection in next week's paper.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Has construction in our region impacted your daily travel? Have delays changed your daily routes or plans? Or have you noticed little to no difference?

"Stay out of Sharon!"

—Cathy Casey



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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Full steam ahead—toward a bad investment

"The appeal of old railroad stations is usually less about the building's architectural quality than about what a station represents: departure, return, possibility, reunion, and a visible connection to an earlier rhythm of public life. A plain depot can feel emotionally charged because it is a threshold—a place where private lives briefly met a larger world. Research on nostalgia suggests that revisiting such associations can strengthen feelings of social connection, personal continuity, and meaning."

Ok ... I get it. However, I am unconvinced of the merit of an expenditure of over \$600,000 of taxpayer money to move the one in Lakeville. If sufficient community nostalgia for the old station exists, perhaps the town can solicit donations from the community, as was done for updating the ski jumps,

which raised a sum of this magnitude in a short time.

I listened to the rationale as set forth by Curtis Rand at a Board of Finance and Select-board meeting held on Aug 19 at 6:00 PM -- the Zoom recording of that meeting is on the Town website. One rationale was safety. Perhaps the area will become safer, but no evidence of any accident or incident of note was cited. Another was that the building was being hit by box trucks, but simple guardrails, bollards, or other alterations could alleviate this issue. Expansion of parking for the three restaurants is another rationale, but I don't see those establishments suffering, and the Rail Station predates all of them.

It was stated that ultimately, the currently unoccupied building could be used as a town facility or by a nonprofit organization. What was not stated is that the building has

been unoccupied for years with no party expressing a need for the space. Are we to give free rent to a nonprofit and favor one worthy entity over another, or charge a market rent? No specifics are offered. Buildings need management and Mr. Rand specifically stated that the town does not wish to manage it without offering a concrete alternative. Being on the National Register of Historic Places does not impose restrictions on preservation, alteration, or demolition. Undefined in the meeting are the further costs required to replace the furnace, interior restoration costs, paving, and landscaping. These costs could add many thousands more to this project, as the \$600,000 is only for the foundation and moving the building. It was stated that SHPO will pay for a full restoration after the move. Do we have

a firm written open ended commitment for what could prove very costly or is this based on hope? Why spend a large sum that might escalate significantly for a structure that may bring in no income when the main benefit to the town is a few parking spots?

Most galling to this geezer is the proposal to divert funds earmarked to pay down debt. I know the world is awash in debt. Banks and others promote debt, but many of my generation see it for what it is. Mr. Rand and others rightly point to the low interest cost on our current town obligations and brush over the fact that some will reset in the near future to market interest rates, which are currently higher and perhaps rising.

Why not auction it off to some train buffs who might find it appealing, with the stipulation that they must

move it within 6 months to their own property either here in CT or elsewhere? We could pay down debt and perhaps bring in extra money for paving and landscaping. Parking spaces would be added without the obligation to maintain the unneeded structure.

A final observation. This is being presented as a matter needing swift attention. One might wonder what lies behind this new found urgency on Mr. Rand's part.

I am opposed to the \$600,000 expenditure for a building that has no special significance for most in town but welcome opposing opinions or additional facts.

No matter your opinion, please attend and vote at a Town Meeting tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, Sept 16, 7:30 PM. Confirmation of the date/time will be forthcoming & also on the Town website.

Philip Oppenheimer
Lakeville

TURNING BACK THE PAGES
NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago —
August 1901

LIME ROCK — John Owen is cutting his tobacco. It was injured some by late storms. H. Goodwin has the best field of the plant we have seen.

SHARON — Master Gerard English celebrated his fourth birthday on Wednesday by giving a most delightful party at the Inn to a host of his young friends.

LIME ROCK — Chas. Vosburgh is having a cellar dug preparatory to building

a new house just east of the Casino.

It is said on good authority that the lockup at Salisbury is in a foul and unfit condition and needs cleaning and new bedding. The matter should be looked into by the proper authorities and remedied without delay.

LIME ROCK — A valuable gray horse, one of a team owned by James Richardson, was kicked by its mate in the side last Saturday, while in pasture on the farm. It lived but a few hours.

For the full "Turning Back the Pages,"
go to www.lakevillejournal.com

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

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Scientific research affects us all

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed the congressional charter creating the National Academy of Sciences, established to give the government independent, objective scientific advice. This helped spark decades of federal investment in technological innovation that modernized the nation.

After World War II, the US led the world in scientific research in medicine, space engineering and physics. Federal grants funded state universities and laborato-

ries, including the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, attracting the smartest scientists in the world to the United States to work. Nearly all major medical breakthroughs to protect us from disease, we owe to that research. Federal grants have also paid for us to explore space. This leadership in innovation made us the most powerful country in the world and has given us the quality of life we enjoy today.

That legacy is now at

risk. The Big Beautiful Bill included huge cuts to federal grants, so we now risk losing 10,000 scientists, according to the White House Agency for Personnel Management, as researchers look abroad to work in laboratories in Canada, Europe and China, countries which are actively trying to seduce our scientists away. Under the Trump administration, the National Institutes of Health has frozen, cut, or terminated 5,800 research grants, and the Na-

tional Science Foundation has cut roughly \$1 billion dollars in research funding. This administration is proposing large cuts to research agencies in the future.

Will we still lead the world in advanced medicine, physics and space in the future? Not if this administration is allowed to continue its relentless attack on the advancement of science at our universities and research facilities.

Lizbeth Piel

Sharon

Letter from the Falls Village Recreation Chair

Dear Falls Villagers,
The other evening I was at the Town Farm, looking out across the pool towards the Litchfield Hills. The water was clean and still. The birds were making their usual racket. The sun was beginning to drop behind the hills. And I had one of those moments when something very ordinary suddenly looks rather extraordinary.

"This is ours!" I thought. Not mine. Not the Recreation Commission's. Ours. The people of Falls Village. A piece of land in one of the most beautiful places imaginable, paid for and cared for by this community, with a pool, woods, water, open space and, soon, a pavilion.

It made me wonder whether we have become so accustomed to having it that we've forgotten to imagine what else it could hold.

That thought leads to something else I love about this town: how much lives quietly beneath the surface. You meet someone who has written extraordinary books. Someone else spent years working in theatre. Another can build a stone wall that will probably still be standing when the rest of us are dust. Someone knows how to tie a fishing fly. Someone else understands the land, the birds, the old roads, or how to grow something properly. We have our own dairy farm, craftspeople and stories.

What would happen if we made a little more room for all of this to be shared?

We are currently exploring a community gathering at the Town Farm this October, and I would love for it to become something the community helps create.

If you know how to do something, make something, grow something, teach something, tell something, or simply care deeply about something, we would love to hear from you.

Bring a stone with a story. Show someone how a fishing fly is made. Teach a child something about the woods. Share a recipe. Bring an old photograph. Explain how a stone wall is built. What is the thing you know that the rest of us might not?

The point is not performance. The point is participation.

This is what I hope the Town Farm can become: a place where the community can gather, explore, learn, walk, swim, fish, make, teach, talk and celebrate throughout the year. Not because we are trying to turn Falls Village

into something else. Quite the opposite. The opportunity is to help Falls Village become more fully itself.

For now, we are also focused on keeping our pool open as many days as possible through Labor Day. Updated hours will be posted on our Facebook page, or simply keep an eye out for the OPEN flag on Route 63.

For October gathering updates and other Recreation news, follow us on Instagram at @fallsvillagerecreation.

If you have something you would like to contribute, or an idea for the Town Farm, email me at chair@canaan-fallsvillage.org. No application or commitment. Just start the conversation.

For the love of the village.

Catherine Wales
Chair

Falls Village Recreation
Commission

OBITUARIES

Allen Degreenia

WEST CORNWALL — Allen “Al” Degreenia, 70, of West Cornwall, Connecticut, passed away on Aug. 14, 2026 at Hartford Hospital.

Al was born on Sept. 10, 1955, in Torrington, Connecticut, the son of the late Ovel and Olive Degreenia of West Cornwall.

A man of many talents, Al was an artist in every sense of the word. He was a gifted musician and had a lifelong love of old cars. For many years, through his business, Textile Graphics in Torrington, Al shared his artistic talents with the community, printing hundreds of T-shirts and hand painting signs for local businesses.

One of the joys of traveling through the surrounding towns with Al was hearing him proudly point out his work, saying, “I painted that sign”, or “I printed T-shirts for that business, summer camp or Little League team”. His creativity and craftsmanship can be found throughout the area and will remain a lasting reminder of his talent.

Al was preceded in death by his brother, Melvyn and

his sister, Patricia.

He is survived by his sister Susan (Degreenia) Murray and her husband Roger, as well as many nieces and nephews, of whom he was very proud and whose accomplishments he greatly admired.

One of Al’s greatest joys was family gatherings, holiday meals, birthday celebrations or a simple spontaneous picnic at Housatonic Meadows.

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, Aug. 29, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Ellsworth Cemetery in Sharon, Connecticut. A reception will follow at the Taughannock Grange Hall, 7 Dunbar Rd., Ellsworth (Sharon).

Please bring a story or memory about Al to share!

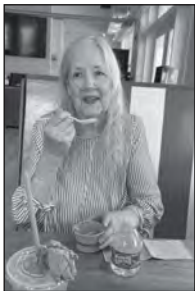
Al will be remembered for his creativity, his many accomplishments, his love of music and old cars, and the unique mark he left on the communities around him. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all who knew him.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



CANAAN — Lynn Korbel passed away peacefully with her son, Eric by her side, at Geer nursing on Aug. 19, 2026, due to complications of cancer and kidney failure. She is remembered and celebrated by her two sons, Eric and David Korbel of Lakeville and Middleboro, Massachusetts, her two grandchildren, Dylan Korbel and Brittany Korbel, her niece Jennifer Cotte and her grandnieces Jaden Cotte and Jamison Cotte. She is survived by her brother Edward “Ted” Korbel of West Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Lynn was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on June 1, 1943. She resided in Wilmette, Illinois before moving to New Canaan, Connecticut in 1955. She attended New Canaan High School where she learned to play the flute and speak French. She was active in the drama department as well. Graduating in 1961, she then went on to attend Virginia Wesleyan College studying the Russian language and was actively involved in the production of several plays both as an artist as well as working on set design and as a director. Further education found her attending the Catherine Gibbs school in NYC and



also working at that time as a fashion model. Lynn then went on to work for the Famous Artists School in Westport, Connecticut where she received several promotions rising to oversee the nascent computer division side of the business.

Lynn married and gave birth to her two sons, Eric in 1966 and David in 1971. Residing in New Jersey for several years before moving to central Ohio in 1975, where she then came to realize that she was an artist studying art at the Columbus College of Art and Design, growing and refining her skills with a wide variety of media mostly working in acrylics and oils. She would go on to utilize all mediums in her artistic expression. She was also an accomplished calligrapher and photographer.

It was in the late 70’s that she began to work seriously as a fine artist and her command of composition and technique were highly regarded and respected in the art community. She would go on to win many awards with her artworks including second place at the Ohio State Fair in 1978. She painted boldly and fearlessly, pushing boundaries to create works of exquisite and ecstatic beauty and wonder. Through-

out her life she was always expressing her inner spirit and passion with many forms of media including collage. Lynn was also an avid journal writer and wrote and filled many volumes with her thoughts on life and dreams. Later in her life she would begin to work with textiles and many family members and dear friends have at least one of her crocheted animals or mittens to remember her by.

Lynn moved to Falls Village, in 1982 residing in the locally famous Pine Grove community until 2008. Working life in the 80’s found her at the Jug End resort in Egremont, Massachusetts and the Marvelwood school where she worked with the head of the school. She also worked with the Emersons at their bookstore in Falls Village. Lynn also became an accomplished astrologer and created astrological charts for people all over the country by advertising in print media. She always had a keen psychic ability and was adept with the Tarot and other tools of divination.

Eventually music beckoned and she took up the flute once again and refined her talents joining the Torrington Symphony and playing with them in the capacity of flutist and violinist, as well

as the classical guitar. She was especially fond of the works of Vivaldi.

Our mom cherished the companionship of cats all of her life, her loving heart and sensitive nature allowing her to create deep bonds with her feline companions with Moses, Dennis, Allegro and Sophie being just a few.

It was later in her life that Lynn would find a new career path as a caregiver eventually becoming a CNA. She was employed by Geron and by SVNA in Salisbury where she was a highly respected and sought after caregiver who always rose to the occasion no matter the time of day or the weather conditions. Known for her deep compassion and her upbeat and often humorous spirit, she retired in 2024.

Moms wit, grace, intelligence and inquisitiveness will be missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her and her absence is a hole in my heart that cannot be mended. She loved books, movies and music, she loved life and laughter enjoying comedies like ‘Vacation’ in particular. She was my window on the world, my Mother and confidant. I miss her dearly.

However, her greatest journey has only begun...

Ronald C. Watson

MILLERTON — Ronald C. Watson, a devoted father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, friend, and beloved member of his community, passed away leaving behind a lifetime of memories and a family who will forever carry his love with them.

Ronald was born on Dec. 3, 1948, at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington, Connecticut, to Roy Watson and Theresa Linderman. Throughout his life, Ronald was a man who valued the things that mattered most—family, loyalty, friendship, and time spent doing the things he loved.

Ronald was predeceased by his parents, Roy Watson and Theresa Linderman; his brother, Roy Watson II; his sisters, Patty Watson and Theresa Eiserman; his beloved granddaughter, Ellie Dunlop; and the love of his life, Audrey Watson. The love Ronald and Audrey shared was a defining part of his life, and there is comfort in knowing that after enduring the heartbreak of her absence, they are together once again.

Ronald’s greatest legacy can be found in the family he loved so deeply. His memory will live on through his two daughters, Rene (Rob) and Jody Watson; his grandchildren, Reneisha Vielman, Robert Haskell, Tatyana Watson, Christian Haskell, Kenya Castillo, William Haskell, Daja Williams, and Shantasia Thompson; their spouses; and his many cherished great-grandchildren. Each of them carries a piece of Ronald with them—in the stories they will tell, the traditions they will continue, and the memories they will hold close for generations to come.

He is also survived by his siblings, Edward Watson Sr., Al Watson, Thomas Watson, Larry Watson, Kathy Ahearn, Jackie Mangarillo, Wendy Wilms, Timothy Watson, and Richard Watson, Otto Eiserman, as well as many nieces and nephews who truly made

his life better.

Ronald was a true outdoorsman and an avid hunter who found peace and happiness in nature. He was an active member of the Millerton Gun Club, where he enjoyed spending time among friends who shared his interests. And

when it came to fishing, those who knew Ronald would tell you there was simply no one better. Whether he was hunting, casting a line, or sharing a story about the one that did—or didn’t—get away, those were the moments when Ronald was truly in his element.

He also loved a good flea market. There was something special about wandering through tables filled with old treasures, never knowing what he might find or what story might come along with it. The simple things in life brought Ronald happiness, especially when they could be shared with the people he loved.

Above everything else, Poppy was a family man. He was loyal to his core, loved deeply, and stood by the people who mattered to him. His

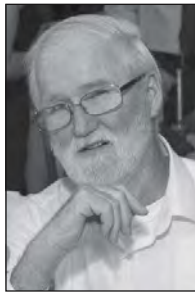
family was his greatest pride, and his presence created the kind of memories that time can never erase. He was someone you could count on, someone whose stories will continue to be repeated around kitchen tables and family gatherings, and someone whose absence will be felt in countless moments.

To know Poppy was to know a man who lived life in his own way, loved his family fiercely, and left his mark on generations of people who were fortunate enough to call him Dad, Poppy, Uncle Ron, Sir, family, or friend.

Although saying goodbye to Poppy brings an immeasurable sadness, his life was so much bigger than this goodbye. It lives on in every fishing story, every hunting memory, every flea-market treasure, every family gathering, every laugh shared in his honor, and every piece of wisdom passed from one generation to the next.

Those who loved Ronald will miss his presence more than words can express, but the love he gave them does not end here. It remains in his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, siblings, family, and friends.

May Ronald rest peacefully, reunited with Audrey,



For more obituaries, turn to page A5

Realtor® at Large

In Boston on Commonwealth Ave. there is an exhibit of 100 hand-woven life-sized elephants on display until Sept. 13th. The sculptures are part of a free touring public art exhibition called *The Great Elephant Migration* (thegreatelephantmigration.org). Since its founding in 2015 the project has sought to raise awareness for human-wildlife coexistence and wildlife conservation. For more information on this remarkable exhibit, please visit: www.wbur.org/news/2026/08/07/great-elephant-migration-back-bay-boston

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Ellie, and all those he loved who went before him. His work here is finished, but his stories, his love, and his legacy will live on forever in the hearts of the family he treasured most.

A Celebration of Life will take place on Sunday, August 30, 2026 at 12:30 p.m. at Millerton American Legion Post # 178, 155 Route 44, Millerton, NY. Memorial contributions may be made to the Millerton Gun Club, P.O. Box 720, Millerton, NY 12546. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the Celebration of Life or to plant a tree in Ronnie’s memory, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com Arrangements have been entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

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Our Towns

Region One prepares to welcome new teachers and staff

By Aly Morrissey

The 2026-27 school year is just around the corner, and several new educators will join schools throughout the Region One district. Here is an introduction to the district's new teachers.

Photos provided



Don Crossman
Technology Teacher
HVRHS

Don Crossman brings 21 years of experience in education, serving as a teacher, department chair, coach, athletic director, and most recently Associate Principal at The Gilbert School. He holds an M.S.Ed. in Educational Leadership from Lamar University, an M.S.Ed. in Differentiated Instruction from Graceland University, and a B.S.Ed. in Technology Education from Central Connecticut State University. Crossman lives in Litchfield with his wife, Brooke, and son, Greyson. He is excited to return to the classroom, where his passion has always centered on teaching and working directly with students. Outside of school, Crossman enjoys baseball, fishing, weight training, and spending time with his family on Highland Lake.

Salary: \$111,018



Luke Vermilyea
Technology Teacher
HVRHS

Luke Vermilyea joins the district for the 2026-2027 school year as a Technology Education teacher. He is originally from Litchfield, Connecticut and attended Central Connecticut State University, where he earned his undergraduate degree in Technology and Engineering Education. He is currently pursuing his Master's degree in STEM Education at CCSU. Vermilyea is passionate about hands-on learning and is excited to work with students in the Technology Education program. In his free time, he enjoys wood-working, photography, hiking, and baseball.

Salary: \$71,806



Jack Wrobel
Physical Education Teacher
Lee H. Kellogg School

Jack Wrobel is excited to join the Lee H. Kellogg School as the new Physical Education Teacher this fall. He earned his undergraduate degree with honors from Roger Williams University, where he was also a varsity

wrestler. He later earned his Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T) in Physical Education and Sports Pedagogy from Manhattanville University. Wrobel has previously worked as a Teacher and TA within the Carmel CSD, and has coached wrestling in NY and CT.

A native of Pawling, New York, Wrobel holds the all-time wrestling wins record at Pawling High School. He is thrilled to join the Lee H. Kellogg community and is passionate about building positive relationships with students while fostering confidence, skill development, and a lifelong appreciation for movement and physical activity.

Fun fact: Wrobel is an avid fly fisherman, and several of his favorite fishing spots can be found within the Region One School District.

Salary: \$36,089



Alanna McKenna
School Counselor
Kent Center School

Alanna McKenna is a certified school counselor in Connecticut. She holds a Master's degree in Counselor Education with a specialization in School Counseling from Central Connecticut State University and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a minor in Human Services from Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts. McKenna is passionate about supporting students' academic, social-emotional, and college and career development. She is excited to join Kent Center School and partner with students, staff, families, and the Region 1 community to help make the school year a positive and successful experience for all. A Litchfield native, McKenna enjoys dancing and reading in her free time and loves getting together with her family, especially her 11 older siblings!

Salary: \$56,172



Christine Lauretano
Grade 3 Teacher
North Canaan
Elementary School

Christine Lauretano is a certified K-6 teacher with a bachelor's in Elementary Education from Florida Southern College. Lauretano has taught grades K-3 for over 8 years in both Florida and Connecticut, and most recently served on the board of education for Regional School Districts 6 and 20. Lauretano has a passion for education, and in addition to teaching at the elementary

level, she also teaches initial EMT certification and continuing education for EMS providers.

Outside of the classroom, you will find Lauretano volunteering as an EMT for Litchfield Ambulance or cheering for her 3 kids in soccer, dance, and track. She also enjoys water skiing and snow skiing with her kids, and spending time at home with their rescue dogs, horses, chickens, or whatever other animals wander their way.

Salary: \$61,586



Catherine (CeCe)
Cleary
School Counselor
Salisbury Central School

Catherine (CeCe) Cleary is a Professional School Counselor. She holds a Master's degree in Education - School Counseling from Loyola University in Maryland and a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Psychology from Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland. She joins us from the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, where she served as a School Adjustment Counselor for three years. She was a classroom teacher and school counselor in the Baltimore/Annapolis area for 24 years, prior to relocating to the NWC in 2023.

Cleary is a proud mom of three children and lives in Lakeville, CT. She is passionate about social-emotional learning, building relationships, and being trauma informed. She believes that social-emotional learning is essential for developing well-rounded students and is excited to work with the students, families, and staff of Salisbury Central School. Cleary enjoys being outdoors, paddleboarding, and hanging with friends and family in her spare time. She is a certified Yoga instructor and Reiki healer and can be found traveling (especially to visit her kids) and exploring new places during her school breaks.

Salary: \$102,902



Alyssa Labbadia
Grades 1-3

Salisbury Central School

Alyssa Labbadia will begin teaching at Salisbury Central School in August 2026. A lifelong resident of East Canaan, she is excited to begin her career as a first-year teacher in the community she calls home.

Labbadia earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in History from the University of Connecticut before earning her Master of Education in Elementary Education from the University of Connecticut. As part of her graduate program, she completed her student teaching at Southwest Elementary School in Torrington Public Schools and continued working at Southwest Elementary School as a building substitute teacher.

Outside of school, Labbadia enjoys reading, gardening, watercolor painting, and spending time with family and friends. An avid reader, she read 25 books last year and hopes to surpass that number in 2026. She looks forward to building meaningful relationships with students and families and becoming an active member of the Salisbury Central School community.

Salary: \$59,561



Nick Hall
Special Education Teacher
North Canaan
Elementary School

Nick Hall joins North Canaan Elementary School as a Special Education teacher beginning in August 2026. Originally from Newtown and now living in Winchester, Hall brings experience as a

special education teacher, reading teacher, and Dean of Alternative Programming, with a strong background supporting students with behavioral, academic, and social-emotional needs. He earned his Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from University of Connecticut and completed his Sixth Year degree at University of Bridgeport.

Hall is passionate about building strong relationships with students and creating structured, supportive learning environments where all learners can succeed. Outside of school, he enjoys outdoor projects and homestead-style living on his property in northwest Connecticut, including gardening and growing hot peppers. He has also competed in Tough Mudder and other obstacle course events.

Salary: \$106,000



Caitlin Scott
Speech and Language
Pathologist
North Canaan
Elementary School

Caitlin Scott is a Speech-Language Pathologist who will be joining North Canaan Elementary School in August 2026. She lives in Egremont, Massachusetts with her husband, two children, and two dogs. After starting their family in Falls Village and spending seven years in Brooklyn, they are grateful to be back in the Berkshires, where she values both the strong sense of community and connection to nature.

Scott earned her Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Northeastern University and is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Education in School Lead-

ership at UMass Lowell, with research focused on improving the meaningful inclusion of students with disabilities. Throughout her career, she has worked with students from pre-K through 12th grade in both public and specialized school settings. She is passionate about strengths-based practice, creating joyful learning experiences, and incorporating equine-assisted therapy, holding certification in EA-GALA since 2017.

Salary: \$92,477



Julia Tracy-Keller
School Psychologist
Pupil Services

Julia Tracy-Keller is a certified School Psychologist who graduated from Fairfield University. She holds a Master of Arts and 6th Year Certificate in School Psychology, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Saint Joseph.

Tracy-Keller is committed to supporting students' social, emotional, and academic growth by meeting them where they are and helping them build the skills needed to reach their full potential. She strives to create a safe, supportive environment where students feel valued, understood, and empowered to explore how they learn best. Tracy-Keller believes every student is capable of growth and success when provided with the right encouragement, support, and opportunities to thrive.

A couple fun facts about Tracy-Keller is that she just recently got married, is an avid cat lover, loves going to different coffee shops, and grew up camping at Lone Oak Campsites since she was a child!

Salary: \$67,052

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Our Towns

GridLife brings racing, drifting and new fans to Lime Rock Park

Continued from Page A1

event. The return of drifting has raised concerns among some neighbors surrounding Lime Rock Park, particularly over noise and smoke from burning tires. Those concerns have put pressure on the park and GridLife to find a balance between hosting major motorsports events and maintaining a positive relationship with the surrounding community.

Lime Rock Park CEO Dicky Riegel and his team have taken steps to address those concerns. Signs around the property warned visitors: “NO Revving, NO 2-stepping, NO Speeding. You will be asked to leave. Please respect our neighbors.”

A heightened police presence was also in place throughout the weekend to help enforce those rules.

The park has also installed multiple air-quality sensors to monitor emissions and ensure conditions remain within regulatory limits.

For Riegel and the Lime Rock team, however, GridLife represents more than a single weekend of racing. It represents an opportunity to introduce a new generation to the track and help shape the future of motorsports.

Toyota added to that focus on the future by making its U.S. public debut of its track-focused GRMN Corolla at Lime Rock



Driver Ben Carroll and his team after completing their race.

Spectators look on as cars drift around the track on Saturday Aug. 22.



PHOTOS BY MADI LONG

during the weekend.

GridLife prides itself on having “the youngest grid in racing,” and Riegel said that youthful energy was evident throughout the park.

Riegel said GridLife attracts a younger, more diverse fanbase that offers

an important balance to the sport’s older audience, which maintains longstanding traditions.

“This organization brings youth, it brings vibrance, it brings diversity, it brings everything that you can see looking around the park,” Riegel said. “I’m

proud that we can sustain the future of the park with youthful enthusiasm and welcome new people to our area.”

Controversial drifting will remain at Lime Rock Park under tighter regulations

Continued from Page A1

track administrators said the changes were meant to update town zoning rules to reflect recent changes to a decades-old court agreement governing the race track.

Throughout the months-long public hearing process this summer, Lime Rock’s president and CEO Dicky Riegel said the regulations were the result of five years of conversations between the track and the Lime Rock Citizens Council, a residents’ group formed amid long-standing tensions between the racetrack and its neighbors.

Riegel said the new regulations represent the beginnings of a better relationship with neighbors and the town. The new rules retain a long-standing ban on Sunday racing, first established by a 1959 court injunction. They also establish new limitations on unmuffled racing, eliminate overnight racing, impart tighter hours overall and implement further traffic control, noise monitoring and enforcement provisions.

While the Commission responded positively overall to the proposed changes, several P&Z members remained wary of clauses in the new regulations surrounding drifting. The newly adopted rules limit drifting to one event of two consecutive days per year, with no more than three 15 minute demonstrations per day involving no more than ten cars.

Riegel and Lime Rock Park general partner Bill Rueckert said the drifting

provisions impose restrictions where little regulation existed. Riegel said the track has voluntarily operated under the terms of an amended stipulation agreement since 2022, limiting drifting to two days per year as a gesture of its commitment to being a good neighbor.

Still, some commissioners said they’d rather not see drifting at all. P&Z member Danella Schiffer said that while compromise is an admirable goal, it often “represents watered down solutions — the subject of drifting is case in point.”

Commissioner Allen Cocklerline, who has in past meetings described the activity as “offensive,” responded that while he may not like drifting, P&Z has an obligation toward Salisbury’s businesses as well as its residents.

“You’re right Danella, it’s a compromise,” he said. “Life would be better without drifting — for us. But it might not be better for the track, and the track is a business entity in town.”

The smoke created by drifting remained a point of contention. Salisbury’s interim Land Use Administrator Jeremy DeCarli said that a clause that defined nuisance tire smoke as hanging above tree line for 15 seconds was removed for being too subjective.

He said the provision was “really just something that is impossible for the zoning enforcement officer to enforce.” He and P&Z’s attorney Charles Andres replaced that measure with a condition that the track add two additional

air quality monitors to the two that are already operational on site, and a rule that air quality at the track must comply with state and federal standards.

This approach, Andres said, relies on “more objective criteria promulgated by agencies whose job it is to do this stuff.” Riegel confirmed on Thursday, a day before GridLife kicked off, that the two monitors on site were operational, and that orders had already been placed for the two additional units.

“We do what we say we’re going to do,” Riegel said, adding that the new approach benefits the track, the commission and residents alike as it “takes away all subjectivity.”

DeCarli noted on Thursday that since the nuisance language remains in court documents, residents are still able to take legal action if they feel the smoke to be excessive.

Ultimately, the Commission approved the new regulations unanimously, with Schiffer giving a “cautious, reserved yes.”

“I’m not comfortable with drifting,” P&Z Chair Cathy Shyer said, “but I think the most sensible thing to do at this point in time is to monitor it as effectively as we can. I’m sure we’ll hear from the public if there are problems.”

The two currently operating air monitors were in place for last year’s GridLife event, and did not record any air quality index spike as a result of the drifting, Riegel and Rueckert said. Shyer asked DeCarli to file a report following this year’s drifting demonstration.

Finance board backs \$611,000 Lakeville Train Station move

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Board of Finance unanimously recommended sending a long-discussed \$611,000 plan to relocate the historic Lakeville Train Station on Ethan Allen Street to a town meeting.

The board voted during a special meeting Wednesday, Aug. 19. The proposal will go before voters at a town meeting in mid-September.

Comptroller Joe Cleaveland said the \$611,000 bid from Burlington Construction can be covered with funds in a debt reduction line in the current budget without negatively impacting the town’s ability to pay off its existing debt.

Finance board member Emily Vail said the board would therefore have to approve using funds designated for one purpose to pay for the move.

First Selectman Curtis Rand said the plan is to move the building back 19 feet, construct a new foundation and basement, and raise the building overall.

Rand said the most obvious problem is that box trucks making deliveries

to the three restaurants on Ethan Allen Street have repeatedly hit the train station roof. It has happened six times in the last few years, he said.

Rand also said the existing intersection is confusing and chaotic, posing a threat to public safety.

“It’s very busy,” he said. “You’ve got the three restaurants, kids, bicycles, traffic from the Grove.”

The town has put up concrete barriers to prevent trucks from hitting the roof, which has further narrowed the roadway.

Rand said he doesn’t see an alternative to moving the building.

“I don’t want someone getting hit on my watch,” he said.

There was no public comment on the topic.

In a show of support for the move, board member Keith Moon said the existing intersection is a combination of a parking lot, road and delivery spot. “It seems inherently dangerous,” he said.

If voters approve the plan, work to relocate the station could begin as early as the fall.

The town meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 16.

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OUR TOWNS

Salisbury housing projects gain funding as Holley Place awaits soil test results

By Aly Morrissey

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Affordable Housing Commission (SAHC) agreed to commit \$181,600 toward two affordable housing initiatives during its regular meeting on Aug. 20, as local housing advocates continue to await soil-testing results from the separate Holley Place development.

Construction at Holley Place, an affordable housing development overseen by the Salisbury Housing Committee, was unexpectedly halted following the recent discovery of fuel-contaminated soil. Testing was conducted earlier this month, but the results have not yet been received.

The Salisbury Housing Committee is a private non-profit organization that develops and manages several affordable housing properties in town. The SAHC is a town-appointed body that promotes affordable housing and recommends grants from the town's Affordable Housing Fund. The SAHC does not build or manage housing projects.

The commission's two commitments, discussed at the meeting, would draw its current fund balance down from approximately \$195,000 to \$13,400, directing money toward the proposed Dresser Woods development and the renovation of a recently purchased home on Bostwick Street.



PHOTO PROVIDED

A rendering of a design concept for the Dresser Woods affordable housing complex in Salisbury.

The Salisbury Housing Committee asked the commission to commit \$200,000 toward the Dresser Woods project, a proposed affordable rental development at 37 Railroad St. While the committee said it does not need the funds in the near term, it requested a commitment letter to demonstrate local confidence in the project as it seeks other funding sources.

With approximately \$195,000 in its current fund, the commission was unable to fund the full \$200,000, but agreed to commit \$100,000. The commission agreed to make a recommendation to the town asking it to commit the remaining balance.

The proposed Dresser Woods project would include 20 affordable rental homes in nine buildings on a 5.3-acre parcel donated by Jim Dresser in 2022 near the center of Salisbury Village. The project

has received wetlands and zoning approvals and is continuing to raise funds. The committee recently put the project out to bid and chose the lowest bidder, Axela Construction based in Waterbury.

The Salisbury Housing Trust, a similar private non-profit that develops affordable housing, requested \$81,600 to renovate a recently-purchased property at 51 Bostwick St., which the trust plans to sell to a local family.

"We're very excited about this project and I think it will be a lovely two-bedroom house for a local family," said John Harney, co-president of the trust.

Harney said the support from the commission would allow the trust to preserve cash flow so it can act quickly when other opportunities arise.

"We are usually beaten out by home flippers and investors

in town if we don't have funds in the bank," Harney said.

Together, the two commitments would reduce the commission's fund balance to \$13,400. Commission member Lee Sullivan said while it's early in the fiscal year to spend down much of the fund, it shows the money is going toward valuable projects for the town.

"It gives us more weight to push the town to fund more affordable housing," Sullivan said.

Richard Tennyson, treasurer of the Salisbury Housing Trust, also reported that clean-up and fundraising efforts following the destructive July 4 storm are continuing. He said the organization has spent around \$16,000 on storm-related assistance, including \$5,000 to repair a sewage pump for a family that could not afford the work.

Sullivan also said that the commission will soon distribute a printed newsletter that will hit mailboxes in the near future and inform the community about its ongoing efforts. "It has really good stories," Sullivan said.

ARREST

Continued from Page A1

cording to the police report. He was released on \$50,000 bond and is scheduled to be arraigned Thursday, Aug. 27, in Torrington Superior Court.

The arrest comes nearly seven months after IMS leadership first learned that Abendroth allegedly engaged in inappropriate behavior with a student.

In a letter sent to current parents and parents of alumni on Monday, June 22, Head of School Lisa Sun said the school first learned about Abendroth's conduct on Tuesday, Jan. 27, and immediately placed him on administrative leave. He was fired shortly thereafter and the school initiated an internal investigation and reported the conduct to the Connecticut Department of Children and Families and law enforcement.

"We learned that Mr. Abendroth had engaged in behavior toward a student that violated our code of conduct," Sun wrote in June. "We have worked hard to support the affected student and have been in regular contact with the student's family."

In a separate email on Friday, Aug. 21, Sun said the school's own investigation did not turn up evidence of additional wrongdoing. "We do not believe that the inexcusable behavior extended to other members of our community," she wrote, but encouraged anyone with information to contact the school or law enforcement.

"Under no uncertain terms, Mr. Abendroth's conduct represents a profound breach of the trust that families place in our school, and it stands in direct opposition to our values and expectations for every adult who works with our students."

"Every member of the IMS community deserves to be respected, safe, and cared



PHOTO PROVIDED BY TROOP B

Maxwell Abendroth

for, and our commitment to student well-being remains unwavering," Sun said in a statement. She said IMS has strict protocols and mandatory training for all staff in maintaining and respecting boundaries.

Abendroth, who did not respond for comment, was employed by IMS from August 2016 to January 2026. He primarily worked in the school's athletic department, serving as an athletic trainer and assistant athletic director before taking over the department as director in 2019.

According to Abendroth's LinkedIn profile, as athletic trainer at IMS he worked with all student-athletes, "ensuring they receive appropriate medical care for acute and chronic injuries." He also managed orthopedic rehabilitation, diagnosed concussions and oversaw return-to-play protocols.

Indian Mountain School is a private, co-educational day and junior boarding school located in Lakeville, Connecticut. Tuition ranges from \$31,250 per year for students in pre-K through fourth grade to \$95,840 per year for international boarding students.

Aly Morrissey worked at Indian Mountain School from 2017 to 2023.

Augustfest brings festive finale to Falls Village summer

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The band played, the brats sizzled on the grill, the beer flowed and bids were made on auction items at the David M. Hunt Library's Augustfest summer fundraiser Sunday, Aug. 23.

The silent auction included an early 20th-century quilt supplied by Mary Sullivan and finished by Ruth Giumarro; a one-hour scenic airplane flight for three from Berkshire Aviation; a pickleball paddle and a one-hour beginner's lesson from Doug Cohn; a \$50 gift certificate from Freund's Farm Market; and a guitar handmade by Peter Havriluk labeled "Chessie and Co."

"We're called 'An Unnamed Group of People,'" said Vance Cannon by way of introduction as the band began its first set. Cannon, who plays guitar and sings, led the group through an eclectic setlist, including "Crazy," "Rolling in My Sweet Baby's Arms," and "Dixie Chicken," the latter featuring some mean slide guitar from Cannon.

Also in the Unnamed Group were Melanie Culler-



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Vance Cannon plays the slide guitar during a rendition of Little Feat's "Dixie Chicken" at Augustfest.

ton on vocals; Steve Roys on accordion, harmonica and vocals; Lisa Clarke on banjo and vocals; Ralph Harris on electric bass; and Hal Cannon on guitar.

At the food tent attendees could choose between bratwurst from Nodine's, hot pretzels from the Falls Village Inn, hot dogs, vegetarian brats and sauerkraut. Norbrook Brewery supplied the beer, and there was ice water and lemonade for the non-imbibers.

First Selectman Dave Barger said he was driving north from Goshen earlier in the afternoon, and his heart sank when he saw the

weather ahead of him from Robert's Hill.

"It was a solid sheet of rain."

But by the event's 4 p.m. start, the rain was long gone.

Augustfest is one of the library's biggest fundraisers and a highlight of a Falls Village summer.



Bidders in the silent auction, including First Selectman Dave Barger, third from left, examine their options.

FIRE

Continued from Page A1

Medical Services, Winsted Fire Department, Winchester Fire Department and Drakeville Volunteer Fire Department responded to Lost Ruby Farm at 458 Winchester Road just after 4:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Barbagallo said the Norfolk road crew from the Town Garage was also on site with an excavator to move debris and improve access to the blaze.

Barbagallo said that the homeowners notified authorities after they were awakened by the glow and crackle of the burning barn, which stood approximately 30 feet from their home.

As a result, "it had quite a head start by the time we

were even notified," he said. "By the time we got there, it was basically fully involved."

Crews decided to let the barn burn out rather than try to save the structure and instead focused on protecting the nearby home, which was ultimately not damaged. Barbagallo said that the blaze was brought under control within 45 minutes of the first crew arriving.

Some equipment used in the farm's operations was damaged. Barbagallo said the homeowner told him an order of chicks was due

to arrive that morning and would have been housed in the barn, but had not been delivered.

There were no animals inside the building at the time of the blaze.

Lost Ruby Farm previously operated as a small-scale commercial producer of craft goat cheese, but since 2023 has operated as a hobby farm.

Adair Mali, an owner of the property, said she was "grateful to all the fire departments who came to help and for all the community support."



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PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

KK Kozik in her studio

KK Kozik sees things differently

By Natalia Zukerman

KK Kozik has a theory about getting older. “I don’t think you have eyes to see until you have eyes to see,” said the painter. “And maybe it takes the ability to interpret what you’re looking at to really see, and maybe that’s what comes with wisdom.” It is a particularly fitting philosophy for an artist whose paintings often begin with the world around her but rarely end there. There might be something recognizable — a stone wall, an apple tree, a crow — but then there is something less certain. Something that appears to be one thing becomes another upon inspection. Memory gets involved. So does imagination. So does time. Since moving from New York City to Sharon, Connecticut in 2006, the landscape around her has become increas-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

COMMUNITY

Lakeville Open Horse Show returns for 69th year

By Sally Haver

For nearly seven decades, the Lakeville Open Horse Show has brought riders, horses and spectators together for a day of competition and community. This year’s show takes place on Sunday, Aug. 30, at Riga Meadow at Coole Park, 1031 Bengal Amenias Road in Millbrook. The event, which has been held continuously for 69 years, is open to the public with free admission. Individual competitions will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and visitors can stop by briefly or settle in for the day. A food truck, bake sale and portable restrooms will be available on-site. The show is the primary fundraiser for The Lakeville Pony Club, with proceeds supporting young riders who need financial assistance to participate in lessons. Members and their families work throughout the year to create the event for both competitors and spectators.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

INSIDE

SPORTS
HVRHS varsity athletes prepare for fall sports season

OUR TOWNS
North Cornwall Meeting House marks 200 years

THEATER

“The Divine Sister” comes to Sharon Playhouse for one-night benefit

By Richard Feiner and Annette Stover

Continuing a popular tradition, the Sharon Playhouse will present a one-performance-only staged reading of “The Divine Sister,” another riotous comic romp by the acclaimed playwright and performer Charles Busch, on Friday, Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. The play is a wild and witty homage to Hollywood films that feature nuns — from “The Song of Bernadette” and “The Bells of St. Mary’s” to “The Singing Nun” and “The Sound of Music.” It is classic Charles Busch: wickedly funny, gloriously over-the-top and overflowing with theatrical joy. Busch is no stranger to the Playhouse, which has previously produced readings of his Tony-nominated Broadway hit, “The Tale of the Allergist’s Wife” and his hilarious spoof, “Die Mommie Die!” High time indeed to celebrate this irreverently reverent piece of theater. “The Divine Sister” centers on the Mother Superior of St. Veronica’s Convent and her efforts to save the struggling order and school, which are upended by mysterious visitors, forbidden romance, shocking revelations and increasingly outrageous miracles. In a review of the play’s original production, The New York Times wrote, “‘The Divine Sister’ finds Mr. Busch returned to peak form. This gleefully twisted tale of the secret lives of nuns — in which the playwright doubles as leading



PHOTO PROVIDED

Playwright and performer Charles Busch is “The Divine Sister.”

lady — is Mr. Busch’s freshest, funniest work in years.” In addition to Busch, the reading reunites members of the play’s original 2010 Off-Broadway cast: two-time Tony Award nominee Alison Fraser; 2021 Isabelle Stevenson Tony Award recipient Julie Halston; and Sharon Playhouse favorites Jennifer Van Dyck

and Jonathan Walker. Completing the cast is Lucy Rhoades, seen earlier this season at Sharon Playhouse in “Swingtime Canteen” and last summer in “Million Dollar Quartet.” “This is the kind of special event we love to present,” said Sharon Playhouse Artistic Director Carl Andress. “Charles is one of our country’s great

comic playwrights and performers, and every time he comes to Sharon it’s a celebration. Whether you’re a longtime fan or discovering his work for the first time, ‘The Divine Sister’ is a wonderful introduction. Reuniting so much of the original Off-Broadway cast for one unforgettable evening makes this a truly special event.” Busch has been recognized with countless awards for his indelible contributions to American theater. He was inducted into New York’s Theater Hall of Fame in 2024 in honor of his distinctive body of work. He also is the subject of the documentary film, “The Lady in Question is Charles Busch.” The reading will take place on the Olsen Stage, with all proceeds going to benefit Sharon Playhouse’s productions and educational programs and helping ensure that the Playhouse continues to thrive as a cultural destination for audiences and artists in the region. “The Divine Sister” is presented by Dugazon and Pete Hathaway, producers, in association with Amy Danis and Mark Johannes, associate producers.

The day before the reading, producer Hathaway will host “A Divine Celebration with Charles Busch,” an exclusive cocktail party on Thursday, Aug. 27, from 5 to 7 p.m. All ticket proceeds from this event will also directly benefit the Sharon Playhouse. Tickets for both “The Divine Sister” and “A Divine Celebration with Charles Busch” are available at sharonplayhouse.org.

MUSIC

A new home for contemporary music in Connecticut

By D.H. Callahan

This year, the ARChive of Contemporary Music, or ARC, is moving its collection to a permanent home in Ridgefield, Connecticut. ARC is somewhat hard to imagine. Comprised mainly of huge collections from musicians, archivists, and DJs, it has compiled more than three million sound recordings, consisting of over 90 million songs. But with the rate that it collects, there’s a good chance that number has now hit its ninth digit. The collection is arguably even more impressive than its board, which has included such illustrious members as Q-Tip, Keith Richards, Nile Rodgers, Fred Schneider, Martin Scorsese, Paul Simon, Carl Bernstein, and David Bowie, many of whom house their personal collections at ARC. Given its size, it is likely to take ARC about two years to be open its new location to the public. It hopes to have its collection in the building within a year, and

then spend the following year putting it all into place. Since 1985, founder and director B. George has been storing away musical media on Chambers Street in New York

City. George moved to the area in the 1970s, and quickly became friends with many of the day’s top musicians, who would gather in the one downtown eatery open after-hours, Dave’s Lunch.

It’s where he met David Bowie and Lou Reed. George was immersed in the culture, DJing parties, and rub-

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... KK Kozik

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

ingly important to that process. “I just saw things differently,” Kozik said.

The change was not immediate. She remembers an earlier version of herself driving through Vermont without paying much attention to what was happening beyond the windshield.

“I didn’t have the means to see what was happening around me,” she said. “I just sort of la, la, la, la, la, driving to Vermont.”

But, she said, she started to pay attention differently.

“I became more sensitized as time went on,” she said.

Asked whether that change came with age, she said, “Age and so-called wisdom.”

There’s a sense of loss in her landscapes, but a particular kind of loss that also has a twinge of redemption. Specifically, what happens to a landscape when people leave it?

“When the people go away, the wildlife comes back,” Kozik said.

Kozik’s work has never settled into a single recognizable formula. She has painted landscapes, figures and still lifes, moved toward abstraction and returned to representation. Her subjects change, but the underlying impulse remains: to take what is in front of her and discover what else there might be.

Kozik describes herself as someone who is always trying to figure things out. Her paintings often have the feeling of a thought in progress rather than a conclusion. They have been called “single-line novellas,” a description that makes sense: They can contain the suggestion of an entire story without telling you exactly what happened.

The animals are part of that storytelling.

They arrived partly because of what was disappearing.

“They were like the new redemption in a way,” she said.

There is something almost



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

KK Kozik in her studio with her painting “Golden Delicious.”

“Maybe it takes the ability to interpret what you’re looking at to really see.

KK KOZIK

funny about the way Kozik talks about this — not because she refuses to turn it into a grand pronouncement. She observes something, considers it, and lets it complicate the work.

That same sensibility comes through when she talks about her own development as an artist. Her paintings make room for interpretation. They don’t always tell the viewer what an animal symbolizes, or why a landscape has been altered, or where a particular image came from. Instead, they leave enough evidence to make you curious and enough room for your own stories.

The effect is not accidental. Kozik has spent years thinking about how images work, both as paintings and as containers

for ideas.

Her work is currently included in “The Naturalist,” a group exhibition on view through Sept. 13 at Kenise Barnes Fine Art in Kent, alongside Richard Klein, Sally Maca, Rick Shaefer and Tricia Wright. The exhibition brings together artists whose work engages with the natural world, including its forms, histories and mysteries.

Kozik is an especially apt fit for the exhibition. She is described by the gallery as a landscape painter, figurative painter and interiors/still-life painter whose work frequently moves toward painterly abstraction. Her practice, the gallery notes, is “fluid and continuous” — always searching for new pictorial problems to solve.

That search has also extended beyond her own studio.

For several years, Kozik ran ICEHOUSE Project Space, an 18th-century icehouse on Sharon’s town green that she transformed into an unusual venue for contemporary art. It opened in 2018 with Dan Devine’s “Inside-Out NASCAR” and went on to host site-specific projects

by artists including Mark Dion, Eric Aho, Janet Biggs, Richard Klein, Kristin Jones, Lisa Hoke and Ryan Frank. The projects addressed everything from the decline of winged insects and native and invasive plants to Sharon’s iron industry, its gardens and its history as an ice-producing community.

The space is now closed, but its premise still feels connected to Kozik’s painting practice. Each project responded in some way to the physical location, turning what might otherwise have been a little historic outbuilding into a setting for contemporary art.

Kozik’s own work does something similar with the landscape. She takes a place and lets it become more than a place.

Kozik’s paintings tell us that something happened before we arrived, and that something will happen after we leave.

And then there is the question of what to do with the space in between.

Maybe Kozik’s paintings are less about that space and more about an idea, as she put it, of “which questions to think about.”



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Cartoonist Barry Blitt created a design for a limited edition T-shirt for Northwest Connecticut Arts Council fundraiser.

ART
Barry Blitt draws for the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council

By Jennifer Almquist

A drawing by Barry Blitt is recognizable from a distance simply for his line quality and hint of watercolor. Known for his scathing political cartoons, this longtime cover illustrator for the New Yorker has leaned his shoulder in to support the NWCT Arts Council and its Aug. 29 fundraiser at Buck’s Rock Camp in New Milford. Blitt created a design for limited-edition T-shirts that will be available for sale at the event and online at artsnwct.org.

David Remnick, editor of the New Yorker since 1998, called Blitt “One of the greatest political cartoonists of our time.” A native of Canada, Blitt won a Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning and has created more than 100 covers for the New Yorker since 1992. Perhaps most memorable is his 2008 iconic fist bump between Barack Obama and Michelle Obama, “The Politics of Fear.” A quarter century of his sketches and drawings are collected in “Blitt: In One Eye and Out the Other,” published by Penguin Putnam. He has created books for children, including “George Washington’s Birthday” and “Once Upon a Time, the End, (Asleep in 60 Seconds).”

When asked about his method, Blitt replied, “You’re trying to get a drawing that looks improvised and fresh, you know? Usually the first drawing I do, I’m not happy with it and I’ll go to a second one or I’ll redraw it several times ... But the line becomes labored, so it always really is the first one. It’s probably some kind of Zen thing where you’re not worrying too much or you’re not overthinking it. There’s nothing like an improvised fresh line that’s there the first time you do it. First thought, best thought.”

Given two small prompts by the NWCT Arts Council, Blitt conjured up a fanciful tree in the landscape of the Litchfield Hills, with three artists painting at easels up in the branch-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

PERFORMANCES

A Vietnamese water puppet musical returns to the quarry where it began

By Natalia Zukerman

“The Magnificent Ms. Pham,” the first Vietnamese American water puppet show, is returning to the water where it was born. The perpetual motion puppet show will be at TurnPark Art Space in West Stockbridge, Mass., Aug. 28 and 29, following a sold-out New York City premiere earlier this year. The production was originally developed at TurnPark, where its puppets first danced across the surface of the quarry lake.

Created by Vietnamese American artist Tommy Nguyen and director and designer Doug Fitch, the production tells the story of Nguyen’s mother, Kim Pham, and her journey from Vietnam to the United States. The story moves between memory, Vietnamese history and mythology, and



PHOTO PROVIDED

“The Magnificent Ms. Pham” combines Vietnamese water puppetry, shadow theater, music and storytelling.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

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BOOKS

A new literary festival puts storytelling in the spotlight in Kinderhook

By Natalia Zukerman

Stories take many forms — poems, novels, songs, stand-up routines, films, visual art and even the pages of a community newspaper. The inaugural Rough Notes Festival, presented by Kinderhook Books Aug. 28-30, brings writers, performers, artists and readers together for a weekend devoted to the many ways stories are created, shared and transformed.

The three-day festival opens Friday, Aug. 28, with comedian, author and Oscar nominee Tig Notaro at Van Buren Hall. Following her sold out performance, Notaro will talk about writing and the creative process with actor and comedian Lauren Weedman, known for her work on the HBO series “Hacks.”

Saturday’s program begins with “I Too Dislike It: Why Poetry Endures,” a conversation moderated by

poet Mark Wunderlich and featuring Michael Dumanis, Monica Ferrell and Vermont Poet Laureate Bianca Stone. Later, Temim Fruchter moderates “Queering the Queer Memoir,” with Eliot Glazer, Henry Hoke, Chloé Caldwell and Hugh Ryan.

At 2 p.m., writer and director Nadia Conners leads “The Afterlife of Art,” a discussion with novelists Peter Cameron and Sigrid Nunez about what happens to creative work after it leaves its creator’s hands. “The Unreliable Past,” moderated by former Tin House editor Rob Spillman, follows at 3:30 p.m., with authors Amitava Kumar, Jayne Anne Phillips and Francine Prose considering memory as both a source of inspiration and an unreliable narrator.

The weekend also has plenty for young writers and music lovers. Saturday morning’s free Typewriter Project invites children to create a community news-

paper using vintage typewriters, inspired by Kinderhook’s 1950s-era youth newspaper, The Bugle. At 1 p.m., 11-year-old upstate New York singer-songwriter Lulu Grey performs on the Bank lawn.

That evening brings an intimate conversation and live music with singer-songwriter Natalie Merchant, who will discuss songwriting, storytelling and the creative process with Sarah LaDuke, former WAMC producer and executive director of Polk Alley.

Sunday shifts toward the practical craft of writing. Workshops include Richard Mirabella on starting a novel, Emily Nemens on the narrative power of friendship and Thomas Grattan on using objects to develop character, conflict and setting. Olivia Muentert and Casey Scieszka will discuss the spaces and communities that make creative work possible in “A Place for the

Work.”

Visual art is also part of the festival, with “Re-Scripting,” an exhibition at September Sometimes (4 Hudson St., Kinderhook) featuring Mara Baldwin, Jane Bustin, Nicole Cherubini, Taylor Davis, Shanekia McIntosh and Cauleen Smith. The artists’ works incorporate written language through collage, painting, sculpture and vinyl.

Presented by Kinderhook Books, the festival takes its name from a 19th-century Kinderhook broadsheet and celebrates a community with a long tradition of storytelling. Through conversations, performances, workshops and art, The Rough Notes explores the journey from first idea to finished work — and the ways stories continue to change once they enter the world.

For the complete schedule and ticket information, visit theroughnotes.com

... puppet musical

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2

the realities of immigration, following Kim from her childhood in Vietnam through her escape as a “boat person” and eventual life in Houston, Texas.

But this is hardly a conventional historical drama. The story unfolds as a country-western musical, with original music by MUR and additional music by Vietnamese American composer Hao Le. Puppets, shadow theater, songs and water combine to bring figures from Vietnamese history and literature into Kim’s story, including the legendary warrior Lady Trieu and Lady Kieu, the literary heroine who becomes one of Kim’s guides.

The production draws on a Vietnamese theatrical tradition that dates back at least to the 11th century, when water puppetry emerged in the rice-growing communities of the Red River Delta. Traditionally performed on ponds or flooded rice fields, the form uses the water itself

as a stage, concealing the mechanisms that allow puppeteers to make wooden figures dance, swim and interact with one another.

For Nguyen and Fitch, the quarry lake adds another dimension to the story. The production was first conceived and developed at TurnPark, including a 2024 workshop and a 2025 festival presentation that featured a giant dragon carrying a Vietnamese village on its back.

The result is a theatrical hybrid: part family history, part mythology, part musical and part visual spectacle. And with the puppets once again moving across TurnPark’s natural quarry lake, the setting is not simply a backdrop — it is part of the show.

“*The Magnificent Ms. Pham*” will be presented Aug. 28 and 29 at 7 p.m. at TurnPark Art Space, 2 Moscow Road, West Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Tickets and information are available at turnpark.com

MOVIES

Stissing Center brings Frankenstein back to life with live music

By D.H. Callahan

When the 1931 horror classic “Frankenstein” plays with live musical accompaniment at the Stissing Center on Saturday, Aug. 29, it will open with a warning. A handsomely dressed man will step into the spotlight to warn the audience about the thrilling and horrifying tale to come. Then, it’s off to the graveyard.

“Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus” was written in 1818 by English author Mary Shelley. A summary is comically unnecessary, as the story itself has become one of the most important pieces, not just of horror writing, but of the history of literature.

A scientist playing with the finite constraints of life and death, alongside the themes of prejudice, acceptance, and the dangers of mob rule continue to capture generation after generation in ways that seem consistently fresh and relevant.

In 1931, audiences were treated to an early era cinematic masterpiece by director James Whale. The theatrical release was an instant hit, winning praise from the public and critics alike. It would soon spawn sequels, spinoffs, and spoofs including “Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein,” “The Bride,” which was released earlier this year, and even Andy Warhol’s attempt, known as “Flesh for Frankenstein.” Notably, Mel Brooks’

comedic reinterpretation, “Young Frankenstein,” has, itself, become a timeless classic of Hollywood history.

Whale was not the first director tapped by Universal Studios to bring Frankenstein to the silver screen. Originally Robert Florey, who was best known for “The Cocoanuts” starring the Marx Brothers, was chosen to direct. His slapstick approach saw Frankenstein as more of a killing machine than the misunderstood portrait of humanity depicted in Shelley’s novel. This may have scared off the original monster, Bella Lugosi, who’d recently killed at the box office for Universal as Dracula. Though the exact reason is still a source of debate, the



PHOTO PROVIDED

studio gave the project to Whale, who cast a relatively unknown Boris Karloff to play the monster.

Karloff had played a range of roles in over 80 films before Frankenstein, which would throw him into the public’s collective knowledge and nightmares. His image became an icon itself, still just as relevant today as it was when the film was released.

Last October, a painting by Rob Zombie showed at his art show at the Morrison

Gallery in Kent, Connecticut focused on Karloff’s face.

The film was released without a soundtrack. For Grammy-nominated composer Michael Shapiro, this provided an exciting challenge. In 2001, thanks to a commission from The Chappaqua Orchestra, Shapiro created a lush, emotional score intended to be played under the original dialogue.

Audiences loved the way the music brought the film to life. While there are mul-

multiple arrangements made for a variety of instrumental configurations, the performance at the Stissing Center will be a world premiere for string quartet and piano. The vibrant Argus Quartet, once tapped as the Graduate Resident String Quartet at the Juilliard School, will play the new arrangement with pianist and Steinway Artist Steven Beck. The composer Michael Shapiro himself will be there to conduct the group.

But the musicians won’t be the only ones on stage. In a special appearance for this world premiere, Sara Karloff, Boris’ daughter will be in attendance to participate in an interview before the screening. The Stissing Center asks that audience members leave their pitchforks at home.

For more information and tickets to the performance, visit thestissingcenter.org.

... Open Horse Show

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

For those new to horse shows, the day offers a chance to learn more about the sport and understand what happens in the ring. In equitation competitions, judges evaluate the rider’s skill, from beginners learning walk and trot to more advanced riders navigating cantering and jumping courses.

Hunter competitions focus on the horse’s style and smoothness over fences, while jumper classes emphasize accuracy and speed as horses and riders race against the clock without knocking down rails.

The day also includes a crowd favorite: the costume class, where horses and riders dress up in creative ensembles for a chance at the top prize.

Programs will be available onsite to help spectators identify competitors and horses. A full list of competitions, entry information and details for those interested can be found at rigameadow.com

Whether an experienced equestrian or simply curious about the sport, the Lakeville Open Horse Show offers a chance to enjoy a Hudson Valley tradition that continues to bring the community together.



Jazzmine Bone and A Stitch in Tyme power through the Gambler’s Choice run during the 2024 Lakeville Open.



PHOTOS BY CAITLIN VON GRAF

Members of the Lakeville Pony Club and Echo the pony arrive for the costume class during the Lakeville Open in 2024.

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ART

Robert Rauschenberg: memories of an art world giant

By D.H. Callahan

In 1953, Dutch-American abstract expressionist painter Willem de Kooning was at the height of a career rarely reached by artists during their lifetimes.

That was the year a young Robert Rauschenberg brought him a bottle of Jack Daniel’s and proposed something audacious. He wanted to erase one of the famous artist’s drawings. De Kooning got it. He didn’t like the idea, but he understood the assignment, and started rifling through archived works for a drawing that he would “miss,” and one that would be difficult to erase. Rauschenberg spent the next month making it disappear.

The resulting work sent the art world into a tailspin, claiming artistic blasphemy. The act, they claimed, was nothing but hostility toward agreed upon artistic greatness. Rauschenberg didn’t see it that way, but he let them say what they needed to say.

He thoroughly enjoyed challenging the art establishment. While he loved the acts of drawing and painting, it



Rauschenberg in his Captiva studio.

seems that to him that technical artistic proficiency was secondary to bold new ideas.

For Rauschenberg, this was just one stop on a wild artistic ride that saw inventive works created across six decades until his death

in 2008. Other career milestones include a 23-foot-long tire print, which he made with composer John Cage; the 190 panels and sculptural elements collectively known as the “The 1/4 Mile or 2 Fur-long Piece”; and a whole new

medium melding painting and sculpture that he referred to as his “Combines.”

Along for a good stretch of the ride were Jane Coats Eckert, founder and owner of Eckert Fine Art in Washington Depot, Connecticut,

and Jonas Stirner, who now runs the Stirner Modern gallery in Easton, Pennsylvania. On Saturday, Aug. 29 the two will come together at the Washington Art Association & Gallery at 5 p.m. to discuss their time with Rauschenberg as friends, dealer, and studio assistant and collaborator.

Eckert first met Rauschenberg when she moved to Captiva Island, Florida in the mid 1990s. Although she was aware of the artist’s presence on the island, the two didn’t meet until some time after her arrival. Eventually, the two would become close, with Rauschenberg giving Eckert some pieces to sell. “He certainly didn’t need to sell anything,” she recalled, as he was already internationally celebrated.

Stirner worked as a studio assistant for Rauschenberg for over a decade. He tells of an incredibly supportive mentor, who was kind to all, and unnecessarily generous with his resources. When Stirner got the job, he was, by his own account, wonder-

fully underqualified, which was exactly what Rauschenberg was looking for. With artistic students working on their masters and PhDs hounding him for a job, Rauschenberg instead chose people who wanted to work with their hands. Stirner was a bartender at the time, and wasn’t aware of the level of success his new employer had already achieved.

Rauschenberg took both Stirner and Eckert around the world to big museum and gallery openings. In 1998, they both accompanied him to Frank Geary’s Guggenheim Bilbao in Spain, where his show would be the first retrospective at the new Museum. Back home in Florida, Eckert even staged a joint exhibition with works by both employer and employee, something Rauschenberg was honored to be a part of.

Together, the two gallerists have the experience to paint quite the picture.

To hear their stories about Rauschenberg at WAA on Aug. 29, get tickets at washingtonartassociation.org.

... contemporary music

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

bing elbows with musicians. He worked with Laurie Anderson, and released her ‘O Superman’ single on his micro-label One Ten Records.

The artistic scene was thriving, due in no small part to its affordability. New York City had been written off by mainstream America as a dirty, crime-ridden trap. A famous Daily News headline still tickles George to this day. It reads “Ford to City; Drop Dead.” Even the president of the United States thought New York was irredeemable. But in its weakest hour, the city created one of the greatest assets it’s ever provided: a place for poor artists to create without the looming threat of eviction or starvation.

In 1980, George edited a book titled “Volume: International Discography of the New Wave.” The book was so successful that people started sending him recordings for the next edition. Quickly, George had more than he knew what to do with, so by 1985, he started looking for a home for this rapidly growing collection. He found it on Chambers Street in lower Manhattan for just \$68 a month.

The reality of financial constraints seems to be a

constant concern for George. To him, the “revitalization” of the city meant fewer opportunities for artists to create without the need for a safety net. That era is now decades in the rear view mirror, and the whole creative world has felt the effects.

Today, George feels that “cool” has become too heavily commoditized to allow artistic scenes to thrive. Once corporate America identifies the next hive of underground cultural activity, it pounces.

George saw this happen in SoHo, where the rent he couldn’t afford in the ‘80s of \$100 has now risen to as high as \$10,000 a month. This pattern seems to keep repeating. In recent years, a vibrant creative scene in Williamsburg, Brooklyn mirrored the same trajectory, at an accelerated pace. An area littered with loft parties and underground venues in the early 2000s has

already been replaced by luxury fashion storefronts in a matter of years.

That’s what’s driven George to move the ARChive out of the city. As his collection continues to grow, there’s simply no way to meet the financial demands

for space in Manhattan. So five years ago, he started moving media to Dutchess County, as part of a short term

agreement at an estate in Staatsburg. Now he’s found a more permanent solution in Ridgefield, Connecticut

For the ARChive, physical media is the priority. While it has a partnership with archive.org, digitizing millions of songs, and making them available to the public, ARC is not a traditional media library. Its collection has not been open to the public to browse at leisure. Instead, it mostly makes its resources available to researchers and rights holders.

For George and the ARChive of Contemporary Music, the collecting never stops.

... Barry Blitt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2

es. He hand-lettered the banner and reimaged the Arts Council’s logo as hand-painted, with a bit of sky and landscape peeking through. Blitt’s simple depiction of painters in the tree evokes the full spirit of the Council. For 23 years, the NWCT Arts Council has supported artists and creativity in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut. It promotes arts events, maintains an arts calendar, guides individual artists toward grants

and funding, housing and studios, and connects the vast network of creative people who live and work in Litchfield County.

Blitt once revealed: “If you’re asking me what I love, it’s that point where I’m just scribbling and trying to make myself laugh and trying to outrage myself.”

Blitt may be best known for skewering politicians and pundits, yet he can also create magic with a child’s eye.

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PHOTO BY KENNETH JIMENEZ

Cellist and composer Christopher Hoffman brings his solo project “Rex” to the Grace Note at Stissing Center in Pine Plains on Friday, Aug. 28, inspired by artist and ornithologist Rex Brasher, who created more than 1,200 watercolors of North American birds on his 116-acre estate in Amenia. Hoffman moved into Brasher’s former home in 2023 and composed and recorded the 13-track album there, using acoustic and electric cello to evoke Brasher’s world without literally reproducing birdsong. Hoffman’s performance draws on his work in jazz, experimental music and film, including collaborations with Henry Threadgill, Yoko Ono and Martin Scorsese. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

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Tri-Corner Calendar

AUGUST 25-30

180th Dutchess County Fair
Dutchess County Fairgrounds, 6636 Route 9, Rhinebeck, N.Y.
Aug. 25 to 30
The annual Dutchess County Fair returns with six days of family entertainment, including agricultural exhibits, livestock shows, carnival rides, live music, food vendors, arts and crafts, historical displays and more. Grandstand performances include Chase Matthew, .38 Special, Journey from the Heart, Almost Queen, Tyler Braden and the Painted Pony Championship Rodeo. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. (Sunday, Aug. 30, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.) More information at dutchessfair.com.

AUGUST 27

Twilight on the Appalachian Trail Nature Hike
Housatonic Meadows State Park, 90 US-7, Sharon, Conn.
Join Amanda, Housatonic Valley Association’s environmental education coordinator, for a family-friendly evening hike along the Appalachian Trail overlooking the Housatonic River. Explore the forest as day turns to night, listen for crepuscular wildlife and learn about the adaptations of nighttime species. 6 p.m. The relaxed hike lasts approximately 2½ hours and is appropriate for all ages. More info and registration at hvatoday.org

Troutbeck Symposium 2026 Summer Edition: Student Film Showcase
The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y.
1 p.m. See original films created by student filmmakers from Salisbury School and Housatonic Valley Regional High School as part of Troutbeck’s 2026 Symposium, exploring overlooked local and national histories through research and storytelling. Films include “Juanita Jackson – The Power of Youth,” “Hamilton in Salisbury,” “No White Crosses for Stevie – The Manhattan Project and Canaan,” “MLK in Connecticut” and “Hotchkiss and Hampton – Connecting Two Schools.” A Q&A with select students and Rhonan Mokriski of Salisbury School will follow. Free and open to all.

AUGUST 28

The Rough Notes Festival
6 Chatham St., Kinderhook, N.Y.
The inaugural Rough Notes Festival, presented by Kinderhook Books, celebrates writing in all its forms, including literature, songwriting, comedy, screenwriting, art and design. The three-day festival features readings, performances and conversations with writers and artists, including Tig Notaro, Natalie Merchant, Sigrid Nunez, Francine Prose and others, along with writing workshops and a children’s journalism project. Individual events are held at various locations in Kinderhook. Tickets and registration vary by event. For the full schedule and tickets: thoroughnotes.com.

Exhibition: The State We’re In
Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y.
Aug. 28 to Oct. 17
Millbrook Arts Project presents an exhibition of work by Brian Cirimo, Collin Douma, June Glasson, Jeff Wigman and Yu Yan, curated by Sharon Bates. The exhibition explores contemporary life, public and private experience, and the forces shaping our shared world. An artist conversation with Cirimo, Douma, Glasson and Wigman will be held Aug. 28 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., followed by a public reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Free and open to all. For more information: millbrooklibrary.org

Berkshire Opera Festival’s “Lucia di Lammermoor”
Mahaive Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass.
The Mahaive and Berkshire Opera Festival present Donizetti’s “Lucia di Lammermoor,” the crown jewel of bel canto opera, on Aug. 28 at 7:30 p.m. Set among the foggy moors and ancient castles of Scotland, the tragic tale follows Lucia, whose forbidden love and forced marriage lead to one of opera’s most unforgettable scenes. Known for its dramatic intensity and virtuosic singing, the masterpiece remains a powerful showcase of the human voice. Tickets at mahaive.org

Happy Hour Piano Series: Paula Bradley
American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn.
5 to 7 p.m. AMP’s Happy Hour Piano Series continues. West Virginia-born multi-instrumentalist residing in the Berkshires, Paula has been involved in roots music for decades. Known for her strong, spirited vocals, she has toured (on banjo) with old-time darlings “Uncle Earl”; with old-time powerhouse Bruce Molsky (on guitar and banjo uke); and recorded and toured with Tony Trischka (piano, guitar) and Bruce as part of the acoustic roots trio “Jawbone”. She was also a founding member of the popular New England honkytonk combo (on piano) “Girl Howdy,” and with her late husband, Bill Dillof, “Moonshine Holler.” Currently, she also leads her own popular juke joint swing combo “Miss Paula & The Twangbusters.” Tickets at americanmuralproject.org/piano-series.

AUGUST 29

James Ivory + Ruth Prawer Jhabvala: Films & Conversation
Hudson Hall, 327 Warren St., Hudson, N.Y.
Celebrate the decades-long creative partnership between director James Ivory and screenwriter Ruth Prawer Jhabvala with two films, a conversation and book signing. The day begins with “The City of Your Final Destination” at 3 p.m., followed by a 5 p.m. conversation and book signing with Ivory, Firoza Jhabvala, novelist Peter Cameron and special guests. “A Room with a View” screens at 6 p.m. Tickets at hudsonhall.org

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

Invasive Species Scavenger Hunt
Rattlesnake Preserve, Cornwall, Conn.
Join Ellie Appleseed for an educational scavenger hunt focused on identifying invasive plants and learning ways to manage species that threaten native habitats. Designed for landowners and families, the program offers two \$50 gift card prizes. 10 a.m. Free and open to all. Park near the viewing platform at the south end of Rattlesnake Road and come prepared for ticks. Rain date: Aug. 30 at 11 a.m.

Community Fundraiser for Ukraine
332 Main St., Lakeville, Conn.
Two firsthand accounts from the ground — and how you can help. Speakers are Michael Selleck and Andre Wlodar. 5 p.m. Ukrainian art for sale. Wine, refreshments and cheese. Please RSVP to andrewlodar@gmail.com or call (212)501-7494. Every dollar goes directly to aid Ukraine through zeroline.org.

Salisbury Band Concert
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn.
scovillelibrary.org
Bring a lawn chair, blanket or picnic and enjoy a summer concert by the Salisbury Band from 3 to 4 p.m. The hometown band, established in 1928, will perform a selection of lively classic tunes. Free and open to all.

First Anniversary Celebration of Dugazon
19 West Main St., Sharon, Conn.
All are welcome at an open house from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. to celebrate the one year anniversary of Dugazon. Wine, prosecco & nibbles plus a book signing & meet & greet with Angela Liguori of Studio Carta for her new book, “The Ribbon Studio.” No RSVP required.

Jane Coats Eckert & Jonas Stirner Talk on Robert Rauschenberg
Washington Art Association & Gallery, 4 Bryan Hall Plaza, Washington Depot, Conn.
A PowerPoint presentation from 5 to 6 p.m. highlighting the years Eckert and Stirner spent on Captiva Island, Florida with Robert Rauschenberg as well as their travels curating and installing museum exhibitions with him throughout Europe. All are welcome.

Late Summer Community Day
Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y.
Innisfree Garden welcomes residents of Northeast Dutchess County for a day of free garden admission, discounted workshops and special programming celebrating the Asian artistic traditions that helped shape the garden. Residents of Amenia, Clinton Corners, Dover Plains, Millbrook, Millerton, North East, Pine Plains, Pleasant Valley, Stanford, Washington, Wassaic and Wingdale can visit for free with proof of residency. Early risers can arrive at 5 a.m. for “Morning Light: Sunrise at Innisfree,” followed by Japanese taiko drumming at 11 a.m. with Mujin Taiko and an Innisfree-inspired Japanese calligraphy workshop at 1 p.m. with the Mid-Hudson Japanese Community As-

sociation. The taiko and calligraphy workshops require separate tickets. Regular garden hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; advance reservations are strongly encouraged at innisfreegarden.org
“All the President’s Men”
Crandell Theatre, 48 Main Street, Chatham, N.Y.
The 1976 political thriller starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman returns to the big screen, followed by a panel discussion hosted by WAMC’s “The Roundtable.” Based on the reporting of Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the Oscar-winning film chronicles the investigation that exposed the Watergate scandal. 5 p.m. Tickets at crandelltheatre.org or by calling 518-392-3445.

“Frankenstein Four Ways”
Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.
Experience the 1981 classic “Frankenstein” starring Boris Karloff with the world premiere of composer Michael Shapiro’s chamber score, performed live by the Argus String Quartet with pianist Steven Beck. The evening also includes an interview with Sara Karloff, daughter of Boris Karloff, and a display of Frankenstein-inspired fan art from the collection of Stissing Center Executive Director Patrick Trettenero. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$30-\$50 at stissingcenter.org or by calling 518-771-3339.
Author Talk: Kurt Andersen, “The Breakup”
Cornwall Town Hall, 24 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn.
Author Kurt Andersen will

discuss his new novel, “The Breakup,” at 5 p.m. in conversation with novelist Roxana Robinson. Set in a fractured America in 2045, the novel follows a couple navigating the aftermath of civil war while confronting the future of family, politics and artificial intelligence. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Registration is required at CornwallLibrary.org.
■ **AUGUST 30**
Closing Party for “Fun with Fungi” Paintings by Jason Middlebrook
LABspace (located inside Hillsdale General Store and Cook & Larder at 2642 NY 23, Hillsdale, N.Y.)
Closing party 1 to 5 p.m.

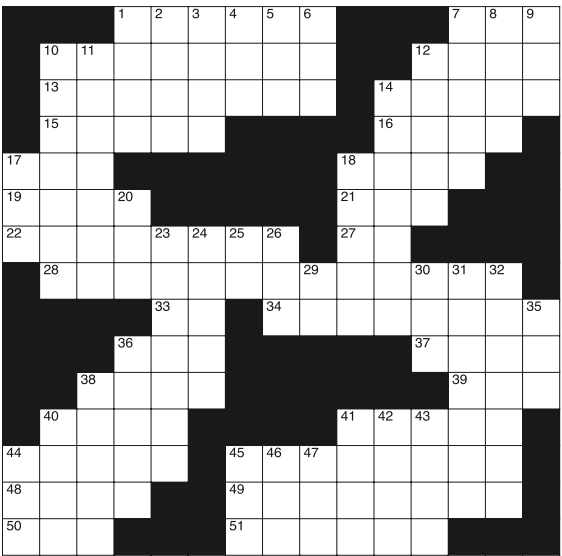
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A vast desert in Africa
- 7. Reciprocal of a sine
- 10. Type of phone
- 12. Biblical figure
- 13. One who renounces a religious belief
- 14. Warren and Monroe are two
- 15. Wild ox
- 16. Dismounted a horse
- 17. Cave dweller
- 18. Where infants sleep
- 19. Popular type of shoe
- 21. Clumsy large person
- 22. Evil-like
- 27. Integrated circuit
- 28. Austin-based athlete
- 33. Postscript
- 34. Follows 18
- 36. People of Gambia
- 37. Popular actor Nicolas
- 38. Platform for a lectern
- 39. Taxi
- 40. American songwriter Sammy
- 41. Iranian city
- 44. Heavy clubs
- 45. One who is expelled
- 48. In bed
- 49. Lifelessness
- 50. Former CIA
- 51. Most slick

CLUES DOWN

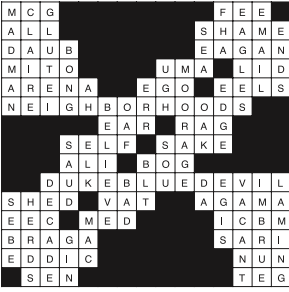
- 1. Slovenly person
- 2. In addition
- 3. Hovels
- 4. Pie ___ mode
- 5. Subway rodent
- 6. They ___
- 7. Indigenous S. American people
- 8. Fine sand
- 9. Central nervous system
- 10. Nightclub entertainment
- 11. The perfect example of something
- 12. Supreme Islamic leader
- 14. Pain
- 17. Binary-coded



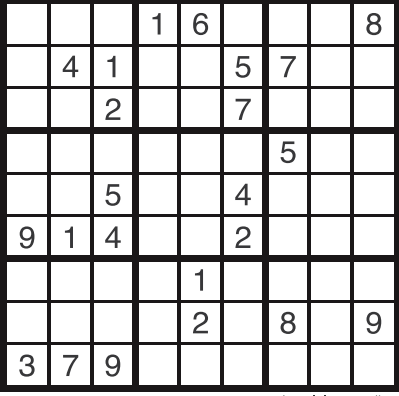
- decimal
- 18. Projecting corner of an angle
- 20. “Succession” actor Brian
- 23. Dinner table decor
- 24. Ancient settlement in modern Turkey
- 25. You can call Paul Simon this
- 26. Opposite of a pro
- 29. Atomic #28
- 30. Type of drug (abbr.)
- 31. Arrives at
- 32. Nullifies
- 35. Bird’s beak
- 36. Partner to “ooled”
- 38. Ray-finned fishes
- 40. Taxis
- 41. Sat on and controlled
- 42. Sea eagles

- 43. Remain as-is
- 44. Chinese revolutionary
- 45. Tooth caregiver
- 46. Snakelike fish
- 47. Compensate

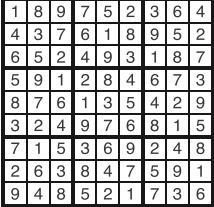
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Great Mountain Forest

Teachers head to the woods for retreat

By Alec Linden

NORFOLK – Deep in the Norfolk woods over the weekend of Aug. 14 to 16, teachers gathered to take lessons of their own. The three-day Teach the Teachers Forestry Educators Retreat brought 20 educators to Great Mountain Forest for hands-on training in outdoor education and forestry. The participants teach students ranging from kindergartners to adults. The retreat was organized by Great Mountain Forest, UConn 4-H and the Northwest Conservation District. Great Mountain Forest is a sustainable forestry nonprofit based on more than 6,000 acres of highland forest in Norfolk. UConn 4-H is a youth development organization, while the Northwest Conservation District is the regional branch of a state program that protects agri-



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Great Mountain Forest foresters lead an educational hike on forestry and land-use history through the organization’s managed woodlands. The hike was one of 10 workshops offered during the retreat for educators learning to teach environmental concepts.

cultural and natural resources. The retreat was meant to bridge the gap between Connecticut’s educators and experts in the environmental field.

The weekend retreat grew out of 10 years of discussions between veteran outdoor educators Audra Leach and Emily Picard, who realized that many of their colleagues

needed additional training and professional connections to teach forestry concepts. “A lot of the teachers that we’ve been working with over the past few years are new to the natural resource career pathway and weren’t comfortable teaching the concepts that we are comfortable teaching,” said Picard during a rare moment of downtime while the group was out in the woods taking a crash course in forestry education from Great Mountain Forest staff.

“Now that we’re in professions outside of the classroom,” she added, “looking back, we wanted to be able to share the network that we’ve established over the years.” “It’s about closing that gap between education and industry,” said Leach, who was also enjoying a brief rest from the packed weekend schedule, which included seminars, workshops and plenty of networking opportunities with fellow educators and experts. Leach, who once served as Housatonic Valley Regional High School’s agricultural education teacher, is now program administrator at the Northwest Conservation District. Picard also has an extensive background in agricultural education and is now the Fairfield County educator for UConn 4-H.

“We’re a bridge,” Leach said, “and so everybody that’s running a workshop is an industry professional that has that knowledge to help people bridge that gap and make connections.” “You don’t get this training in any formal education,” she added later. “It all has to be, I think, passed down from

somebody.” Both organizers said that it’s not only the people but also the place that makes a true retreat. “It’s kind of a hidden gem in the middle of nowhere,” said Picard of the venue, based at the historic Yale Camp, a rustic, timber-built compound located several miles into the forest off a forestry road usually closed to public access. The camp, which was deeded to Yale University in the 1940s and is regularly used by the Yale School of the Environment, has a history of bringing natural resource educators together, including Leach and Picard themselves. “We didn’t know we were at the same event,” Leach said as both laughed, “but 20 years ago we were both here for a forestry education event.”

She said the feeling of inspiration she experienced then has stuck with her throughout her career. The two hoped to impart that same inspiration to the teachers attending the retreat and, ultimately, to their students. “Every kid needs to be inspired by somebody, and that’s what these folks are doing,” said Picard of the attendees. Both said the remote location, cut off from cell service, allowed the participants to dine, work and learn together while cultivating a true retreat environment. Leach spoke of an impromptu constellation-naming lesson that sprang up organically around the campfire the previous night. “That type of experience really exemplifies the word retreat,” she said, “and that’s why we called it that—hoping for those types of experiences.”

The effect on the group was noticeable. By Saturday morning, the second day of programming, the participants chatted easily with one another as they sipped coffee and ate breakfast on one of Yale Camp’s sunny porches before heading out on the trail for their forestry workshop. Shannon Koberl, an agricultural educator at Lyman Hall High School in Walling-

ford, said, “I came for the forestry—that’s what got me to sign up—but the connections have been amazing.” “And it’s at Great Mountain Forest, which is awesome,” she added between lessons from Great Mountain Forest foresters Larry Rousseau, Jody Bronson and Kate Regan-Loomis. The lessons themselves, which included subjects such as soil science, watershed studies, curriculum-building and others in addition to forestry, also proved valuable to the attendees.

Central Connecticut State University rising junior and Northwest Conservation District summer outreach education intern Hannah Foster was animated by a lesson on forest inventory, during which Rousseau, Bronson, Regan-Loomis and forester’s assistant Will Watkins demonstrated several methods used to estimate the amount of timber in a forest stand. “I just feel so refreshed with all this new knowledge,” she said.

Caitlin Anderson is a kindergarten teacher at the Community Nursery School in Guilford, an alternative early learning institution based on outdoor experiences. She said she was interested in incorporating an angle gauge, a simple metal tool foresters use to measure tree inventory, into her students’ curriculum. “They’re so capable,” she said of the students, who make maple syrup and press apple cider and practice other outdoor skills as part of their education. “They’d be so pumped to add these to the rotation,” she said.

An afternoon keynote talk by forester, author and popular social media personality Ethan Tapper was the only public event of the retreat, bringing a crowd of 200 into the halls of Norfolk’s Church of Christ, Congregational. Leach and Picard thanked the sponsors. “We can do our work because of the sponsors and funding that people that care about these things provide,” Leach said. “Truly, that is how we function.”

North Cornwall Meeting House marks 200 years

By Ruth Epstein

CORNWALL – The 200th anniversary of the North Cornwall Meeting House commemorated a tale of separation and reconciliation. The landmark at Town Street and Cogswell Road was built in 1826 as the home of the Second Congregational Church of Cornwall, which had split from the First Congregational Church four decades earlier. The two congregations reunited in 1988 to form the United Church of Christ in Cornwall, which now owns the meeting house. The anniversary was celebrated this past weekend with meals, music, lectures and prayer. Such a commemoration has been held every 50 years since the building’s construction.



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Attendees enter the North Cornwall Meeting House on Friday to mark the building’s 200th anniversary.

building sits for \$50. Members got to work and many of the materials were donated by local citizens. The building was constructed in 1826. Gray focused on the building’s Federal-style architecture, which featured eight solid chestnut pillars given for the sanctuary. Many parishioners provided trees. The pulpit was reached by a high staircase on each side. A bell tower featuring a spire transitioned the building from a civic center to a church. Over the years, the building has gone through several restorations. A bell was added after 18 years and an organ was installed in 1906. The 1926 celebration featured the addition of a Palladian window. Hurlburt brought the audience back to 1926, when Samuel Scoville, Jr., Esq. was charged with how to prepare for the centennial. He talked about the extensive renovations that would be needed, including a spire, organ, new carpets and candle sconces, among other improvements. The estimated cost was \$10,000 and Scoville had to raise it all, which he did. “It would be another hundred years before there was another renovation,” Hurlburt said. Now, upgrades are made under the auspices of the non-profit Friends of the North Cornwall Meeting House, which raises the

funds. Its current chairman, David Hubbard, said, “Our mission is to support the preservation of this building. It’s a landmark for all the people of Cornwall.” While summer services for the UCC are held there, so are many community events, such as lectures and concerts. In her conclusion, Gold told of the continuance of the two churches. Although members often participated in common events, they were still separate. Attempts to join together failed until a series of committee studies and meetings met with success in 1988. “They had to overcome stubbornness, pride and greed,” she said. “But the truth is, there was grace on all sides of the debate. I learned about the independent thinking of our ancestors. This building represents what it takes to set down grievances.” The weekend also featured an organ concert on Saturday by Hector Migliacci, who was raised in Cornwall, and Old Home Sunday Worship with guest minister, the Rev. Kent Siladi. The committee for the 250th celebration in 2076 has been named: Grayson Dinneen, Lily Danforth Gold, Emma Hart LeBeau, Spencer Markow, Abbe Scoville and Theo Wescott.

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113th Goshen Fair

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SATURDAY September 5 th	SUNDAY September 6 th	MONDAY September 7 th
8:00am - Gates Open	8:00am - Gates Open	8:00am - Gates Open
9:30am - Dairy Goat Judging	9:00am - Junior and Open Dairy Show: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Shorthorn	9:00am - Junior and Open Dairy Show: Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey
10:00am - Opening Ceremony	- Antique Tractor Pull	- Garden Tractor Pull
- Poultry Judging	- Horse Show	- Judging of Oxen
11:00am - Beef Junior Obstacle Course	- Swine Judging	- Draught Oxen Exhibit
- CT Renegades Horse Show	- Sheep Judging	- Sheep Judging
12:00pm - Rabbit and Cavia Judging	11:00am - New England Cup Lumberjack	10:00am - Pork Cook Off
10am-1pm - High School Timber Teams	- Angus, All Other Breeds and Herefords Open Breed Show	10:30am - NBHA 01 Barrel Race
2:00pm - Dairy Cattle Showmanship	- Draught Horse Exhibit	11:00am - Junior Beef Steers and Heifers Show
- Jackpot Steer Show	11:30am - Chili Cook - Off	12:00pm - Woodcutting Contests
- Frozen T-Shirt Contest	4:30pm - Skillet Throw Contest	2:00pm - Apple Fritter Eating Contest
- Professional and Street Outlaw Truck Pull	5:30 & 7:30 - Motorcycle Stunt Show	6:00pm - Gates Close
3:00pm - Jackpot Heifer Show	9:00pm - Gates Close	
9:00pm - Gates Close		

CHILDREN'S STAGE: Saturday, Sunday and Monday • 1:00-5:00pm • Muttville Comix and Zeppolini Comedy Circus

ENTERTAINMENT

Main Stage (M) 12pm-7pm & Gazebo (G) 11am-5pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th: 1-5pm Northwest CT Band (G) • 12pm Country Steel (M) • 4pm Nashville Drive (M) • Neal and the Vipers (M)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th: • 12pm Dan's Roadhouse Country Band (M) • 1-5pm Northwest CT Band (G) • 2:30pm Line Dancing with instruction (M) • 4pm The Rakes (M) • 7pm Soul Sound Review (M)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th: 12pm Adventure Groove (M) • 1-5pm Northwest Concert Band (G) • 3pm Relic (M)

Events and Entertainment subject to change without notice

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OUR TOWNS

HVRHS varsity athletes prepare for fall sports season

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE — Summer break is coming to a close, and Housatonic Valley Regional High School athletes are gearing up for another season of golf, soccer, volleyball, football and cross country. Some teams have already begun competing.

Golf

The first team to swing into action was the varsity golf squad, coached by Peter Vermilyea. The preseason began with a scrimmage on Monday, Aug. 24, against Lakeview High School. It was held at Litchfield Country Club on a sunny afternoon.

The golf team has four seniors this year: Jonas Johnson, Dan Moran, Rhys Culbreth and Wiley Fails. Johnson won the longest drive award at last year’s Berkshire



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Dan Moran reads the green.

League all-star tournament.

The first official golf meet of the season for HVRHS is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 2, at Canaan Country Club against Northwestern Regional High School.

Soccer

The girls soccer team finished last season with a semifinal berth in the Class

S state tournament. After graduating just two seniors last year, the team entered the 2026 season ranked by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) as the fifth best team in Class S. All-league twin strikers Lainey Diorio and Lyla Diorio will be back for their sophomore season along with their older sister,

Addie Diorio, in her senior year.

The girls soccer team scheduled a series of scrimmages before the regular season starts at home Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 3:45 p.m. against Northwestern. The team is coached by Don Drislane and Ellery Kiefer.

The boys soccer team will take the field with one of the strongest defensive lineups in the Berkshire League. Anchored by senior defenders Ryan Segalla and Wyatt Bayer, the Mountaineers will be experienced and resilient in the backfield.

After a few friendly scrimmages, the boys soccer season starts on the road Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 3:45 p.m. against Northwestern.

Volleyball

The girls volleyball team, coached by Cherie

Lopes and Lisa McAuliffe, will travel to Waterbury on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 5:15 p.m. for a season-opening match against ACES at Chase.

Perennial Berkshire League all-star Sydney Howe returns for her final varsity season along with senior teammates Lydia Fleming, Kellie Eisermann and Kenzsi Watson.

Football

Football kicks off Saturday, Sept. 12, at 1 p.m. when the Gilbert/Northwestern/Housatonic co-op team will take the field in Winsted against Woodland Regional High School. MaxPreps ranked GNH as the 12th best team in Class SS this season.

The Yellowjackets, coached by Scott Salius, will face a challenging schedule in tier one of the Nau-

gatuck Valley League with road games in Watertown, Naugatuck and Waterbury. The Thanksgiving Day game this year is scheduled to be played in Winsted Thursday, Nov. 26, at 10:30 a.m. against the Nonnewaug co-op team.

HVRHS will have two seniors on the football field in Carson Riva (OL/DL) and Jacob Robles (WR/DB). Falls Village is scheduled to host one GNH game this year: a night game against the Canton/Granby co-op team Friday, Sept. 18, at 7 p.m.

Cross Country

The cross country team is coached by Letitia Garcia-Tripp and led by three seniors: Daniel Lesch, Ishaan Tantri and Finn Malone.

The first Berkshire League meet of the season is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 3:45 p.m. in Woodbury.

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